



## **Volunteer Patrolling Program in Melghat Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra** **Call for Volunteers**

### **An Introduction to Melghat**

India has a strong network of Protected Areas for conservation of wildlife. Melghat Tiger Reserve (MTR) is an important protected area for tiger conservation in the state of Maharashtra. Located in Amravati District of Northern Maharashtra, Melghat forests are contiguous with forests in Madhya Pradesh. The entire landscape offers a vast continuous habitat for tigers in Central India.



Considering its unique location, Melghat was declared as an important tiger reserve of Maharashtra way back in 1972. As its name implies, the terrain of Melghat is rugged and undulating - offering a splendid opportunity to view valleys and peaks of the ancient Satpura Ranges. The vast teak forests of Melghat are home to typical Central Indian wildlife such as tiger, leopard, wild dog, sloth bear, gaur, sambar, chital, barking deer, four-horned antelope, ratel, hyena, langur, flying squirrel, and many other mammal species. Nearly 250 bird species of dry deciduous

forests are found in Melghat including the critically endangered Forest Owlet. The village community of Melghat consists mainly of Korku and Gond tribes and Gawli community.



Jungle-Cat



Ratel



Gaur

### **Need For This Project**

The field staff of the tiger reserve patrols the forests regularly for protection of wildlife. However, there are several difficulties in patrolling the forests in Melghat. The terrain being hilly and rugged, many of the areas are difficult to protect. Like many other Protected Areas in the country, Melghat also experiences problems such as fires in summer, grazing and occasional poaching cases. This has adverse effect on tiger conservation in this important tiger reserve in Central India.

Considering the vast area to be patrolled additional manpower from civil society will help to strengthen protection and enhance the status of wildlife in MTR. With this objective Wildlife Research and Conservation Society (WRCS) is implementing a pilot program for volunteer

participation in patrolling activities in MTR in collaboration with the tiger reserve authorities for protection of wildlife and forests. This project is being implemented in collaboration with WWF-India. As a part of this initiative, WRCS is inviting volunteers to help the field staff of Forest Department in patrolling of the forests. The program has started in April 2013 and will be continued through-out the year. Under this program, a batch of 15 to 20 volunteers will be posted at Jarida Range in Melghat Tiger Reserve and camp with the field staff for a week and assist them in their daily patrolling duties.

### Information for Volunteers

- Each volunteer is requested to contribute 1 week of their time for patrolling at Melghat.
- Volunteers will arrive on Sunday at Melghat and leave Melghat on next Sunday.
- Volunteers will be posted in protection camps of in teams of two volunteers at each camp. They will be assisting the field staff in patrolling according to format provided by WRCS.
- The protection camps are located in the forest and the outskirts of forest. The facilities in these camps are very basic. There are no closed toilet /bathroom in the camps.



- The region is hilly and the patrolling paths may pass through difficult terrain. Summer and winter are intense. Volunteers should be fit enough to work under such conditions.

- Volunteers should be physically fit and capable of walking at least 10 to 15 km in the forest every day.
- Volunteers will be responsible for their own safety.

travel and food costs during their participation in the program.

- This is a unique opportunity for youngsters to experience the forests so closely by living in wilderness, interact with field staff and local villagers, cook their own food, observe the forest life and contribute meaningfully towards tiger conservation in the country.
- Interested participants are requested to fill in an application form, provide detailed identity proof and personal contact information. This information will be used for verification of their antecedents and will not be shared with any agency except authorities of Melghat Tiger Reserve.
- WRCS will provide a certificate of participation to volunteers on successful completion of Volunteer Program.
- Interested participants can write to [info@wrscindia.org](mailto:info@wrscindia.org) or call on 020-25871310/65222903 for further information. You may visit us at [www.wrscindia.org](http://www.wrscindia.org)

