

# PET

EXPLORERS

APR / MAY 2018

**WOMEN'S EDITION**



## **WOMEN IN PHOTOGRAPHY**

A Discussion with Mary Ann McDonald  
By Peter Hudson

## **THE BIG CAT TRAILS**

Coffee Table Book Launch & Exhibition  
By Paws Trails Explorers



# D850



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100  
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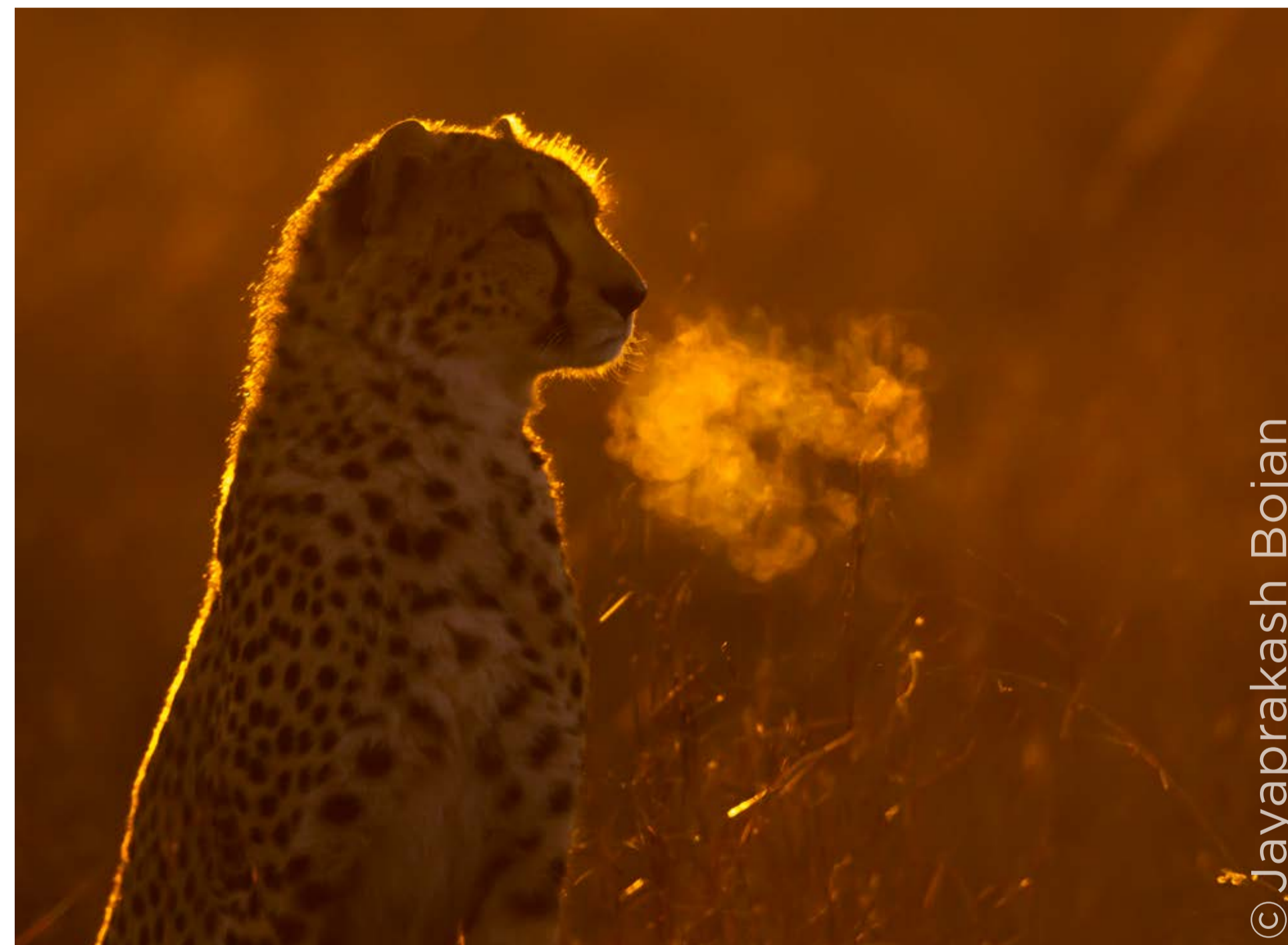
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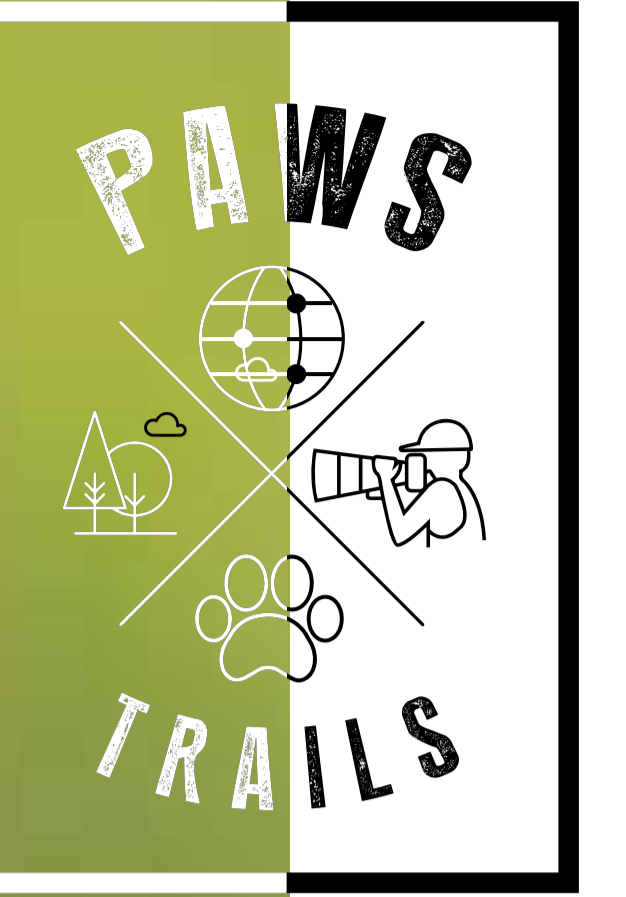
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© Jayaprakash Bojan



© Vanessa Kanaan



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© Nisha Purushothaman

# 092

Wild Tender Moments  
By Nisha Purushothaman





Hank Tyler  
Editor

Women play a major role in photography around the world. We are pleased to have this volume recognize women's contribution to wildlife and conservation photography and wildlife art. These articles and photos illustrate the key role women play in using writing and photography to promote species conservation.

Imogen Warren's Nature Club in New Zealand tells the story of the importance of environmental education in promoting awareness of our natural environment and the need to protect native species. New Zealand's native fauna and flora has suffered greatly from human settlement on these geographically isolated islands.

Vanessa Kanaan's article on the Vinaceous-breasted Parrot in Brazil illustrates her efforts to save an endangered species threatened by habitat loss and human predation.

New Zealander Adele Earnshaw describes her determination and success to be a wildlife artist and her productive life as an artist. Wildlife art plays a vital role in depicting animal species in need of help. Wildlife art is another way of enjoying the amazing beauty of the planet's ecosystems, habitats and species.

Bridget Besaw's fabulous photos of the Maine coast capture their exquisite beauty in Sophie Nelson's article about the Maine Coast Heritage Trust's conservation accomplishments.

Indian photo journalist Nithya Purushothaman tells the story of her memories of abundant Flying Foxes around her family compound in Kerala, India.

Amrita Das's article on India's Conservation Lands highlights the wide diversity of protected habitats in India.

We thank all of the women contributors of this Volume for sharing their experiences in the field of photography. We are looking forward to continuing to publish articles, photos and artwork by women around the world.

## EDITOR'S DEN

© Sangeetha Balakrishnan



## PHOTOGRAPHY DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

Sangeetha Balakrishnan  
Malabar Whistling Thrush  
(*Myophonus horsfieldii*)  
Location: Munnar, Kerala, India





## FOUNDERS' NOTE

101 images of pure viewing pleasure, that is what BIG CAT TRAILS promises, images sourced from around the world from gifted and generous wildlife and conservation photographers. Painstaking works shared in the hope that they inspire the viewer to take up the cause for these wonderful animals, the Big Cats! To the uninitiated the Big Cat Trails is our first coffee table book, a Paws Trails conservation photography project and our first publication in print. The book launch happened in Dubai in a well-attended event along with an exhibition of some of the works in the book. More on this in Page 28. Kindly support our wildlife and conservation awareness work by purchasing your copy.

We have watched in awe as women around the world have stepped in and dazzled the world with giant strides in wildlife photography and conservation, in what is widely perceived to be a male bastion. We have been lucky to work with and publish images and articles by and about these splendid ladies. Today women are recognized as some of the best photographers and conservationists with their dedicated and focused work, contributing to a better world for tomorrow. Paws Trails salutes these ladies and dedicates this special women-centric edition to their amazing spirit. Every article and image in this volume is contributed by or about a special lady who has taken up the cause of Mother Earth.

The 8th of March was celebrated as International Women's Day and this being our immediate next edition is our way of saying thank you to all women in photography and conservation. Thank you ladies for being the harbingers of hope for Mother Nature and human kind!

[www.pawstrails.com](http://www.pawstrails.com)

**Hermis Haridas & Nisha Purushothaman**

Founders - PT Explorers





©Mary Ann McDonald

COVER STORY

## **WOMEN IN PHOTOGRAPHY**

A Discussion

with Mary Ann McDonald

by Peter Hudson





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**Mary Ann McDonald has been photographing wildlife professionally since 1990. She has published photographs in most American natural history magazines, including cover credits and calendars. In 1994 Mary won two first place awards in the prestigious BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition: one showed fighting flying Great Egrets in a rarely photographed action shot, and the other of a tigress in India, in a park where most of the tigers had been killed by poachers.**

Mary Ann is a founding member of NANPA (North American Nature Photography Association), and has been one of their most frequent Masters of Ceremony at their annual summits. Mary Ann lives in central Pennsylvania where she and her husband Joe run a highly successful photo safari company that visits all the most sepacular wildlife areas of the world; check them out at :

<http://hoothollow.com>







I find it somewhat intriguing that photography is often seen as a male dominated profession and yet many of our leading and most successful photographers have actually been women. Wondering about the issues of being a woman in the male dominated world of photography, and given this special Paws Trails issue on women in conservation photography, I went over to see and chat with a dear friend and successful photographer:

**Mary Ann McDonald.**

We started by talking about Annie Leibovitz: without question one of the leading portrait photographers of our time - the first woman to be named chief photographer at Rolling Stone Magazine and the last person to photograph John Lennon alive. Highly successful, imaginative and someone who is fascinated by the people she is photographing and yet seems to have her life in balance. She is a photographer that lives and breathes her own images and this is nicely captured in her own words "Nature is so powerful, so strong. Capturing its essence is not easy - your work becomes a dance with light and the weather. It takes you to a place within yourself." How very true.

There are also some great women in Nature Photography and since I was born and brought up in the United Kingdom, we immediately thought of Heather Angel. I must say that as a young boy I greatly admired and indeed was influenced by Heather Angel. I can recall saving my pocket money to buy a monthly



©Mary Ann McDonald









“BBC Wildlife Magazine” with her photographs on the cover and throughout the magazine. I was spell bound by the detail and the biology of her images of dragonflies and newts and the way Heather captured the essence of the animals. Her photos are so clear and beautiful and yet depict this scientific accuracy that makes you appreciate her high standards at a time when the SLR camera was only just emerging as the force it became.

In the United States, I have been fortunate enough to spend time taking photos and talking with Mary. She is one of those few, award winning female nature photographers. She has produced many books and most impressively, has published 29 children’s books to try and educate the next generation about the wonders of nature. She is a motivational speaker and a great educator so she regularly visits schools and groups, shows her amazing photographs and then shares her experiences to stimulate children about the importance of nature to the world.

This is truly great, grass-roots conservation photography, she relates to the children and her aim is to stimulate even just a handful to follow in her footsteps and become involved in conservation, thereby help change the world. I caught up with Mary Ann between trips and asked her about her career, the challenges of being a woman photographer, what had stimulated her photographic career and what we need to do for the next generation of women photographers.

### **Why are there so few Women Photographers?**

Mary Ann is forthright and honest and so she came straight out and said that in her experience, she had never had problems in being accepted as a woman photographer amongst the male photographers. She feels that she was respected as much as any male photographer and really recognized for her talent and awards, in particular for her seven wins from the BBC Wildlife Photographer of the year. She feels strongly that a good photograph is a good photograph and this is what determines success, not the gender of the person who presses the button. Indeed, when I went on and asked her if she could distinguish between a photograph taken by a woman from that taken by a man she resolutely denied it. “Look at Art Wolfe” she says, “his photographs are artistic, sensitive, creative and imaginative” – reflecting his artistic training and his special way of looking at the world. In contrast, her partner Joe is more journalistic with his photographs and if you line up his images next to mine it’s not easy to separate the two.”

Mary Ann cogently explains how becoming a wildlife photographer really was a life style decision for her – she doesn’t have children and so she could spend time out in the field, doing photography without the pull of children for her to be back home. Indeed, she pointed-out that many of the successful women photographers either did not have children or had them later in life when they could afford child support and even pay to have a nanny and the



children travel with them to photographic shoots. Annie Leibovitz being a good example, dedicated with two children she keeps them close and yet has someone to look after them. Mary Ann also pointed out that many of the successful women photographers have partners in the same line of business and have formed a well-balanced and equal partnership to do the photography as a joint venture. She rapidly reels off a string of names of the other successful women in photography so fast that I catch just a couple - people like Sharna Balfour, and Beverley Joubert. All of them spend time with their partners in the field taking photos together, and rather than competing they often take complimentary shots, sometimes one is doing videos while the other is taking stills. As Mary Ann points out, at the end of the day it is not who got the best shot - but did we together get some winning images? She says that if she had children, then the demands of family life would have been a very hard pull and she would have just had to focus her time on the home and this would have meant less time behind the camera.

### **What is it like running photo expeditions as a woman?**

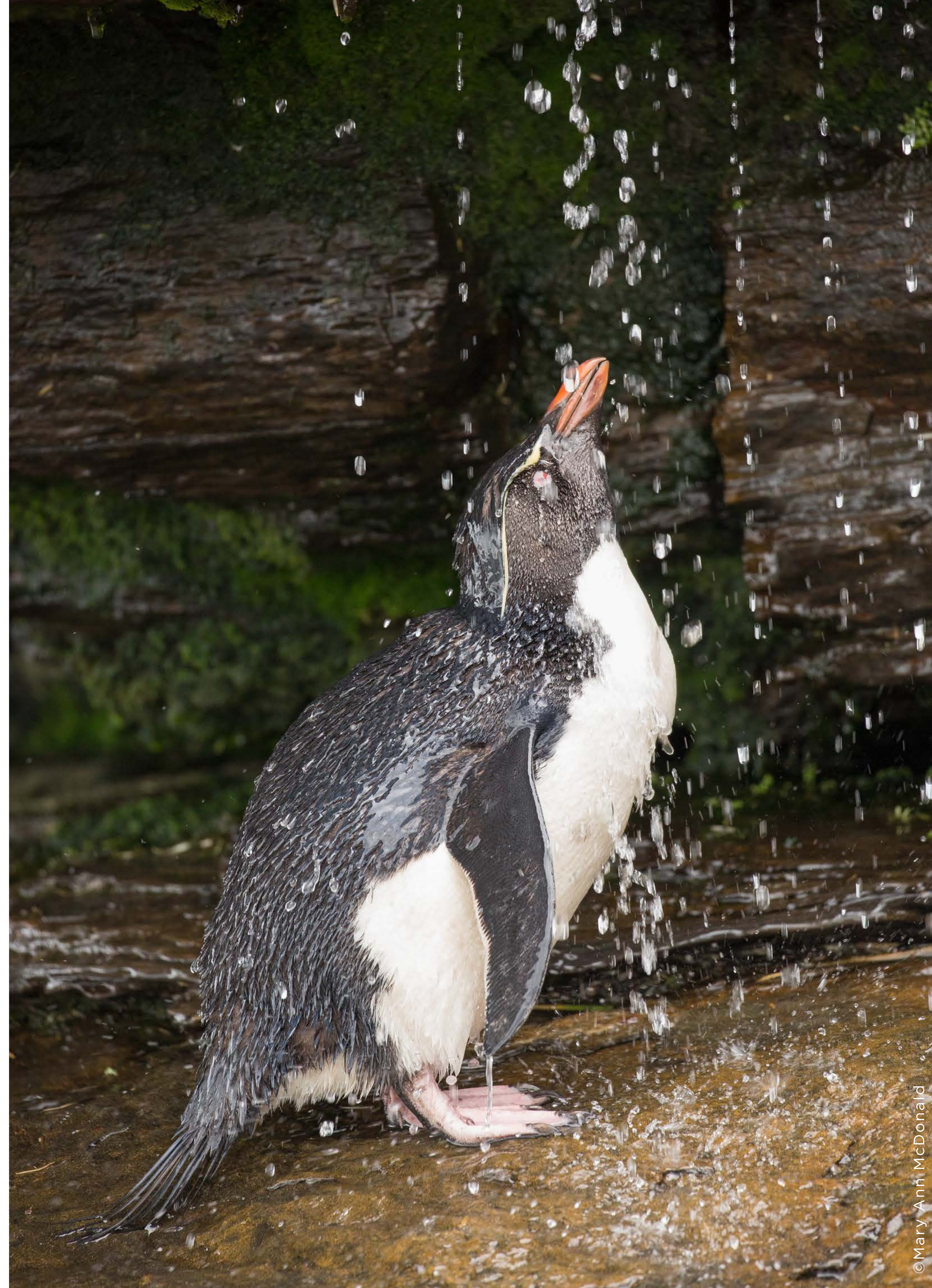
Mary Ann and Joe run a very successful photographic safari travel business where they take small numbers of guests to all of the most exciting wildlife locations to photograph animals - check out their expedition reports and their up-coming trips at [hoothollow.com](http://hoothollow.com). They are off to photograph snow leopards, jaguars, polar bears and more within the next year. She says there have been issues with a few of the male guests in that they just ignore

what she says and they think they can just take over, but this is really rare and most guests are in the 50s and 60s and seem to be of an age where they respect women for what they have achieved.

Mary explains how she and Joe work as an equal team and this provides special support for their guests. First, the guests have access to two photo leaders, each recognized for their skill sets and quality and they complement each other - Joe on technical aspects and Mary Ann on composition. Second, having a woman leader provides security for the single women who wants to take photos and travel with a group. Knowing there is a woman leader provides more safety and awareness of any issues that could arise. Third when there is an issue on a trip, one of them can look after the issue while the other keeps the guests out with the animals. The reasons I travel with Mary Ann and Joe is that they take you to great locations, have good experience about the best places and they work hard to place you in the best position with the best light to capture a good shot - they can foresee what is going to happen and then ensure you get the image. Pressing the shutter release is your responsibility.

### **Who have been the photographers that have shaped your career?**

Mary Ann does not hesitate and immediately answers - the first person would be her partner Joe. She took one of Joe's Florida Everglades classes and learned so much about photography that as soon as she got home, she took out a Home Equity Loan and bought herself a new camera set up with a good lens,







ready to get going in nature photography. She became involved with Zoo America, a North American Wildlife Park based at Hershey in Pennsylvania where they undertake conservation projects to help north American species. Mary took photographs for use on their banners and flags. Her photographs were used in a display on a first day issue of stamps and she started selling photographs with the National Wildlife Federation.

She has been influenced by a number of other photographers where she was taken with their artistic and creative photographs, most notably John Shaw and Art Wolfe. But there is more to running a photographic business than just taking photographs and Mary Ann talks warmly about Erwin and Peggy Bauer who both encouraged them to take up the business professionally, proved a really positive boost and then helped them with the details.

Soon after this Mary Ann discovered she had a flair as a motivational speaker and she was encouraged by Dewitt Jones. Dewitt himself was a professional photographer, as a young boy he was fascinated by The National Geographic and then went on to work for them for twenty years with the prime aim of showing people what was worth celebrating in the world and not what was bad. He now uses these photos to motivate people about their life and their business. Mary points out that when you have a life carrying heavy gear, sitting on planes and walking through dense forests it takes a physical cost on you and many of the famous photographers have now had back or knee surgery. The new lighter

equipment such as the new four-thirds cameras will help but as she gets older, she wants to travel less and find other outlets to help people, girls and children recognize the importance of nature. So, in the future she may spend more time writing eBooks for children and doing more motivational talks.

#### **What can be done to help girls who want to move into photography?**

Of course there are now multiple women breaking photographic barriers these days - most notably Marina Cano, Nancy Elwood, Judy Lynn Malloch, Lisa Langell, Monika Mansell, Hilary O'Leary and of course Nisha Purushothaman just to mention a few of the women that are taking the art and impact of conservation photography to a higher level. When I asked Mary Ann if there was a glass ceiling in photography that would prevent women from developing higher - she emphatically denied it.

When I asked the question - what about the future, how can we help girls more? Mary knew the answer: "Girls who click" she says and points to the website: [girlswhoclick.org](http://girlswhoclick.org).

This is a new, nonprofit organization, working out of California that aims to empower teenage girls in nature photography and then encourage them to use their work to further conservation efforts around the world. Mary Ann explains how they seek to inspire a new generation of female nature photographers and conservationists by running free nature photography workshops for young girls. They preach



that photography is not just about making pretty pictures, it is all about using effective photographs to make a difference in the world. They work to give these young girls the confidence to pursue their passion and apply it as a photographer and conservationist. Of course, there are multiple and complex issues of why there are not more women in nature photography and these workshops are run exclusively by women for girls. They provide both role models and a safe environment where girls feel they can learn how to develop their technical and artistic sides of photography and learn skills of how to capture exciting images and to post process the images. Advanced equipment is not necessary and they teach how just an iPhone can be used to great effect.

The organization was set up by the charismatic and highly successful

photographer Suzi Eszterhas. She has won multiple awards including the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition, National Wildlife Photo Contest, and Environmental Photographer of the Year. She is best known for her photographs documenting newborn animals and mother-offspring photographs and her website <https://www.suzieszterhas.com> is a delight. She has 14 books she has published with photographs in magazines like TIME, BBC Wildlife, GEO and National Geographic Kids.

Mary Ann is just one of 19 highly successful women photographers that

have become involved with Girls who click, providing training and workshops for free for teenage girls. She is particularly pleased to say that there are spots on these courses for under privileged. In a typical workshop they provide talks on the basics, look at the programs and Apps that can be used for processing images and then they spend the afternoon in a field situation teaching active photography in a productive and rewarding location. Mary Ann is running a workshop in Pennsylvania this October at Wildwoods Park, a beautiful nature reserve tucked away in the rolling hills of the Appalachians close to Harrisburg.

Here Mary will show girls the tricks and tips on how to capture images of nature preservation in action.

At the current time this organization is based solely in the USA but during my recent visit to Dubai and discussions with Nisha and Hermis at Paws Trails we think there is a great need for this to be extended into the Middle East. During my visit we met girls who were both interested in photography and girls who were interested in conservation and of course we have people like Nisha to run the workshops. The next stage would be to reach out to the Girls who click team and seek to see if they are interested in advising us and helping us develop an extension of their excellent organization based out of Dubai. If you are a young girl with interest in photography and conservation or indeed if you have any interest in becoming one of the female role models and help with the workshops please reach out to Paws Trails through their website.





CONSERVATION

# A Paws Trails' Project To Build Awareness



## THE BIG CAT TRAILS

A PAWS TRAILS CONSERVATION PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT  
BE THE VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS



Conservation photography is all about what a photographer can do to bring awareness and support for nature conservation.

Photographs become tools of change, rather than remain eye candy.

Powerful images bring appreciation to a species and spreads the real bliss of co-existence.

Let us save the earth while we still can!

[www.pawstrails.com](http://www.pawstrails.com)  
[magazine.pawstrails.com](http://magazine.pawstrails.com)





Big cats, those wondrous beasts. Masters of camouflage, sultans of speed, deadly killers, at the same time dotting mothers. Let us be honest - The wildscapes will not be the same without these marvelous animals. Yet they face numerous threats, some even extinction. Habitat loss, climate change, human animal conflict, infant mortality - all pose serious threats to the very survival of these species. To promote the survival chances of these animals we need to do everything possible to reverse or limit the causes of threat. Unfortunately, the major cause of all these threats can be attributed to humans and human activities. But as they say, in challenges lie opportunity. The very reason that the chief cause is human activities suggest that the key to reversal lies in our very hands. We do not have to go reform or control the activities of other beings. Just by modifying our behavior, activities and most importantly, our attitude we can give these animals the only hope they need -the hope for tomorrow.

It is a tragedy of our times that all the giant leaps in technology and knowledge has done nothing to elevate our attitude or our intellect. Otherwise how do we explain the fact that we have been plundering mother earth without any care for the fellow beings who share her with us. And hence the need for awareness. We at Paws Trails Explorers are committed to spread the message of conservation far and wide. This is the central thought behind all our endeavors - the website, magazine, exhibitions, workshops, and now PUBLICATIONS!

Introducing **THE BIG CAT TRAILS**, our first coffee table book.

This book has amazing imagery, depicting the glory of the big cats, sure to dazzle and inspire you.

There is commentary on the behavior attributes and amazing facts about their physical traits.

There are facts about the threats they face and the state of their habitats.

We have done the painstaking research to bring the facts to you, both on their glory days and on the state they are in today.

We are very proud that the 101 images in this book have been contributed by passionate photographers from around the globe. Each one of them are conservationists at heart and photographers of skill - traits we share at Paws Trails.

If you are new to wildlife photography, don't let appearances fool you, it is really hard to get a stunning photograph, leave alone your dream photograph. It requires years of training, oodles of time, tons of patience, lots of skill, hours of research and then, luck - to be in the right place at the right time. Each of the wonderful photographers whose works adorns the pages of this book has travelled around the globe, spend hard earned money, sacrificed the time, in some cases their carriers, to be in the wild, tell the tales of the wonderful animals and share the fruits of their labor to give these animals a fighting chance at survival. We salute you for your commitment. You are truly the **voice for the voiceless!**

Thanks again for the opportunity to work with you and letting us use your awesome



Book Launch By Anne Sajeev  
Managing Director, Fragrant Nature  
Hermis Haridas, Founder - Paws Trails



Vinod Nambiar  
Manager- Community Outreach  
UAE Exchange  
Hermis Haridas, Founder - Paws Trails



Kira Jean  
Founder, The Dreamwork Collective  
Hermis Haridas, Founder - Paws Trails



creations in our first book.

A big thanks to our sponsors **Fragrant Nature & UAE Exchange** and our publisher **The Dream Work Collective**.

Paws Trails remain a volunteer run organization and this book would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors, publisher and supporters.

**The event:**

Book launch - March 12th 2018  
DUCTAC, Mall of Emirates

Exhibition - March 12th to 17th 2018  
The Gallery Of Light  
DUCTAC, Mall of The Emirates

Thanks to all who attended the book launch and the exhibition. We sincerely

hope you will take back the spirit of conservation with you and spread it around the world.

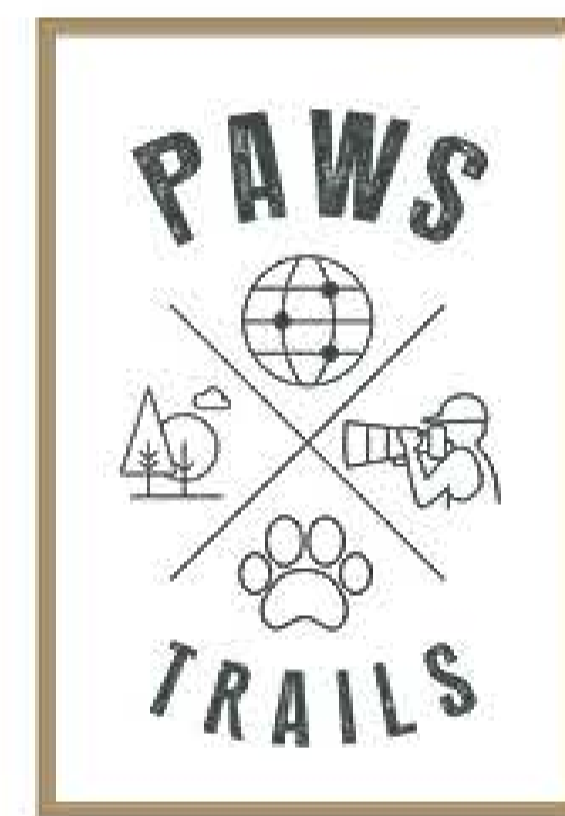
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USD 40/ \*\*Excluding shipping charges

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+971 555 215 315

*“What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, man would die from a great loneliness of the spirit. For whatever happens to the beasts, soon happens to man. All things are connected.”*  
- Chief Seattle, 1854.

# our sincere thanks



To begin with our sincere thanks to all the fabulous photographers who helped us in realising **The Big Cat Trails** with their spectacular pieces of artwork.

Thanks a lot to **Fragrant Nature Hotels & Resorts** and **UAE Exchange** for their support in making this dream a reality. We appreciate your encouragement in this awareness building initiative to protect these vanishing species.

Last but not least, special thanks to our editing team, **Raghul Patteri, Krishnan Rajan** and **Nithya Purushothaman** for their 24/7 support.



To conclude, if an image can be **the voice for the voiceless**, then why not?

Our MISSION:  
**Encourage** Photographers, **Inspire** Viewers  
**Create** Crusaders, **Protect** Nature



**Hermis Haridas & Nisha Purushothaman**  
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## First Edition



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# Glimpse of the **Big Cat Trails** coffee table book

## foreword



By Todd Gustafson

Africa has always been my home. I was fortunate enough to be raised in Tanzania at a time when lions were distributed across most of East Africa. Today, if you go on safari to many of the large National Parks you can be pretty much assured of seeing lions and if you are lucky, maybe a slinking leopard or a serval in the long grass. They are still there and a good safari guide can show you some truly spectacular sites of free-living cats and with the right guide you can get some impressive photographs.

The real tragedy is their numbers and range have been greatly diminished, partly through the relentless persecution of apex predators and partly because of the destruction and fragmentation of habitat. Each pride needs a 100 square miles (~260 km<sup>2</sup>) of suitable habitat and to avoid in-breeding, maturing lions need to move from one pride to another. Even in the Serengeti, one of the most spectacular parts of the lion population, the lions of the Ngorongoro crater, have problems dispersing to the prides in the adjoining plains, since they must run the

gauntlet of the Maasai tribes and their cattle. Most countries have experienced a 60% decline in lions over the past 20 years, with West Africa suffering the most catastrophic declines with only 400 lions remaining in 17 countries. To me, one of the truly sad aspects is the on-going trade in lion body parts for use in so-called traditional medicine in South East Asia. Lion parts are now substituting the very scarce tiger body parts on the market and this is driving populations to extinction. This is totally unnecessary and we need to both improve public awareness and make people throughout the world be aware of the plight of all cat species.

In this short foreword, I have focused on lions, simply because lions have been part of my life since I was a small boy, because most children recognize them and of course because they have such power, beauty and fascination as a social cat. I could have easily written about Jaguars, Tigers, Leopards or Cheetahs. There are 40 species of cat, including the Iberian lynx, the Amur leopard, the Clouded leopard and the Snow leopard

that are not easy to see but are just as beautiful, just as important and need our protection.

How can we protect them? Making everyone aware of their beauty and how important it is for our children and grandchildren to see them in the wild. We need all people to appreciate and respect them, to provide support for conservation efforts and for children to grow up telling their parents and grandchildren about how special they are and how important they are to our culture and our planet.

This book is produced by the wonderful team at Paws Trails Explorers so we can admire and celebrate these animals and help support conservation efforts.

Please join me and embrace the activities of these young and energetic conservationists - and why not join me or my friends and have fun photographing, celebrating and supporting the cats of the world.

## cub's corner

10 days after birth lion cubs open their eyes and soon after that - between 10 to 15 days from birth - they start walking.



Majed Sultan  
Lion (*Panthera Leo*)

Location:  
Maasai Mara National Reserve  
Kenya



## the big cat trails

In the pages of this book you will see amazing imagery. Each of those are a special moment out of a photographer's life, crystallised for eternity. A moment which is being shared, with the hope that you too experience the joy, the exhilaration, the desperation, the fear of that special moment.

At PT Explorers we are firm believers that it isn't a great image unless it packs that emotional quotient.

Powerful images leave everlasting impacts. They are great conversation starters, leading to information exchange, discovery and finally fascination. We have watched this first hand at our exhibitions. Every single one of the cat species featured in this book face serious threats to their very existence. Sadly, the biggest source

of these threats are we humans and our mindless activities. They need protection and they need it now.

If an image can bring out the green warrior inside you, then why not?

The idea behind this book, exhibitions and interactive sessions is to build a community that spreads awareness with visual signatures of vanishing species and threatened habitats.

The idea is to spread the real ecstasy of co-existence.  
"Be the voice for the voiceless".

Let us start the trails with the smallest of the big cats, the Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*) by the renowned wildlife photographer, filmmaker and conservationist, Kalyan Varma.



## portraits

Night vision that is six times better than humans, helps the tiger hunt in the dark. This contributes to their reign as the apex predator of their habitat.



Raghavendra Joshi  
Tiger (*Panthera tigris*)

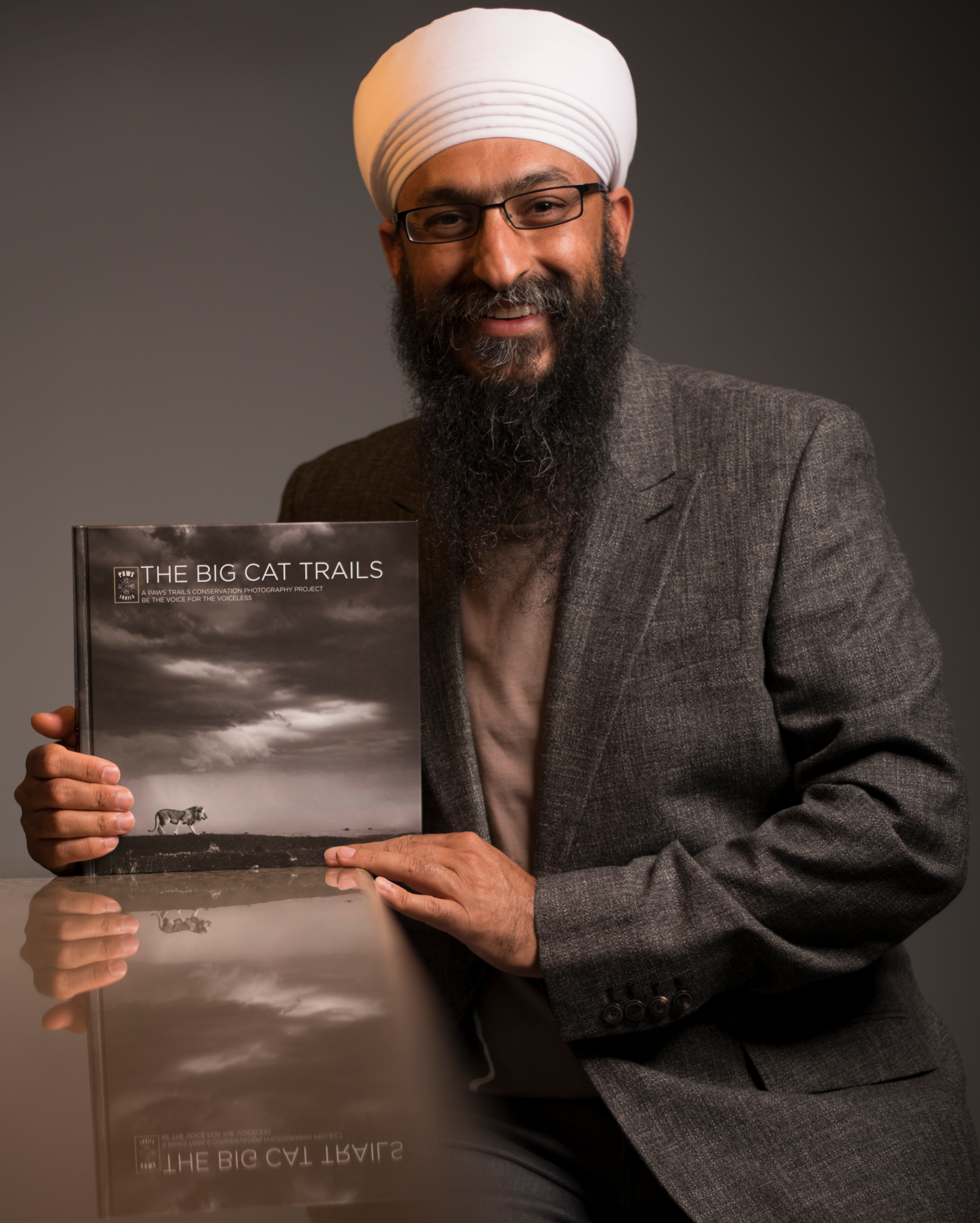
Location:  
Ranthambore National Park  
Rajasthan, India



Glimpse from the event



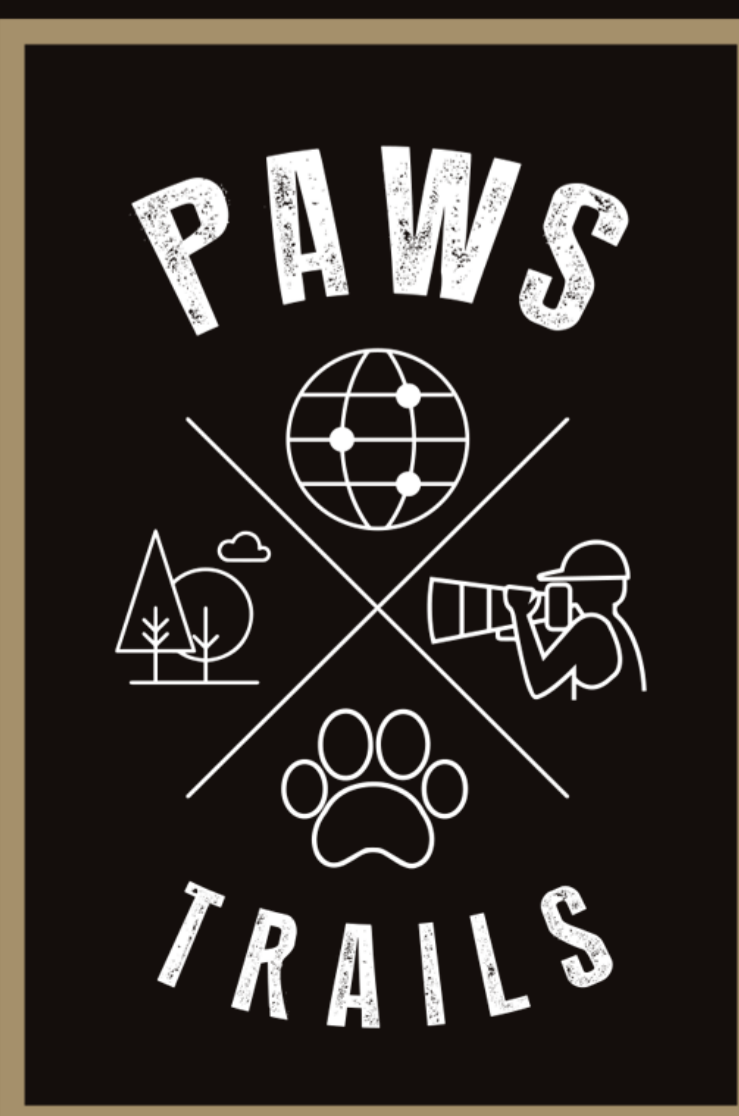




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101 Big Cat moments from the wild  
Insights on their behavior  
Physical traits  
Facts and threats  
205 pages with hard cover

The Big Cat Trails  
A Paws Trails' awareness building initiation

**To Be The Voice  
For The Voiceless!**  
**Book / Gift**

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CONSERVATION

# America's Land Conservation Movement Takes Hold on Maine's Rocky Coast, USA.

By Sophie Nelson

Photography  
By Bridget Besaw





**Sophie Nelson studied creative writing at Bates College and The University of Southern Maine. She lives and works on the Maine coast.**

**As writer plus content specialist at Maine Coast Heritage Trust, she relishes time spent exploring the organization's more than 120 preserves—all open to the public.**

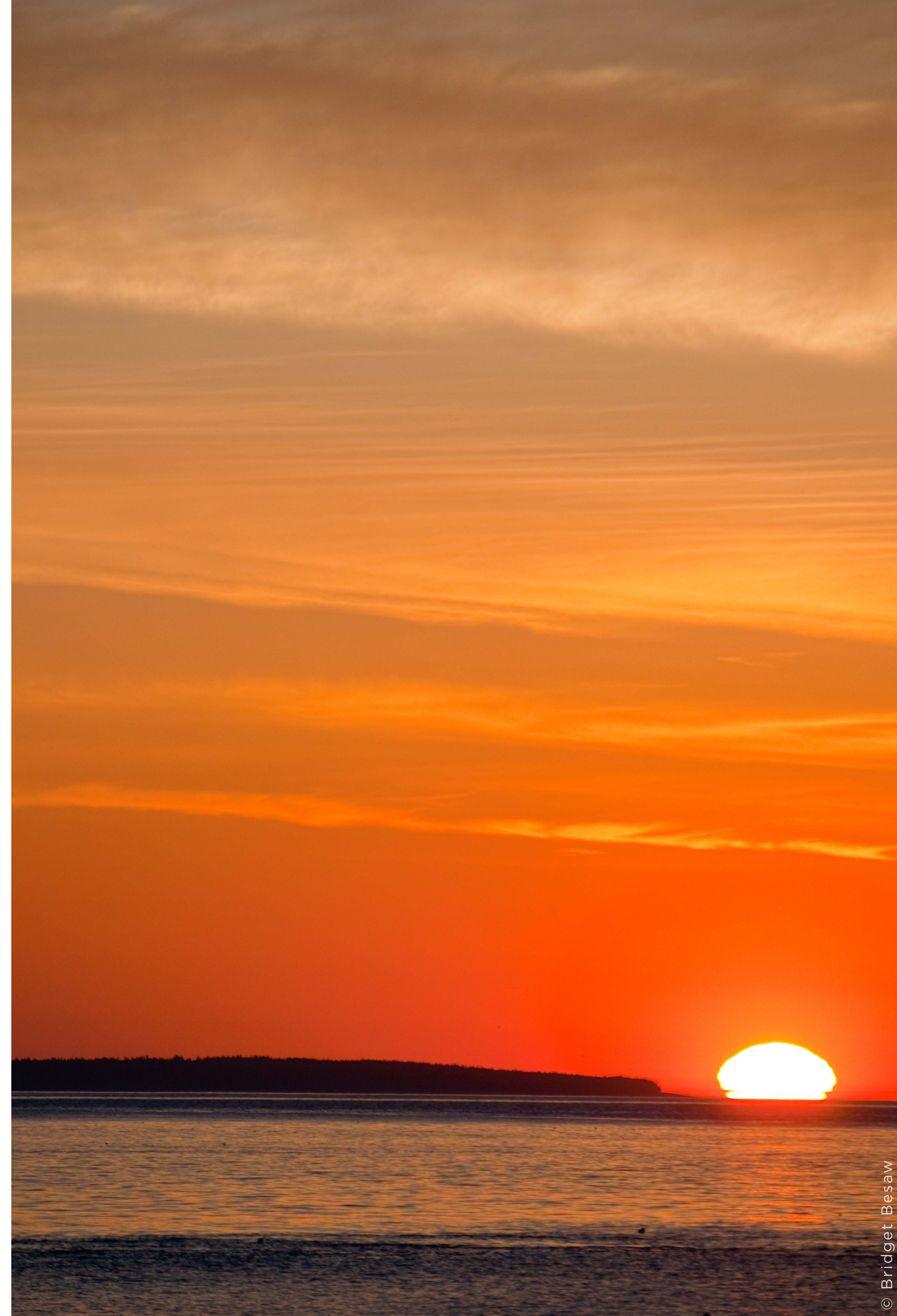
**See: [www.mcht.org](http://www.mcht.org)**

In 1870, American explorers came upon a western landscape where rivers roared through canyons, boiling water shot out of the ground, and great herds of wildlife roamed. Upon returning East, they described to members of Congress a place of otherworldly beauty and grandeur too special to settle. In this way Yellowstone, the first National Park in the United States, came to be.

In the decades following, the federal government would go on to conserve hundreds of millions of acres of America's extraordinary lands. Theodore Roosevelt alone gifted us the North Dakota Badlands, Crater Lake, and the Antiquities Act, which allowed subsequent U.S. presidents to protect places like the

Grand Canyon and Olympic National Park. But into the mid twentieth century, amidst post-World War II economic expansion and suburban sprawl, federal and state governments slowed their pace of land conservation. Meanwhile, the rapid loss of land to poorly planned development was doing irreparable damage to human and natural communities throughout the country.

Across a continent known for its extraordinary wilderness, people were losing access to nature, witnessing beloved landscapes transformed, and wildlife habitat destroyed. No longer satisfied to rely on the government to preserve important lands, individuals decided it was time to step up and





pick up the pace of land conservation themselves before it was too late. In this way a new conservation ethos, based on voluntary action by landowners, took hold in America—and eventually around the world.

In Maine, one of those individuals was Margaret “Peggy” Rockefeller. After decades of summers spent exploring the Maine coast by sailboat, Peggy was intimately familiar with this singular shoreline. She saw, firsthand, the rapid coastal development which papers like *The Boston Globe* and *New York Times* reported on in articles such as, “Can Maine Turn Back Coastal Blight?” Many had presumed the cold, rocky Maine coast was too remote and inhospitable to go the way of the rest of the Eastern seaboard—so densely populated by the latter half of the twentieth century, expanses of open, natural land were few and far between. “No other state along the Atlantic, Gulf, or Pacific coasts mingles mountains, ocean, islands ... the pungent fragrance of pine and balsam and the grandeur of desolation in such a stunning composite,” wrote one *Globe* reporter. Except that was becoming less and less true.

It’s hard to ignore the irony: starved for nature, people flocked to the Maine coast by the thousands for a taste of the same wild beauty they threatened to eradicate. Between 1966 and 1974 the amount of land allotted for development jumped by 100 percent. By 1970, the population along the coast was growing four times as fast as the rest of the country, and had the nation’s highest percentage of second homes—one in five. Meanwhile, polluted

ivers in the Midwest were burning. In her revolutionary book *Silent Spring*, Rachel Carson wrote of hundreds of robins found dead or dying of tremors, their bodies riddled with poison. All of this was, quite literally, in the air.

Mary Rea was enjoying a long summer evening in her island camp when her friend, Peggy Rockefeller, marched in unexpectedly and said, “Mary, we’ve got to do something.” Peggy got to work with her friend Tom Cabot, another visionary philanthropist and avid sailor of the Maine Coast, forming a land trust to protect the wild nature of the place she loved most in the world. In 1970, Maine Coast Heritage Trust was born.

Within a year Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) had facilitated the protection of 30 islands, quickly becoming one of the most significant trusts in the state of Maine—doing for the coast what the Forest Society of Maine would later do for the Maine woods. Peggy, her fellow MCHT co-founder Tom Cabot, and landowners who helped get MCHT off the ground were famously generous with their time and resources and practical in their approaches to saving land.

This practicality is best exemplified in the organization’s pioneering use of conservation easements in Maine. Working with MCHT, a landowner could place an easement on their property to prohibit future development, decreasing the market value of their property but preserving its scenic and ecological values forever. As an incentive to protect important land, landowners received federal income tax deductions for their





charitable gift of development rights. This increased the pace of conservation and made it possible for more Mainers to take action, to fend off sprawl and leave a legacy of open, natural lands. Voluntary action taken by conservation-minded landowners and donors defined the land trust movement.

For nearly 100 years, land trusts had made up a small, little-known faction of the broader land conservation movement, but by 1980 that was changing. Between 1970 and 1980 the number of land trusts in the U.S. more than doubled. Uniquely adapted to their local environments, land trusts were proving to be the fastest-growing and most vital part of land conservation movement. Unfortunately, despite being funded largely by private dollars, they weren't completely immune to the goings on in Washington.

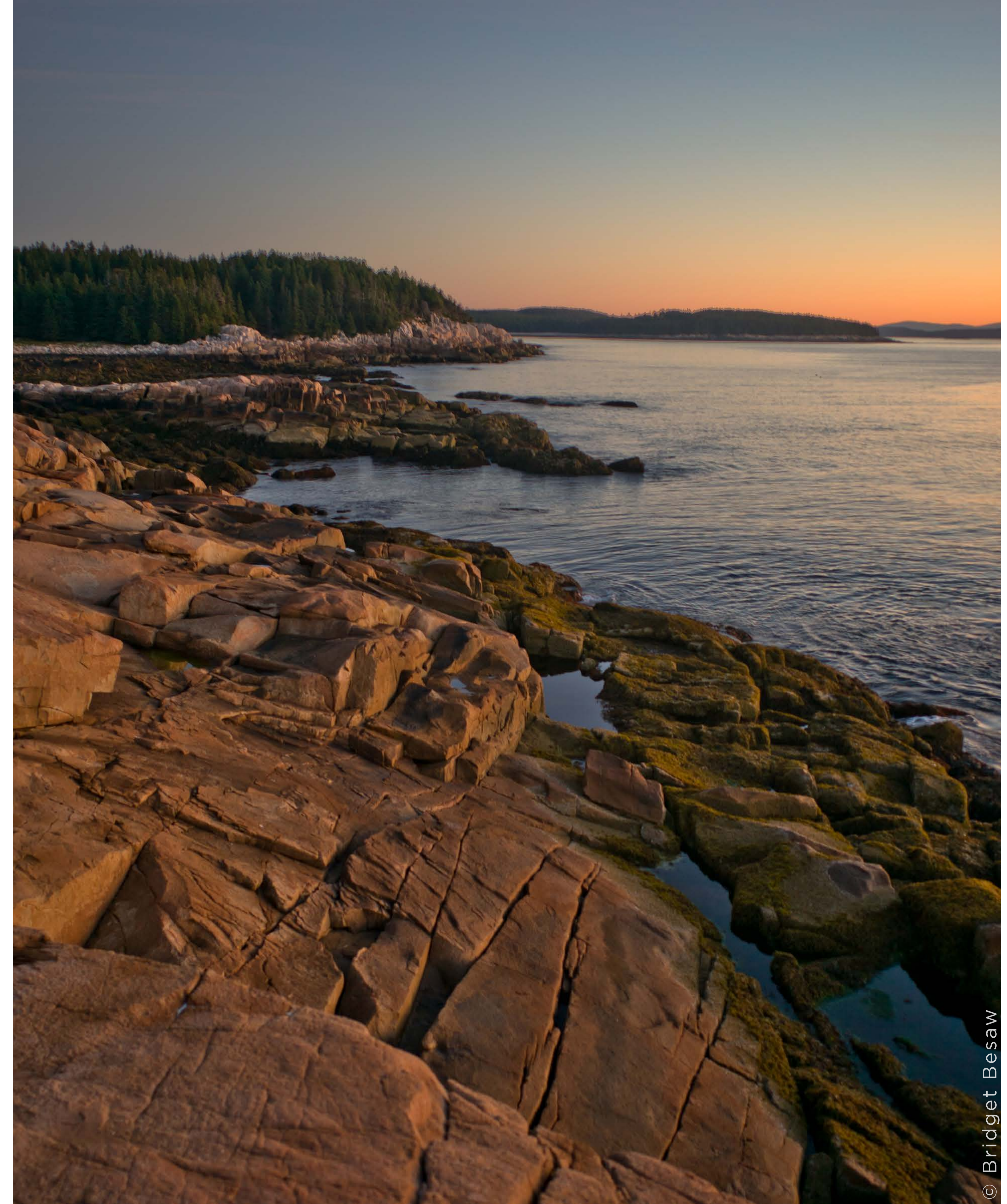
In the early 1980s, a push for economic growth at any cost promised to roll back environmental regulations and federal initiatives to protect land. When Congress threatened to rescind the federal income and estate tax deductions that easements provide, "We realized we had to pay attention to what was going on in Washington," said one of the MCHT's first executive directors, Ben Emory. In 1982, Maine Coast Heritage Trust and three other land trusts helped form the national Land Trust Exchange (later named Land Trust Alliance) to give the land trust movement a voice in Washington.

MCHT was also instrumental in forming Maine's Land For Maine's Future program which has helped conserve more than 600,000 acres over the course of its

tenure, creating some of Maine's most iconic places. MCHT did all it could to support fledgling land trusts in Maine, creating a revolving loan fund, hosting an annual conference, and publishing a land trust handbook used far and wide. Later, in 1995, MCHT established the Maine Land Trust Network (MLTN) to serve as the central hub of information relevant to Maine land conservation organizations, and to facilitate information exchange and collaboration.

MCHT itself has helped conserve 155,000 acres of land—that's more than three times the size of Maine's Acadia National Park—and owns and cares for more than 322 coastal islands with 120 preserves open to the public. These preserves range from downtown parks with community gardens to vast expanses of land offering miles of trails along the water. Conserving and opening up more places to the public has made land stewardship—caring for the native plants and wildlife and making nature more accessible to visitors—an increasingly important part of land trusts' work across the country.

Sometimes, a land trust purchases land for conservation and opens it up to the public as a preserve. Usually, it's more complicated than that. As the land trust movement expands and matures, it has become clear that trusts can realize more and better conservation projects by teaming up with landowners, other land trusts, neighbors, towns, fishing committees, business owners, state and federal grantors, educators—the list goes on. Because land conservation doesn't only concern the landowner, the trust, and the birds and the bees. It touches



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peoples' lives in myriad and meaningful ways.

MCHT has started asking everyone from clammers to kayakers, what traditional coastal access points are under threat of development? Protected land means cleaner watersheds and drinking water, so why not see if we might strike a

mutually beneficial deal with the local water supplier? Is it possible to protect important wetlands and address the community's need for affordable housing in the same land project? How can we get veggies grown on conserved lands into local food pantries? How can we engage kids with nature today so that they'll be stewards of the natural world tomorrow?









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In recent years, this intensely local, collaborative, solutions-oriented approach to land conservation earned a name—community conservation—and there’s been a nation-wide attempt to better understand why and how this approach works so that more land trusts can begin to operate this way. The upside and downside to community conservation is one in the same: it takes a lot more people to get the job done. Ultimately, that’s a good thing.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust and the land trust movement on whole has come a long way over the past fifty years. The

Nature Conservancy alone has protected 120 million acres around the world. In the U.S., there are 1,363 active land trusts supported by 4.6 million members and/or financial supporters. These trusts have conserved 56 million acres—that’s double the size of all of the land in national parks in the contiguous 48 states. The impact of this work is manifold. In Maine, a report on the economic benefit of conserved land found that every \$1 invested in land conservation returned \$11 in natural goods and services to the state economy. Numbers aside, anyone who has spent time outside knows access to nature helps us to be our best, healthiest selves.

Thanks in large part to the success of land trusts and other conservation organizations, younger generations have always enjoyed conserved land. Still, in Maine, coastal development continues to transform the landscape—plot by plot, house by house, rural communities are being suburbanized, public access to the coast is being cut off, and wildlife is left with nowhere to go. We may have fewer opportunities to conserve large tracts of land, but they exist, as do abandoned urban plots awaiting transformation into community gardens. At the same time, people are spending more time indoors staring at screens while research points to our need for nature.

The success of the land trust movement is due to the dedication of the tens of thousands of residents or citizens who donate countless hours of their time and the generosity of those who make financial contributions to their local land trusts. And, we especially thank Peggy Rockefeller for jumpstarting Maine’s land trust movement.

The landscape is different now but the call to action is the same. Fifty years after she uttered them, Peggy Rockefeller’s words are as relevant as ever: “We’ve got to do something.” The work of land conservation continues.





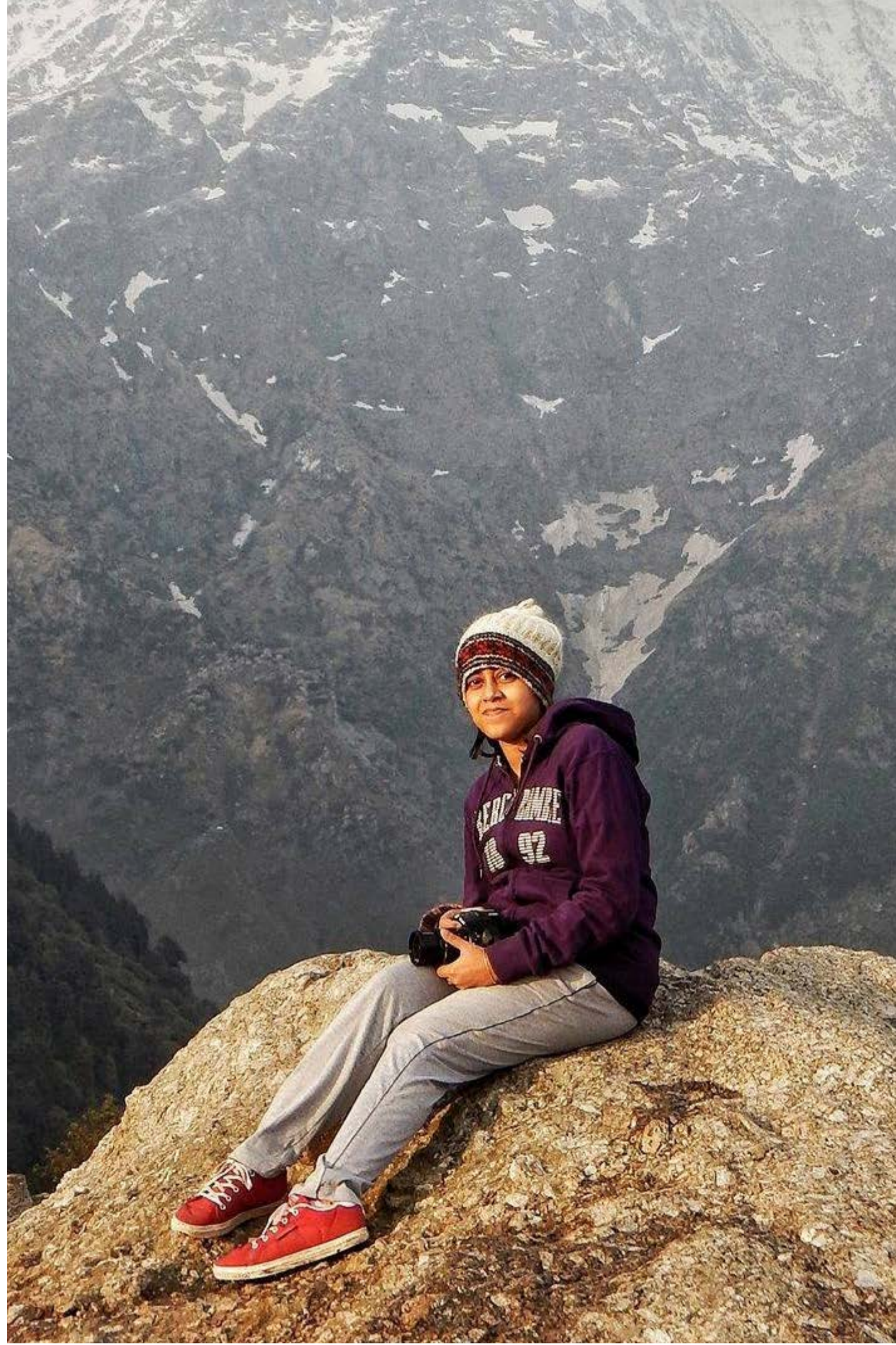


CONSERVATION

**Protected Areas  
In India For  
Wildlife  
Conservation:  
Parks, Forests,  
Reserves,  
Sanctuaries.**

By Amrita Das





**Amrita Das is a lawyer from Bhopal, India and works as freelance legal editor. Amrita is passionate about protecting earth's environment and an avid photographer.**

**Amrita is an intrepid traveler who likes to visit and photograph the wild lands of India.**

*(This is Second Part of Four Part Article)*

# Park Forest Reserve Sanctuarie





### Endangered species list by IUCN

There is a huge number of animals which are at serious risk of extinction. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is the leading international environmental organization established in 1948. It is headquartered in Geneva. The organization is funded by governments, member organizations bilateral and multilateral agencies, etc.

India became a State Member of IUCN in 1969, through the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). The IUCN India Country Office was established in 2007 in New Delhi. IUCN India works with Members and Commissions to reduce ecosystem and species loss by providing the necessary tools and knowledge to value, conserve and use biodiversity sustainability; enhance governance and policy for better management of ecosystems and habitats, including protected areas; and address challenges related to poverty alleviation, food security and climate change.

### Functions of IUCN

The IUCN's acknowledged endeavor is to help the world find realistic elucidation to the most vital environment challenges. The mission of IUCN is to persuade, promote and help societies to preserve the diversity of nature, to protect the nature and sustainable utilization of natural resources.

### IUCN Red list

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

was created in 1964. The recent list of endangered species includes: Sumatran Rhinoceros, Kashmir stag, Himalayan Brown or red Bear, Pygmy Hog, Andaman White-toothed Shrew, Kondana Soft-furred Rat, Elvira Rat or Large Rock Rat, Namdapha Flying Squirrel, Malabar large-spotted civet, Red Panda, Wild ass, Asiatic wild dog, Brow-antlered deer, Golden Langur, White-bellied Musk Deer, Hispid hare/ Assam rabbit, Indian Hog deer, Lion-tailed macaque, Tibetan Antelope, Nilgiri Langur, Nilgiri Tahr, Ganges River Dolphin / Indus River Dolphin.

### Role of Central and State Government

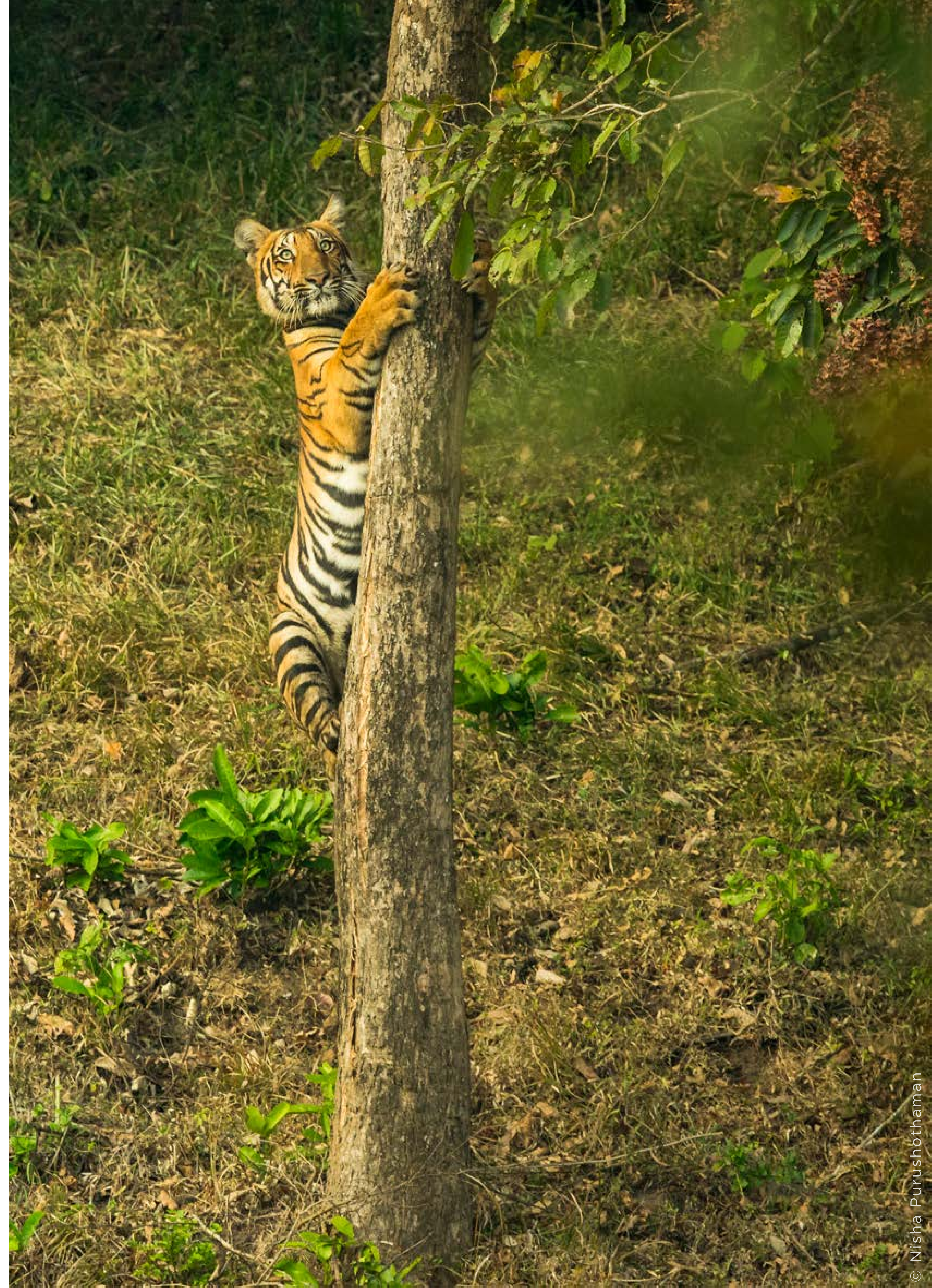
Wildlife conservation in India is the responsibility of both Central and State Governments and is included in 'concurrent list' in the Constitution of India. Both the Union and State Governments can pass laws relating to forest and wildlife conservation.

### Constitutional imperatives:

State: Article 48A of the Constitution of India mandates that the state shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.

Citizen: Article 51 A (g) of the Constitution states that it shall be the fundamental duty of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment including forests and Wildlife.

### Important Environment and Biodiversity Acts Passed by Indian Government









The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), based in New Delhi, is the authority vested with the task of Formulating legislation, policy and other statutory functions under various environmental, forest and wildlife laws including granting environmental and forest clearances. The Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to the State/UT Governments for activities aimed at wildlife conservation through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz. 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats'. The important Acts are:

- Fisheries Act 1897
- Indian Forests Act 1927
- Mining and Mineral Development Regulation Act 1957
- Prevention of Cruelty To Animals 1960
- Wildlife Protection Act 1972
- Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974
- Forest Conservation Act 1980
- Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981
- Environment Protection Act 1986
- Biological Diversity Act 2002
- Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Rights) Act 2006

**Here are few important steps that Government of India has taken for the wildlife protection:**

In the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, Government of India (GOI) created Protected Areas like National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves for the wildlife and imposed punishments on those indulged

in illegal act of hunting.

Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules 2010 have been drafted to protect wetlands in India. The Central Government has also initiated the scheme, National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-System that lends assistance to the states for the sound management of all wetlands.

To curb the illegal trade of wildlife and that of endangered species, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been established.

Special organizations like Wildlife Institute of India, Bombay Natural History society and Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History are formed to conduct research on conservation of wildlife.

To check the dwindling population of Gyps vulture in India, Government of India has banned the veterinary use of diclofenac drug.

For restocking of the endangered species, the Central Government first initiated Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat Scheme and later modified it by including a new component, Recovery of Endangered Species which included animals like Hangul/stag deer in Jammu & Kashmir, Vultures in Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat, Snow Leopard in Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh, Swiftlet in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Nilgiri Tahr in Tamil Nadu, Sangai Deer in Manipur. Financial and technical assistance is also extended to the state government to provide better means of protection and

conservation for the specified species.

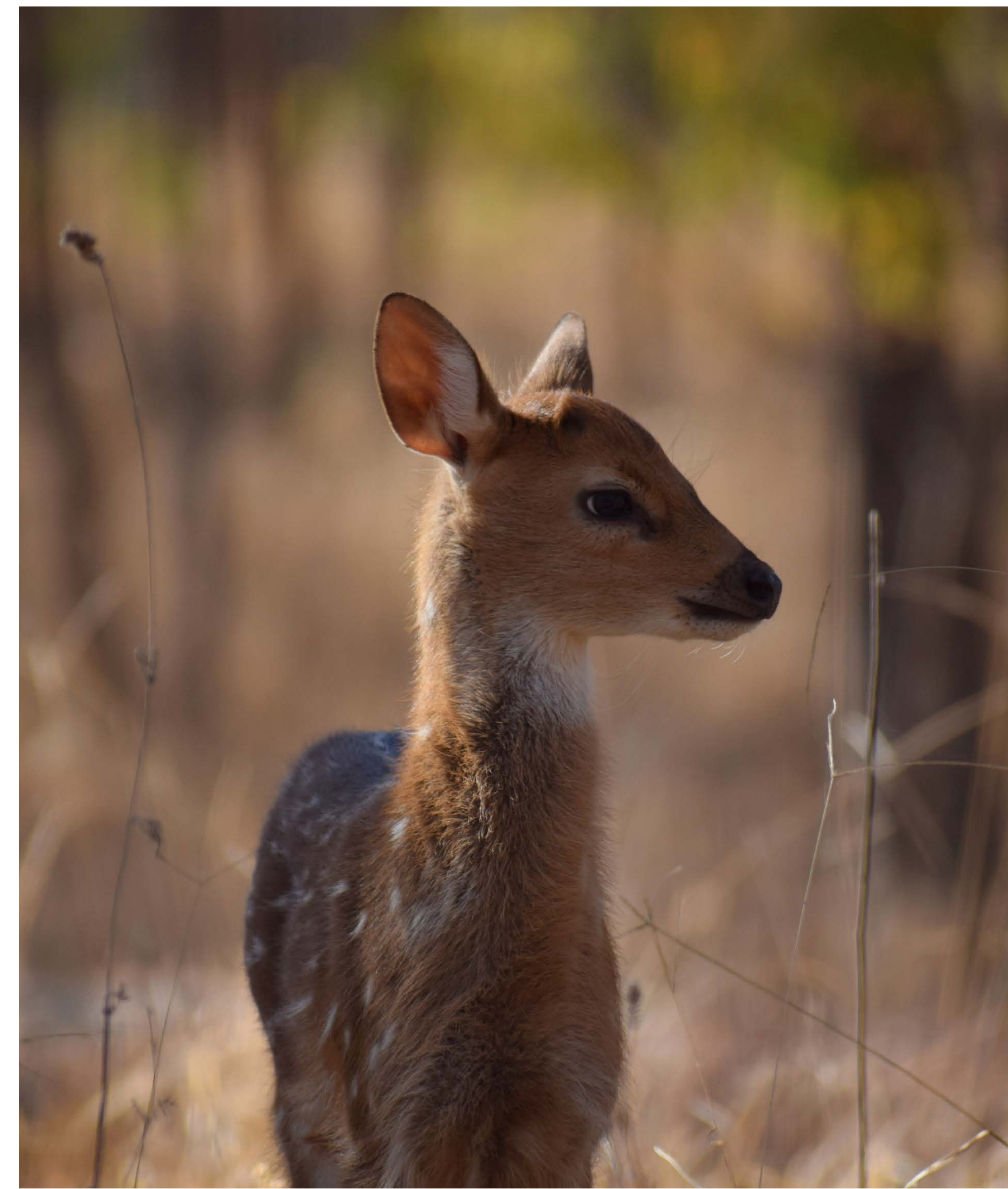
The State Governments have been asked to strengthen the field formations and increase patrolling in and around the Protected Areas.

GOI intensified anti-poaching activities, deployment of anti-poaching squad and initiated special patrolling strategy for

monsoon season.

In order to strengthen tiger conservation, National Tiger Conservation Authority is constituted by Government of India.

A Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) has also been constituted and is deployed in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Odisha.







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E-Surveillance has been started in Kaziranga National Park in Assam and borders of Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh. Not only this, there are a few International schemes and

projects that India has signed with its neighbours, Nepal and Bangladesh related to illegal wildlife species trade and conservation of tigers and leopards. Apart from this, there are plenty of other

legal, administrative and financial steps that Government of India has taken for effective wildlife conservation in the country. And apparently the success of some projects and schemes related to

Indian Rhinos, tigers and poaching have earned it immense confidence to continue working towards a prosperous and intact wildlife.



SPECIES

*Vinaceous  
-breasted  
Amazon*  
(*Amazona vinacea*)

By Vanessa Kanaan







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# V

**Dr. Vanessa Kanaan received her PhD from Purdue University in the USA, and completed Post-doc in Ecology from Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil.**

**Dr. Kanaan is the Research Director of the Instituto Espaço Silvestre; and creator and coordinator of the Vinaceous-breasted Parrot reintroduitory project.**

**See: [www.espacosilvestre.org.br](http://www.espacosilvestre.org.br)**

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The Psittacidae family has some of the most threatened bird species in the planet. Their main threats are habitat destruction and illegal nest poaching. The Vinaceous-breasted Parrot (*Amazona vinacea*) has become rare (approximately 4,000 free-living individuals) throughout its extensive range that includes parts of Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina. However, it is commonly kept as illegal pets in its

area of original occurrence. The pressure on wild birds has turned it into one of the most endangered amazon species of the Atlantic Forest, with very fragmented populations. Because of their threat status, research and interventions are needed to understand their biology and prevent *A. vinacea* extinction.

Local extinctions of Vinaceous-breasted

Parrots populations have already been documented. For instance, the area that currently constitutes the Araucárias National Park (ANP) has once housed a large population, but illegal poaching caused its disappearance on site. In 2010, the first parrot reintroduction project in a Brazilian National Park approved by the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio) was initiated by

Instituto Espaço Silvestre with a long term goal to establish a viable *A. vinacea* population at ANP. A total of 113 parrots, victims of wildlife trafficking, rescued and born in zoos, have been rehabilitated, released and monitored.

The rehabilitation process involves collecting genetic material and biometric data, conducting several clinical and



laboratory examinations, in addition to behavioral observations and training to prepare them for life in the wild. Birds who meet the health, genetic and behavioral criteria, receive radio-collars, microchips and identification rings provided by the National Research Centre for the Conservation of Wild Birds. They are transported to the ANP and placed in an acclimation enclosure until it is open and birds are free to leave as they please.

Post release monitoring is conducted daily by our team through observations, vocalizations, radio-telemetry and reports from community members trained for this specific purpose as part of a citizen science program. Today, with the help of the local community, it is possible to observe small groups or couples of *A. vinacea*, from both release events, flying freely. Some have dispersed more than 40 km from the release site! Data show that victims of wildlife illegal trade can be rehabilitated, released and reproduce successfully in the Atlantic Forest, one of the biodiversity hotspots for conservation priorities. Yearly releases are necessary in order to increase the chances of achieving the long term goal to establish a local population. The license has been emitted and the new release is pending funding.

To reduce threats to the parrots, our environmental education program promotes the involvement of the community in the conservation of the species and its habitat. Our actions have already reached more than 2 million people worldwide, including 530,000 inhabitants of the Araucárias National Park region. The species became so popular locally that it was chosen by the







©Vanessa Kanaan

locals to represent the fauna in the ANP's logo, and it is stamped in official vehicles, school books and postage stamps from the municipalities of Passos Maia and Ponte Serrada.

Our program to generate employment and income was developed in order to reduce the pressure on natural resources, generate environmental appreciation and create economic value to free living amazons. Courses on conservation issues, birdwatching, sewing and entrepreneurship are provided to local women and working groups are formed from Passos Maia, called Amigas dos Roxinhos, developed a line of handmade products with wildlife theme. Their income increased 62% since the

beginning of the program. The products are available at our online store: [www.espacosilvestre.org/shop](http://www.espacosilvestre.org/shop)

In September 2015 the *Vinaceous-breasted Parrot Safety Network* was created in order to respond to events involving released birds. This initiative has improved the communication between local authorities, resulting in the increase in surveillance and rescue efforts for a variety of wildlife species in the Araucárias National Park, bringing direct and indirect benefits to the amazons.

Scientific data is published in internationally recognized journals. Reintroduction techniques developed is being applied to other species

conservation programs such as the Lear's Macaw and Spix's macaw. Our actions contribute to goals of the National Action Plan for conservation of the Genus Amazona and National Action Plan of the Atlantic forest birds.

### How it started

In 2010, I worked voluntarily at the CETAS in Florianópolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil, and noted that many *A. vinacea* captured by the Military Environmental Policy spent years in captivity at the screening center for the lack of licensed institutions that could receive the great number of birds of the species. That is when the idea to create a release project for this species started. At that time, I was invited to participate in a meeting held by ICMBio to discuss the National Action Plan for the Parrot Species of the Atlantic Forest and met ornithologist Adrian Eisen Rupp who participated in the elaboration of the Management Plan for Mata Preta Ecologic station and the Araucárias National Park, and had suggested the reintroduction of *A. vinacea* at the ANP. It was established that the species had not been observed locally for at least 20 years, the population was extinct probably due to poaching to supply the wildlife trafficking and the Park had natural resources to house another population of *A. vinacea*. With the government licenses, the release project became a long term reintroduction program at the ANP.

### The Vinaceous Amazon Parrot

*A. vinacea* are medium-sized parrots, measuring 30 to 36 cm from beak to tail and weighing 300 to 450 grams. They

are monomorphic, which means there are no visible differences between males and females. They are colorful, with bright green with dark edging to feathers, red forehead, lores and speculum, bluish nape, turquoise tinged primaries, green tail with a red base of the outer feather and vinaceous breast, which inspired its name. Immature have reduced red lores, yellowish carpal area and greenish breast. It has been estimated that they can live up to 30 years. Their diet consists of flowers, fruits, leaves and seeds, including those of the *Araucaria angustifolia* and highlighting its seed dispersal role. The reproduction period starts in September and may last until January. They use cavities of various tree species to nest, the female lays from 2-4 eggs which are incubated for approximately 27 days. Both parents help feed the young which during the 70 days nestling period.

### Araucárias National Park

The Araucárias National Park is a Federal Protect Area of Integral Protection created in 2005 in order to preserve remainings of the Araucária Moist Forest, and all the biodiversity associated, which is down to 1% of its original composition. It helps to maintain the quality of important hidric bodies, including the rivers Chapecózinho, Chapecó, do Mato and Caratuva. The Park is located in western Santa Catarina State, in the cities of Passos Maia and Ponte Serrada, and it has an area of 12,841 hectares. It was named after the *Araucaria Moist Forest* existant there, such as that the predominant tree is the *Araucaria angustifolia*, a threatened species. Animal species may also be found that the









Park, many threatened, such as *Alouatta guariba clamitans*, *Puma concolor* and *Mazama nana*.

There are fourteen rural communities around the ANP that depend on

agriculture to live. It is possible to observe large areas of monoculture of exotic tree species such as Pinus and Eucaliptus in and around the Park. Despite being a National Park, most of its areas are private and compensation to land owners started

this year. This limits the public use of the area, and the Park is currently used for educational and research activities, such as studies about exotic species *Sus scrofa* and *Lithobates catesbeianus* as well as the *A. vinacea* reintroduction project.

Instituto Espaço Silvestre, a non-governmental not-for-profit organization, was founded in 1999 with the mission to contribute to biodiversity conservation through science, education and socio-economic development.



# SNIPPET

A true nature lover, who believes in taking action than preaching. An enthusiastic organic farmer who plants every available inch with flowers, vegetables and fruits, raising them chemical free and enjoys sharing the fruits of her labor with the birds and insects.

Indian Flying Fox (*Pteropus giganteus*) or Greater Indian Fruit bats are found throughout India, eastern Pakistan, southern Nepal and western Myanmar. This is one of the biggest Flying fox species among the approximately 60 species. The Indian Flying Fox is common throughout its range, many other species of flying foxes are rare or endangered. The Indian Flying Fox has a chestnut brown colored head, pointed black ears, big black wings and dark brown, gray or black body color with a contrasting yellowish mantle which is typical of this genus. Typically it weighs 1.6kg. Male are larger than female. Its wing span ranges from 1.2 - to 1.5 m and body length averages 15.5 to 22.0cm.

The Flying Foxes are the key agents of seed dispersion and pollination. They feed on a variety of fruits like guava, mango, and custard apple; the bats squeeze out the fruit juice from pulp against the roof of its mouth then discard the

## Indian Flying Fox

By Nithya Purushothaman



dry material. These bats also eat insects, leaves, flowers, nectar even seedpods, bark cones and twigs. The bat's sharp teeth penetrate the skin of the fruit very easily.

Flying Foxes roost in large colonies during the day because they are safer when together in large numbers. They roost upside down on open branches located close to water especially in urban

areas or in temples where fruit is usually available. At the roosting place, they quarrel and chatter often, during sunny days they use their wings to beat the heat or lick their whole body to cool them. On cloudy days they will be silent and wrap their body with their big wings to conserve the body heat. Most of the bats rest at daytime and start to leave for food hunting around sunset. They try to roost in the big trees and select the highest



branch of the tree then wrap their body with their black wings. They will be seen as a black shade and this helps to escape from predators like snakes, raptors and even humans.

Flying Foxes mate once in a year, and their gestation period is 140-150 days. They start to breed from July to October and birth occurs from February to May. They deliver only 1 or 2 pups. The mother carries the baby for some months and even when she flies to hunt food the baby will be clinging to her belly. At 1.5 years of age, the bat becomes sexually mature.

Habitat loss, hunting, and exploitation has brought their numbers down. I remember when I was a child seeing thousands of bats appearing in the sky, and over 100,000 of them roosting in the trees near temple areas and Eucalyptus trees around the Railway station near my home - Paravur, Kollam, Kerala. We had a large number of Eucalyptus trees growing in our city at that time. I have seen thousands of them roosting near one of our famous temples - Ayiravilli Mahadevar Temple. They were happily living in all these places. It was a pleasure to see them flying around at dusk, and roosting during the day time. My family's compound supported over 25 species of fruit trees and some of their favourite ones being Rambutan, Papaya, Custard apple, Banana, Guava - one or the other fruits will be available always in our backyard that attracts many of them everyday. These flying creatures added a magical touch to my childhood. I loved to see them roosting in the trees with their little quarrels, fights and noises.

Now almost all the Flying Foxes have vanished. Trees have been cut down and the noise of fire crackers has scared Flying Foxes away from their roosting times. I feel we humans are the worst predators they are facing than other animals. I have often seen that every fire-cracker sound or big sounds from temple festivals make them fly helter-skelter to find a peaceful place to settle down. Unfortunately, that never happens because there are not enough trees for them. They are smoked and driven away. They are often electrocuted by high tension power lines if they roost on them and they are even chased for meat and medicinal purpose. Now most of them have relocated to another area called Chirakkara, where some huge trees are available for them to roost, but not during the festival season. I have seen some of them are still at their old home, but the numbers are less compared to olden days. The farmers always drove them away thinking that they will ruin their fruit gardens, without thinking about the benefits of pollination and seed propagation that often outweighs the impacts of fruits eaten by Flying Foxes. It is time to think that like humans they also have the right to live freely and undisturbed in this world.







# Ohau School Nature Club

CUB'S CORNER



## CUB'S CORNER



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Ohau School is a small primary school on the west coast of the North Island of New Zealand. It is a rural school of around 200 students ranging from 5 to 13 years old. The school is special as we have a small patch (around 1/3 acre) of forest, commonly known as bush, on the grounds.

In 2017 Miss Warren began to explore the area with some students and we quickly formed an environmental action group called Nature Club. This is our story.

Ohau School, Levin, New Zealand  
[www.ohau.school.nz](http://www.ohau.school.nz)

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### Where it all began

New Zealand was a part of a big Australian continent until it broke away 65-80 million years ago and then again into the south and north islands. There were thousands of birds then and some devolved so they couldn't fly. This was because there were no predators, no mammals on the islands. When the first people came they brought dogs and rats which ate the birds. That led to the extinction of birds like the Huia and Moa.

Then the British came with the rats, stoats and some European birds like sparrows. This put New Zealand into a horrific state as these mammals fed on the flightless birds and their eggs. The European birds moved into the native New Zealand habitats and displaced native birds.

Weeding - Byron and Zac







Swan Plants - Tanisha and Emma



Lizard Lounges - Max and Ethan

Now, like most New Zealand animal lovers we want our bird life to be restored. At Ohau School we are trying to look after the native bush and the special birds that live there. At the moment we regularly see the Grey Warbler, New Zealand Fantail, Tui, New Zealand Pigeon and Silvereye. We hope to attract more native and endemic birds like the Shining Cuckoo, Red-crowned Parakeet and Bellbird.

### Nature Club begins

In the first Nature Club outing, we discovered a mysterious fern. A photo taken with flash revealed the true identity. A Silver Fern! We were so excited about how beautiful it was and it made us want to explore even more. We found more native plants and trees like the Kawakawa, with its heart shaped leaves and peppery taste, the flowering Kākābeak and the lemon smelling Tarata. Some species of New Zealand's native vegetation dates back to the days of the dinosaurs.

Next, we began to learn about the birds in the bush, their calls and nests in particular. We learned about the damage being done to the bush by predators and noxious weeds. Decision made - we are going to rescue the bush. Small groups formed with an interest and we have been working for a year now, in our own time, to help the bush and all the creatures living in it.

### Predator Control

Two students from Nature Club have been working on a project to make rat traps. Zara and Jorja have successfully caught one rat. They said "We want to protect

the bush from rats so the birds can live a safe life." They think it is good and bad that they only caught one rat. "We are hoping it means that there are not many rats in the bush."

### Weeding

Students aged between 10 and 11 have been working on weeding out invasive plants. A 'bank', previously inhabited by noxious Tradescantia weed has now been cleared. They also barricaded a well-used mudslide to stop erosion when students slide down it. By transplanting native plants that were in danger of being squashed on the pathways, they have really promoted the health of the bush.

### Monarch Butterflies

Emma and Tanisha have planted swan plants at two sites in the bush. They've been looking out for eggs and think they have started to attract monarch butterflies. The containers were made by Tanisha, who designed them so predators can't get in, but caterpillars can. The two researched their project, bought and planted the swan plants and built the protective barrier, all without any help.

### Dusk the Ruru

In the winter of 2017, we made the most amazing discovery. We found a "Ruru" living in our bush. This native owl (also known as the Morepork or Southern boobook) is a common bird in New Zealand but really difficult to see. Gavin named him Dusk and we hoped that a female would visit so we could call her Dawn. Students from across the school would carefully and quietly check on Dusk





© Ohau School Nature Club

everyday. Unfortunately, Dusk stopped roosting in the bush in the spring. We hope that he will return soon.

### **Lizard Lounges**

Max and Ethan have built a retreat for lizards and gecko. Two retreats have been constructed, the best propped up on a tree fern trunk. The most wanted type of lizard/gecko is the Common Skink. We know there are lizards in the bush because we found common skinks and common geckos when we were weeding the bank. But we didn't find them in the lizard lounges so some other students did more research and moved them into a sunny area. We are still monitoring them and waiting hopefully.

### **2018**

These are some of the projects Nature Club started in 2017. In 2018, we are going to upgrade the tracks, make fact files about the plants and animals to educate other students, trap predators, build native animal shelters and keep working to make sure the bush is healthy and the birds are looked after.

Since we started Nature Club we have visited other places in the North Island that help to protect the New Zealand environment and support birdlife. We have been visited by our local rangers and interviewed for the regional newspaper. We hope to tell more people about our work across the world and how important it is to take care of our environment. Most importantly, we hope students of all ages will keep helping us to learn about the bush and how to look after it. One of our

team, Gavin, is a talented artist and he has been building a library of sketches of native birds. We will be using them to create a display of our work and the learning experiences that come from Nature Club.

We are also recruiting Leaders of Nature Club this year. New to the school are sisters Rori and Alicia. They have already helped organise and supervise taking groups of our under seven students to explore the bush and are working towards their leadership badge.

Some other leaders in training are Mia, Elissa, Amelia and Huia who are always ready to help and work in the bush. When they were asked what they like about Nature Club, the girls said they enjoyed learning about the native birds and going on the exciting trips. Getting a chance to become a leader is also important to the girls. It is one of the best aspects of the club as students as young as 7/8 years old can become nature experts and school leaders.

*Contributing members of the club are:*

*Kalanee Wicks, Mia Lane  
Zac Goodall, Jorja Horn, Gavin Sue, Katya Campbell, Emma Arcus, Tanisha Bevan, Max Cowie, Ethan Tombs, Huia Campbell, Elissa Westerby, Alicia Smith, Rori Smith, Naidan Smyth, Byron Lammass, Amelia Smyth, and Zara Westerby.*

*Written by Zac, Jorja, Gavin, Katya, Miss Warren and members of Nature Club.*

*Photographs by Miss Warren, Zac Goodall and Kalanee Wicks*





THROUGH THE LENS

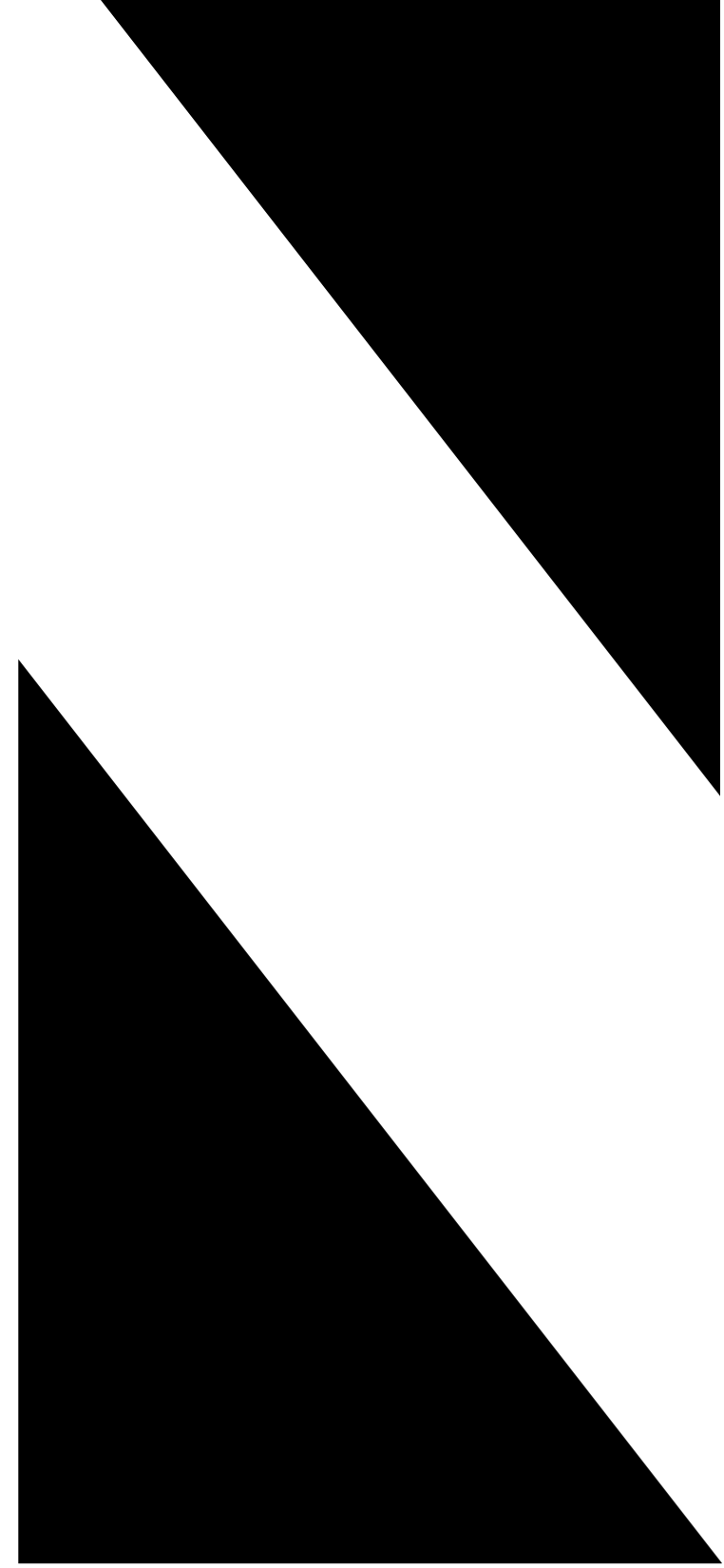
# Wild Tender Moments

By Nisha Purushothaman

©Nisha Purushothaman

THROUGH THE LENS





**Nisha firmly believes that people need more awareness about the planet and should travel to see the already fragile eco-system first hand and contribute their part to conserve the earth's resources. She loves to be defined as a naturalist, conservationist photographer.**

**From the backwaters and rain-forests of India to the grass plains of Masai Mara; from the crater of Ngorongoro to the deserts of the Middle East, she has spent days and nights passionately following the landscapes, flora & fauna, birds and wildlife of these places.**

**[nishas.info/](http://nishas.info/)  
[facebook.com/NishasPhotography/](https://facebook.com/NishasPhotography/)  
[instagram.com/nisha.purushothaman/](https://instagram.com/nisha.purushothaman/)**

Picking up one story from the days spend in the wild is a tough task for me, because I just love to be in the wild. It is great if I can make some images, but it's more about the connection we can develop with Mother Nature. I feel I am truly a blessed soul in every sense. Only few people in this world gets the chance to live the life they dream. I don't say 'it's an easy' walk but I do say 'it's worth living'.

Masai Mara in Kenya is the wildlife reserve I have visited the most number of times so far. This article is about a trip I did in 2017 September. Every visit is like a dream for me. Every time I get to witness some

blessed moments or some dream come true moments, a lot of people say it's just coincidence, but for me it is divine... For me every moment is a signature of the almighty. Yes, your equipment, your knowledge and experience matters. But one definitely need a connection with nature to make stories.

This particular trip was mainly spent around two big lion prides, Ridge Pride that reside around the Double Cross and the Black Rock Pride that is resident at black rock area in the savannah of Masai Mara. The main attraction in both the prides were the number of young





ones, at the same time it's the biggest challenge too. Ridge pride had around 15 plus young ones under six months of age. Black rock pride got 12 cubs hardly one and half months old from three mothers. The challenge was that when the cubs are active all of them will be active and its quite tough to decide which one to concentrate and photograph. That's where luck and blessings play a major role along with your knowledge.

Watching and photographing cubs are my favorite activities in Masai Mara. The more time you spend with a pride you learn more about them, their life, love, struggle, character, behavior. You can never learn them completely but the more time you patiently invest the better you learn. You can see them biting the tails of other lions in the pride... see them climbing the tree... You can see the way they nurse a group of 10 plus at times... see them playing hide and seek with you... If you give them enough time without making any noise... They can come as close as or closer than the minimum focal length of your equipment. Understanding their behavior helps to an extent to predict their moves, which helps in capturing the moment. Just keep on watching them through the view finder... If you know how to manage your Aperture, Shutter speed, ISO and Exposure compensation without taking your eyes from the viewfinder, then you will be able to capture some moments which will not only make you happy, it may influence many other people from across the world and get them closer to nature.

Your equipment is a very important factor in photography. **Nikon D5, Nikon D850, NIKKOR 400mm f/2.8 E FL ED VR,**









**NIKKOR 70-200mm f/2.8 E FL ED VR and NIKKOR 24-70mm f/2.8E ED VR** are the gears I carry in my trips. f 2.8 lenses' performance in the early morning light can result in making magical frames.

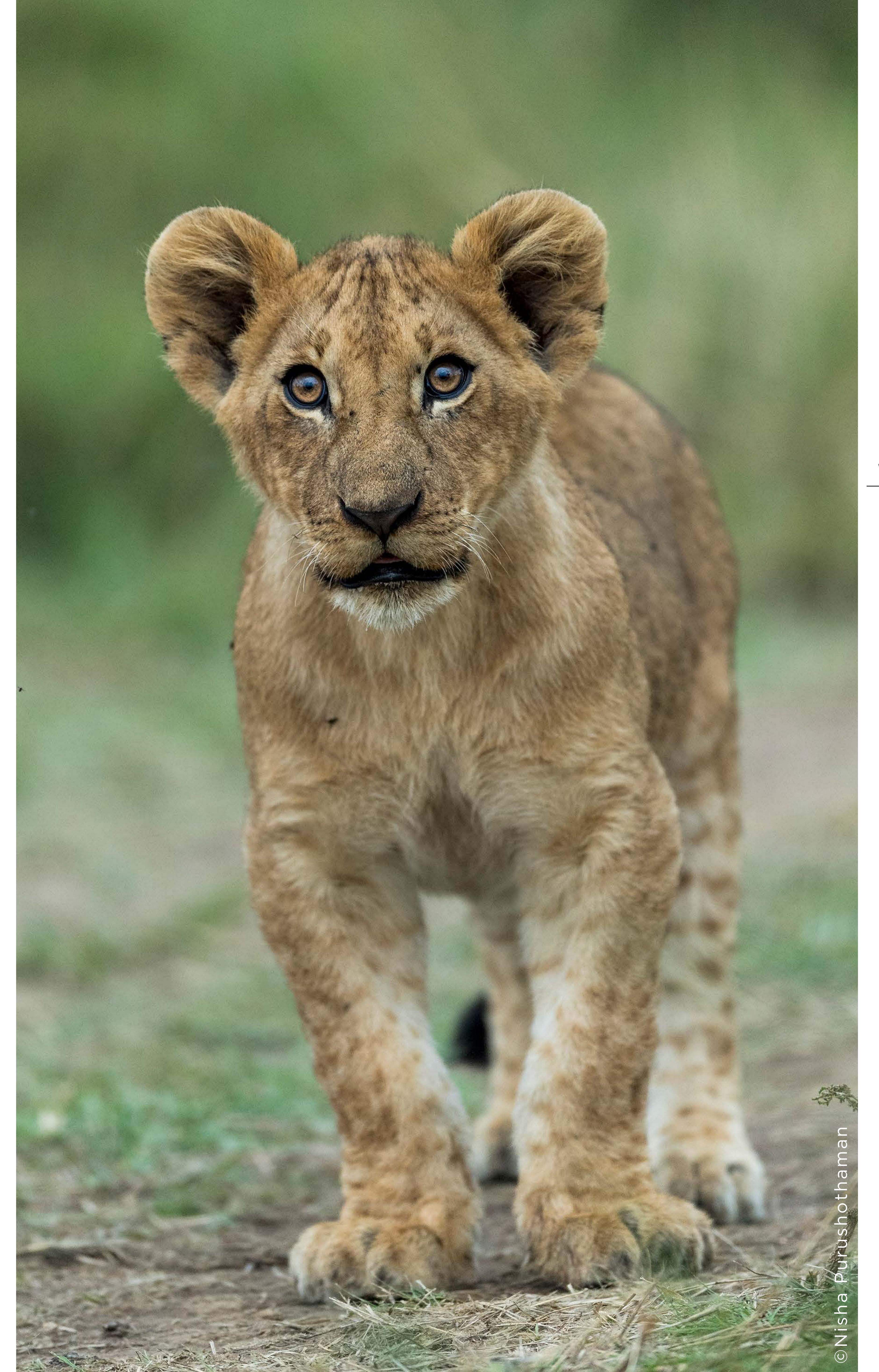
I love early morning shoots, making use of the golden hours and rim light. If you are in the right time at the right place, you can under expose one or two stops, and increase the kelvin value up to 7,000 or 8,000, then you will be able to paint with light...

The good part what I love in Nikon gear is their ISO performance, even in very low lighting conditions while using high ISO, you still don't get much noise in the image. You will be able to freeze the action without losing clarity and the richness of the actual colours.

At the same time I am not saying noise is always an issue, at times we can make use of noise and make great painting like images. It's all about what one want to see or show.

To conclude, conservation photography is all about what you do with the image to promote the cause of conservation and awareness. You may be one of the greatest photographers, but if your image remains in the hard disk, it's not going to make a difference in any way. It's about share and care... WW

When an image can be the voice for the voiceless, why not?











TRAVELOGUE

# A trip to Asia's Largest Bird Sanctuary

By Priyanshi Bachhawat Nahata

©Priyanshi Nahata

TRAVELOGUE







**Priyanshi Bachhawat Nahata, is an Indian living in Dubai since four years.**

**Nature and wildlife are her passion and she hopes to inspire people to take up wildlife photography. she reasons that when more people get involved in wildlife photography, more they will protect wildlife.**

**[facebook.com/wildographs/](https://facebook.com/wildographs/)  
[instagram.com/wildographs/](https://instagram.com/wildographs/)**

One morning while going through my regular social media feed, I saw a photograph of a darter in silhouette sitting on a tree with the sun setting behind it. The photograph was an inspiration, urging me to travel to that place. I started researching about the place to find out that it was none other than Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary, Rajasthan, India. My family hails from Rajasthan and I never knew that such a beautiful place existed in the same state where I spent my summer holidays as a child.

So last December, I planned a five day trip to visit Keoladeo Ghana National Park. My flight from Dubai to Jaipur took off three hours late, forcing me cancel and re-book the train for the onward

journey. I was lucky to get a seat in the train. As I reached Bharatpur and got out of the station, the place would give you a feel of earthen village with a touch of concrete Delhi. I took an auto rickshaw and reached Iora Guest House, where I had booked accommodation. The place was filled with plants, pictures of birds and animals and a living room showcasing a beautiful shelf with amazing books on wildlife. The proprietor Devendra Singh himself is a very passionate wildlife photographer. Their cook makes amazing food, and you will never go hungry. The rooms are clean and meets all the basic requirements, and it is near to the park.

Winters can be very cold in the desert, and Bharatpur is no different. There







are four different modes of transport – walking, bicycles, cycle-rickshaw, and tonga (horse carriage). On entering the park, we took our tickets and sat in the cycle-rickshaw. Our guide who was riding the Rickshaw told us the history of the park. He said the sanctuary was

created 250 years ago and is named after a Keoladeo (Shiva) temple within its boundaries. The park was a hunting ground for the maharajas of Bharatpur, a tradition dating back to 1850, and duck shoots were organised yearly in honour of the British viceroys. But now the Park

is declared a World Heritage Site under the World Heritage Convention. The man-made wetland is a 29sq km long tract and has the diversity of open water, trees and grass lands. The site protected the town of Bharatpur, which flooded often. The area also served as a grazing ground for

local cattle. Keoladeo was notified as a sanctuary for birds in 1956. The reserve was declared a Ramsar site or 'wetland of international importance' in 1982. It is also a UNESCO-listed national park now. As a management practice, water levels have to be maintained in various wetland





blocks through a water distribution system to provide suitable habitat to a wide range of migratory birds. Water is pumped into the fresh water swamps for winter while it remains flooded all through

the monsoon. There are some 10 swamps divided by dykes with sluice gates to control the level of water in each. During the monsoon months, water stands to a height of one to two metres, while the

entire stretch is dry during summers barring some depressions. This wetting and drying keep the condition of the wetland suitable for migratory birds. The moment you enter the main area

of the park you will be treated to an exhilarant view, a scene that you will fall in love with the moment you see it. This place has a lot to offer. In the hustle - bustle of today`s life, this place





©Priyanshi Nahata

is a pleasing opposite - It will relax you completely, you can walk a few miles here and feel liberated. Nature lovers like me will enjoy the off roads exploration possibilities which can lead to some unique sightings of Sarus Cranes, or

darters hunting, spotted owlets basking in the sun.

If you are a bird photographer, this place is no less than heaven. There are over 400 bird species in the park and the best

part is that being accustomed to humans they are easily approachable. Better yet, there are many designated areas that allows you amazing vantage points for photography. One of the most notable point is right at the entrance of the park

where you can always see beautiful peafowl sitting on the tree, giving you a beautiful silhouette.

Then there are few areas in the park where you will always find darters



fishing or fighting. The Oriental darter or Indian darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*) is a water bird. It has a long and slender neck with a straight, pointed bill and, like the cormorant, it hunts for fish while its body is submerged in water. It spears the fish underwater, bringing it above the surface, tossing and juggling it before swallowing the fish head first. The body remains submerged as it swims, and the slender neck alone is visible above the water, which accounts for the colloquial name of snakebird. Like the cormorants, it has wet-able feathers and is often found perched on a rock or branch with its wings held open to dry.

But to me, I wanted to capture Sarus Cranes (*Grus antigone*) dancing. It was already the last day of my trip and I had still to see them dancing, up until the last sunset of my trip. And then there it was, in the most beautiful light, dancing right in front of me, so close! It was as if they were showing off for me after making me wait till the end of my trip. There is something magical about this bird. These cranes are easily distinguished from other cranes in the region by the overall grey colour and the contrasting red head and upper neck. They forage in marshes and shallow wetlands for roots, tubers, insects, crustaceans and small vertebrate prey. Like other cranes, they form long-lasting pair-bonds and maintain territories within which they perform territorial and courtship displays that include loud trumpeting, leaps and dance-like movements. In India they are considered symbols of marital fidelity, believed to mate for life and pine the loss of their mates even to the point of starving to death.

Then there is another vantage point which is also called the famous sunset point where if lucky you can witness a bird against the setting sun with beautiful frame of branches. Though I didn't get any picture in that vantage point, I got a different sunset picture of a painted stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*). Their distinctive pink tertian feathers of the adults give them their name. They forage in flocks in shallow waters along rivers or lakes. They immerse their half open beaks in water and sweep them from side to side and snap up their prey of small fish that are sensed by touch. As they wade along they also stir the water with their feet to flush hiding fish. They nest colonially in trees, often along with other water birds.

This place is a pure addiction, the locals out there always say, "If you visit the sanctuary once you will definitely come back again." But at the same time, it is facing lot of issues with the level and availability of water. During my trip I gathered that, there were only 30% birds present as compared to last year. In the year 2016, boating was provided for tourists following a good monsoon in the district and release of water from the Panchna Dam in Karauli but scanty rainfall during the monsoon has lowered the water level of the lake this season. The park has four boats for joyrides in the lake and for tourists to watch migratory birds that roost in the trees around the lake. But lack of water due to successive scanty monsoons, is hitting the breeding of local birds. Birds, including painted stork that visit the park for nesting and breeding every year, have gone to other lakes due to water shortage. Each painted stork that lays 2-4 eggs,



©Priyanshi Nahata

needs fish to feed the chicks that need more than 500g of fish every day and hoped to receive 150 million cubic feet of water from the Chambal Canal project to fill the six blocks in park. Apart from migratory birds, local species including open bill stork, cormorant, snake bird, egret, painted stork, spoonbill, grey heron, purple heron, cattle egret, large egret, medium egret, Indian seg come to the park to breed before the monsoon. Birds that nest on babool trees near the

lake need fish, vegetation to survive and water from the Panchna Dam brings fish, vegetation to the lake. I hope that local sources of water are revived with support from local communities living in and around Keoladeo, who depend on it for their livelihood.

My bag contained:

Nikon D4s, Nikon D850, 600mm f4, 70-200mm f2.8, 200-500mm, 1.4 teleconverter.







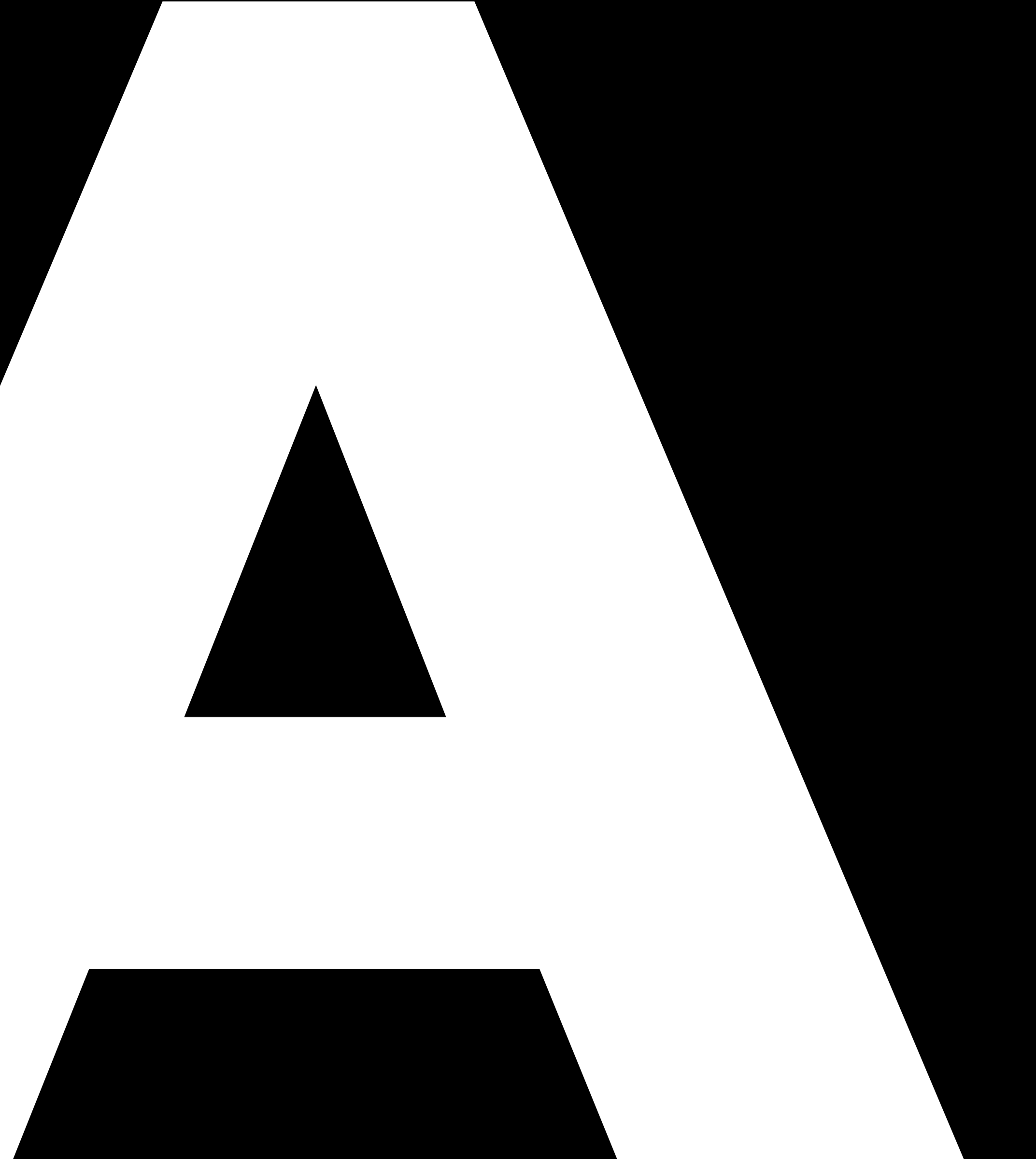


©Adele Earnshaw

Adele Earnshaw –  
New Zealand Wildlife Artist

WILD ARTS SHOWCASE





**New Zealand wildlife artist Adele Earnshaw's style is expansive habitat backgrounds with inconspicuous wildlife subjects.**

**Adele spent most of her career creating art in the United States, and recently returned to her native New Zealand.**

**See: <http://adeleearnshaw.com/>**

My ancestors on both sides of the family were among the first settlers in New Zealand where I was born, but I immigrated with my family to the United States in the 1960's. I'd like to claim that I was painting by the age of five, but that's not true. Though my primary school report cards noted "Dell loves her handicrafts" and I spent much of my high school years working in ceramics, I thought that real artists were born with the ability so I didn't attempt to draw or paint until my mid-twenties. Though I graduated from high school with a 4.0

and was offered a college scholarship, I had no idea of what I wanted to do. My art teacher gave me a brochure for an art college, suggesting I give it to my parents but knowing what my practical father would say the brochure went into the trash and I joined the airlines as a flight attendant. My father was a private pilot and I soloed at the age of 17, but in the late 1960's there were no commercial women pilots. I joined the airlines because I loved to fly and slinging coffee in the back of the aircraft gave me an exciting life of flight







©Adele Earnshaw



and travel. At 25 I went on maternity leave. While on leave, I signed up for a beginning watercolor class. One week into the class and I knew I had found my passion.

Within a few months, I'd sold my first painting of a gull for \$10. I spent the money on more art supplies. I sold another for \$20 but this time, I went to the supermarket and filled my cart with \$20 worth of food. \$20 bought a lot of food in 1976 and I pushed the cart around the store, marveling that something I loved to do was paying for all this food! I was hooked. Within ten years I was a single mother and self-supporting with my art.... barely. Interesting that the baby I was expecting when I took my first art class, is now in his 40's and is a well known book-cover illustrator. (Shane Rebenschied, <http://www.blot.com/> Check out the March 2018 cover for Discover Magazine!) He must have been listening while in the womb. Additionally, his daughter just started university this month as an art/design major.

For the past 35 years, I have sold my work through the main large group wildlife shows in the United States including The Waterfowl Festival, Easton, Maryland; Pacific Rim Wildlife Art Show in Tacoma and the Southeastern Wildlife Show in Charleston, South Carolina. I did about 6 shows a year but also supplied galleries. Teaching workshops across the U.S. and overseas supplemented my income and gave me the opportunity to travel. In the years of the booming limited edition

print market in the U.S. I was with a major U.S. print company; Hadley House. They chose the images to print, flew me to Minneapolis to spend the day signing prints and I flew home that evening. The income was good, I was becoming well known but I felt a bit type cast and was itching to move on to another medium.

I like to see an evolution in my work. I am motivated by the fear of stagnation. Even though I have lost clients along the way when I stopped painting (for example) quilts and birds, or watercolor, the changes have brought new collectors. After painting in watercolor for 25 years, I felt limited by the medium. Then conveniently, I fell and broke my right wrist. Watercolor requires a flexible arm so while my wrist was healing, I painted in oil. By the time my wrist healed, I was an oil painter and never once looked back. I like to think that when I fell, the painting gods pushed me, forcing me to make a change that I didn't have the guts to do. In addition to changing mediums. I've also loosened up which I think is a natural progression for many artists as we get older. It's taken me 30+ years to figure out that all those brush strokes aren't necessary. Now I can say more with less. Mood and atmosphere, and above all - composition, are more important to me than rendering every feather of a bird. Though birds have never been the most important part of my work, they've always been the focal point. Now, I'm even doing paintings with only the suggestion of a bird or (shock!) no bird at all.

Now in my late 60's, the battle to earn







an income isn't as important, giving me new options. In 2010, I made the decision to move back to New Zealand. I'd spent many years with a foot in both countries but it was time for me to go home. In 2012, the house was sold and container packed. I kissed the grandkids and headed home. Little did I know that my son, daughter-in-law and three grandkids would join me in New Zealand a year later, living two hours south of me in the town where I grew up.

I chose to live in New Zealand's far north; The Bay of Islands, partly for the climate but mostly for the native bush and wild kiwi population.

In 1993, I was commissioned to design the first three years of

the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Stamp and print (NZ's 'duck stamp') for the New Zealand Fish & Game Council. Based on the U.S. Federal Duck Stamp, the first year raised over a million dollars for New Zealand game bird habitat. I was also the first female artist judge for the 2003 Federal Duck Stamp competition at the Department of Interior in Washington D.C. In 2000, I was one of 33 international artists invited to participate in the Ecoart Exhibition in Taipei, Taiwan. Sponsored by the Taipei Ecoart Association and the National Museum of History, the purpose of the exhibition was to "show the amazing beauty of ecology as depicted by world-class artists hoping to induce more people to learn about nature, be in touch with nature, appreciate and cherish nature, and, in turn, devote themselves to the protection of nature so as to safeguard this bountiful and beautiful earth for future generations". My work, along with that of the other artists, was exhibited at the National Museum of History in Taiwan and I spent a magical week touring some of Taiwan's most sacred natural wonders, including the Fushan Nature Reserve.

The Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, Wausau, Wisconsin, is the venue for one of the finest annual bird art exhibitions in the world. For most bird artists, not only in the US but internationally, one of the highest goals we can aim for is acceptance of a painting into the annual exhibition. I've been very fortunate to have been in Birds in Art 17 or 18 times.

After thirty years, I've made the decision



to not do any more group shows although I will continue to supply four or five galleries in the U.S. This will free me to work on personal projects here in New Zealand from conservation to gallery representation. November, 2017 marked my 30th and last year of exhibiting my work at The Waterfowl Festival in Easton Maryland. It has been one of my favourite shows as the festival donates a large portion of the funds generated by the annual event, to conservation. Chesapeake cleanup, sowing grain for the returning waterfowl, education and many other worthwhile projects have been funded, in a small part, by the commission I have paid over the past 30 years for the sale of my work. (I've since been asked by the Waterfowl Festival to return in 2020 for their 50th anniversary, which I will do).

My art has raised a lot of money for bird conservation over the years but now I want to raise money specifically for the Northern Brown Kiwi (*Apteryx mantelli*). As a kid, my playground was the native New Zealand forest that surrounded our rural home. When playing in the bush, I always hoped I'd see a kiwi but my father would say, 'they're all gone'. Today, thanks to conservation, predator trapping and nest egg projects, there is hope for the remaining kiwi.

In late 2017 with funding from Paihia Rotary Club and in conjunction with Bay Busy Action, our local conservation group, a print was done of my kiwi painting, 'Kiwi Ora'. One-hundred percent of the funds raised will go to Bay Bush Action for an upcoming

kiwi release and a nest egg project in the Opuia Forest, where I live. Ninety percent of kiwi chicks don't survive the first year. Wild kiwi burrows are monitored and the first egg is taken from the nest. The kiwi will then lay another and the first egg is incubated, hatched and the young kiwi returned to the wild a year later in releases such as will be happening next year in the Opuia Forest. The young kiwi is then large enough to defend itself against predators (stoat, weasel, rat and feral cats). Sadly, the greatest enemy of the kiwi is the dog in spite of penalties for dogs roaming in kiwi areas. The kiwi is nocturnal. About an hour after dusk and an hour before dawn, the kiwi calls to let their mates know where they are. Currently there are ten kiwi couples within 3 or 4 kilometers of where I live. It is spine-tingling for me to lie in bed in the wee hours, and hear them calling.

New Zealand wildlife artist Lindsay Scott commented on my artwork, "Beautiful color, masterful use of light and dynamic compositions characterize Adele's work. She is a dear friend and mentor that I have known for many years since I moved in next door to her in Sedona. She has always been incredibly generous in sharing her knowledge and encouraging to anyone interested in developing their interest and ability in art. Her infectious passion is what encouraged me to set out on an art career of my own. She lives and breathes her passion which combined with her talent and tenacity have lead her on a long and successful career as an artist, and I look forward to what wonderful creations will come out of her studio in the future. We have more



© Adele Barnshaw

of her work in our collection than any other artist..."

To sum it up, I am living my dream. I continue to paint what I love, I'm raising money for New Zealand Northern Brown Kiwi conservation, and I live in the place that I love the most. The Maori have a word, "Tūrangawaewae."

It is one of the most well-known and powerful Māori concepts. Literally "tūranga" (standing place), "waewae" (feet), it is often translated as 'a place to stand'. Tūrangawaewae are places where we feel especially empowered and connected. They are our foundation, our place in the world, our home.









YOUR GALLERY



Latha Prabhakaran

Indian Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros Unicornis*)

Location: Kaziranga National Park, Assam, India.





YOUR GALLERY

Seema Suresh

Indian Elephant (*Elephas Maximus Indicus*)

Location: Jim Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand, India.



YOUR GALLERY

CR Pushpa

Leopard (*Panthera Pardus*)

Location: Satpura National Park, Madhya Pradesh, India.







YOUR GALLERY

**Ester Ramirez**  
Red-necked Tanager (*Tangara cyanocephala*)  
Location: Guaramiranga, Brazil.



YOUR GALLERY

**Salma Al Suwaidi**  
Houbara Bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata*)  
Location: Al Qudra, Dubai, UAE.







YOUR GALLERY



Yanina Maggiotto  
Common Crane (*Grus Grus*)  
Location: Teruel, Spain.



YOUR GALLERY



Imogen Warren  
Australasian Bittern (*Botaurus Poiciloptilus*)  
Location: Foxton Beach, New Zealand.





YOUR GALLERY



Aparna Purushothaman

Spot-billed Pelican (*Pelecanus Philippensis*)

Location: Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary, Karnataka, India.



YOUR GALLERY



Cynthia Bandurek

Emerald Glass Frog (*Centrolene prosoblepon*)

Location: Tinamaste, San José, Costa Rica.



**UPCOMING  
FEATURES**

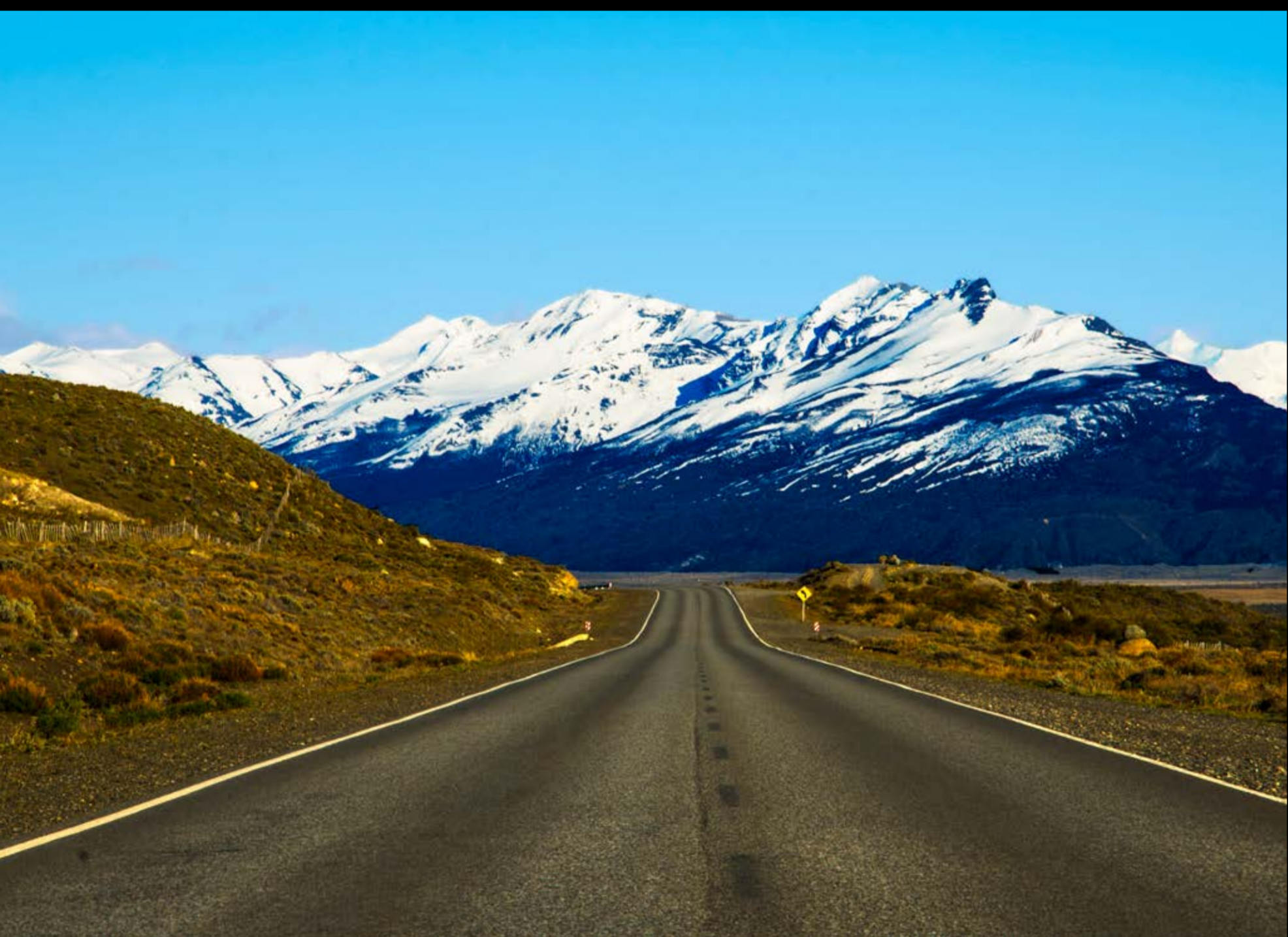


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**INTO THE WILD  
WITH  
TODD GUSTAFSON**

By Peter Hudson

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**PATAGONIA**

By Jarbas Mattos

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**INDIA'S PROTECTED  
LANDS**

By Amrita Das

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