

**Monitoring of Tiger and Prey Population  
Dynamics in Melghat Tiger Reserve,  
Maharashtra, India  
Final Technical Report**



**Envirosearch**



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## **Executive Summary**

Globally tigers have been accorded a high priority for conservation. In India the tiger is found across a range of habitats and is considered a symbol of national pride. Despite its status, tiger populations are under severe threat across its range, primarily because of mounting anthropogenic pressures on the habitat and increasing incidence of poaching of tigers and their prey. It is therefore important to have a regular update on the status of the tiger and its prey in their natural habitats.

Although tiger conservation has been accorded high priority in the country there is a paucity of information on numbers of the tiger and its prey animals in most protected areas. Reliable estimates of tiger and prey populations based on scientific estimation techniques are available for very few tiger reserves in India and regular monitoring of tiger populations based on scientific techniques is being carried out in even fewer reserves.

The State of Maharashtra in India has large tracts of dry deciduous forests that are considered as potentially good tiger habitat. Melghat Tiger Reserve is an important Tiger Reserve in the State with the potential to hold viable populations of the tiger. It is located in the Central Highland Biotic Province of the Deccan Biogeographic Zone. Melghat Tiger Reserve is the oldest and largest Tiger Reserve in the state and supports typical dry teak forests of Central India.

All Protected Areas in the country are subject to anthropogenic pressures of various types. Poaching exists all over the country and no Protected Area can be considered inviolate or free of poaching in the long-term even if it is safe at present. Animal populations are the best yardstick to measure the success of management actions and conservation measures, while acting as alarm bells for managers in case of threats. It is therefore of great value to monitor animal populations using the best techniques available.

From year 2002 to 2005, Centre for Wildlife Studies, Bangalore carried out a project on establishing baseline estimates of tigers and its prey in three tiger reserves of the State. Estimates of tiger populations were obtained through camera trap sampling while prey population estimates were obtained by using line transect sampling. Sign encounter surveys were used to obtain encounter rates of major carnivores in the area.

The present project titled “Monitoring Tiger and Prey population in Melghat Tiger Reserve” was carried out by Envirosearch, Pune. It was based on the groundwork done in the previous project described above. The duration of the project was one year.

The specific objectives of the project were:

- i. To continue monitoring of tiger populations by index-based scat encounter rate technique.
- ii. To continue monitoring absolute prey populations in Melghat Tiger Reserve by line transect technique.
- iii. To build capacity of officers and field staff of Forest Department and local nature enthusiasts and NGO volunteers in scientific biological monitoring methods.

There is a network of 25 permanent line transects with a total length of 97.2 km in the study area. There is a network of 34 carnivore sign encounter routes with a total length of 336 km. These line transects and sign encounter routes were used in the present study for estimating prey density and scat encounter rate.

Eighteen persons from the Forest Department, 20 volunteers and 20 field trackers participated in the sign encounter rate survey.

Line transect survey was carried out with the help of Forest Department field staff and volunteers. A total of 12 field staff of the Forest Department and 18 volunteers participated in the exercise. Totally 679.7 km was surveyed during the transect exercise.

The findings of this study will be widely circulated within the Maharashtra Forest department, and research institutes and university involved in wildlife research. A workshop will be arranged in Melghat Tiger Reserve to disseminate the results of this study. Senior officers, field staff and volunteers who participated in the survey will be invited to attend the workshop.

## **Acknowledgements**

We are grateful to Save the Tiger Fund of National Fish and Wildlife Fund (NFWF) for providing us funds for carrying out this project. We thank all the staff of NFWF including Mr. Mahendra Shreshtha, Mr. Brian Gratwicke and Ms. Karin Vermilye for providing support throughout the project.

We express our sincere thanks to Mr. B. Majumdar, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) for giving us the permission for conducting this study and for his encouragement of our study. We are also grateful to Mr. Nitin Kakodkar, Conservator of Forests and Field Director of Melghat Tiger Reserve for his active support throughout the project and for providing his photographs for the report. We thank the Divisional Forest Officers Mr. Ravindra Wankhade, Mr. M. C. Chandekar and Ms. Imtiena Ao for their help in various ways during the field programme.

This project was a continuation of the previous project by Centre for Wildlife Studies, Bangalore. We are very grateful to Dr. Ullas Karanth, Director WCS, India Programme for guiding us in the project and for his support in carrying out the project. We thank Mr. N. Samba Kumar, Programme Manager WCS for his guidance and support during the project. We thank Mr. Samba Kumar for his constructive comments on the project report. Mr. Samba Kumar and Mr. Devcharan Jathanna provided valuable inputs and training to us in the data analysis and we are thankful to them.

We thank Dr. T. R. Shankar Raman and Mr. Sujoy Chaudhuri for their valuable inputs in data analysis.

We thank Mr. Saurabh Phadke, Mr. Prasad Kapre, Mr. Ram Sunder, Mr. Rishi Kumar, Mr. Mandar Pawgi and Mr. Kedar Pawgi for all the help during the survey.

We are grateful to field staff of Melghat Tiger Reserve who participated in the survey and also other members of the field staff who were very helpful in making various arrangements for the survey.

We thank the numerous volunteers who participated in the survey and without whom it would have been difficult to carry out the field surveys. Our field assistants from Keli and Tarubanda Villages in Melghat were of immense help during the survey and we thank all of them.

## **Project Personnel**

Principal Investigator:	Dr. Prachi Mehta
Co-principal investigator:	Mr. Jayant Kulkarni
Scientific Advisor:	Dr. Ullas Karanth – Director, India Programme, WCS
Advisor:	Mr. Nitin Kakodkar – Field Director, Melghat Tiger Reserve
Field Biologist:	Mr. Umesh Hiremath
Field Supervisor	Mr. Devendra Kale



**Photo: Jayant Kulkarni**

## **Background**

The tiger (*Panthera tigris*) is one of the most charismatic large cats and is an icon of biodiversity conservation in India. This species has become the focus of global conservation because of its ecological importance, its endangered status and its cultural affiliations.

Tigers are found across a wide range of habitats in India. Tiger populations are found to be under severe threat across its range, such as mounting anthropogenic pressures on the habitat and increasing incidence of poaching of tigers and their prey animals. In light of these pressures, it is important for protected area managers and conservationists to have sound information on the status of tigers and their prey animals in the tiger reserves.

The State of Maharashtra is one of the important tiger states located in Central India. The state has a large forest area with a range of forest habitats of which 6000-9000 km<sup>2</sup> is potentially good tiger habitat (Wikramanayake et al 1999). The Government of India has notified three protected areas located in eastern Maharashtra, as Tiger Reserves under Project Tiger, for protection and conservation of tigers and their ecosystem; these are Melghat Tiger Reserve, Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve and Pench Tiger Reserve. They are managed by the Maharashtra State Forest Department. The three tiger reserves are vital for tiger conservation and hold potentially viable populations of the tiger and its prey.

Melghat Tiger Reserve is the largest among the three tiger reserves of the State. Melghat has the distinction of being among the first nine protected areas designated as tiger reserves at the inception of the Government's Project Tiger in 1973.

Although tiger conservation is considered a top priority in the country, there is a paucity of information about tiger and prey densities found in the Protected Areas. Reliable estimates of tiger and prey populations based on scientific estimation techniques are available for very few tiger reserves in India and regular monitoring of tiger populations is being carried out in even fewer reserves.

## **Previous Projects**

A project titled “Distribution and Dynamics of Tiger and Prey Populations in Maharashtra” was carried out from the year 2002 to 2005 by Centre for Wildlife Studies, Bangalore in Melghat Tiger Reserve, Tadoba Tiger Reserve and Pench Tiger Reserve. The project used state of the art technology for estimating populations of the tiger and its prey animals. Estimates of tiger populations were obtained through camera trap sampling while prey population estimates were obtained by using line transect sampling. This project established benchmark estimates of densities of the tiger and its prey animals in key tiger habitats in the state. Scat encounter rate was estimated for three major carnivores, as a relative index of their population density. The project report gives a detailed description of the project and its findings (Karanth and Kumar 2005). Dr. Prachi Mehta and Mr. Jayant Kulkarni from Envirosearch were partners in this project for the Melghat site.

## **Present Project**

### **Title and Duration**

The present project titled “Monitoring Tiger and Prey population in Melghat Tiger Reserve” was carried out by Envirosearch, Pune. It was based on the groundwork done in the previous project described above. The duration of the project was one year.

### **Tiger (*Panthera tigris*)**



**Photo: Nitin Kakodkar**

### **Rationale for Conducting Population Monitoring**

All Protected Areas in the country are subject to anthropogenic pressures of various types such as firewood collection, cattle grazing, fire, timber cutting, NTFP collection and encroachment. Poaching exists all over the country and no Protected Area can be considered inviolate or free of poaching in the long-term even if it is safe at present. Animal populations are the best yardstick to measure the success of management actions and conservation measures, while acting as alarm bells for managers in case of threats. It is therefore of great value to monitor animal populations using the best techniques available.

Melghat Tiger Reserve is an important Tiger Reserve in the State with the potential to hold viable populations of the tiger. Tiger conservation is a priority for the state. There is a need for monitoring tiger and its prey populations in Melghat for assessing the impacts of management interventions and external threats, and as a tool for effective management decisions.

### **Project Objectives**

The overall goal of the current project was to continue monitoring of tiger and prey animals using the existing network of line transects and scat routes established during the previous project. Another important component of the project was to continue field training the field staff of Melghat Tiger Reserve and local volunteers in scientific population estimation methods.

The specific objectives of the project were:

- iv. To continue monitoring of tiger populations by index-based scat encounter rate technique.
- v. To continue monitoring absolute prey populations in Melghat Tiger Reserve by line transect technique.
- vi. To build capacity of officers and field staff of Forest Department and local nature enthusiasts and NGO volunteers in scientific biological monitoring methods.

## Description of Project Site

Melghat Forests are located on Gavilgarh hills of southern Satpura ranges extending over 3000 km<sup>2</sup> in Amravati District of Maharashtra State. Melghat Tiger Reserve is included in Tiger Conservation Landscape (TCL 52) and classified as “Global Priority Landscape for Tiger Conservation” (Dinerstein et al 2006). It has contiguities to the north and the south within TCU 28 (Wikramanayake et al 1999). Melghat Tiger Reserve has the potential to hold viable population of tigers over the long term by the virtue of its size, connectivity and moderate levels of threats.

Melghat Tiger Reserve lies between 21<sup>0</sup> 11' N and 20<sup>0</sup> 46' N and between 76<sup>0</sup> 38' E and 77<sup>0</sup> 34' E. The name Melghat stands for “intersection of hills” in the local language. Melghat is a region with rugged topography traversed by numerous valleys and steep cliffs. The altitude of the area varies from 380 to 1138 m.a.s.l. Tapti is the major river running along the boundary of the Reserve. There are five tributaries, running from Southeast to Northwest, draining into the Tapti River which forms the northern boundary of the Tiger Reserve. The average annual rainfall recorded in Melghat is 1000 mm to 1200 mm (Mehta, 1998).

Melghat forests are dry deciduous forests of Central India. Melghat lies in Central Highland Biotic Province (Province 6E) of the Deccan Biogeographic Zone (Zone 6) (Rodgers and Panwar 1988). The upper canopy of the forests is dominated by deciduous species such as *Tectona grandis*, *Adina cordifolia*, *Mitragyna parviflora*, *Lannea coromandelica*, *Buchanania lanzan*, *Bassia latifolia* and *Terminalia tomentosa*. These species shed leaves by the end of January. The undergrowth in the forests is predominantly of *Lantana camara*, *Helicteres isora*, *Colebrookia oppositifolia*, *Azenza lamaps* and *Carvia callosa*. Grass cover is not very dense. Bamboo (*Dendrocalamus strictus*) is present sporadically but not in dense clumps (Mehta 1998).

### Hilly Terrain of Melghat Tiger Reserve



Photo: Nitin Kakodkar

### Riparian Forests in Melghat Tiger Reserve



Photo: Prachi Mehta

Melghat Tiger Reserve is well protected because of regular patrolling by Forest Department field staff. Recently the total area of the tiger reserve has been augmented by addition of three wildlife sanctuaries namely, Wan Wildlife Sanctuary, Narnala Wildlife Sanctuary and Ambabrawa Wildlife Sanctuary, effectively increasing the total area of the reserve from 1676 km<sup>2</sup> to 2027.41 km<sup>2</sup> (Field Director Melghat, pers.comm).

The Tiger Reserve includes 58 villages within its boundaries spread across the Buffer Zone and the Multiple Use Zone while the Core Zone is free of settlements. Three villages have been relocated successfully in last three years, under the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, which is considered an important achievement by the conservationists and foresters .

Twenty-nine species of large mammals are recorded from the Tiger Reserve. The major carnivores include tiger (*Panthera tigris*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), wild dog (*Cuon alpinus dukhnensis*), ratel (*Mellivora capensis*) jackal (*Canis aureus*) and striped hyena (*Hyena hyena*). Among other mammals, species such as sloth bear (*Melurus ursinus*), gaur (*Bos gaurus*), sambar (*Cervus unicolor*), muntjac (*Muntiacus muntjak*), nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), four horned antelope (*Tetraceros quadricornis*), common langur (*Presbytis entellus*), rhesus Macaque (*Macaca mulatta*), palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*), small Indian civet (*Viverricula indica*) are recorded from the area. Chital (*Axis axis*) are sparsely distributed in the tiger reserve, found in a few locations. A total of 217 bird species have been recorded from the tiger reserve (Mehta 1998).

**Gaur (*Bos gaurus*)**



**Photo: Sawan Deshmukh**

**Sambar (*Cervus unicolor*)**



**Photo: Prachi Mehta**

**Wild Dog (*Cuon alpinus dukhnensis*)**



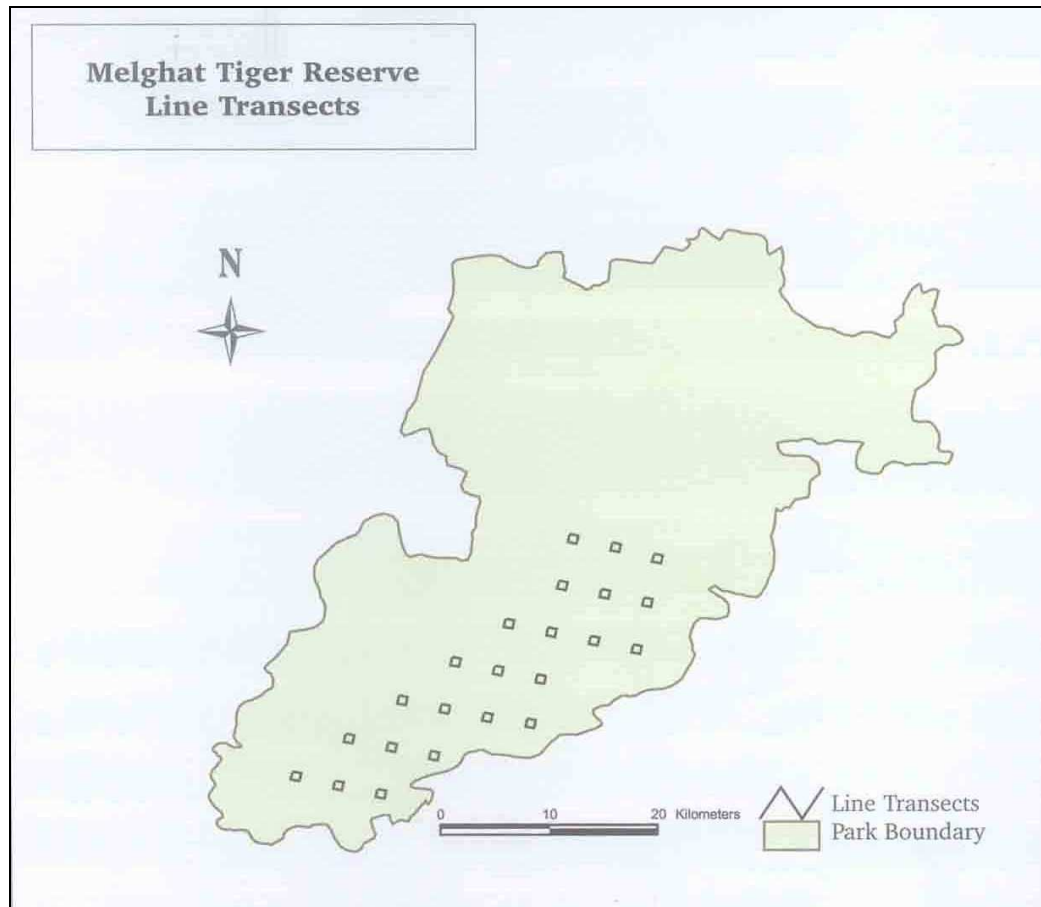
**Photo: Jayant Kulkarni**

**Muntjac (*Muntiacus muntjak*)****Photo: Nitin Kakodkar****Project Design**

An intensive study area was identified for establishing benchmark estimates of the population of the tiger and its prey animals during the previous study by CWS, Bangalore. The study area had an extent of 361 km<sup>2</sup> in Melghat Tiger Reserve. The study area is a relatively undisturbed part of Melghat Tiger Reserve with no villages and few external pressures. Permanent line transects, 25 in number, were laid out in the study area with a length of 4 km each. The line transects samplers are squares of side 1 km. This sampler geometry has been selected according to the recent methodology followed by CWS. The total length of line transects in the study area is 97.2 km.

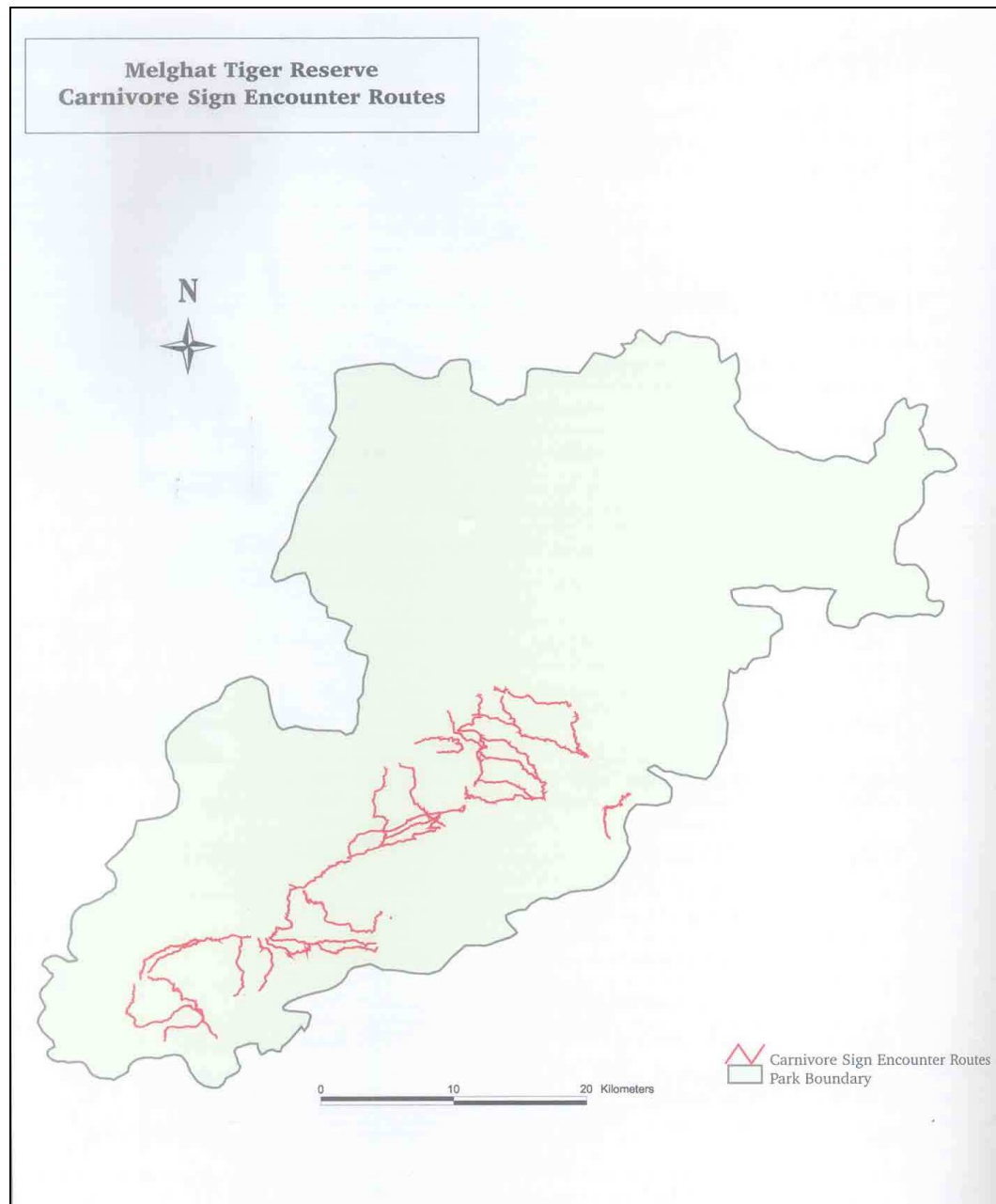
Carnivore sign encounter routes, 34 in number, varying from 8 to 14 km in length, were marked in the same area along forest roads and trails. The total length of the scat encounter routes is 336 km. The project report of the CWS report (Karanth and Kumar, 2005) gives the details on latitude, longitude and location of the transects in the study area.

**Figure 1: Layout of Line Transects in the Study Area**



Source: Karanth and Kumar, 2005

**Figure 2: Layout of Scat Encounter Routes in the Study Area**



Source: Karanth and Kumar, 2005

## Project Activities

### Planning the Field Surveys

The work of re-painting and re-marking was started in the month of October 2005. The field supervisor and along with a team of 10 to 12 local villagers visited all the 25 transects and 34 scat routes to re-mark the number plates. The entire exercise was completed by end of January 2006.

#### Marking Line Transects



Photo: Prachi Mehta

#### Marking Scat Routes



Photo: Prachi Mehta

### **Involvement of Volunteers for the Field Survey**

Once the preparatory work was completed, applications were invited from the volunteers interested in participating in both the surveys. From the applications, many volunteers and forest staff were selected on the basis of their previous participation in similar surveys. Many new applications were considered from newcomers also who showed keen interest in participating in the survey. Most of the volunteers were from nearby towns of Amravati, Chandrapur and Pune while some came from as far as Bangalore.

### **Involvement of Forest Department**

The base camp of the survey was arranged at Tarubanda. The programme was inaugurated on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2006 by the Divisional Forest Officers Mr. Ravindra Wankhade and Mr. M.C. Chandekar. The programme was attended by 18 Forest Department staff and 22 local volunteers. An interactive session was organized to discuss the concept of monitoring exercise and its valuable benefits for tiger conservation. Maps and posters were put up at the camp site for the benefit of the participants. Literature in the form of manuals, books and reprints were also made available to the participants for further reading.

The survey programme was completed on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2006. Mr. Nitin Kakodkar, the Field Director of Melghat Tiger Reserve and Mr. Ravindra Wankhade, the Divisional Forest were present for the closing function. The field staff and volunteers presented their findings to the officers on the last day followed by an interactive session on monitoring techniques.

### Field Director Interacting with the Participants



Photo: Ramsunder

### D Carnivore Sign Encounter Survey

Participants were trained in the field methods for carrying out the carnivore sign encounter survey on the first day. They were trained in identification of scats of tiger, leopard, wild dog and other signs of carnivore presence such as pugmarks and scrapes. The participants were trained in measuring the pugmarks, scats, labeling the samples and recording the information on the data sheets.

Eighteen persons from forest department, 20 volunteers and 20 field trackers participated in the scat route survey. Each scat route was walked once by a team of three persons comprising of one forest department field staff, one volunteer and one field assistant who was familiar with the forest area. The team was dropped at the destination in the early morning and picked up later in the evening. On completion of the exercise, all the scats collected and data obtained was discussed with individual teams in order to verify the identity of the carnivore and eliminate doubtful samples. All the collected scats were washed, dried and the prey remains were separated for further analysis.

### Demonstration of Sign Encounter Survey Technique



Photo: Kedar Pawgi

### Participants of Sign Encounter Survey



Photo: Farid Ahmed

### E Line Transect Survey

Prior to the transect survey, a training session was held to demonstrate the use of instruments such as compass and laser rangefinder and train the participants in the technique of taking field observations. This training session was attended by Forest

Department officers, staff and the participants of the line transect survey. During the session, concept of line transect, data collection techniques, identification of animals, use of instrument and density estimation of ungulates were discussed and demonstrated.

#### **Population Estimation Exercise in Progress**



**Photo: Ramsunder**

Line transect survey was carried out with the help of Forest Department field staff and volunteers. 12 field staff of the Forest Department and 18 volunteers participated in the exercise.

The transects were walked twice a day, once in the morning at day break and once in the evening. These were the best timings for sighting the prey species. One team consisting of two persons walked on a transect at a time. The teams were taken by vehicle and dropped at a previously marked point near the transect. They walked to the start point of the transect and started walking on the transect at a pre-decided time. Each transect was walked 7 times during the survey

### Participants Walking on Transect



Photo: Prachi Mehta

After familiarization with the field techniques the participants were trained intensively in theoretical principles and calculation techniques for making population estimates of prey species.

### Analysis of Line Transect Data



Photo: Ramsunder

### Presentation of Results



Photo: Ramsunder

### Participants of the Line Transect Survey



## Data Analysis

### Line Transect Survey

Line transect data was analyzed using the software Distance 5.0. The Co-principal Investigator of the project received training in analysis of line transect data using the software Distance 5.0.

### **Diet Analysis**

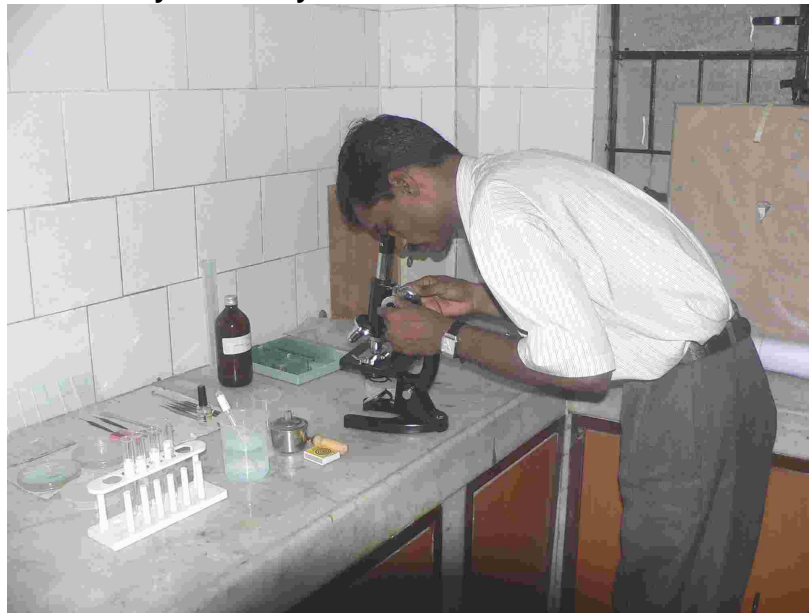
Established methodology for analysis of carnivore scats was adopted for carrying out scat analysis (Karanth and Sunquist, 1995).

Each scat was examined for remains of prey animals. The identifiable remains of prey animals occurring in the scat can consist of various body parts including hair skeletal parts, prey dentition, chitinous skeletons of insects and bird feathers. Except for a few scats wherein bird feathers were found the identifiable remains were exclusively hair of the prey animal.

Hair from the scat samples were identified on basis of their external appearance and the characteristic medullary pattern observed under a standard laboratory microscope compared with the reference slides in our collection. Hair of some closely matching species were identified on basis of impressions of their cuticular pattern taken on nail varnish and observed under a microscope.

The results were analyzed by standard methods in published literature (Karanth and Sunquist, 1995).

#### **Analysis of Prey Remains From Carnivore Scats**



**Photo: Prachi Mehta**

## **Project Achievements**

Our achievements during the project are given below according to the project objectives:

**Objective 1:** To continue monitoring of tiger populations and other major carnivores by index-based scat encounter rate technique.

- Carnivore sign encounter data was collected on 34 scat routes in an area of 336 km.
- Totally 197 scats were collected on 34 routes. Of this, 60 scats belonged to tiger, 94 scats belonged to leopards and 33 scats belonged to wild dog.
- Encounter rates for tiger, leopard and wild dog has been generated.
- Diet analysis of all collected scats have been carried out.
- Diet profile of tiger, leopard and wild dog has been prepared which includes percent occurrence of different prey found in the scats and percent biomass contribution of individual prey for three carnivores of the area.

**Objective 2: Monitoring absolute prey populations in Melghat Tiger Reserve by line transect technique**

- Monitoring of prey population was carried out on 25 line transects.
- Totally 679.7 km was surveyed during the transect exercise.
- Each transect was monitored 7 times
- Density estimates of major prey species of tiger has been carried out.

**Objective 3: To build capacity of officers and field staff of Forest Department and local nature enthusiasts and NGO volunteers in scientific biological monitoring methods**

- 18 forest guards participated in the scat encounter route survey.
- 12 forest guards participated in the transect survey.
- 20 volunteers participated in the sign encounter survey.
- 18 volunteers participated in the line transect survey.

## Results

### Line Transect Survey

Nine species of the tiger were detected during the line transect walks. Densities were estimated for four of these species and the results are given in Table 1 along with density estimates for the year 2003. Comparison of prey densities is meaningful when monitored regularly over a number of years.

**Table 1: Density of Tiger Prey Animals in Melghat**

Species	2003 <sup>a</sup>		2006 <sup>b</sup>	
	No. of Detections	Prey Density (Animals per km <sup>2</sup> )	No. of Detections	Prey Density (Animals per km <sup>2</sup> )
Sambar	138	2.7	72	1.99
Gaur	61	1.0	21	1.25
Muntjac	47	0.6	17	0.43
Common Langur	-	-	250	16.68
Four Horned Antelope	46	0.5	4	-
Nilgai (Blue bull)	-	-	1	-
Wild Pig	-	-	9	-
Chital	-	-	1	-
Rhesus Macaque	-	-	6	-

<sup>a</sup> Source: Karanth and Kumar, 2005

<sup>b</sup> This project

### Carnivore Sign Encounter Survey

Table 2 gives the scat encounter rates for major carnivores determined in the present project and compares them with the scat encounter rates determined in the year 2005. Much importance should not be attached to changes in scat encounter rates between two years because these can take place due to the intrinsic variance in determination of the parameter as well as annual fluctuations in populations. It is the trend in encounter rates over a period obtained by regular monitoring over a number of years that is more significant.

**Table 2: Scat Encounter Rate of Major Carnivores in Melghat**

Carnivore	2005 (L=326 km) <sup>a</sup>		2006 (L=336 km) <sup>b</sup>	
	Scats Encountered (N)	Encounter Rate (N/L) <sup>c</sup> (Scats/10 km)	Scats Encountered (N)	Encounter Rate (N/L) (Scats/10 km)
Tiger	55	1.69	60	1.73
Leopard	171	5.24	94	2.76
Wild Dog	64	1.96	33	1.00

<sup>a</sup> Karanth and Kumar, 2005

<sup>b</sup> This project

<sup>c</sup> Typing error in original report corrected

### **Diet Profile of Major Carnivores**

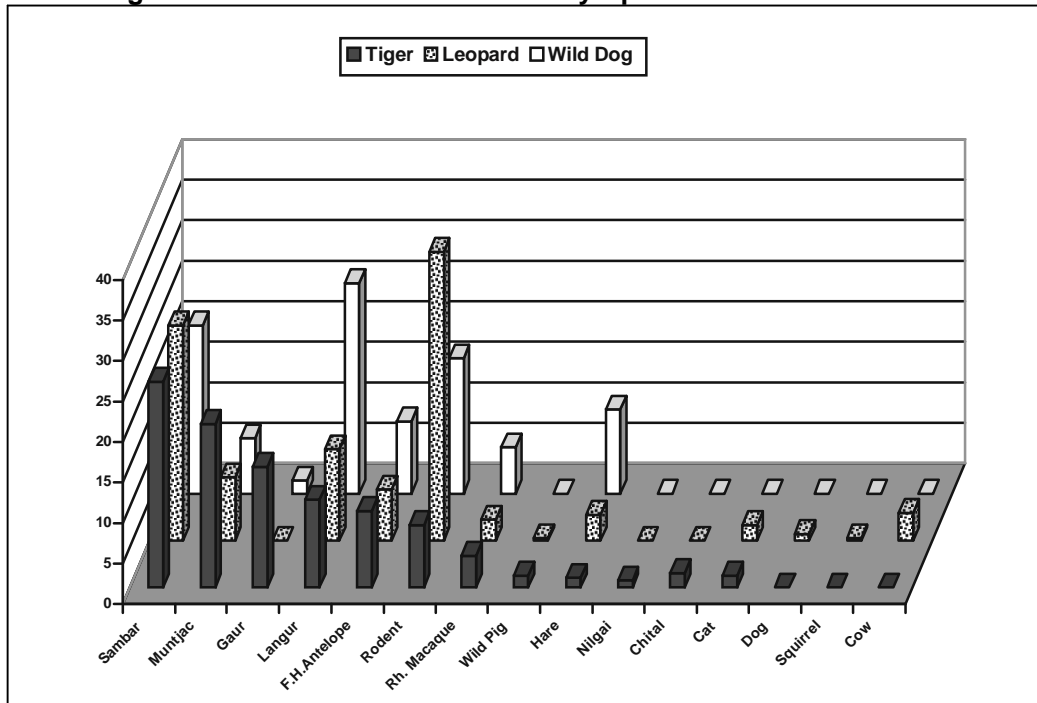
Scats of major carnivores collected during the scat encounter rate were subjected to scat analysis. Prey remains found in the scat, particularly hair of prey species, were examined with the naked eye and under the microscope and the prey species identified.

Dietary analysis revealed that tigers feed on 11 different prey species, leopards on 10 different species while the wild dog scats had remains of 8 different prey species.

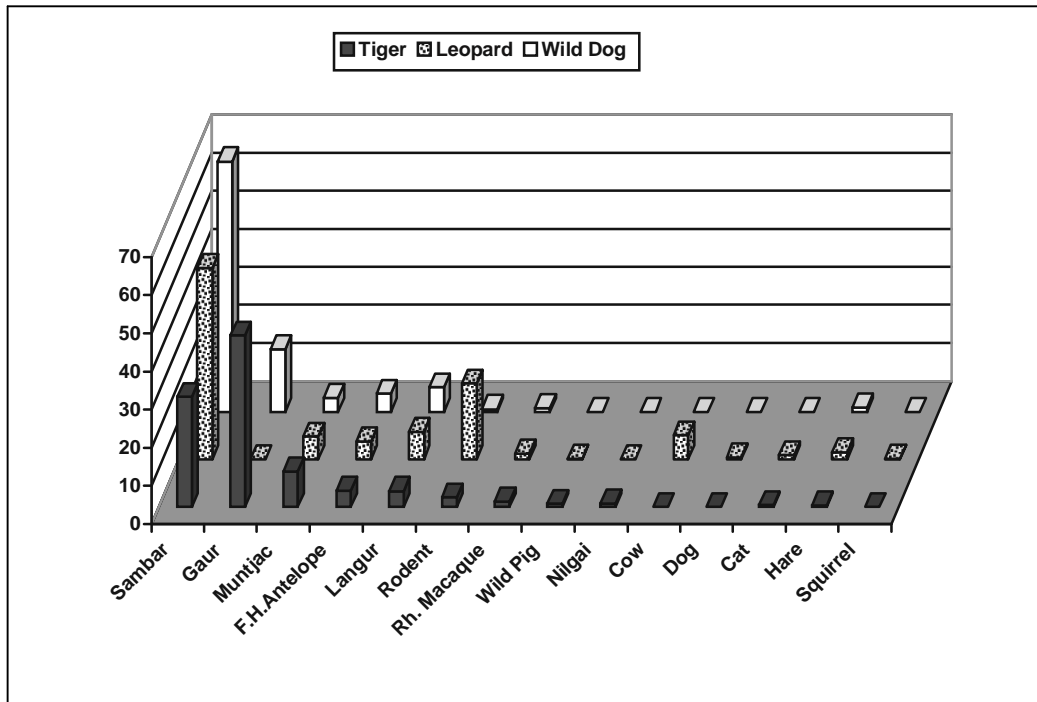
In terms of percent occurrence of different prey species sambar, muntjac and gaur make up for the top three prey species (60 %) for tiger; rodent, sambar and langur are the top three prey species (50%) for the leopard, and langur, sambar and rodent are the top three prey species (60%) for the wild dog. Presence of domestic cow, domestic dog, hare, squirrel and cat were found mainly in the leopard scats (Figure 3).

Percent occurrence of species in carnivore scats can be misleading since consumption of small prey results in higher number of scats relative to prey body weight compared to large prey (Ackerman et al, 1984; Floyd et al, 1978). We applied the correction suggested by Ackerman et al (1984) for tiger and leopard scats and the correction suggested by Floyd et al (1978) for wild dog scats. In terms of prey biomass gaur, sambar and muntjac were the main contributors to the tiger's diet; sambar, rodents and langurs were the main contributors to the leopard's diet and sambar, gaur and langur were the top three contributors to the wild dog's diet (Figure 4).

**Figure 3: Percent Occurrence of Prey Species in Carnivore Scats**



**Figure 4: Biomass Contribution of Prey Species to Carnivore Diet**



## **Dissemination of Results**

The final report of the study will be widely circulated within the Maharashtra Forest Department. Copies of the report will be sent to all concerned offices of the Forest Department. The report will also be sent to institutes and organizations involved in wildlife research and conservation work in the country. We plan to put up the report on public domain for wider accessibility.

We plan to have a workshop in Melghat Tiger Reserve for disseminating the results of this project. We shall invite the forest officers and field staff of the Forest Department and the volunteers who have participated in the survey. Seeing the final results of their hard work in the field will increase involvement of the participants in the project and motivate them to participate in the monitoring project in future.

We plan to present the findings of this project in workshops related to tiger conservation. The results of the project will be analyzed and the findings published in peer reviewed international journals.

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