



Nepal-India Transborder Conservation Coordination Meeting
Chitwan-Parsa-Valmiki Complex
Chitwan National Park, Nepal, 8-9 January 2025

Brief Report

A transborder conservation coordination meeting between Nepal and India for Chitwan-Parsa-Valmiki Complex was organised in Chitwan National Park, Nepal on 8th and 9th of

January 2025. A total of 51 officials participated in the meeting representing Chitwan National Park, Parsa National Park, Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bettiah Forest Division, Buffer Zone Management Committees, Battalions of the Nepal Army deployed for the protection of National Parks, Division Forest Offices- Chitwan, Makawanpur, Rapti Manahari, Bara, Parsa, Nawalparasi East, Nawalparasi



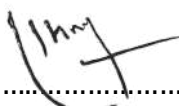
West, National Trust for Nature Conservation, WWF Nepal, WWF India and ZSL Nepal (**Appendix-3**). The meeting was co-chaired by Dr. Ganesh Pant, Senior Conservation Officer of Chitwan National Park and Dr. Nesamani K., Field Director of Valmiki Tiger Reserve.


Dr. Ganesh Pant, Senior Conservation Officer of Chitwan National Park gave a brief presentation on conservation initiatives and transborder cooperation in Chitwan-Parsa-Valmiki complex followed by the brief presentation from Dr. Nesamani K., IFS, Field Director of Valmiki Tiger Reserve on conservation and transborder relationship with the adjoining Chitwan and Parsa National Parks. Both of them highlighted key issues, best practices and examples of collaboration in the past, challenges and the way forward. Teams from India and Nepal shared conservation achievements from their respective countries and the discussion was focused on key issues such as protection of critical wildlife corridors, joint patrolling and monitoring the border area to control the poaching and illegal wildlife trade, illegal entry


inside the protected areas (Porous border), exchange of research findings and best practices, increasing trend of spread of invasive plant species, controlling the forest fire and human-wildlife conflict management.

The meeting concluded with a dedicated commitment to enhance cooperation between the two nations and jointly taking actions to safeguard wildlife and their habitats in the transborder areas. Both teams expressed mutual agreement to intensify transboundary collaboration, focusing on maintaining connectivity, promoting wildlife movement across borders, combating wildlife crimes, and enhancing information sharing among protected area officials. Besides, the commitment extended to collaborative efforts in exchanging technical expertise and sharing best practices, particularly in areas such as community-based ecotourism, prevention and control of forest fire, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, and habitat management. Acknowledging the synergetic efforts made so far, the following points were mutually agreed to strengthen the transborder initiatives for biodiversity conservation in Chitwan-Parsa-Valmiki Complex.

1. Continue the joint action and initiatives to control fire through construction and maintenance of fire lines in border areas.
2. Initiate the action-oriented, issue-based and site-specific activities through joint patrolling (Anti-snare walk) in the transborder areas to control the illegal activities including poaching and trade.
3. Mobilize the team for health condition monitoring and disease surveillance in the wild animals from both countries.
4. Form rapid response team at site-level and continue the joint efforts to track the movement of tiger and elephant across the landscape to prevent human-wildlife conflict.
5. Share the information about the release of problematic animals as well as the location from both the countries.
6. Organize exchange visits for protected area officials, conservation partners and community people of the transborder areas to foster collective conservation efforts.
7. Nominate Nodal Officer from both the countries to regularly and effectively share the information on wildlife movement, possible illegal activities, spread of forest fire as well as different interventions for collective conservation effort across the landscape.


.....
Mr. Ramchandra Khatiwada
Senior Conservation Officer
Parsa National Park


.....
Dr. Nesamani K., IFS
CF-cum-Field Director
Valmiki Tiger Reserve


.....
Dr. Ganesh Pant
Senior Conservation Officer
Chitwan National Park

Appendix-1. Program Schedule



Nepal-India Transborder Conservation Coordination Meeting
Chitwan-Parsa-Valmiki Complex
Chitwan National Park, Nepal
8-9 January 2025

Program Schedule

| Time | Program Activity |
|--|---|
| Day I | |
| Wednesday 8th January 2025 | |
| 11.00-11.30 | Arrival of the Participants |
| 11.30-12:00 | Registration |
| 12.00- 13.00 | Lunch |
| 13.00- 13.30 | Introductory Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction of the Participants and Objectives of the Meeting |
| 13.30- 14.30 | Presentation Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updates on the Transboundary Conservation Initiatives in Chitwan-Parsa-Valmiki Complex of Terai Arc Landscape |
| 14.30- 15.30 | Concluding Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Other Issues and Way Forward |
| 15.30-16.00 | Tea/Coffee |
| 16.00-17.30 | Field Observation inside Chitwan National Park |
| 18.00-20.00 | Dinner Hosted by Chitwan National Park Team |
| Day-II | |
| Thursday 9th January 2025 | |
| 08.00-09.00 | Breakfast |
| 09.00-11.30 | Field Observation around Someshwar Hills and Tharu Cultural Village in the Buffer Zone of Chitwan National Park |
| 12.00-13.00 | Lunch |
| 13.00 onwards | Departure of the Participants from Madi, Chitwan |



Appendix-2. Selected Photographs







Appendix-3. List of Participants



Nepal-India Transborder Conservation Coordination Meeting, Chitwan-Parsa-Valmiki Complex
Chitwan National Park, Nepal, 8-9 January 2025

Participants

| SN | Name | Designation | Organization | Signature |
|----|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------|
| 1 | Dr. Ganesh Pant | Senior Conservation Officer | Chitwan National Park | |
| 2 | Mr. Ramchandra Khatiwada | Senior Conservation Officer | Parsa National Park | |
| 3 | Dr. Nesamani K., IFS | Field Director | Valmiki Tiger Reserve | |
| 4 | Mr. Jiban Pageni | Divisional Forest Officer | Division Forest Office, Nawalparasi West | |
| 5 | Mr. Basanta Keshab Adhikari | Divisional Forest Officer | Division Forest Office, Nawalparasi East | |
| 6 | Mr. Manjur Ahamad | Divisional Forest Officer | Division Forest Office, Parsa | |
| 7 | Dr. Rajeev Kumar Jha | Divisional Forest Officer | Division Forest Office, Bara | |
| 8 | Mr. Rakesh Prasad Chandrabanshi | Divisional Forest Officer | Division Forest Office, Makawanpur | |
| 9 | Mr. Lokraj Nepal | Divisional Forest Officer | Division Forest Office, Rapti Manahari | |
| 10 | Mr. Prakash Dhungana | Chairperson | Chitwan National Park Buffer Zone Management Committee | |
| 11 | Mr. Sitaram Aryal | Chairperson | Parsa National Park Buffer Zone Management Committee | |
| 12 | Lt. Col. Shivaram Basnyat | Battalion Commander | Naya Gorakh Battalion, Kasara, Chitwan | |
| 13 | Lt. Col. Saroj Koirala | Battalion Commander | Sabuj Battalion, Adabhar, Bara | |



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Nepal-India Transborder Conservation Coordination Meeting, Chitwan-Parsa-Valmiki Complex
Chitwan National Park, Nepal, 8-9 January 2025

Participants

| SN | Name | Designation | Organization | Signature |
|----|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| 14 | Mr. Vikas Ahlawat, IFS | Deputy Director | Valmiki Tiger Reserve | |
| 15 | Mr. Piyush Baranwal, IFS | Deputy Director | Valmiki Tiger Reserve | 8/10/25 |
| 16 | Mr. Athis Kumar, BFS | DFO | Bettiah Forest Division | 08/10/25 |
| 17 | Mr. Stalin Fidal Kumar, IFS | Attached Officer | Valmiki Tiger Reserve | 8/10/24 |
| 18 | Dr. Sanjeev | Veterinary Doctor | Valmiki Tiger Reserve | 8/11/2025 |
| 19 | Mr. Manoj Tony | Veterinary Officer | Valmiki Tiger Reserve | 8/11/2025 |
| 20 | Mr. Sujeet Kumar | RoF, Gobardhana | Valmiki Tiger Reserve | 08/10/25 |
| 21 | Mr. Sunil Kumar Pathak | RoF, Manguraha | Valmiki Tiger Reserve | 08/10/25 |
| 22 | Mr. Shiv Kumar Ram | RoF, Valmikinagar | Valmiki Tiger Reserve | |
| 23 | Mr. Satyam Kumar | RoF, Harnatand | Valmiki Tiger Reserve | 08/10/25 |
| 24 | Mr. Sourabh Verma | Field Biologist | Valmiki Tiger Reserve | 08/11/2025 |
| 25 | Mr. Pankaj Ojha | Field Biologist | Valmiki Tiger Reserve | 08/10/2025 |
| 26 | Dr. Prakash Mardaraj | Landscape Coordinator | WWF India | |
| 27 | Mr. Ahbar Alam | Project Officer, Species | WWF India | |
| 28 | Mr. Bankelal Prajapati | Project Officer, Community | WWF India | 08/11/2025 |



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Nepal-India Transborder Conservation Coordination Meeting, Chitwan-Parsa-Valmiki Complex
Chitwan National Park, Nepal, 8-9 January 2025

Participants

| SN | Name | Designation | Organization | Signature |
|----|-----------------------------|----------------------|---|-----------|
| 29 | Mr. Bishnu Prasad Thapaliya | Policy Coordinator | ZSL Nepal | |
| 30 | Ms. Rachana Shah | Department Head | National Trust for Nature Conservation | |
| 31 | Mr. Raj Kumar Gurung | Project Coordinator | NTNC/Biodiversity Conservation Center, Sauraha, Chitwan | |
| 32 | Dr. Shashank Poudel | Wildlife Biologist | WWF Nepal | |
| 33 | Major Dinesh K. C. | Operation Officer | Naya Gorakh Battalion, Kasara, Chitwan | |
| 34 | Mr. Devi Prasad Poudel | Forest Officer | Division Forest Office, Chitwan | |
| 35 | Mr. Bishal Bhattarai | Forest Officer | Division Forest Office, Makawanpur | |
| 36 | Mr. Abinash Thapa Magar | Conservation Officer | Chitwan National Park | |
| 37 | Mr. Shanta Bahadur Magar | Conservation Officer | Chitwan National Park | |
| 38 | Mr. Prabin Poudel | Conservation Officer | Chitwan National Park | |
| 39 | Mr. Divesh Shrestha | Conservation Officer | Chitwan National Park | |
| 40 | Ms. Sujita Shrestha | Conservation Officer | Chitwan National Park | |
| 41 | Ms. Madhu Nepali | Conservation Officer | Chitwan National Park | |



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Nepal-India Transborder Conservation Coordination Meeting, Chitwan-Parsa-Valmiki Complex
Chitwan National Park, Nepal, 8-9 January 2025

Participants

| SN | Name | Designation | Organization | Signature |
|----|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| 42 | Mr. Bhisma Kanta Adhikari | Account Officer | Chitwan National Park | |
| 43 | Mr. Krishna Prasad Gautam | Section Officer | Chitwan National Park | |
| 44 | Mr. Anil Prasai | ^{Sr.} Conservation Officer | NTNC/Biodiversity Conservation Center, Sauraha, Chitwan | |
| 45 | Mr. Prem Poudel | Cluster In-charge | WWF Nepal | |
| 46 | Mr. Naresh Ray Bhar | Ranger | Chitwan National Park | |
| 47 | Mr. Akshay Chaudhary | Ranger | Chitwan National Park | |
| 48 | Mr. Ajeet Yadav | Ranger | Chitwan National Park | |
| 49 | Mr. Manraj Lama Moktan | Ranger | Chitwan National Park | |
| 50 | Mr. Prajems Shrestha | Ranger | DFO, Nawalparasi West | |
| 51 | Mr. Krishna Poudel | Store Keeper | Chitwan National Park | |



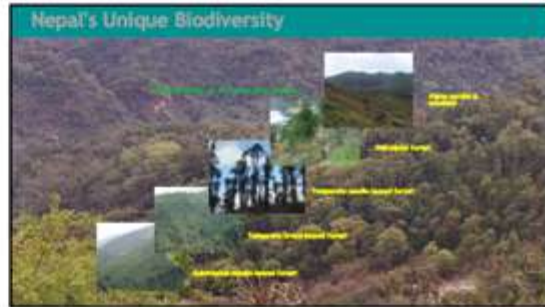
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Appendix-4. Presentation Slides- Nepal



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Key Wildlife Species of Chitwan-Parsa Complex

Rhinoceros - 497 (2021)

Tiger - 149 (2021)

Gaur - 852 (2021)

Wild Elephant - 48.47 (2020)

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Wildlife Research & Monitoring

Rhino monitoring & census

- Rhino census (1987, 1994, 2000, 2001, 2008, 2011, 2011, 2011)
- 752 in Nepal, 634 in CNP & 35 in PNP

Tiger & Prey-base monitoring

- 935 in Nepal, 128 in CNP & 41 in PNP
- 99.7 prey density/km² in CNP and 75.1 prey density/km² in PNP
- Camera trap method

Gaur monitoring

- Total head count method
- 388 in CNP and 164 in PNP

ID based monitoring

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Buffer Zone Program

- 30-50% of the Park's revenue goes directly to the buffer zone communities for (sustainable) conservation, community development, community education, income generation and skill development.
- Buffer zone user committees and user groups
- Integrated Conservation and Development Program
- Buffer zone community forests
- Human-wildlife conflict mitigation activities
- Awareness activities
- Community based anti-poaching units

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Human Wildlife Conflict Management

- IFWC is inevitable
- Can't be zero but can be minimized
- We focus on Human Wildlife Co-existence

Preventive

- Fencing (Solar fence, mesh wire, RCC wall)
- Early warning
- Awareness

Curative - Controlling problem causing animals

- Identification of problem-causing individuals
- Rescue, care and rehabilitation

Relief - Support for wildlife victims

- National wildlife damage relief guideline

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Shift in HWC Mitigation Measures

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HWC Management

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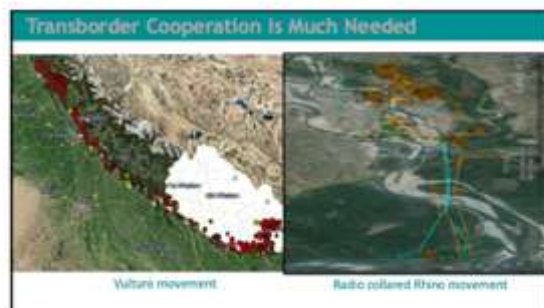
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Conflict Tiger Captured at VTR

Rescue team from Nepal

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Transborder Meeting 2024

Following points were discussed and agreed.

1. Both India and Nepal team shared conservation achievements from their respective countries.
2. The teams discussed conservation issues in Chitwan-Parsa-Vainaki Complex, particularly in the trans-border areas, such as poaching and illegal wildlife trade, forest fire, human-wildlife conflict, snaring, use of chemical pesticides/insecticides, and infrastructure development.
3. Both teams agreed to increase transboundary collaboration for maintaining connectivity, increasing transborder movement of wildlife, and curbing wildlife crimes within the Chitwan-Parsa-Vainaki Complex through increasing law enforcement, developing/strengthening information sharing mechanism between PA officials, and raising awareness among the farmers on the use of chemical pesticides/insecticides.

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Transborder Meeting 2024

4. Both teams agreed to share information on frequent offenders from both the sides, movement of wildlife particularly tigers, rhino, sloth bear, gharial, vulture within the Chitwan-Parsa-Vainaki complex so that adequate attention can be paid for their protection and rescue.
5. Both teams agreed to collaborate each other through exchanging technical expertise for wildlife conservation through cross learning and joint capacity building programs.
6. Both teams agreed to promote exchange visits to learn best practices in community participation in conservation and transboundary tourism.
7. Both teams agreed to explore and initiate transboundary conservation measure for tigers cross through documentation of nesting sites.

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Transborder Meeting 2024

8. Both teams agreed to organize next transboundary meeting to Chitwan National Park, Nepal and increase frequency of transboundary meeting to strengthen transboundary ties for protecting tigers and enabling their free movement between India and Nepal.
9. Both teams agreed to nominate joint persons for field level coordination and sharing wildlife movement information. Mr. Mahesh Neupane, Conservation Officer-CNP, Chitwan NP, Mr. Suresh Kumar Bhagat, Conservation Officer-Parsa NP, Mr. Pankaj Ojha-Field Biologist-VTR, Mr. Suresh Field Biologist-VTR and Mr. Aashay Jain WWF-India were constituted to share the species related information with each other's.

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Transborder Issues

- Joint patrolling and monitoring the border area
- Illegal entry inside the Protected Areas (Porous borders)
- Information sharing on Illegal Wildlife Trade (Wildlife movement and poacher's activity)
- Preservation of critical wildlife corridors
- Exchange of research findings and best practices
- Wildlife rescue and HWC management



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Thank you

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Appendix-5. Presentation Slides- India

Trans-boundary Wildlife Conservation Progress & Way Forward

Field Director
Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bihar

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Broader Landscape for Wildlife



| Geographical area | Wildlife Index |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Bihar | 78 |
| Population (2011 census) | 1.04 bn. million |
| Forested (2011 census) | 20.86 million |
| Forest | Forest, Wildlife and Ecozone |
| Water Bodies | 12000 lakes |

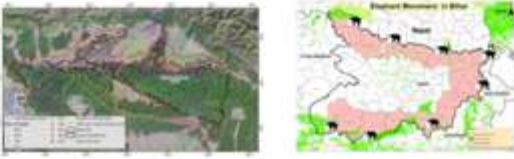
| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Number of Parks | 03 |
| Wildlife Sanctuaries | 11 |
| Protected forest area | 0,00,47,000 |
| Additional Area under | 25,00,000 |

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Transboundary movement of wildlife



- Tiger
- Chital
- Print
- South bear
- Leopard
- Chital

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Brief History of Valmiki TR

| | |
|--------------|--|
| 1956 | Based on Government orders, 18000 sq. km. Valmiki Park & adjacent forest areas under protection and later designated Bihar Primary Protected Forest Act, 1957 applied to state over management of the forest under the State Government control. |
| 1969 to 1970 | The Government of Bihar passed order in the year 1969 to merge the Valmiki Tiger Reserve with the other tiger reserves in the state. |
| 1970 to 1971 | Several protected forests and areas brought under full State protection and control. |
| 1971 to 1972 | Jointly-Transposed Forest Division and South Bihar Administration Division. |
| 1972 to 1973 | Formulation of boundaries, settlement of rights and privileges. |
| 1973 to 1974 | Large scale afforestation with Teak, Mahua, Sal and Bamboo. Started with control of forest and other commercial tree in the adjacent management. |
| 1974 to 1975 | Joint State of Bihar Tiger Conservation Committee (Tiger Conservation Project). |
| 1975 to 1976 | Revised the size of Valmiki reserved forest boundaries with 10000 sq. km. |
| 1976 | One half of the area - 5000 sq. km. in the western sector control as reserve wildlife division. |
| 1977 | Western sector of 5000 sq. km. in the eastern sector control as Wildlife division. |
| 1978 to 1979 | 100 sq. km. in the northern sector declared National Park. |
| 1979 to 1980 | The public Tiger Reserve was established with 10000 sq. km. of the territory in the 1980 Tiger Reserves of the country. |
| 1981 | Tiger Project commenced. |

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Valmiki Tiger Reserve [VTR]

- Notified as **Wildlife Sanctuary** in two phases (on 10.01.1976 (461.80 sq. km. of Western portion) & 06.02.1976 (419.18 sq. km. of Eastern portion).
Total Area - 880,979.98 ha.
- Notified as **National Park** (on 25.12.1976 with an Area of **225,846.04 ha.**)
- Notified as **Tiger Reserve** (TR) in India) on 18.01.1980.
- Brought under **Project Tiger** on 11.03.1984.
- Total Area of VTR = **1,10,68,600 ha.**
- Core Area - **549,79 sq. km. (50%)**
- Buffer Area - **328,18 sq. km. (30%)**

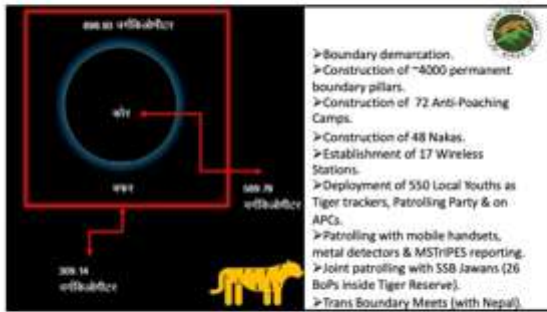
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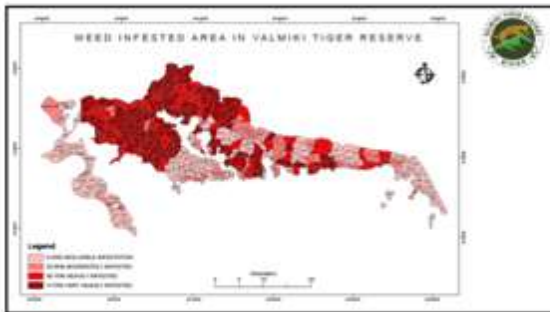
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Habitat Development

At the time of development in Tiger Reserve:

- ✓ Only 2% area covered by grasslands.
- ✓ Most of the area infested with Pharus, Euphorbia & Mimosa as the weeds.

Major interventions after development in Tiger Reserve:

- Weed removal.
- Seasonal development to about 30% of the area.
- Distribution of grasslands in all six Forest Blocks.
- Construction of 88 water holes.
- SAC works to conserve runoff water & check top soil erosion.

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सर्वे से काम:

1. नए क्षेत्रों में अतिरिक्त क्षेत्रों को विकसित करने के लिए प्रयास
2. जहाँ एक समय में अतिरिक्त क्षेत्रों को विकसित करने के लिए प्रयास
3. जहाँ एक समय में अतिरिक्त क्षेत्रों को विकसित करने के लिए प्रयास

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सर्वे से काम:

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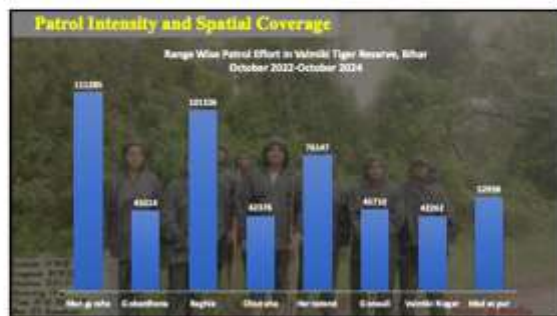
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Common Challenges

- Fairly porous borders across
- Inconsistent inter-agency cooperation
- Low levels of international cooperation on wildlife crime matters
- Difficulty in sharing of real time intelligence on wildlife crimes
- Issues of joint training/joint operations
- Transboundary flood issue

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Discussion on Landscape based conservation initiatives and strategies with reference to trans-boundary areas

- Increased information shearing mechanisms for intelligence exchange to combat trans-national wildlife crime
- Joint monitoring and matching species/tigers/rhino images with VTR, CNP & PNP
- Joint Capacity building Programme
- Strengthen trans-boundary conservation in Chitwan/Valmiki-Parsa Complex
- Strengthen partnership between Forest Department and other enforcement agencies - intra-state and inter-state.

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Discussion on Landscape based conservation initiatives and strategies with reference to trans-boundary areas

- Increasing trend of spread of invasive plant species
- Transboundary tourism
- Transboundary Sarus conservation
- Others

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- Poaching and illegal wildlife trade,
- Forest fire
- Human-wild conflict
- Snaring
- Use of chemical pesticides/insecticides and
- Infrastructure development

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Impact of flood

Submerged some of the important habitats of Valmiki Tiger Reserve. Flooding has displaced hundreds of people and wildlife around Valmiki TR. Huge loss in Bihar and Nepal.



- Wildlife knows no human boundaries.
- Timely action help to save animal.
- Best joint trans-boundary rhino rescue.
- Better coordination between India and Nepal

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Agreed to share information

- Tigers, Rhinos, Elephants, Gharial, Saras and Vultures
- Exchanging technical expertise
- Cross learning
- Joint capacity building programs.
- Transboundary tourism.
- Documentation
- Strengthen collaboration



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Issues and field level cooperation in Chitwan-Valmiki-Parsa Complex

| S.N. | Issue | Area/State/Province | Joint Action required | Responsibility |
|------|---|---|--|---|
| 1 | Smuggling (Hunting/Poaching) | Busta-Valmiki(Nagar-Jorhesi), Raghia-Sumchaur; Maspar-Thori | Regular local level coordination, joint anti snare walk | ROPV, SBR, AFP |
| 2 | Illegal trade | Bargun custom-wildlife trophies and medicinal plants | Local level coordination, joint checking, identification to custom official and identification of wildlife trophies and plants | Custom, Police, AFP, DFO, SBR |
| 3 | Illegal fishing (for local consumption) | Along the border | Joint patrol, Information sharing | DFOs, VTR, CNP, PSP, Police, AFP, SBR |
| 4 | Wood smuggling (Commercial purpose) | Along the border (Bansberaha, Bista, Raghia, Maspar Tivra) | Joint patrol, Information sharing | DFOs, VTR, Nepal Army, CNP, PSP, Police, AFP, SBR |
| 5 | Cross border movement of major wildlife (Rhino, Tiger, Elephant) outside PA | Thori-Mangarh, Tivra | Information sharing, rescue of such wild animals, Joint patrolling | DFOs, VTR, CNP, PSP, Police, AFP, SBR |
| 6 | Illegal wildlife poaching along the | Bansberaha, Bista, Maspar, Raghia, Muli | Joint patrol, Information sharing, community engagement | DFOs, VTR, CNP, PSP, Police, AFP, SBR |

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Issues and field level cooperation in Chitwan-Valmiki-Parsa Complex

| S.N. | Issue | Area/State/Province | Joint Action required | Responsibility |
|------|---------------------|----------------------|---|---|
| 7 | Uncontrolled fire | Along the border | Joint patrol, Information sharing, fire line creation & maintenance, Joint fire fighting, community awareness | DFOs, VTR, CNP, PSP, |
| 8 | Wildlife monitoring | Thori-mangarh, Tivra | Information sharing, rescue of such wild animals, Joint patrolling | DFOs, VTR, STNC, CNP, PSP, Police, AFP, SBR |

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Visit us <https://valmikitigerreserve.com/>

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