

Wildlife

Central

JULY 2018



SPECIES IN FOCUS

- Asiatic Lion
- Steppe Eagle

ZEAL WILDLIFE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 2018 WINNERS

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY INSIDER

Featuring
Swethakumar Rangarao
Bobbili



On the cover is an Asiatic Lion from Gir National Park Photographed by Rachit Shah.

ABOUT US

WILDLIFE CENTRAL IS A WILDLIFE AND CONSERVATION MAGAZINE BY ZEAL WILDLIFE , THAT AIMS TO RAISE AWARENESS AMONG INDIANS ABOUT THEIR DISAPPEARING NATURAL HERITAGE. WE BRING YOU HOME ABOUT OUR WILDLIFE AND THEIR LIFE, THE EASIEST WAY POSSIBLE SO THAT IT'S EASY FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND AND AT THE SAME TIME TO EDUCATE YOURSELF.

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WALL OF FAME



MAY 2018

NARAYAN MALU

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY INSIDER

Featuring Wildlife Enthusiast And Photographer
Swethakumar Rangarao Bobbili



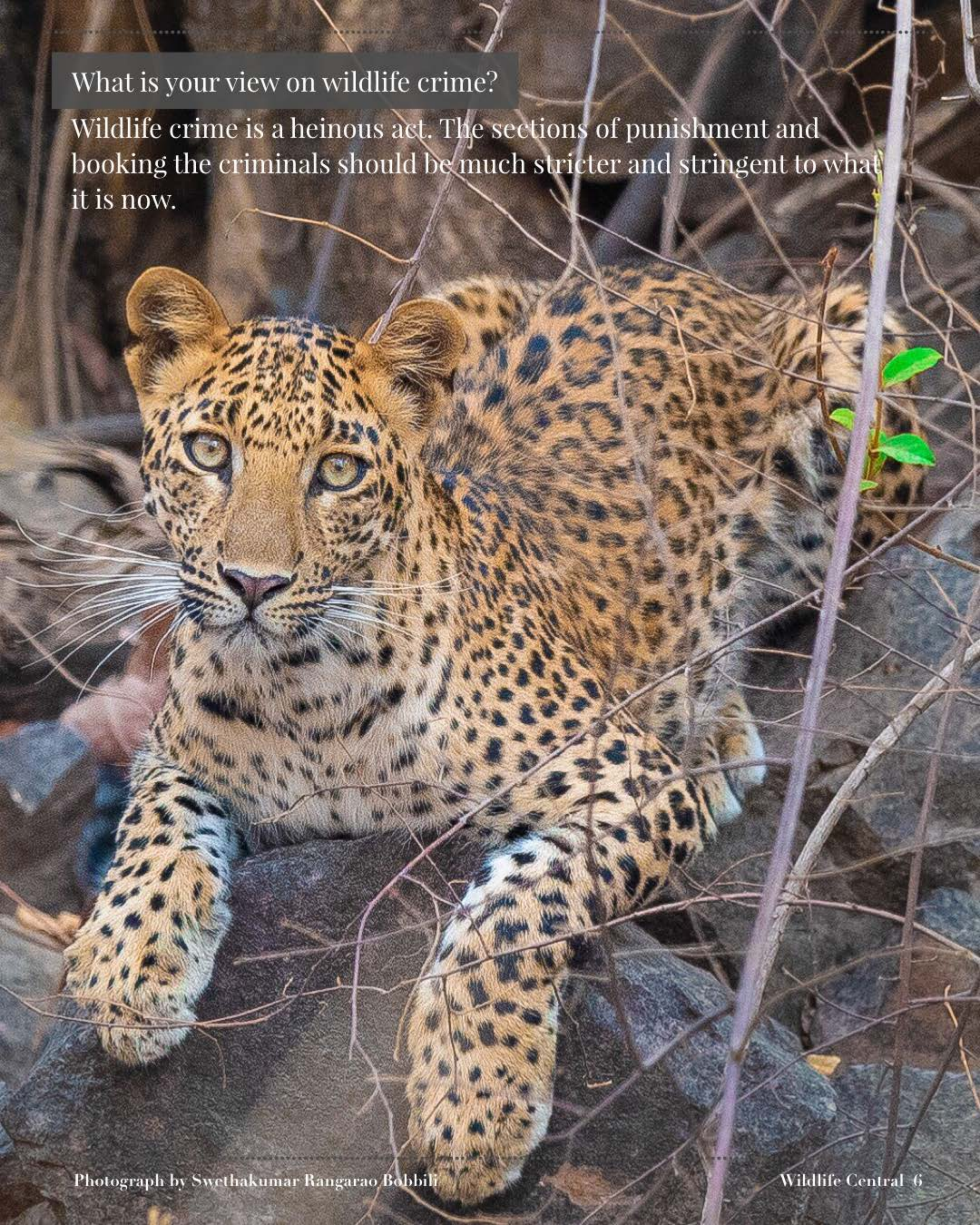
What is your favourite species? And why?

Tiger without doubt. It is the most royal and beautiful animal and it's always a pleasure to photograph them.



What is your view on wildlife crime?

Wildlife crime is a heinous act. The sections of punishment and booking the criminals should be much stricter and stringent to what it is now.



Which Wildlife Reserve attracts you the most and how does it differ from other reserves?

Tadoba any day because of A relationship from 2011 when she was just a 3 month old cub, our very own Maya.



Which Is Your Favourite Wildlife Shot ?

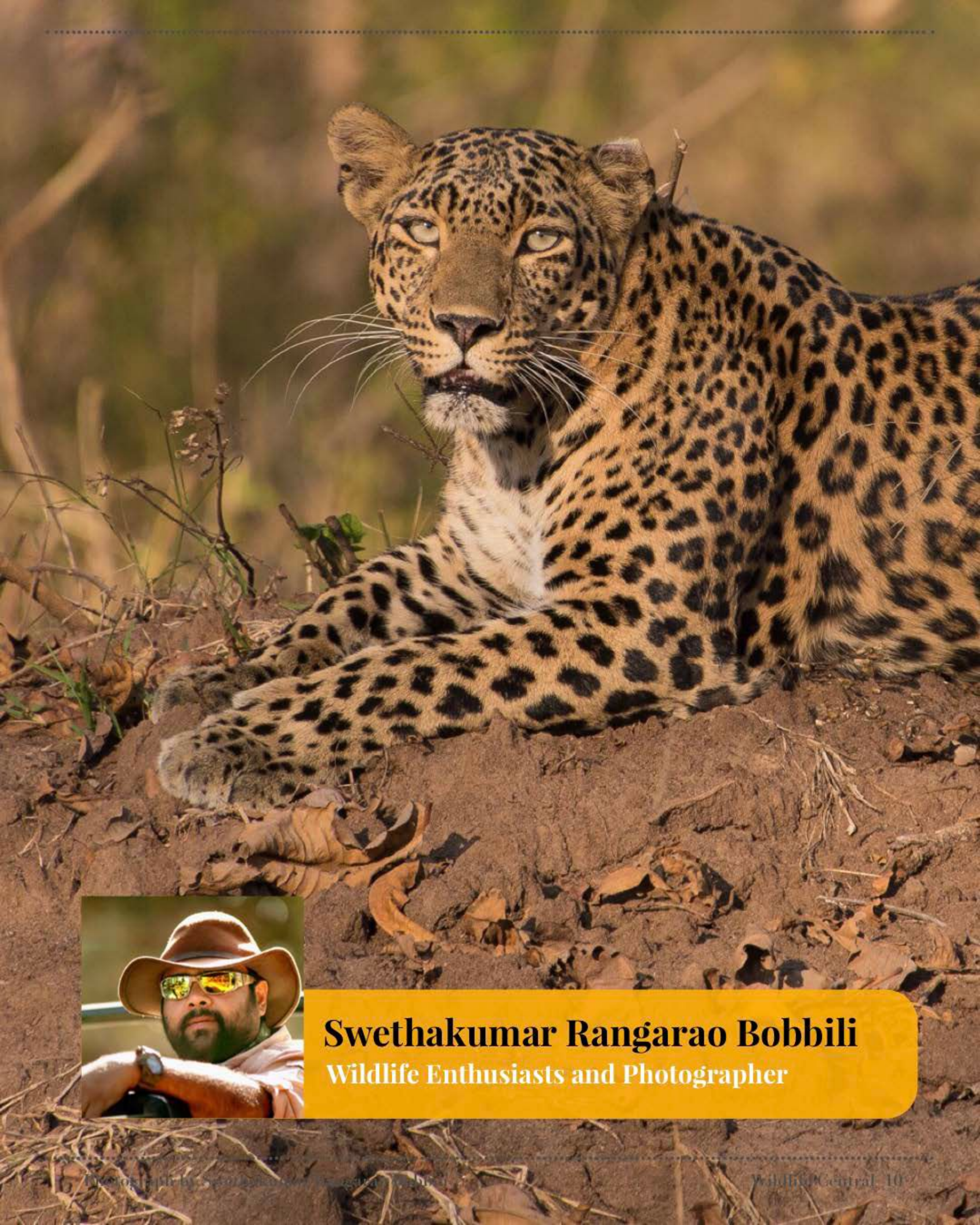
Image Of A Black Panther Which Was Shot
In Tadoba.





How Can Wildlife Photographers Help In Wildlife Conservation?

Well, According To Me Wildlife Photography Is Very Important In Wildlife Conservation Like It Can Help In Finding Out The Location Of New Tigers, Imminent Dangers, Identification Of Injuries.



Swethakumar Rangarao Bobbili
Wildlife Enthusiasts and Photographer

Low Key Technique

When it comes to low key style of photography technique, the main aim here is not to show behaviour, environment, or interaction, as we would do in traditional way of wildlife photography. What we want is that to capture a portrait of a character, as a portrait photographer tries to capture a client in a studio sitting.

The Low key photography technique needs two major elements and that is the nature of the light hitting the subject, and how the subject is differentiated from the background. Usually in low key technique images are dark and contrasty, with a black or smoky gray backdrop. This approach provokes a totally different perspective and feeling of drama. The feathers of a species or other prominent features of a subject can be accentuated and rendered with pleasing visual effects. Using reflections, that is whenever the subject is in a water body or near to it, the reflections can provide us with some extraordinary results.

Aesthetically, there is nothing more serene than being alone with nature as daylight ends; the enchantment of twilight triggers creativity. It is important not to disturb wildlife; therefore, staying quiet, keeping distance and using a large prime lenses will do the trick but it's not always necessary to carry a prime lens and it can be captured in other lenses also. Focus must be precisely on the subject's eye, so never rely on autofocus, as the camera may randomly set the focus point on undesirable areas.

Most of the time, it is necessary to use a long-reaching fill flash to illuminate perfectly. Though some photographers shy away from flash, try out your luck using flash over a high ISO setting on the camera. Even though many good cameras are tested for high ISO capabilities and software is available to compensate, there still can be evidence of noise on the files when producing a print of significant size shown as a gallery image.





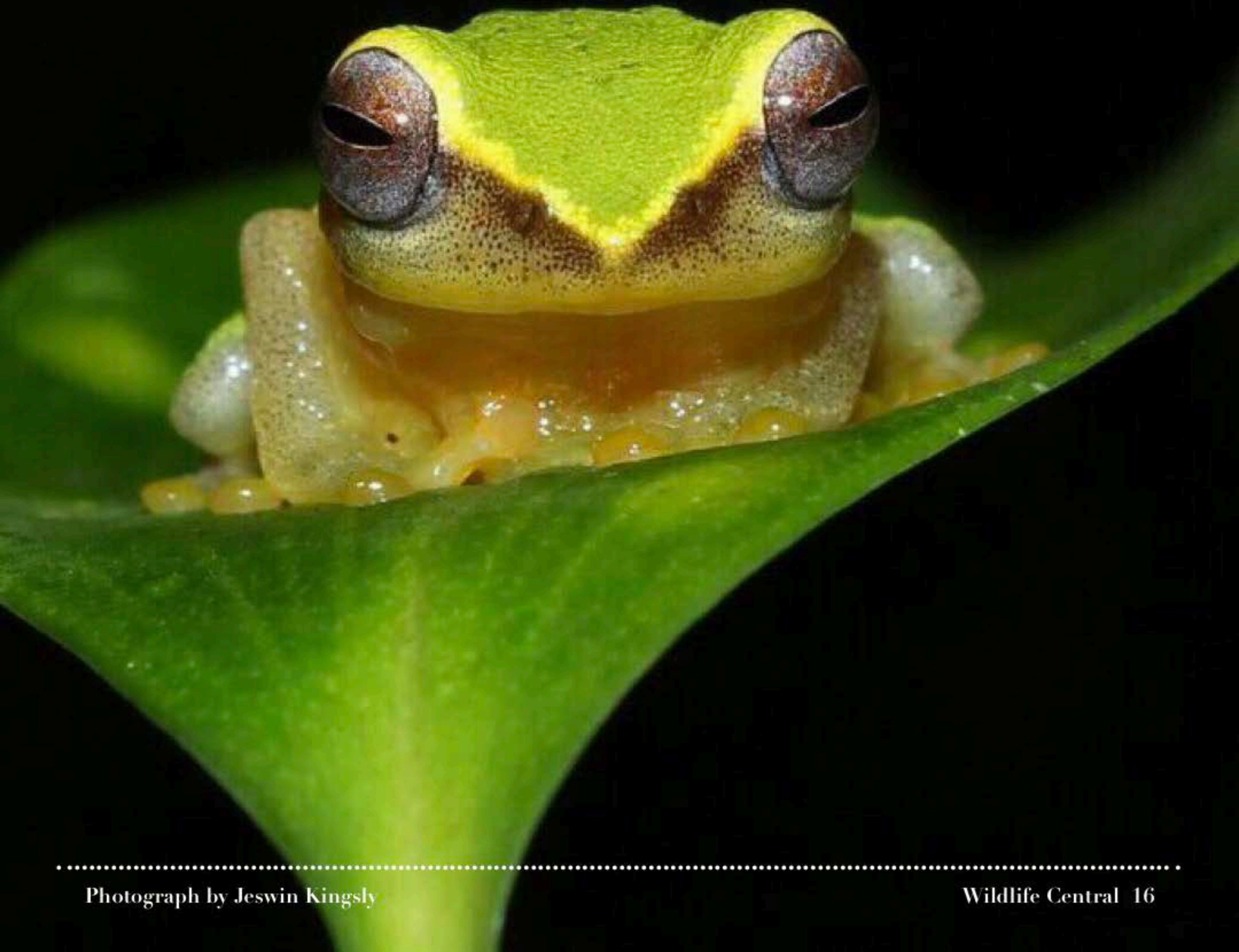


Usually, the lowest ISO setting for a stationary subject in the dark would be ISO 400. A larger aperture will most likely be required. Always try to meter the subject correctly, keeping the histogram toward the left. By keeping a shallow depth of field, we can ensure that the background is thrown out-of-focus, which makes the job of blacking it out far simpler because it leaves the subject with a clearly defined edge.



When you shoot with your camera, you'll need a lens in the region of 200mm-400mm. Always shoot your images in RAW format instead of JPEG because it makes a world of difference.

With that note let's wind up with our topic on low key photography technique and just hope that with time and patience in learning we will master the technique.



WATER AND HUMAN



Water is the only substance which is present in all the three states. Water refers to the liquid state of the substance that prevail at standard ambient. But this vital resource is at grave danger. Now this brings the need of water conservation.

Water conservation includes all the policies, strategies and activities for sustaining the remaining natural resources of fresh water. Many methods have been implemented to conserve water but are these really put to its maximum use? No, We people doesn't know it's true value.

There are some methods of water conservation:

1. Rain water harvesting
2. Digging ponds and lakes
3. Expanding water reservoir.
4. Avoid construction of any building on the water streams.

But the ancient Indians developed not only sophisticated hydraulic structures but also an extraordinary tradition of water harvesting. People made many structures like Kulhs, Inundation channels, Khadhins etc. These made water sustain.

Then, people made many useful water storage vaults which helped them for their daily use of fresh water. But now fresh water (rain water) are stored in huge potholes on roads which of course can't be used for any purpose. So by this it is concluded that without any environmental changes required to sustain water, there will not be any fresh water available for the posterity (future generations).

So what happens when water runs out? There will be water stress all around the world. A Swedish expert named Falkenmark predicted that water stress occurs when the water availability is between 1000-1600 cubic meter per person per year. When it is less than 1000 cubic metres per person per year, the region is said to be in water scarcity. Therefore, I want no country in this world to face this problem because insufficient water is not only a simple problem but wipes out the whole area as water is the very necessity of any living beings.

Ergo, the need of the hour is to conserve and manage our water resources in order to safeguard ourselves from health hazards, to ensure food security, continuation of livelihoods and productive activities and also to prevent degradation of our natural ecosystem. From all these, it confirms that,

**“IT TAKES A LOT OF *Blue*
TO MAKE IT ALL *Green*”**



K SUBRAMANI,
Grade XI,
PSBB MILLENNIUM SCHOOL,
CUDDALORE.



ZEAL WILDLIFE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 2018

In a way of encouraging the bird conservation and bird photography, Zeal Wildlife Team came up with an Idea of bird photography contest on 20th March 2018 and formulated it as a 45 day social media contest running from 25th March 2018 to 10th May 2018 with proper rules set as to monitor whether the images were taken by the use of tape lure, the use of live bait and to verify whether the contestant hold the copyright of the image.

A total of seven awards was framed for the contestants to compete. The contest being its inaugural year had a total participants of 88 bird photographers from around the country with the total number of entries reaching 312.

Totally 105 bird species were recorded in the contest.

The contest had the youngest participant at the age of just 12 and oldest participant who was 58 years old.

For judging the contest one of India's best and well renowned photographer Jainy Maria was brought on board and the zeal wildlife team would like to thank her for her immense support.

The results were announced on 25th May 2018 as follows

Bird Photographer of the Year : R K Balaji

Young Bird Photographer of the Year : Melvin Jaison

Best Portrait Shot : Udaya Kumar

Best Flight Shot : Sujoy Dasgupta

Best Habitat Shot : Kingsley David

People's Choice : Pranav Deshpande



UDAYA KUMAR



**BEST
PORTRAIT**

Wildlife Central 20



KINGSLEY DAVID



**BEST
HABITAT**



MELVIN JAISON



**YOUNG
PHOTOGRAPHER
OF THE YEAR**

BEST FLIGHT SHOT



SUJOY DASGUPTA



PRANAV DESHPANDE



PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD



MERLIN SELVAN

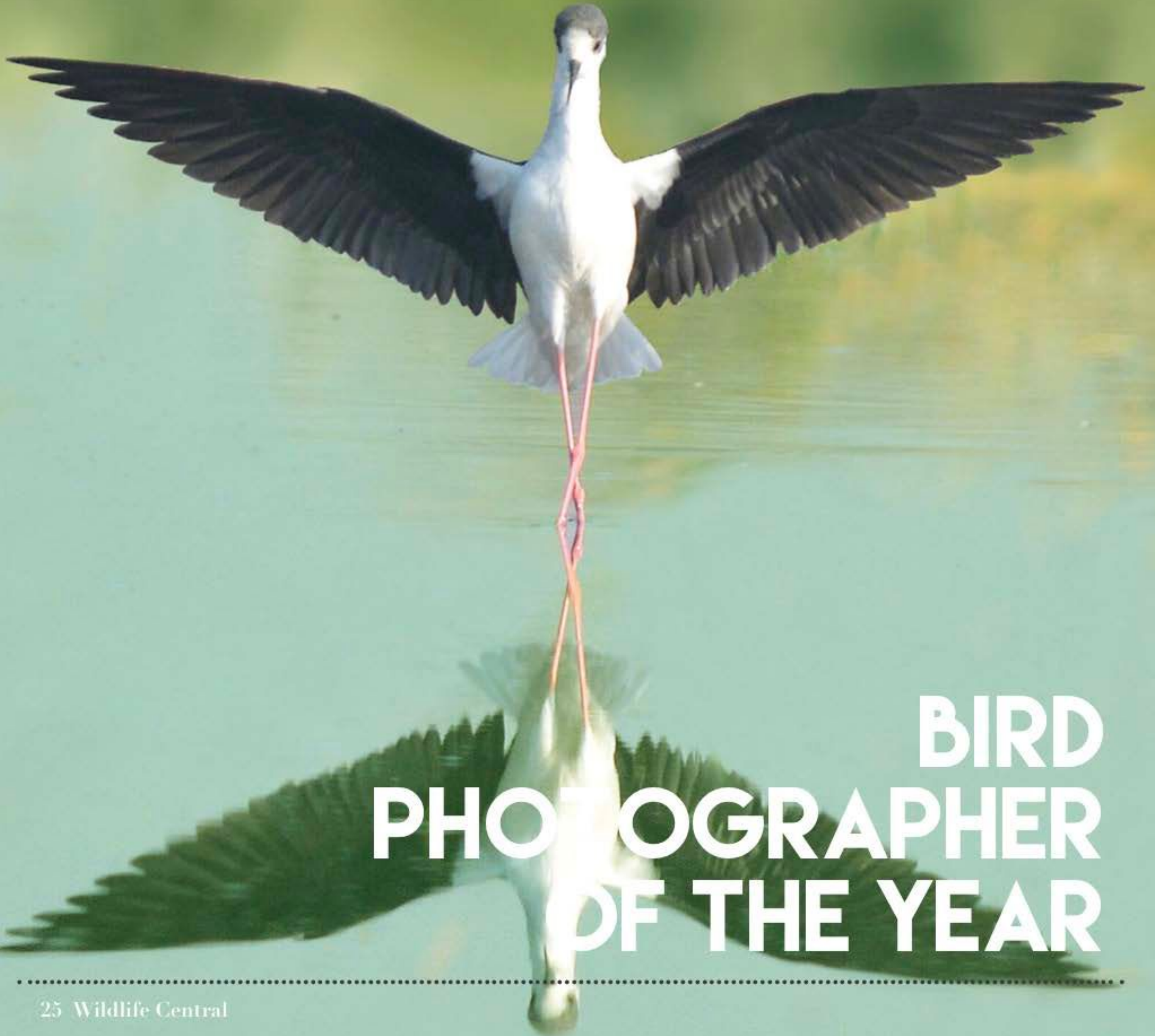


BEST PORTFOLIO





R K BALAJI



**BIRD
PHOTOGRAPHER
OF THE YEAR**



**ASIATIC
LION**

**SPECIES
IN
FOCUS**



**STEPPE
EAGLE**

ASIATIC LION

Panthera leo persica

The Asiatic lion is a lion population in Gujarat, India. The Asiatic lion's fur ranges in colour from ruddy-tawny, heavily speckled with black, to sandy or buffish grey, sometimes with a silvery sheen in certain lights. Males have only moderate mane growth at the top of the head, so that their ears are always visible. The mane is scanty on the cheeks and throat where it is only 10 cm (3.9 in) long.



Male Asiatic lions are solitary or associate with up to three males forming a loose pride. Pairs of males rest, hunt and feed together, and display marking behaviour at the same sites. Females associate with up to 12 females forming a stronger pride together with their cubs. They share large carcasses among each other, but seldom with males. Female and male lions usually associate only for a few days when mating, but rarely travel and feed together.

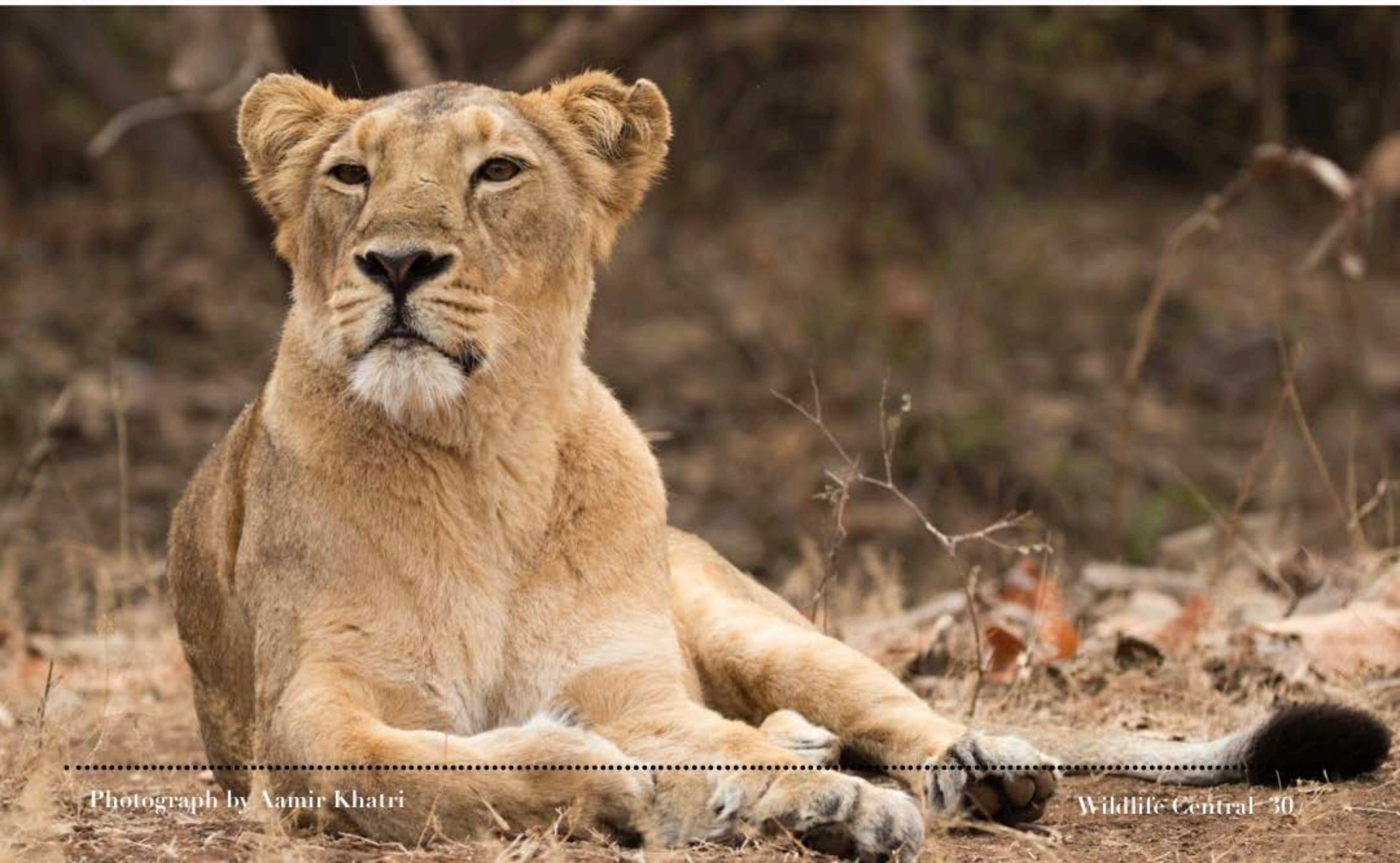
Asiatic lions are slightly smaller than African lions. Adult males weigh 160 to 190 kg, while females weigh 110 to 120 kg. The height at the shoulders is about 3.5 ft (110 cm). The maximum recorded total length of a male Asiatic lion is 2.92m (115 inches) including the tail. The most striking morphological character, which is always seen in Asiatic lions, and rarely in African lions, is a longitudinal fold of skin running along its belly. The fur ranges in colour from ruddytawny, heavily speckled with black, to sandy or buff-grey, sometimes with a silvery sheen in certain lights. Coalitions of males defend home ranges containing one or more female prides. Together, they hold a territory for a longer time than single lions. Males in coalitions of three to four individuals exhibit a pronounced hierarchy with one male dominating the others.

In general, lions prefer large prey species within a weight range of 190 to 550 kg (420 to 1,210 lb) irrespective of their availability. Domestic cattle have historically been a major component of the Asiatic lions diet in the Gir Forest. Inside the Gir Forest National Park, lions predominantly kill chital, sambar, nilgai, cattle, buffalo and less frequently also wild boar. They most commonly kill chital, which weighs only around 50 kg (110 lb). They prey on sambar deer when latter descend from the hills during summer.





Asiatic lions mate foremost between September and January. Mating lasts three to six days. During these days, they usually do not hunt, but only drink water. Gestation lasts about 110 days. Litters comprise one to four cubs. Dominant males mate more frequently than their coalition partners. The lions face the usual threats of poaching and habitat fragmentation. Three major roads and a railway track pass through the Gir Protected Area. Also, there are three big temples inside the protected area that attract large number of pilgrims, particularly during certain times of the year. There has been an increase in lion population, and more than 200 lions stay outside the protected area. Though the conflict is not high now, with changing lifestyles and values these may increase in the future. There are also cases of lions dying by falling into the unguarded wells around the Gir protected area. The Asiatic lion faces threat of genetic inbreeding arising from a single population in one place.



SCIENTIFIC CLASSIFICATION

<i>Kingdom</i>	<i>Animalia</i>
<i>Phylum</i>	<i>Chordata</i>
<i>Class</i>	<i>Mammalia</i>
<i>Order</i>	<i>Carnivora</i>
<i>Family</i>	<i>Felidae</i>
<i>Genus</i>	<i>Panthera</i>
<i>Species</i>	<i>P. leo persica</i>

Females may survive for 17–18 years while males live for around 16 years on average.

Asiatic lions have been listed under the ‘Endangered’ category of the IUCN Red List. As per a 2015 census, the Gir forest and surrounding areas were said to contain an estimated 523 individuals, comprising of 109 adult males, 201 adult lionesses, and 213 cubs.

Currently, efforts are underway to introduce Asiatic lions into the Palpur–Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary in the state of Madhya Pradesh in India. This will bring the lions in proximity to Bengal tigers already inhabiting the vicinity.

DID YOU KNOW?

Asiatic lions were on the brink of extinction with about 12 individuals left when an Indian Nawab forbade the hunting of lions and confined the remaining lions in his private hunting grounds in an active conservation effort.



HOW DOES ASIATIC LIONS DIFFER FROM AFRICAN LIONS?

- As their names indicate, the natural distributions of these two are in two different continents.
- African lion has a larger population and a large home range, while Asian lion has only a small forest reserve in Western India with a very small population.



- According to IUCN red list, as mentioned earlier Asian lion is in the endangered, and African lion is in the vulnerable categories.
- Asian males are solitary, while African males are social. In fact, one of the African lion males leads each pride.
- African lion prides are many times larger than those in Asian lions are.
- Asian lions have less swollen tympanic bullae and a divided infraorbital foramen, whereas those in African lion are different.
- African lion has smaller tail tuft whereas the Asian Lion has larger tail tuft.





WALL OF FAME



JUNE 2018

SURENDRA CHOUHAN

STEPPE EAGLE

Aquila nipalensis

The steppe eagle is a bird of prey. Like all eagles, it belongs to the family Accipitridae. It was once considered to be closely related to the non-migratory tawny eagle and the two forms have previously been treated as conspecific. These steppe eagle species are distributed in Europe, Asia, Indian subcontinent, Africa and the Middle East.





These eagle species are migratory and the birds move to south-east Africa, southern Asia and India for wintering. They leave their breeding grounds between August and October and return between January and May. The eagle subspecies *A. n. orientalis* is distributed in Europe and Central Asia. It winters in Middle East, Arabia and Africa. The subspecies *A. n. nipalensis* is distributed in Tibet and China. It winters in Nepal, India and Southeast Asia.

SCIENTIFIC CLASSIFICATION

<i>Kingdom</i>	<i>Animalia</i>
<i>Phylum</i>	<i>Chordata</i>
<i>Class</i>	<i>Aves</i>
<i>Order</i>	<i>Accipitriformes</i>
<i>Family</i>	<i>Accipitridae</i>
<i>Genus</i>	<i>Aquila</i>
<i>Species</i>	<i>A. nipalensis</i>

MAJOR THREATS

The steppe eagles are adversely affected by veterinary use of diclofenac and may fall prey to it. They found extensive visceral gout, lesions and uric acid deposits in the liver, kidney and spleen, as well as deposits of diclofenac residue in tissues. Steppe eagles are opportunistic scavengers, which may expose them to the risk of diclofenac poisoning. Habitat degradation, destruction of breeding sites, accidents with power lines are the major threats to the survival of these species of birds.

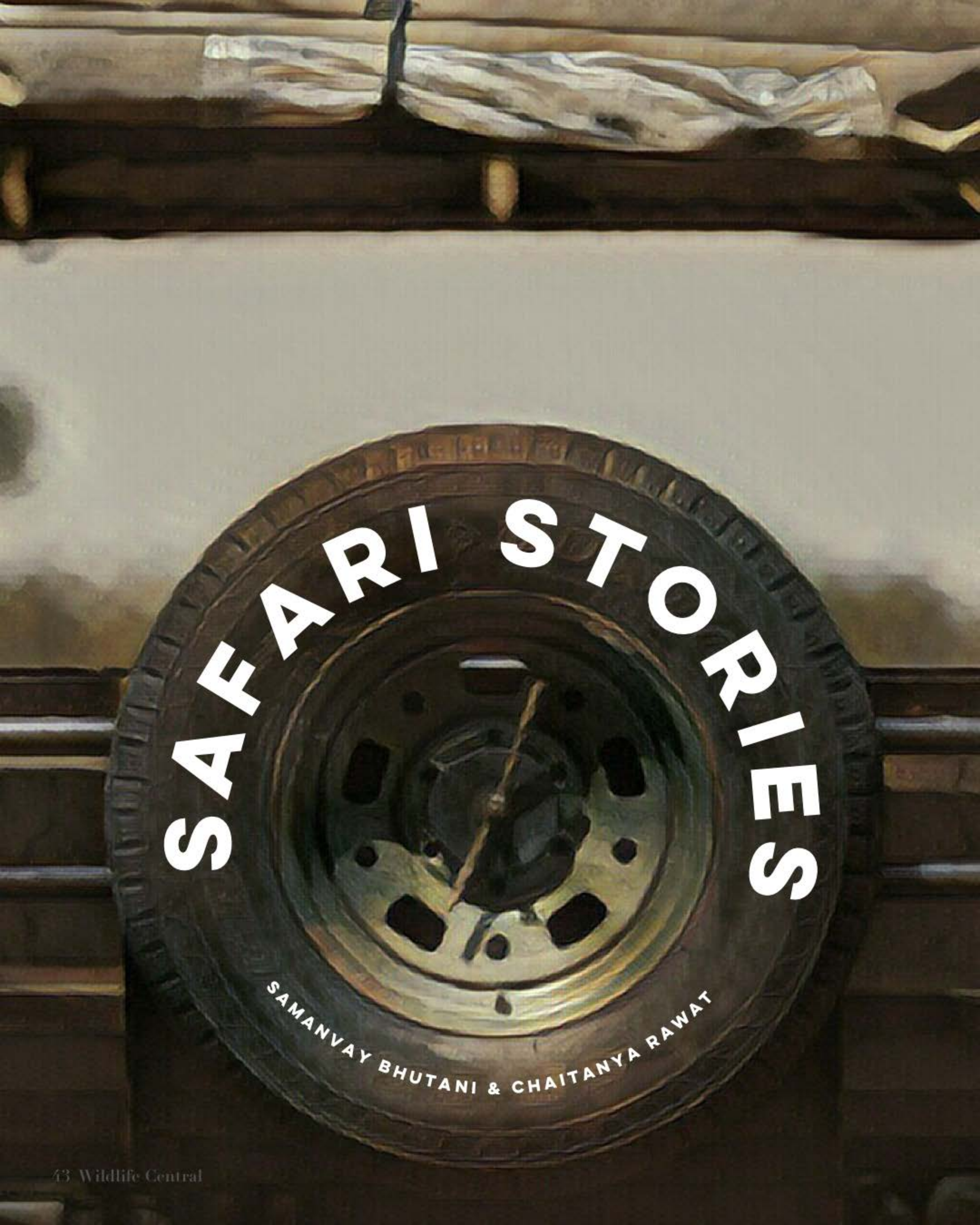
CONSERVATION ACTIONS

Protect remaining grassland steppes in its range. Dangerous electric powerline constructions should be replaced or fitted with protective devices. Use GPS tracking to confirm migration routes and identify threats during migration.



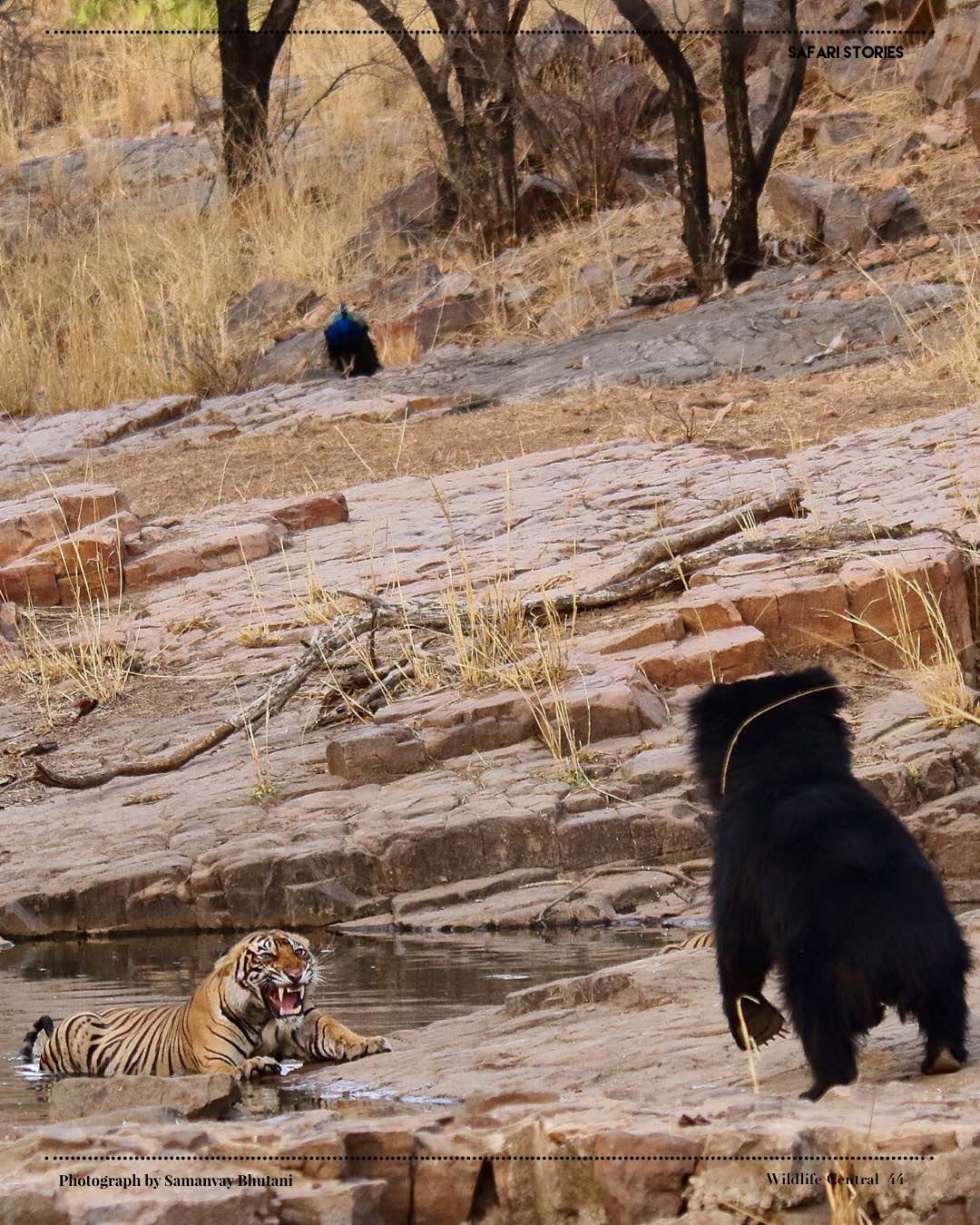


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SAFARI STORIES

SAMANVAY BHUTANI & CHAITANYA RAWAT





With almost no rains last year at Ranthambhore, scarcity of water is posing threat to the existence of varied species.

This epic battle between two largest animals in RTR does portray a lot. The sloth in search of water ended up near a waterhole where Noor and 2 cubs made a kill and had spend a day or two here already, late in the evening while family enjoyed being in water, this male sloth bear approached as the 2 cubs sitting head-on with almost no sign of hesitation to fight, he did manage to scare them but got a similar response (Snarl and mild roar) from both the cubs who were almost ready in charge mode, but eventually the cubs held back and he moved on further to drink water.

But as they say, mother is a mother, looking at the cubs being threatend, she in no time, charged on to the sloth bear but this tough bear was is no mood to back off and after few intense seconds of dust and heat, he proved his dominance and emerged victorious.

Hoping good rains this year, and a healthy wild heaven for all the existing species.

Mr. Samanway Bhutani
Wildlife Enthusiast and Photographer.



It was a hot afternoon at the Jungle of Jhalana, Jaipur where temperature was hitting close to 45°C. Its a quite dry jungle with not a lot of vegetation or greenery. The survivors are the most extreme and tuff animals. 2 hours into the safari yet we didn't find any success other than few Peacocks and the massive Indian Blue Bull a.k.a Nilgai.

We planned to halt in any one of the numerous man-made water hole and patiently wait for an alarm call or some movement around. Suddenly I heard my safari driver calling out in excitement "Leopard". There I saw this beautiful leopard, sliding down the rocks like a melting wax, coming near the water hole where we were stationed at. We sat in the jeep with excitement and with our cameras pointed towards the direction of the leopard. She came towards us like magic, with the beautiful yellow ochre coat on her and started to quench her thirst. Looking straight into our eyes she drank water for the next 5 minutes.

Just few minutes later, we saw one huge hyena walking towards the waterhole, unaware of the presence of the leopard. 15 seconds of great suspense and they both came face to face at the water hole. Both getting the surprise of their lifetime, paused for a second and then the hyena went after the leopard. The easiest escape for the leopard would have been the dry tree nearby. It took her less than few leaps to reach the top of the tree, her safe house. Hyena tried his level best to get hold of her which made her very aggressive and she kept growling. They gave us some of the most iconic and stunning digital images.

Jungles can get you the most dramatic scenes, it changes every second and the possibility of what you see is absolutely a mystery. I am happy to capture this incident through my camera lens and of my eye.

Mr. Chaitanya Rawat
Wildlife Enthusiast and Photographer.







F

THE FLAMINGO CAN ONLY EAT WHEN IT'S HEAD IS UPSIDE DOWN.



W

A WOODPECKER CAN PECK 20 TIMES PER SECOND.



E

AN ELEPHANT CAN SMELL WATER UP TO 3 MILES AWAY.



S

THE SWAN HAS OVER 25,000 FEATHERS ON ITS BODY.

CREDITS AND COPYRIGHT

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WORD-LATIONSHIP

Coming Soon



ZEAL WILDLIFE

**STOP
WILDLIFE
CRIME**