

HYDERABAD TIGER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

EST. 2001



ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25

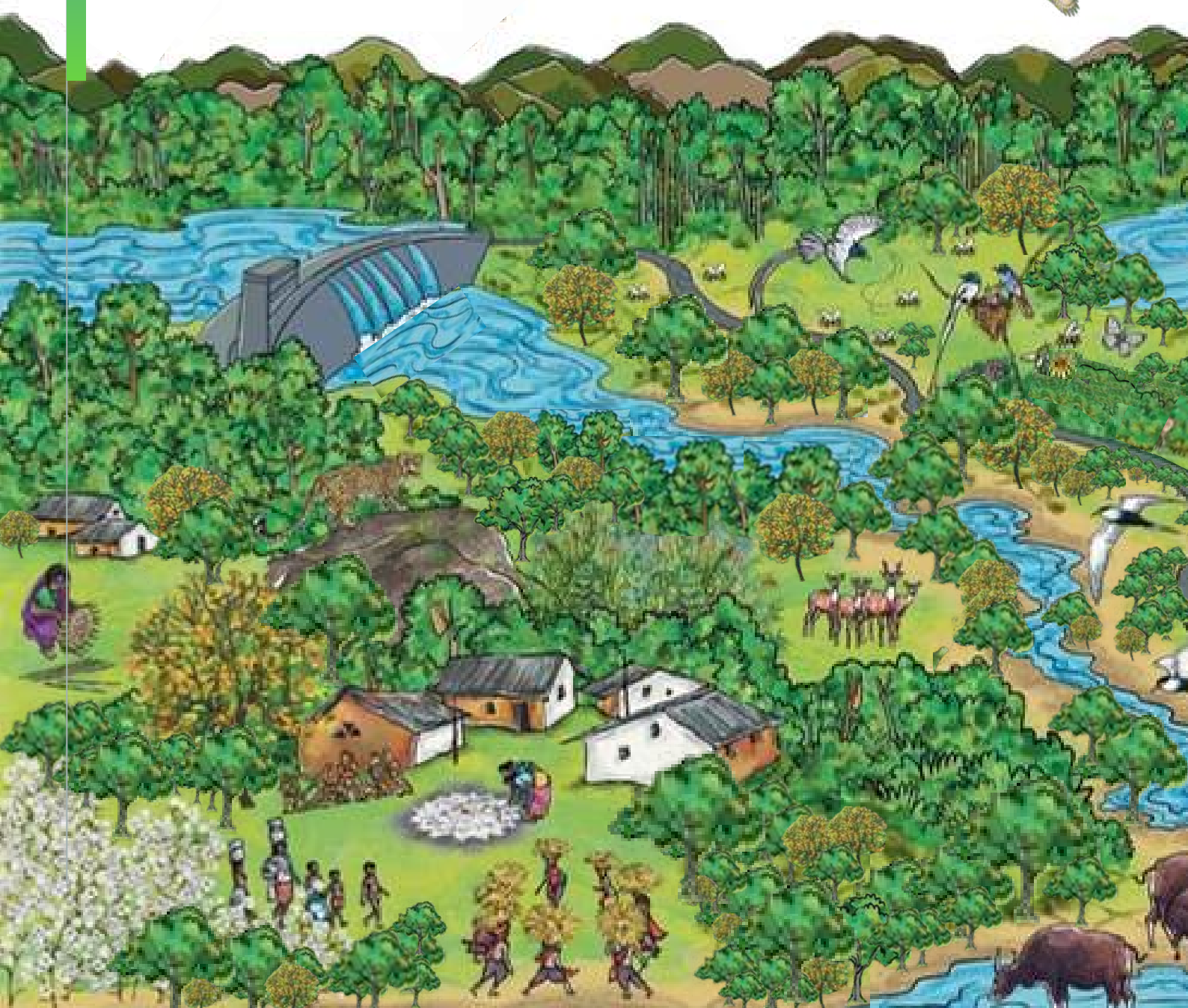


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Who we are

HyTiCoS is a volunteer-driven organization committed to conserving wildlife, forests, and ecosystems across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

The Hyderabad Tiger Conservation Society (HyTiCoS) focuses on protecting the rich biodiversity of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The organization adopts a science-based approach, conducting field research, environmental assessments, and habitat monitoring to develop effective conservation strategies.

Working closely with forest departments, expert groups, and local communities, HyTiCoS implements initiatives that safeguard forests, strengthen wildlife populations, and maintain critical ecosystems. Alongside on-ground efforts, the organization promotes awareness and advocacy to encourage sustainable coexistence between humans and wildlife.



Executive Summary



2024–2025 was a landmark year for HyTiCoS, strengthening tiger conservation across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Field teams expanded monitoring to new districts while tracking 9–12 individual tigers in key corridors. Scientific research, community engagement, and strategic partnerships reinforced our role as a trusted conservation ally.

As a field-based conservation NGO, HyTiCoS strengthened grassroots engagement, scientific monitoring, and policy-level collaboration to enhance the ecological security of two of South India's most critical tiger landscapes—**Amrabad Tiger Reserve and Kawal Tiger Reserve**—along with their vital connecting corridors.

During this year, HyTiCoS actively monitored **9 to 12 individual tigers** across key movement corridors in northern Telangana, expanding its conservation footprint to newly formed districts including **Jagityal, Karimnagar, and Mancherial**, alongside traditional strongholds in Adilabad, Asifabad, and Bhupalpalli. Field teams conducted rigorous camera trap studies, scat and pugmark surveys, and threat assessments to better understand tiger presence, movement, and habitat usage in non-protected, high-conflict landscapes.

As part of **Phase IV monitoring protocols**, HyTiCoS played a key role in systematic camera trap deployment across all four monitoring blocks in Amrabad Tiger Reserve, in close coordination with the Telangana Forest Department. This scientific work contributes to national-level tiger population data and informs future conservation actions at the landscape level.

Community-based conservation remained a priority, with HyTiCoS supporting rapid **conflict mitigation**, conducting awareness programs, and promoting coexistence through education and outreach. Through strategic partnerships, capacity building of frontline forest staff, and continual on-ground vigilance, HyTiCoS reinforced its reputation as a trusted conservation ally in the region.

As HyTiCoS enters its next decade of conservation work, its commitment remains firm—to protect wild tigers, secure their corridors, and **build resilient ecosystems** for future generations. The achievements of 2024–2025 lay a strong foundation for scaling impact across the Deccan Plateau and Eastern Ghats tiger landscapes.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful for the unwavering support that strengthened our conservation efforts across our tiger landscapes.

We express our deepest gratitude to the **Gland Fosun Foundation** for their unwavering and generous support, which has been instrumental to the success of this project. Their commitment to environmental conservation and community empowerment continues to inspire our efforts in protecting Telangana's forests and wildlife. We especially acknowledge **Mr. P. Sampath Kumar and Capt. K. Raghuraman (Retd.)**, whose consistent guidance, encouragement, and strategic inputs have been the backbone of this project. The future of this ongoing conservation work will continue to rely on their invaluable support.

We sincerely thank the **Telangana State Forest Department** for providing the requisite permissions and institutional support to carry out this project across key forest landscapes and tiger corridors. Our heartfelt thanks go to Smt C. Suvarna, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), and Shri Elusing Meru, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), for their extended and continued support.

We are also immensely grateful to **Shri S. Shantaram**, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests & Field Director, Project Tiger, Kawal Tiger Reserve, Nirmal; **Shri Sunil Heramath**, IFS, Field Director, Amrabad Tiger Reserve; and **Shri G. Rohith Reddy**, IFS, Deputy Director, Amrabad Tiger Reserve, for their constant support, collaboration, and invaluable guidance throughout the project. Their dedication to tiger conservation has been crucial in strengthening our field-level operations and long-term monitoring efforts.

Special thanks are due to **all Forest Officers** and frontline staff whose cooperation at every level has enabled the smooth execution of field activities. We are especially thankful to all the base camp watchers, trackers, and ground-level forest staff, whose tireless efforts and close connection with the forest make them the true custodians of the wild. Their work in difficult terrain, often under challenging conditions, is the heart and soul of forest conservation in Telangana.

To everyone who has stood by us—from institutions to individuals—your trust fuels our resolve to protect Telangana's wildlife and forests.

HYDERABAD TIGER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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Part 1: **Kawal Tiger Reserve**



Kawal Tiger Reserve

Telangana's Northern Green Crown

A land where the Godavari flows through timeless forests, nurturing rich wildlife and the enduring spirit of conservation.

The Kawal Tiger Reserve (KTR) is one of Telangana's most important protected areas. Initially established in 1965 as the Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary (KWS) in the erstwhile state of Andhra Pradesh, it was later declared the second Tiger Reserve of the state and now falls within Telangana. Located in Adilabad District, about 260 km north of Hyderabad, the reserve is traversed by the Godavari River, which enriches its diverse forest ecosystems.

The core of the Tiger Reserve comprises the former Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary, while its buffer includes surrounding notified forests, covering a total area of 2015.44 sq. km—892.23 sq. km of core and 1123.21 sq. km of buffer. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) approved the formation of KTR under Letter No. 1-9/2011 NTCA, dated 14 September 2011. The buffer zone was identified and recommended by an Expert Committee constituted under Section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, encompassing parts of notified forest blocks within the Adilabad, Bellampalli, Jannaram, and Nirmal Forest Divisions.

The Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary was first notified as a Game Reserve under G.O. Ms. No. 2753, F&AG (For.II) Dept., dated 18 November 1965, and subsequently declared a Wildlife Sanctuary under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 through G.O. Ms. No. 92, E.F.S.&T. (For.II) Dept., dated 14 July 1999.

Geographically, KTR lies between 19°50'N–19°20'N and 79°32'E–79°12'E, with its buffer zone extending from 18°59'N–19°28'N and 79°15'E–79°28'E. The reserve's terrain varies dramatically, beginning at the Birsai pet plateau (346 m above mean sea level) in the north and rising steeply to 610 m near Peddavaggu, which drains into the Kadam River, a tributary of the Pranahita. The undulating hills extend southward to Korichalma, rising from 213 m to 548 m above mean sea level, and end in the Mamidipalli plateau, which drains northwards.



Flora and Fauna

Kawal's diverse topography and hydrology make it one of the most ecologically significant tiger landscapes in southern India, serving as a critical corridor linking forests across Telangana and Maharashtra.



The forests of Kawal Tiger Reserve fall under the **Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous type** (Champion & Seth, 1968). During summer, most trees shed their leaves, revealing a diverse canopy dominated by Teak (*Tectona grandis*) — found in pure stretches across the reserve. Other key tree species include Axlewood, Terminalia, Pterocarpus, Mahua, and Boswellia, along with dense bamboo understories and rich ground vegetation like *Zizyphus* and *Cassia*.

Kawal supports a thriving wildlife population — from apex predators like **tiger, leopard, wolf, dhole, and hyena**, to herbivores such as **chital, sambar, gaur, nilgai, and four-horned antelope**. Birdlife includes the white-eyed buzzard, green pigeon, and racket-tailed drongo, while reptiles and amphibians like rock python, monitor lizard, and tree frogs complete this rich ecosystem.



Floral Diversity:

Category	Species (Scientific Name) & Notes
Canopy Trees	Teak (<i>Tectona grandis</i> , locally Thekku) – most valuable, 5–80% of core, with pure teak patches Other important: Axlewood (<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i>), Nalla maddi (<i>Terminalia tomentosa</i>), Battaganam (<i>Mitragyna arviolia</i>), Bijasal (<i>Pterocarpus marsupium</i>), Abnus (<i>Diospyros melanoxylon</i>), Sandra (<i>Acacia sandra</i>), Kodsha (<i>Cleistanthus collinus</i>), Burgu (<i>Bombax malabaricum</i>), Satin (<i>Chloroxylon swietenia</i>)
Associated Trees	Mohwa (<i>Madhuca latifolia</i>), Anduk (<i>Boswellia serrata</i>), Tapsi (<i>Sterculia urens</i>), Gumpena (<i>Lannea coromandelica</i>), Garuga (<i>Garuga pinnata</i>), Tella tumma (<i>Acacia leucophloea</i>) Second canopy: Kodsha (<i>Cleistanthus collinus</i>), Palas Kodsha (<i>Butea frondosa</i>)
Understory & Ground Cover	Bamboo (<i>Dendrocalamus strictus</i>); Holarrhena antidysentrica, Zizyphus xylopyra, Cassia auriculata form ground layer
Climbers	Bel palas (<i>Butea superba</i>), Korintha (<i>Acacia intsia</i>); Sandra and Soymida febrifuga on slopes and saline patches

Faunal Diversity:

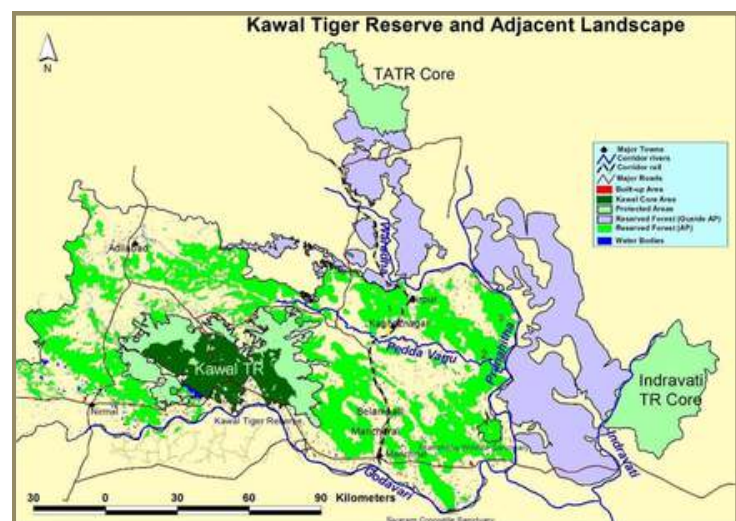
Category	Species (Scientific Name)
Apex Predators	Tiger (<i>Panthera tigris</i>), Leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>), Indian Wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>), Dhole (<i>Cuon alpinus</i>), Striped Hyena (<i>Hyaena hyaena</i>)
Smaller Carnivores	Rusty-spotted Cat (<i>Prionailurus rubiginosus</i>), Jungle Cat (<i>Felis chaus</i>), Small Indian Civet (<i>Viverricula indica</i>)
Herbivores	Chital (<i>Axis axis</i>), Sambar (<i>Rusa unicolor</i>), Gaur (<i>Bos gaurus</i>), Nilgai (<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>), Four-horned Antelope (<i>Tetracerus quadricornis</i>)
Birds	White-eyed Buzzard (<i>Butastur teesa</i>), Yellow-footed Green Pigeon (<i>Treron phoenicopterus</i>), Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>)
Reptiles	Indian Rock Python (<i>Python molurus</i>), Rat Snake (<i>Ptyas mucosa</i>), Monitor Lizard (<i>Varanus sp.</i>), Indian Flapshell Turtle (<i>Lissemys punctata</i>)
Amphibians	Common Indian Tree Frog (<i>Polypedates sp.</i>), Indian Toad (<i>Duttaphrynus sp.</i>)

Geography

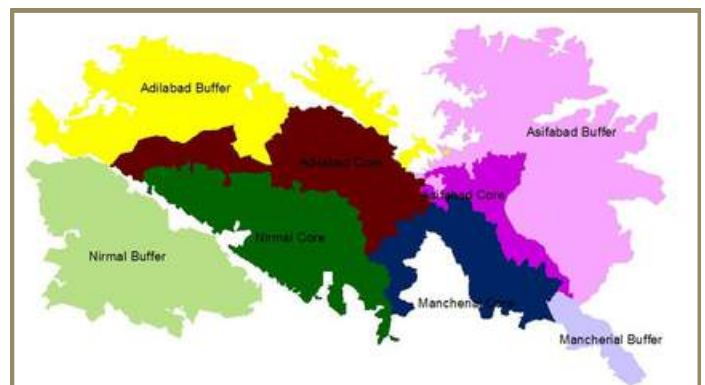
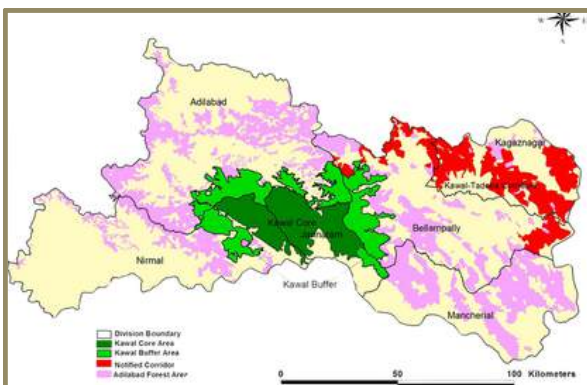
Kawal Tiger Reserve (KTR) is part of the Central Deccan Plateau Dry Deciduous Forest region, situated approximately 100 km south of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve and 150 km west of Indravati Tiger Reserve.



Both Tadoba and Indravati are recognized as Global Priority **Tiger Conservation Landscapes (TCLs)** (Sanderson et al., 2006), highlighting the strategic importance of KTR in the broader tiger conservation network.



Kawal Tiger Reserve - (Top Right) India Map, (Left) Telangana State map and the protected areas around Kawal (Right)



Map showing Kawal Tiger Reserve with corridors (Left)
Map showing Kawal Tiger Reserve – core & buffer with districts (Right)

1 Agro-forestry

Integrating Conservation and Livelihoods

Agroforestry integrates trees into farmland, restoring degraded lands, enhancing biodiversity, and improving soil and water health. In Kawal Tiger Reserve, HyTiCoS has restored 641 acres through community-driven agroforestry, boosting both ecology and livelihoods.

641

acres restored

44,870

Saplings planted

450+

farmers engaged

90%+

sapling survival rate



About

Agroforestry is a sustainable land management approach that integrates trees into agricultural landscapes, simultaneously addressing ecological, social, and economic dimensions. This practice plays a vital role in rejuvenating fallow and degraded lands, especially in areas affected by deforestation and unsustainable land use. By incorporating trees, agroforestry restores biodiversity, strengthens ecological resilience, and contributes to climate mitigation through enhanced carbon sequestration and soil regeneration. It also improves habitat connectivity, supporting wildlife populations in fragmented ecosystems.

These initiatives have enhanced biodiversity, improved soil stability, and provided sustainable livelihood opportunities for forest-dependent communities.

In the Kawal Tiger Reserve (KTR) landscape, HyTiCoS has actively implemented agroforestry as part of its conservation strategy. Over the past three years, the organization has restored 855 acres through collaborative projects with local farmers. By transforming buffer zones and degraded lands into thriving agroforestry plots, HyTiCoS promotes both ecological health and community-driven conservation, ensuring long-term landscape resilience.



Impact

Over the past three years, HyTiCoS has implemented extensive agroforestry interventions across **641 acres** in Kawal Tiger Reserve buffer zones, engaging over **450 farmers** from multiple villages. Starting in 2022 with **70 acres** in BirsaiPET and Gundala, **4,900 saplings**—including mango and other fruit species—were planted with a survival rate above 90%. In 2023, the program expanded to **232 acres** across nine villages, planting **16,240 saplings** and improving monitoring through area mapping and signboards. In 2024, 339 acres across 24 villages saw **23,730 saplings** planted, along with supplementary livelihood support: marigold and jasmine saplings for 15 families, vegetable saplings for 94 families, and **2,600** Karonda saplings for an **800-meter bio-fence** in Heerapur-J. Innovative tree protection using upcycled sarees was introduced to **safeguard saplings** from grazing.

These efforts have strengthened habitat connectivity, enhanced prey availability for tigers, improved soil stability, and fostered biodiversity restoration.

Simultaneously, they have provided sustainable income through fruit, flower, and vegetable cultivation, promoting nutritional security and economic resilience for local communities. HyTiCoS plans to further expand agroforestry into degraded patches, introduce additional native species, and deepen community engagement, maintaining a balance between ecological restoration and rural development.



Our Mission

Through strategic agroforestry, HyTiCoS restores degraded landscapes, strengthens habitat connectivity, and empowers local communities.



2 Clay Pots

For Sustainable Sapling Growth

HyTiCoS uses clay pots to keep saplings hydrated, reducing water loss and boosting survival. This eco-friendly method supports biodiversity, restores land, and provides sustainable benefits to local communities.



HyTiCoS distributed clay pots to farmers in the agroforestry program to ensure steady moisture for young saplings, especially during dry periods. This traditional, eco-friendly method reduces water evaporation, improves survival rates, and supports greener landscapes. By combining local knowledge with conservation practices, HyTiCoS promotes biodiversity restoration, sustainable land management, and long-term livelihood benefits for communities.



These simple and innovate methods help plants survive the harsh, dry summers of Kawal.



3 Voluntary Relocation

For Conservation

In March 2023, 142 families from Maisampet and Rampur were relocated from Kawal Tiger Reserve's core to safer areas with better housing, farmland, and livelihood support.

This relocation is a crucial step in ensuring a safer, undisturbed habitat for wildlife while simultaneously improving the quality of life for the displaced communities.

The relocation program provided families with better housing, agricultural land, and livelihood support, enabling them to transition to a more sustainable and secure future.

Compensation and assistance were tailored to ensure minimal disruption and long-term benefits for the relocated families.

By vacating human settlements from the core area, habitat connectivity is enhanced, reducing human-wildlife conflict and fostering tiger conservation. This initiative strengthens the ecological integrity of Kawal Tiger Reserve while empowering relocated families with improved opportunities and a better standard of living.



3

Voluntary Relocation

Post-Relocation Support

To ensure a smooth transition for the **142** families relocated from Maisampet and Rampur, HyTiCoS implemented a comprehensive post-relocation support program addressing both immediate and long-term needs.

142

families
relocated

94

families given
vegetable
saplings



3

RO Water Plants
Installed

112

acres of land
leveled

Since the allotted agricultural lands were initially uneven and unsuitable for cultivation, HyTiCoS, in collaboration with Gland Pharma, **facilitated land leveling across 112 acres**, creating plots averaging 2.8 acres each. This intervention enables **efficient water distribution**, improved soil retention, and easier farming operations, laying the foundation for **sustainable agriculture**.



Post-Relocation Support

In the interim, **94 families** received vegetable saplings to establish home gardens, providing immediate access to fresh produce, nutritional security, and a sustainable food source. Additionally, **three RO** (Reverse Osmosis) water plants were installed in the resettled villages to ensure a reliable supply of clean drinking water, reducing the risk of waterborne diseases and improving **overall health outcomes**.

These combined efforts not only support the families' immediate survival and well-being but also empower them to rebuild livelihoods, practice sustainable agriculture, and integrate into their new environment successfully.



HyTiCoS continues to provide guidance on agricultural training, access to quality seeds, and modern yet sustainable farming techniques, ensuring that relocated communities thrive in the long term while contributing to conservation goals.

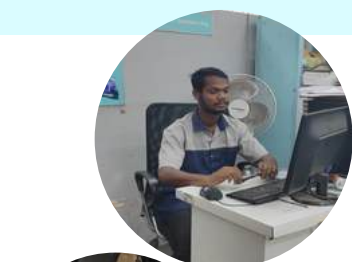


4 Livelihood Support

Empowering Communities Through Skill Development

HyTiCoS is committed to uplifting tribal youth in the Kawal Tiger Reserve through vocational training and employment initiatives. By equipping participants with practical skills, we enhance livelihood opportunities while strengthening community engagement in conservation.

Over the past year, twelve tribal youth received specialized training in **Data Entry, Bike Mechanics, Housekeeping, Car Mechanics, and Para Medical services** in collaboration with Pratham Foundation. Out of these, **eight participants** have secured jobs in reputable organizations, including AWINMO India (Delhi), KTM Motors (Hyderabad), and Bajaj Chetak Mechanic services (Hyderabad), earning salaries ranging from **₹12,000 to ₹27,000** per month.



This initiative not only improves livelihood security but also empowers communities to actively participate in conservation and sustainable development.



Successfully Placed Candidates

Name	Village & Mandal	Trade	Placement Organization	Location	Salary (₹/month)
Tekam Vijay	Kosagutta, Pembi	Marketing Executive	AWINMO India	Delhi	27,000
Kova Adhirao	Ippamada, Khanapur	Bike Mechanic	KTM Motors	Hyderabad	15,000
Thodasam Bheemrao	Ippamada, Khanapur	Bike Mechanic	KTM Motors	Hyderabad	15,000
Kinaka Kashiram	Ippamada, Khanapur	Bike Mechanic	Bajaj Chetak Mechanic	Hyderabad	15,000
Kudmetha Ajay	Ippamada, Khanapur	Housekeeping	—	Hyderabad	12,000
Pendram Vijay	Ghanpur, Utnoor	Housekeeping	—	Karnataka	14,000
Athram Jyothiram	Maisampet, Kadem	Car Mechanic	NEOM Motors	Hyderabad	13,000
Athram Bheemrao	Maisampet, Kadem	Car Mechanic	NEOM Motors	Hyderabad	13,000

Yet to Be Placed

Name	Village & Mandal	Trade
Pendram Tirupathi	Ippamada, Khanapur	Housekeeping
Pendram Santosh	Ippamada, Khanapur	Housekeeping
Naitham Sudarshan	Ippamada, Khanapur	Housekeeping
Chakati Pravin	Gangapur, Kadem	Housekeeping

Currently Under Training

Name	Village & Mandal	Trade
Kolapuri Sandhya	Sirisilla	Para Medic
Kanaka Bhagavanth Rao	Islampur, Kadem	Car Mechanic
Soyam Ganapathi	Islampur, Kadem	Car Mechanic
Gangajamuna	Danthanpally, Utnoor	Para Medic

Skill Development for Women

Empowering Rural Livelihoods

Through targeted training initiatives, HyTiCoS continues to empower tribal women with practical, income-generating skills. These programs focus on enhancing self-reliance, financial independence, and the revival of traditional craftsmanship.

To further empower local women, HyTiCoS initiated a series of skill development programs focused on expanding employment opportunities for tribal women across the Kawal landscape.

Tailoring Workshops:

Three specialized tailoring workshops were conducted in the ranges of Pembi, Udumpur, and Kadam, benefiting **50 women**.

Participants were trained in essential stitching and garment-making techniques, enabling them to pursue self-employment or establish small tailoring enterprises.



Hand Embroidery Training:

A dedicated embroidery workshop held in Udumpur trained **20 women** in intricate hand embroidery techniques. This initiative not only preserved traditional skills but also opened new avenues for handcrafted textile production, promoting both cultural heritage and financial empowerment.



5

Anti-Poaching and Protection Efforts

Safeguarding Wildlife, Strengthening Protection

HyTiCoS continues its unwavering mission to combat wildlife crime and protect critical tiger habitats in and around Kawal Tiger Reserve.

A dedicated team of **five field staff** was actively deployed to monitor poaching threats, prevent encroachments, and curb illegal timber felling across vulnerable forest zones.

During the reporting year, **1,284** anti-poaching patrols were carried out, collectively covering **5,271 kilometers** on foot. These rigorous patrolling operations not only deterred illegal activities but also **strengthened surveillance and habitat protection** across the reserve's critical wildlife corridors. Through consistent field presence, HyTiCoS plays a vital role in maintaining ecological integrity and ensuring the long-term survival of key species, including the tiger.



6

Conflict Management

Fostering Coexistence Through Swift Action and Awareness

HyTiCoS continues to bridge the gap between people and wildlife through rapid conflict response, awareness, and preventive innovation.

From translocating conflict-prone tigers to distributing 3,000 protective masks, our efforts ensure safety, coexistence, and compassion on the frontlines of conservation.



During the reporting year, HyTiCoS played a crucial role in mitigating human–wildlife conflict across sensitive zones, particularly in the **Asifabad district**, where increased tiger movements had led to concern among local communities. In collaboration with the **Telangana Forest Department**, our team actively assisted in the safe capture and translocation of conflict-prone tigers—ensuring **minimal stress** to the animal and maximum safety for residents. Trained staff, field equipment, and rapid response systems were deployed to manage emergencies efficiently.



Preventive action was a major focus this year. HyTiCoS distributed 3,000 human-face masks to farmers and villagers working near forest boundaries. These masks—worn on the back of the head—serve as an **innovative deterrent** against ambush-style attacks by big cats.

Additionally, a series of awareness and sensitization meetings were organized in **conflict-prone villages** to educate residents about tiger behavior, precautionary measures, and safe coexistence practices.

Through this multi-pronged approach—combining rapid response, preventive tools, and community engagement—HyTiCoS successfully reduced fear and prevented retaliatory actions, fostering a more harmonious coexistence between people and wildlife.



7

Research

7.1. Wildlife Monitoring

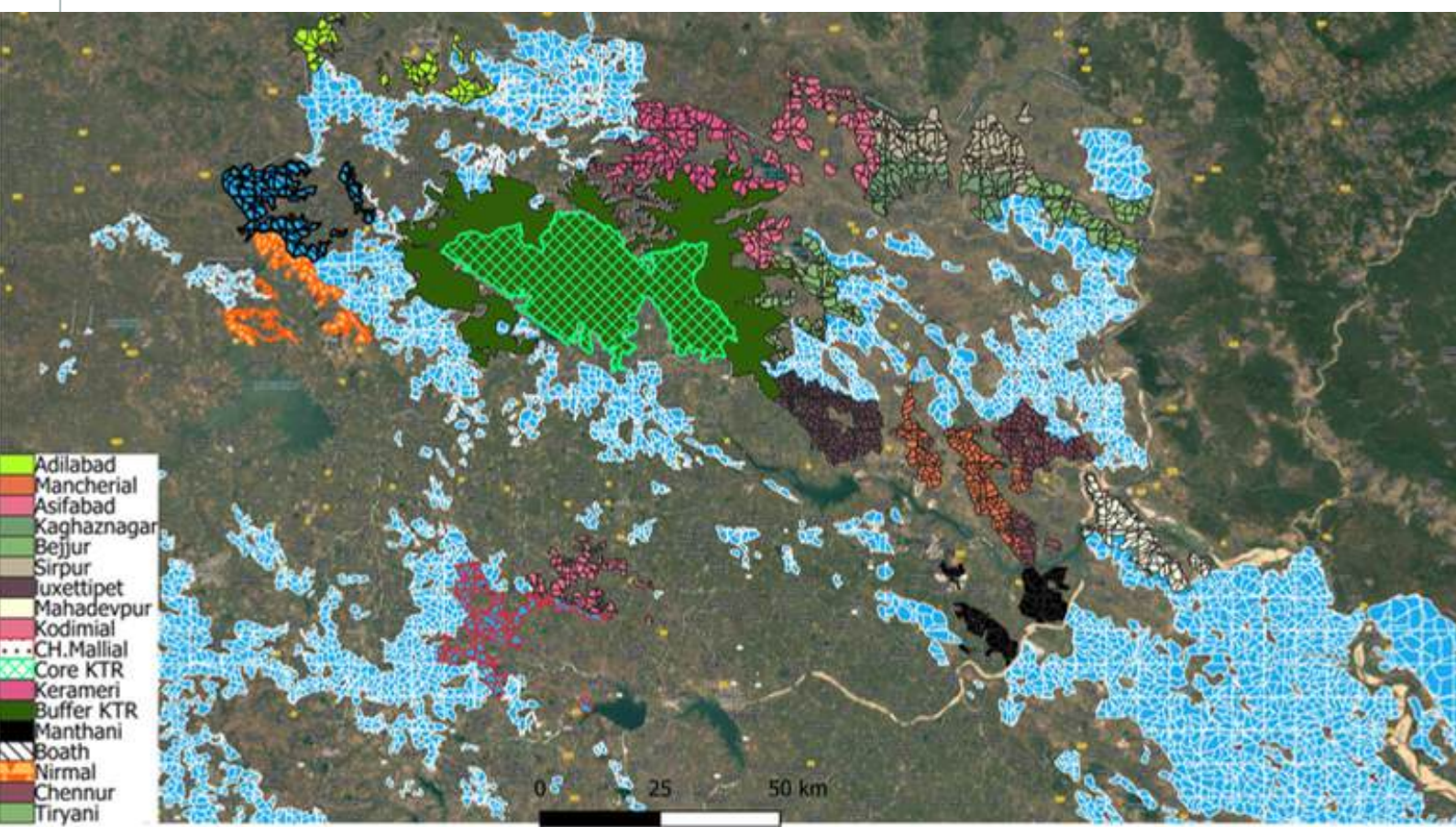
Tracking Tigers, Strengthening Corridors

HyTiCoS continues to play a pivotal role in tiger monitoring across northern Telangana, ensuring the protection of movement corridors and fostering coexistence in human-dominated landscapes.

Through consistent field presence and data collection, our efforts focus on understanding tiger movement, habitat use, and potential conflict zones.

During the current fiscal year, HyTiCoS has been actively monitoring **9–10 tigers** across multiple districts:

- **Adilabad District:** Tamsi region
- **Asifabad District:** Itikyal Pahad, Penchikelpet regions
- **Mancherial District:** Chennur, Luxettipet regions
- **Bhupalpalli District:** Mahadevpur region
- **Jagityal District:** Kodimial region
- **Karimnagar District:** Vemulavada region



Under the tiger monitoring initiative, nine individual tigers were tracked through an integrated approach combining camera traps and field-based sign surveys. The monitoring effort spanned approximately 2,426 kilometers across seven districts, encompassing over 2,000 sq. km of tiger habitat. Field teams documented tiger presence from 218 locations, providing valuable insights into occupancy, movement, and territorial patterns.

To strengthen data accuracy, 72 camera traps were strategically installed in key corridors and high-activity zones, enabling the identification of individual tigers and continuous monitoring of their movement dynamics. These efforts have significantly enhanced our understanding of tiger distribution across the Kawal landscape, forming a crucial foundation for future conservation and conflict mitigation planning.



7.2. Monitoring Prey Base

Long-term Assessment of Prey Species in Kawal Tiger Reserve, Telangana

Status: Complete

Objectives

- Assess the density trends of ungulate species in Kawal Tiger Reserve
- Estimate the tiger carrying capacity of the reserve
- Recommend adaptive management strategies

During the year **2024–2025**, HyTiCoS intensified its prey base assessments through the deployment of 30 systematically laid-out transect lines across Kawal Tiger Reserve.

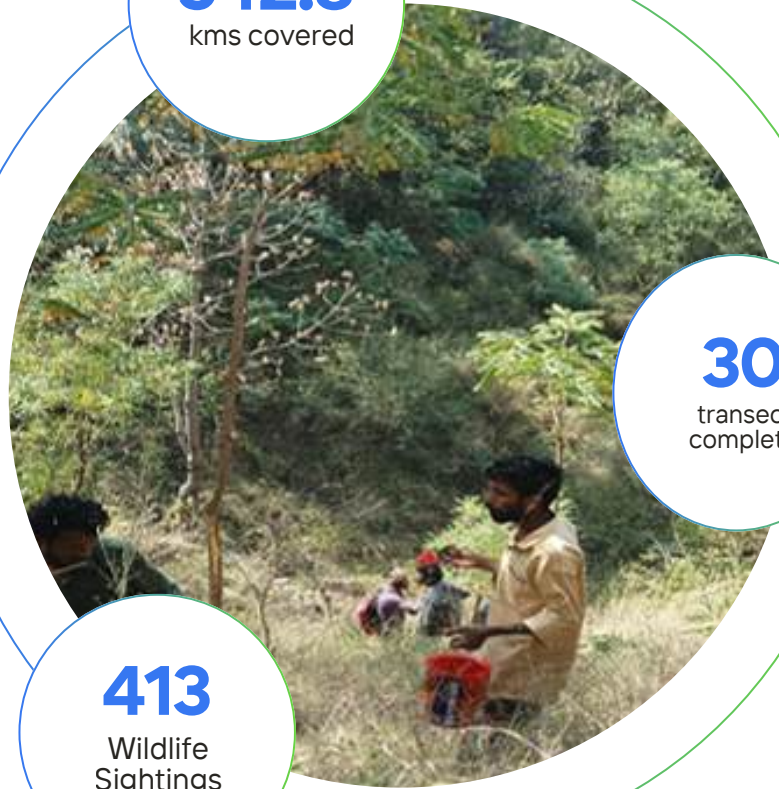
542.8
kms covered

30

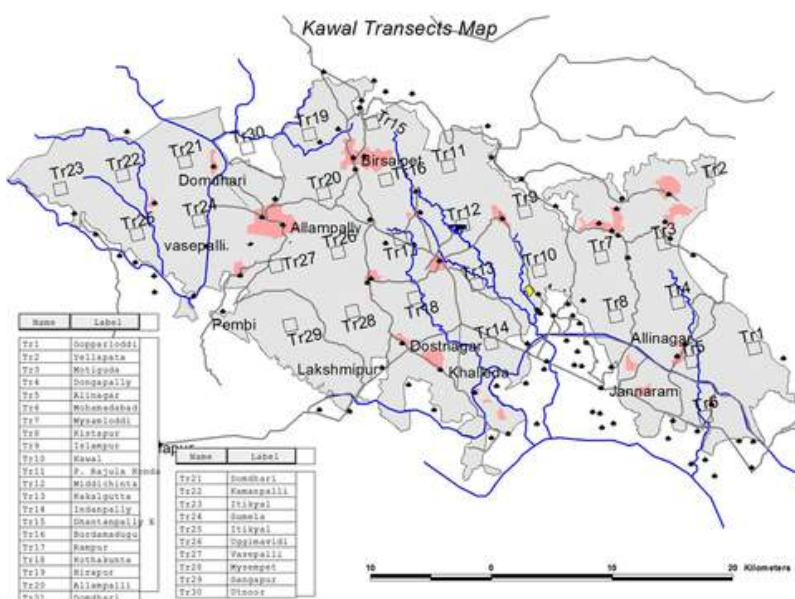
transects completed

413

Wildlife Sightings



This systematic survey enabled HyTiCoS to **track changes** in prey population trends, species distribution, and habitat preferences, **generating vital data** that informs targeted conservation interventions and habitat restoration measures. The insights derived guide adaptive management strategies and help evaluate the **effectiveness** of ongoing protection initiatives.



7.3. Occupancy Survey

Kawal Tiger Reserve and Adjoining Landscape, Telangana



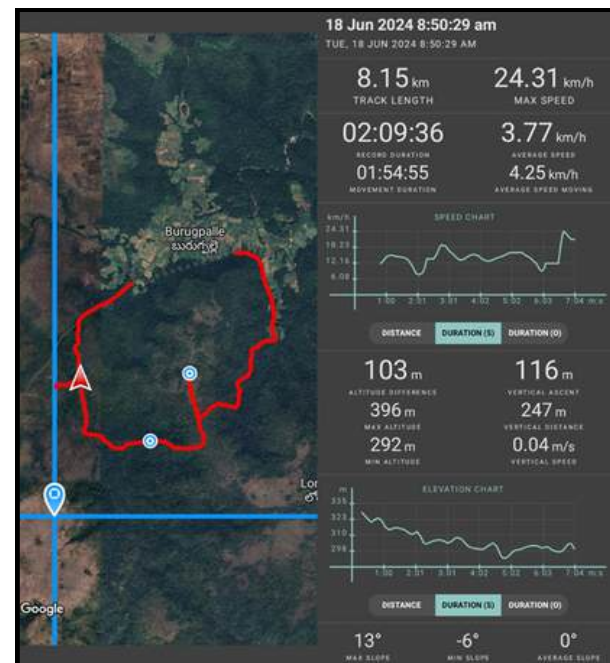
Status: Ongoing

The ongoing Animal Occupancy Study in Kawal Tiger Reserve and its adjoining landscape represents a major effort to understand species distribution, habitat use, and the overall health of the ecosystem. Designed as part of a larger tiger monitoring initiative, the study aims to provide a comprehensive picture of wildlife presence across various forest zones and habitat types.

A total of **111 grid units**, each spanning **45 sq. km**, were systematically surveyed by trained field personnel. Teams traversed over **558 kilometers** on foot, recording both direct and indirect signs of animals—such as tracks, droppings, and calls—across approximately **2,254 sq. km** of forested terrain. This meticulous approach ensured consistent data quality while covering a diverse range of ecological conditions.

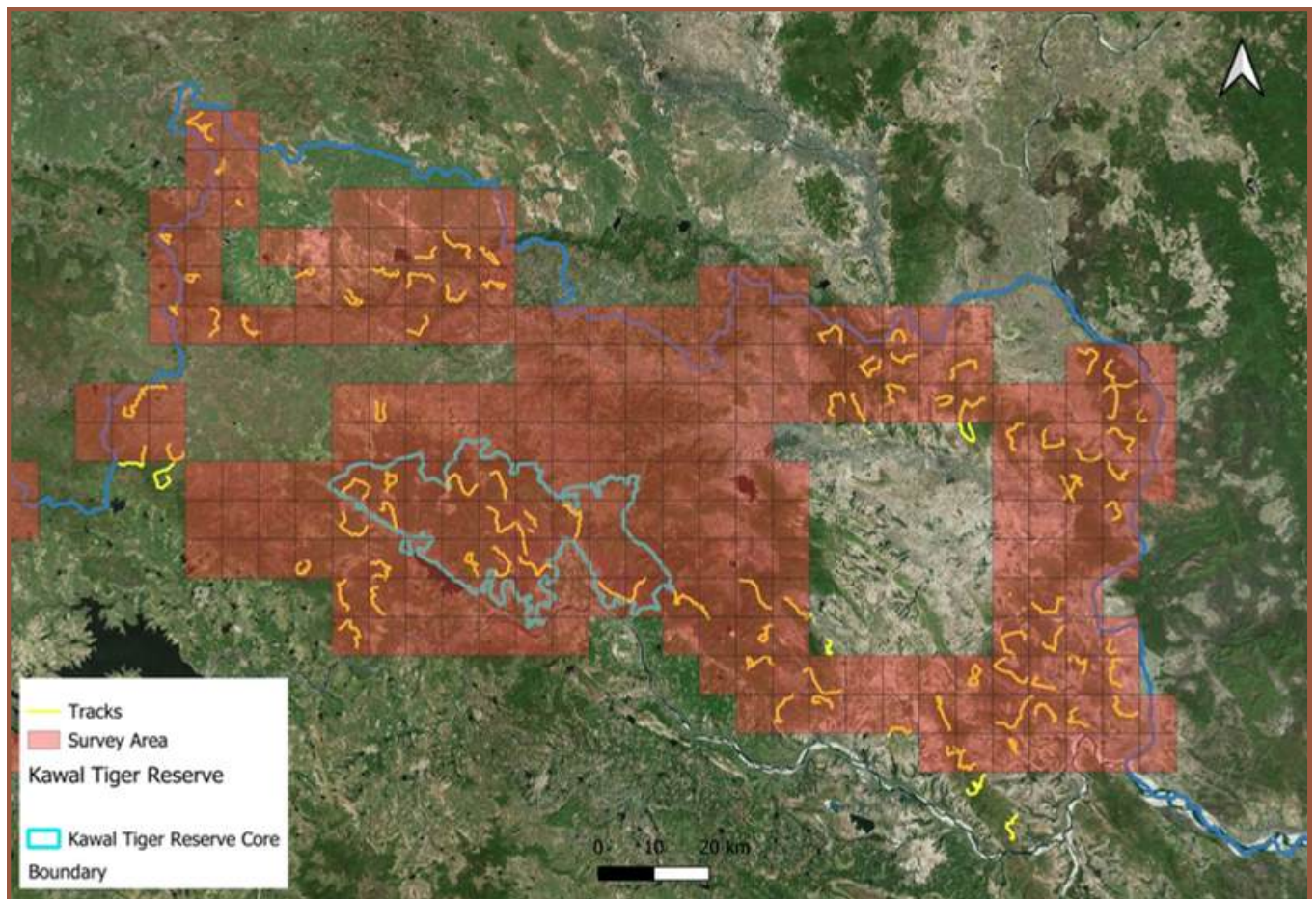


The data collected through this study is instrumental in identifying areas of high wildlife occupancy and understanding habitat preferences critical for tigers and their prey.



Way Forward

- **Digitization of Field Data:** Converting all collected field records into digital form for organized analysis.
- **Species Distribution Modeling:** Running predictive models to identify critical habitats and high-occupancy zones.
- **Corridor Identification:** Using CircuitScape analysis to map and validate potential tiger movement corridors.
- **Data Interpretation:** Translating analytical results into practical guidance for forest managers and conservation planners.
- **Enhanced Coverage:** Extending surveys to areas not covered in the current phase for comprehensive landscape representation.



Occupancy Survey Map Of Kawal Tiger Reserve

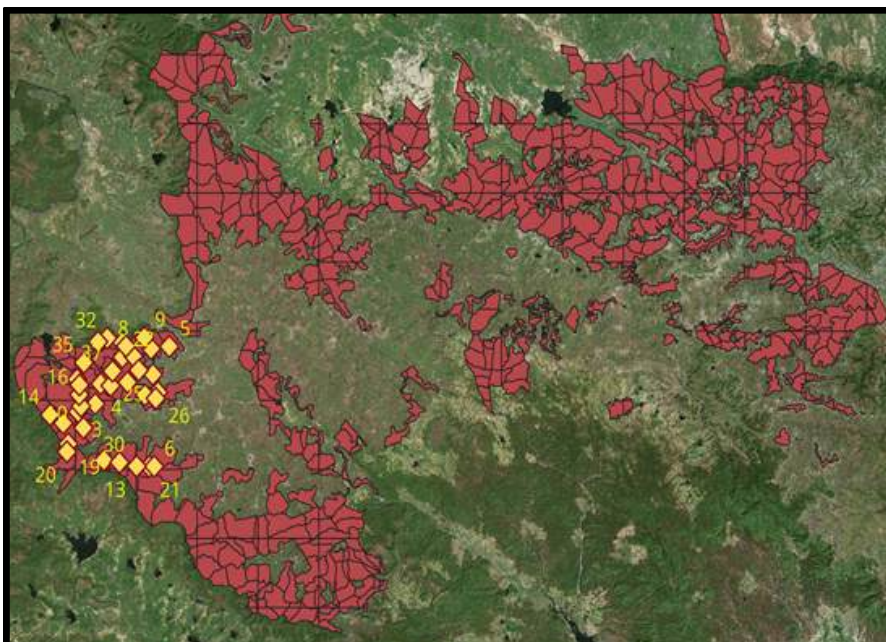


7.4. Corridor Assessment

Boath Range, Ichoda Division, Adilabad.

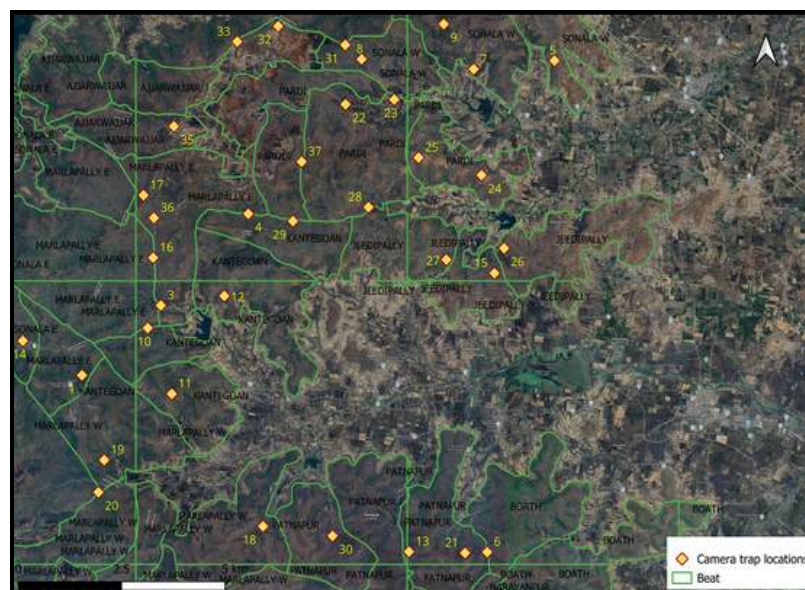
Status: Completed

The primary objective was to **monitor the population** and spatial distribution of carnivores and herbivores within the landscape. This study aimed to understand the interaction patterns between different wildlife species over space and time, offering valuable insights into habitat usage and ecosystem dynamics.

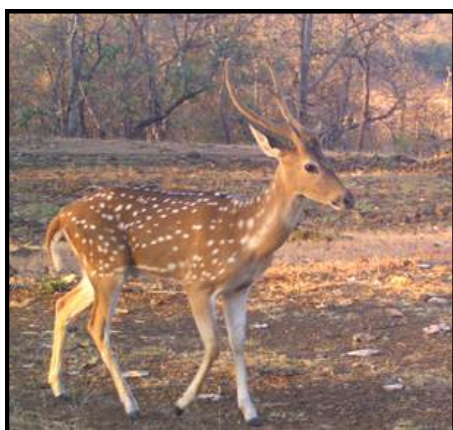


In addition to wildlife monitoring, the assessment focused on tracking human activities in the region that may influence wildlife movement or habitat quality.

A **key component** of the program was to build the capacity of the **frontline forest staff** through active participation, field-based learning, and exposure to monitoring protocols, thereby enhancing their ability to manage and conserve the critical corridor habitats in the long term.



Parameter	Details
Number of Camera Traps Used	35
Mean Active Days ($\pm$ SD)	34.52 $\pm$ 7.94
Total Trap Nights	1,243
Total Images Captured	84,771
Number of Species Captured	22
Duration	November 2024 – February 2025



Gundala

8.1. Eco-tourism

Conservation with Community

Promoting Community-Led Conservation and Sustainable Tourism. Empowering local livelihoods through eco-friendly infrastructure. Reviving natural habitats while creating immersive nature experiences

HyTiCoS has initiated an Eco-Tourism project in Gundala, a picturesque **forest-fringe village** with immense potential for **community-led tourism**. In collaboration with Shilpalaya Associates, the project aims to establish essential eco-tourism infrastructure that promotes nature-based tourism while directly benefiting local communities.

The development plan includes:

- **Six eco-friendly huts** crafted from locally available materials, reflecting traditional architecture that blends with the surrounding forest landscape.
- A **multipurpose community hall**, designed to host visitor orientations, cultural programs, and village meetings.
- **Eight elevated camping platforms**, providing safe and scenic spaces for eco-tourists and trekkers seeking immersive wilderness experiences.



Currently, two eco-huts are nearing completion, showcasing sustainable and **community-centric construction techniques**.

Foundation work for the community hall is also underway, with active involvement from local youth and artisans. Additionally, **five of the eight** camping platforms have been completed and are ready for use.

HyTiCoS has also undertaken revival work on two nalas and one pond within the eco-tourism site to enhance water availability, improve landscape aesthetics, and support biodiversity – key elements for both ecological well-being and visitor engagement.

All construction and planning activities are being conducted in close collaboration with local communities, ensuring that the economic gains of tourism flow directly to them. This participatory approach promotes a sense of ownership, stewardship, and conservation responsibility among residents.

The Gundala Eco-Tourism Initiative stands as a model for responsible tourism—one that integrates low-impact design, community empowerment, and conservation education.

By involving local residents at every stage—from planning and building to future hospitality and guiding services—the project ensures long-term sustainability and aims to serve as a replicable model for eco-tourism development in the buffer zones of protected reserves.



8.1. Habitat Restoration

Conservation with Community

Restoring forest ecosystems through native flora to build ecological resilience and wildlife habitats while empowering local communities in habitat restoration.

As part of its long-term vision for habitat restoration and ecological resilience, HyTiCoS has established a **Native Plant Nursery** in Gundala village. This nursery serves as a vital hub for cultivating indigenous tree species that are naturally adapted to the local climate, soil, and forest ecosystems. With a current capacity of approximately **3,000 saplings**, the initiative prioritizes species that provide food, cover, and shelter for wildlife, particularly those that sustain prey populations and facilitate tiger movement across forest corridors.



Beyond its ecological benefits, the nursery acts as a **community-driven conservation model**. Local youth and villagers are actively engaged in daily operations—seed collection, propagation, and plantation management—thereby gaining **valuable hands-on skills** and seasonal employment opportunities. This participatory approach fosters a deep sense of ownership and stewardship within the community, ensuring that conservation outcomes are both meaningful and sustainable.



This nursery marks an important step in HyTiCoS's commitment to restoring balance between human needs and natural ecosystems.

Once mature, the saplings will be strategically used in plantation drives across degraded areas, wildlife corridors, and forest fringes, contributing to enhanced forest cover and long-term ecological stability. The Gundala nursery stands as a cornerstone in HyTiCoS's mission to rebuild harmony between human livelihoods and natural ecosystems, ensuring that conservation and community welfare grow hand in hand.



By nurturing and planting native flora, the nursery directly contributes to reviving degraded habitats and **strengthening ecological connectivity** in the landscape. These efforts aim to restore balance to forest ecosystems, enhance biodiversity, and mitigate the impacts of habitat fragmentation.



8.2. Agroforestry

Conservation with Community

Integrating conservation with community livelihoods through sustainable agroforestry, HyTiCoS planted 2,790 fruit saplings across 31 acres to restore habitats and support rural resilience.

During the reporting year, a total of **2,790 fruit saplings**—comprising **2,170** Mango (*Mangifera indica*) and **620** Sapota (*Manilkara zapota*)—were planted across **31 acres** in the villages of Rompally, Gopera, and Mangi. These plantations not only provide long-term economic benefits to local communities through fruit production but also play a vital ecological role in improving soil fertility, reducing erosion, and enriching wildlife habitats in buffer and fringe areas.



The inclusion of fruit-bearing species ensures that farmlands contribute to both biodiversity and sustainable income, fostering coexistence between humans and wildlife. Through such initiatives, HyTiCoS continues to strengthen its model of **conservation-linked livelihoods**, creating resilient landscapes where communities and nature thrive together.



8.3. Bamboo Value-Addition

Workshops and Sales

HyTiCoS empowered the Kolam tribal community through a bamboo craft training program aimed at fostering self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods.

In 2024, HyTiCoS facilitated a **bamboo craft training program** for the Kolam community, an indigenous tribe residing in forest-fringe areas. This initiative was aimed at promoting self-reliance, skill development, and sustainable livelihoods by leveraging locally available resources like bamboo. The training empowered the participants with traditional and contemporary techniques of bamboo craftsmanship.



In January 2025, their efforts culminated in a proud milestone as the Kolam artisans successfully produced and sold their handcrafted bamboo items at the **Nampally (NUMAISH) Exhibition, Hyderabad**. This opportunity not only provided income support but also helped showcase their cultural identity and craftsmanship to a broader urban audience.



The initiative equipped artisans with both traditional and modern bamboo craftsmanship skills, turning local resources into income opportunities.



A group of **10 Kolam artisans** participated in this initiative, dedicating a week to crafting a range of bamboo articles. Each artisan earned **₹2,000** through sales during the exhibition, marking a meaningful step toward economic empowerment. By combining traditional skills with real market opportunities, this initiative has helped strengthen livelihoods and encouraged a sustainable economic model within the community.



8.4. Nature Guide Training

For Tribal Community members

Empowering tribal youth through eco-tourism, HyTiCoS trained five individuals from Gundala village as certified Nature Guides, opening new livelihood opportunities rooted in conservation.

Another significant outreach milestone this year was the Nature Guide Training Program for tribal youth from Gundala village, Tiryani mandal, Asifabad district held in collaboration with the **Telangana Forest Development Corporation (TFDC)** at Amrabad Tiger Reserve. A total of **five local participants** successfully completed the program, which was designed to equip them with foundational knowledge in biodiversity, natural history interpretation, eco-tourism practices, and guiding skills.



List of Beneficiaries:

Name	House No. & Village	Mandal
Kotnaka Vijay Kumar	4-27, Gudivada	Gundala
Kova Maanku	4-42, Rajuguda	Gundala
Sidam Lakshman	4-56, Rajuguda	Gundala
Pendor Ravudu	3-77, Doddiguda	Gundala
Marsukola Raghu	4-59, Chikalguda	Gundala

HYDERABAD TIGER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

EST. 2001



Part 2:

Amrabad Tiger Reserve

Amrabad Tiger Reserve

The wild heart of the Deccan Plateau

Where the Nallamala meets the Krishna, an enduring sanctuary of wilderness and heritage.

The Amrabad Tiger Reserve (ATR) is one of the most significant and expansive protected areas in Telangana, located in the southern reaches of the state. Once part of the **larger Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR)**, Amrabad was carved out and designated as Telangana's largest tiger reserve following the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in 2014. Spread across the districts of Nagarkurnool and Nalgonda, the reserve lies approximately **160 kilometers south** of Hyderabad, making it an accessible yet vast and relatively undisturbed wilderness.

Geographically, the reserve is defined by the Amrabad Plateau and forms part of the Nallamala Hills, a rugged and ancient hill range that is an extension of the Eastern Ghats. The terrain is marked by undulating hills, deep valleys, and plateaus with elevations ranging from **300 to 900 meters** above mean sea level. This topographical diversity supports a wide array of habitats and ensures the ecological connectivity of the Deccan landscape. The Krishna River, one of peninsular India's major rivers, flows along the southern boundary of the reserve, forming a natural divide between Amrabad and its adjoining forests in Andhra Pradesh. Within the reserve, seasonal streams such as the Tummala Vagu and Nallavagu crisscross the terrain, creating vital water sources for wildlife, especially during the harsh dry seasons.





Amrabad Tiger Reserve

Biodiversity and Culture



Category	Species (Scientific Name)	Notes / Significance
Apex Predator	Bengal Tiger (<i>Panthera tigris</i>)	Apex predator; indicator of ecosystem health.
Large Carnivores	Leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>), Sloth Bear (<i>Melursus ursinus</i>), Dhole (<i>Cuon alpinus</i>), Indian Wolf (<i>Canis lupus pallipes</i>), Striped Hyena (<i>Hyaena hyaena</i>)	Key carnivores maintaining trophic balance.
Smaller Carnivores	Jungle Cat (<i>Felis chaus</i>), Rusty-spotted Cat (<i>Prionailurus rubiginosus</i>), Small Indian Civet (<i>Viverricula indica</i>)	Represent diverse meso-carnivore guilds.
Large Herbivores / Prey Base	Sambar (<i>Rusa unicolor</i>), Chital (<i>Axis axis</i>), Nilgai (<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>), Four-horned Antelope (<i>Tetracerus quadricornis</i>), Wild Boar (<i>Sus scrofa</i>), Gaur (<i>Bos gaurus</i> , occasional)	Support predator populations; crucial for tiger prey base.
Avifauna	Crested Serpent Eagle, Grey Junglefowl, Indian Pitta, Racket-tailed Drongo, Indian Peafowl	Over 300 bird species recorded; indicator of habitat diversity.
Cultural & Ecological Context	Chenchu Tribe (forest-dwelling community)	Indigenous knowledge contributes to sustainable coexistence and forest stewardship.



Amrabad Tiger Reserve

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1

Agro-forestry

Integrating Conservation and Livelihoods



Blending conservation with community prosperity, HyTiCoS initiated a 10-acre agroforestry program in the buffer zones of Amrabad Tiger Reserve.

This project, implemented in collaboration with three local farmers, promoted sustainable land-use practices that support both ecological restoration and rural livelihoods. A total of **800 fruit saplings**, including 700 mango, 50 lemon, and 50 pomegranate, were planted, selected for adaptability and long-term income potential.



To ensure water efficiency and high sapling survival, traditional clay pot irrigation was introduced as a **low-cost micro-watering method**, complemented by mobile tank water supply during the dry season. This initiative not only aids soil restoration and microclimate improvement but also strengthens community resilience through sustainable agriculture that aligns with conservation goals around Amrabad Tiger Reserve.



2 Relocation

Strengthening Conservation and Community Well-being



A major milestone in Amrabad's landscape restoration, the voluntary relocation program is reducing human pressure on core tiger habitats while ensuring improved living standards for relocated families.

Through collaborative planning, transparent decision-making, and fair compensation, HyTiCoS supported the Forest Department in achieving inclusive conservation goals.

Phase	Villages Covered	Beneficiaries	Package I (Land + House)	Package II (Cash)	Status / Remarks
Phase I	Sarlapally, Kudichintala Bailu, Thatigundala, Kollampenta	417	160	256	Proposal accepted by NTCA (13 Sept 2024)
Phase II	Vatvarlapally	663	311	360	Assessment completed; under DLIC review
Total (Phase I + II)	5 villages	1,080 beneficiaries	471	616	Ongoing relocation and land de-reservation process



Additional Highlights

- Land de-reservation proposal:**

1,500 hectares submitted to MoEFCC (under review).

- Key Meetings:**

1. Phase I DLIC – 16 Feb 2024
2. Phase II (Vatvarlapally) DLIC – 14 Feb 2025

- Collaborators:**

Telangana Forest Department, NTCA, MoEFCC, and HyTiCoS.



తరలింపు ప్రక్రియను వేగవంతం చేయండి: సీఎస్

ఈనాడు, హైదరాబాద్: ఏటీఆర్ పరిధిలోని నాలుగు ఆవాసాల్లో ఉంటున్న ప్రజలను తరలించే ప్రక్రియను వేగవంతం చేయాలని రాష్ట్ర ప్రభుత్వ ప్రధాన కార్యదర్శి(సీఎస్) శాంతికుమారి అధికారుల్ని ఆదేశించారు. అటవీ, పంచాయతీ రాజ్ శాఖలు, కాలువ్య నియంత్రణ మండలి అధికారులతో సీఎస్ బుధవారం సచివాలయంలో సమావేశం నిర్వహించారు. నాగర్ కర్నూల్ జిల్లా అమ్రాబాద్ మండల పరిధిలోని 4 గ్రామాల ప్రజల్ని కోర్ ఏరియా నుంచి తరలించే ప్రణాళికను అటవీ శాఖ అధికారులు సీఎస్ కు వివరించారు. సాగ్ పల్లి, కుడిచింతలబయలు, కొల్లం పెంట, తాటిగుండాల నుంచి మొత్తం 417 కుటుంబాలు



లను టైగర్ రిజర్వులోని ప్రధాన అటవీ ప్రాంతం నుంచి బయటకు తరలించ నున్నట్లు తెలిపారు. సీఎస్ స్పందిస్తూ ఈ ప్రక్రియను వేగంగా పూర్తిచేయాలని ఆదేశించారు. ఏటీఆర్ లో చెక్ పోస్టుల సంఖ్యను కూడా పెంచాలని సూచించారు. ఈ సమావేశంలో వివిధ శాఖల ఉన్నతాధికారులు వాణీప్రసాద్, సందీప్ కుమార్ సుల్తానియా, ఆర్.ఎం.దోబ్రియాల్, బుద్ధప్రకాశ్ జ్యోతి, హనుమంతరావు పాల్గొన్నారు.

తడోబా అడవుల్లో ఎమ్మెల్యే చిక్కుడు వంశీకృష్ణ

దిశ, అచ్చంపేట: ఫారెస్ట్ స్టడీ టూర్ లో భాగంగా మహారాష్ట్ర తడోబా అడవుల్లో కందారే టైగర్ రిజర్వు ఫారెస్ట్ లో అచ్చంపేట ఎమ్మెల్యే డాక్టర్ వంశీకృష్ణ, జిల్లా అటవీ శాఖ అధికారి రోహిత్ గోపిడి, అమ్రాబాద్ డివిజనల్ అధికారి రామూర్తి ఇతర అధికారులు పర్యటించారు. శుక్రవారం అక్కడి ప్రభుత్వం అటవీశాఖ సంయుక్తంగా ఆరు గ్రామాలను పునరావాస కేంద్రాలకు తరలించారు. వారికి రీ లొకేషన్ ద్వారా

ఎలాంటి సదుపాయాలు సౌకర్యాలు కల్పించిన వాటిపై ఖైదీగా పరిశీలించారు. వారి వెంట దోమలపెంట అటవీ క్షేత్ర అధికారి గురుస్వామి, మన్నసూర్ డిప్యూటీ



వివరాలు తెలుసుకుంటున్న ఎమ్మెల్యే డాక్టర్ వంశీకృష్ణ

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3

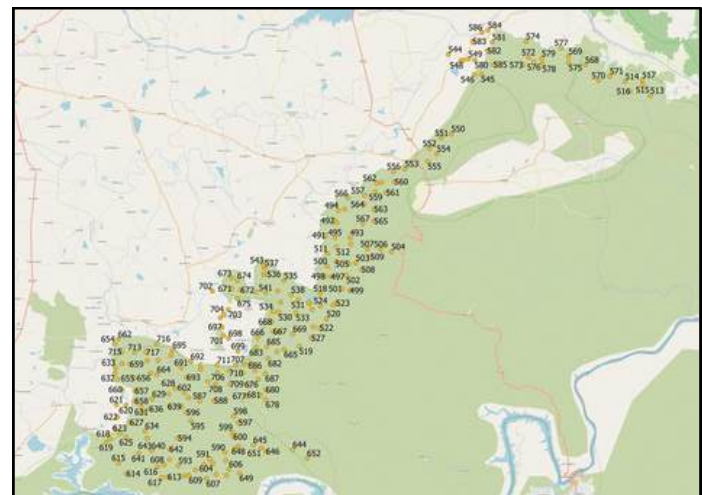
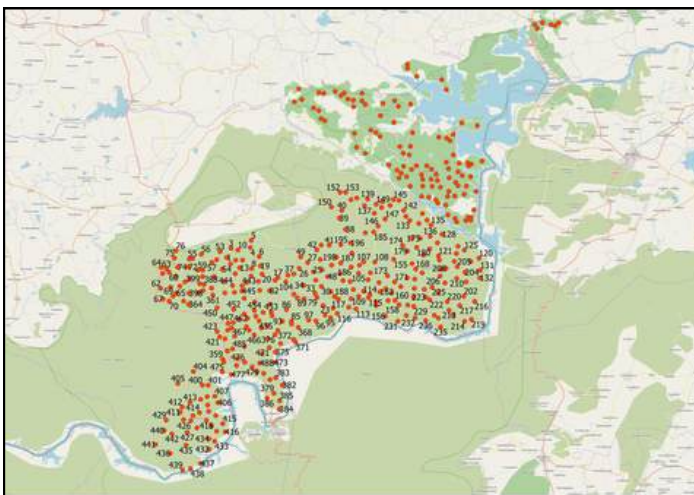
Research

3.1. Tiger Monitoring

Mapping Tigers, Connecting Landscapes

HyTiCoS, in collaboration with the Telangana Forest Department, conducted Phase IV tiger monitoring in Amrabad Tiger Reserve under NTCA's national framework.

To carry out this monitoring in a systematic and scientifically robust manner, the entire Amrabad landscape was divided into four blocks. These blocks were delineated based on geographical features, forest type variation, accessibility, and prior evidence of tiger presence. The objective was to ensure comprehensive coverage of the reserve, including both core and buffer zones, and to gather high-quality photographic and sign-based data to assess tiger distribution and abundance.



Maps illustrating camera trap locations of Amrabad Tiger Reserve 2025.

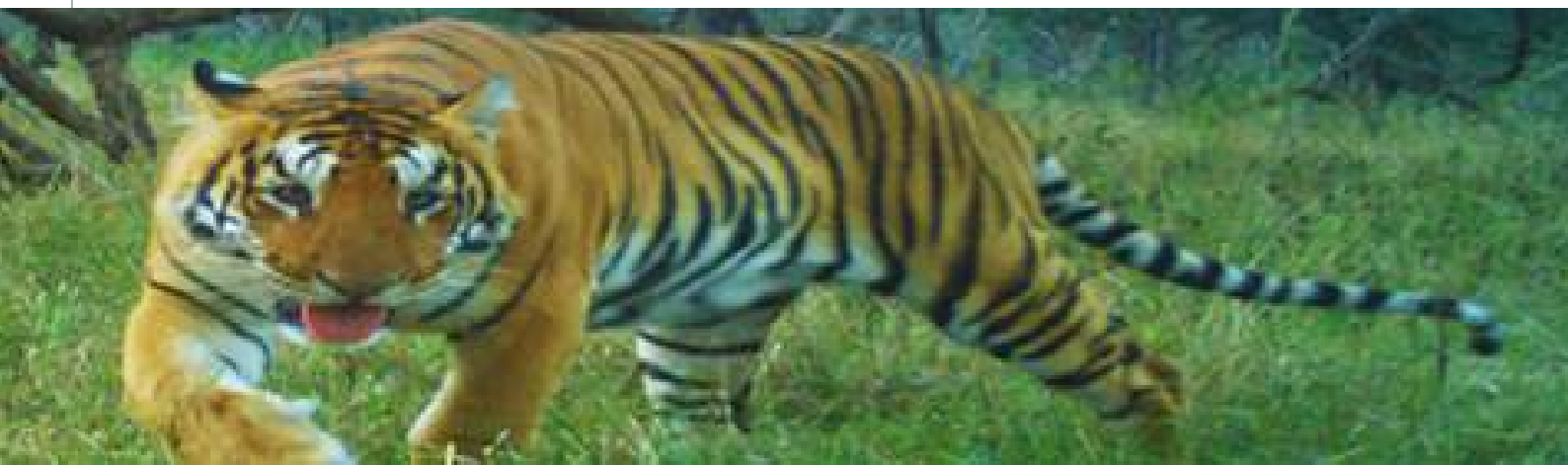
Left: Blocks 1, 2 and 4. Right: Block 3



Phase IV Tiger Monitoring Summary – Amrabad Tiger Reserve (Block-wise Progress)

Block	Ranges Covered	No. of locations Total : 865	No. of Tigers Captured	Remarks
I	Amrabad & Maddimadugu	236	15	4 Male, 6 Female & 5 Sub Adults
II	Mannanur & Domalapenta	256	15 (7 New & 8 Overlap)	2 Males, 5 Females
III	Achampet, Lingala & Kollapur	228	-	Ongoing
IV	Kambalapally, Devarakonda & Nagarjuna Sagar	145	-	Ongoing

Camera traps were systematically deployed across four blocks of Amrabad Tiger Reserve following NTCA's grid-based protocol to ensure unbiased and comprehensive monitoring. Each site was geo-tagged and selected based on tiger movement signs such as trails, ridges, and waterholes. The exercise helped document resident and transient tigers, identify corridors, and record key co-predators and prey species—offering vital insights for state and national conservation planning.



During the **2024–25 Phase IV monitoring cycle**, camera trap deployment continued as a major component of wildlife research in Amrabad Tiger Reserve. A total of **168 cameras** were installed across 738 locations, covering both the Amrabad Division (486 sites) and Achampet Division (252 sites). The deployment followed **NTCA's grid-based protocol**, with cameras strategically placed along animal trails, streambeds, ridgelines, and waterholes—areas known for high wildlife activity. This extensive operation resulted in the photo-capture of seven individual tigers, including both resident and transient individuals, providing crucial insights into movement patterns and habitat connectivity within the landscape. The cameras also recorded several co-predators such as leopards, wild dogs, and sloth bears, alongside key prey species like sambar, chital, and wild boar, reflecting the overall ecological balance and prey-predator dynamics of the reserve.



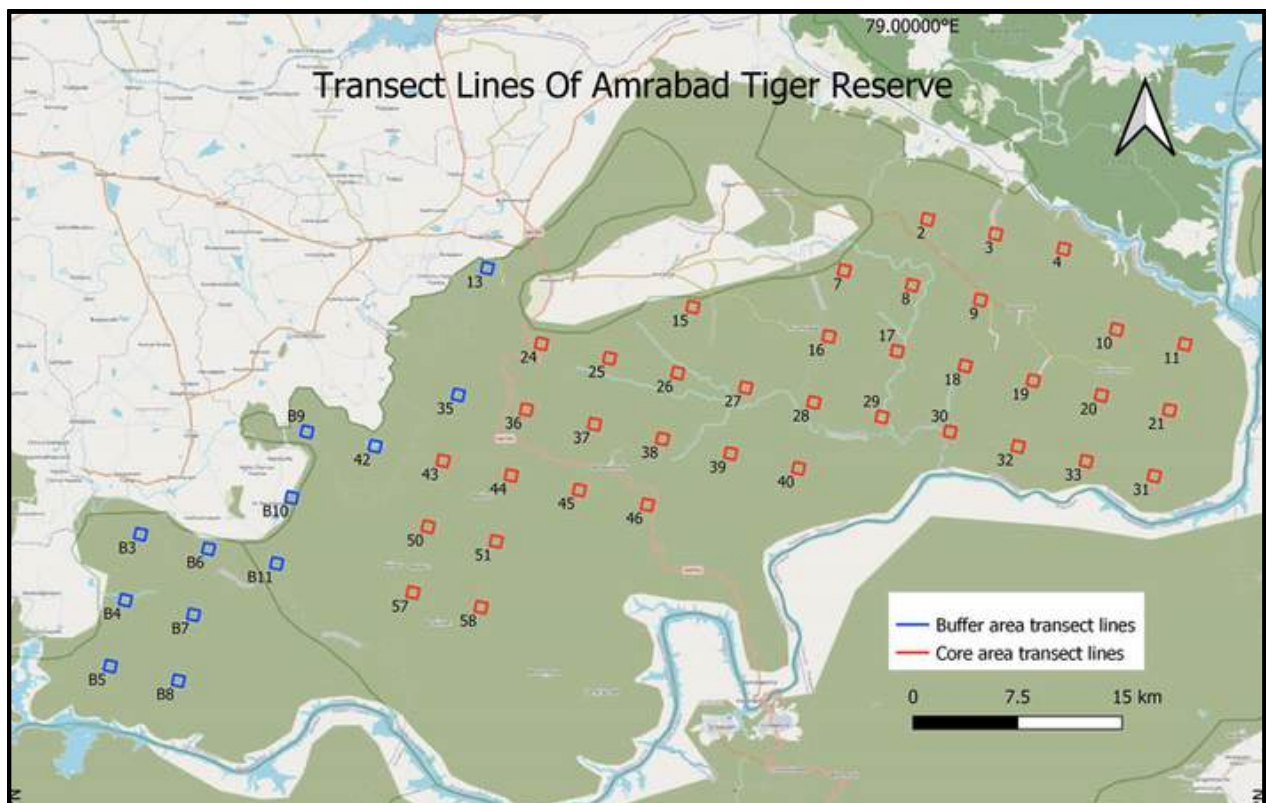
The large-scale deployment has strengthened Amrabad's capacity for **data-driven, non-invasive wildlife monitoring**, enabling the identification of key corridor linkages that connect tiger populations across the Nallamala ranges. This effort, jointly undertaken by the **Telangana Forest Department** and **HyTiCoS**, stands as a benchmark for scientifically robust, landscape-level tiger monitoring in southern India, ensuring continued protection and long-term conservation planning for the species.

3.2. Prey Base Monitoring

Sustaining the Tiger's Future

Prey-base monitoring formed a key part of Amrabad Tiger Reserve's 2024–25 ecological assessment, with 50 line transects covering 1,280 km surveyed across both core and buffer zones. The effort recorded 413 direct wildlife sightings, including major prey species such as Spotted Deer, Sambar, Nilgai, and Wild Boar.

Prey-base monitoring formed a key part of Amrabad Tiger Reserve's 2024–25 ecological assessment. A total of 50 line transects, covering 1,280 km, were surveyed across diverse habitats by HyTiCoS and Forest Department teams under the NTCA Phase IV protocol. Conducted during peak animal activity hours, these surveys recorded 413 direct wildlife sightings, including spotted deer, sambar, nilgai, wild boar, langurs, and peafowl.



The data provide crucial insights into prey distribution, abundance, and habitat use, directly informing assessments of tiger carrying capacity and ecological health. By tracking long-term trends and identifying impacts of human disturbance, this effort strengthens Amrabad's data-driven management and ensures science-based strategies for sustaining predator-prey balance and ecosystem resilience.



This sustained prey monitoring effort continues to be a cornerstone in strengthening Amrabad's conservation framework, enabling data-driven decision-making for habitat and wildlife management.



3.3. Road-Kill Survey

Mapping Mortality, Mitigating Threats

A total of 274 wildlife roadkills were recorded between August 2024 and March 2025, revealing a serious conservation concern across the Amrabad landscape. These findings highlight the urgent need for mitigation in high-risk zones, especially along wildlife corridors and habitat edges.

Road-related wildlife mortality poses a serious threat to population stability, especially for species with limited habitats or low reproductive rates. Systematic tracking of these incidents provides crucial insights into the extent of the threat, species most affected, and seasonal or spatial patterns of mortality.

Understanding whether large mammals like **tigers, sloth bears, or deer**, or smaller species such as reptiles and amphibians, are most impacted helps design **species-specific mitigation strategies**.

Likewise, identifying temporal peaks—such as migration, breeding, or foraging seasons—and geographic hotspots near wildlife corridors or habitat edges can inform interventions like signage, speed restrictions, awareness campaigns, or wildlife crossings. By integrating such findings into conservation planning, roadkill monitoring supports data-driven management to reduce mortality and ensure **safer coexistence** between wildlife and roads.



Wild Boar, Srisaillam Highway



The roadkill survey stands as a stark reminder that roads not only connect people—but can divide habitats. Each recorded loss underscores the delicate balance between development and conservation.



3.4. Sloth Bear - Dietary Study

Tracking the Bear's Plate Through the Seasons

Between August 2024 and March 2025, 82 sloth bear droppings were analyzed to uncover how these omnivores adapt their diet across changing seasons.

The findings revealed a distinct seasonal shift — from insect-rich meals after the rains to fruit-based foraging in the drier months — reflecting both ecological balance and human influence on their feeding habits.

Sloth bears (*Melursus ursinus*) are highly adaptable feeders, and the scat analysis provided key insights into their seasonal foraging ecology. During the post-monsoon and early winter period (August–November), droppings contained a high concentration of insect remains, especially termites and ants, recognizable through chitin fragments and soil particles. This reflects **heavy insectivory**, coinciding with peak termite activity following the rains. As the dry season progressed (December–March), droppings showed an increase in fruit seeds, fibrous pulp, and traces of honeycomb, indicating a shift toward frugivory and **opportunistic feeding** on beehives. Seasonal fruits such as mahua, ber, and jamun were particularly dominant, emphasizing the importance of preserving native fruit-bearing trees in bear habitats.



Alarminglly, a few samples contained fragments of plastic and processed food wrappers, especially near forest edges, signaling occasional foraging near human settlements. This highlights emerging human-wildlife interactions and the need for better waste management and forest protection.

Overall, the study underscores the sloth bear's **remarkable dietary flexibility** and the ecological significance of maintaining both insect-rich microhabitats and fruiting forests throughout the year. Protecting these natural resources—and reducing human food waste near forests—remains vital for sustaining healthy sloth bear populations across the Amrabad landscape.



4

Education and Outreach

Inspiring Future Conservationists

Education and community engagement remain central to HyTiCoS's vision of nurturing the next generation of conservation leaders. 130 students reached. 2 postgraduate projects guided. Strengthening conservation capacity for the future.

In 2024–2025, the organization actively collaborated with educational institutions and local communities through structured orientation sessions and research mentorship programs.

A key highlight was the orientation program at Kamareddy Arts and Science College, where HyTiCoS introduced **130 students** and **13 faculty members** to wildlife conservation principles, ecological monitoring, and field-based research. Designed to go beyond classroom learning, the session aimed to **spark curiosity**, scientific inquiry, and emotional connection with nature, helping students understand the challenges and rewards of field conservation.

In parallel, two postgraduate students received academic mentorship and field training for their M.Sc. dissertations, focusing on roadkill incidents along forest corridors and the behavioral ecology of Bonnet Macaques in human-modified landscapes. These projects not only generated valuable ecological data but also provided practical research experience to emerging wildlife scientists.



Through these outreach and mentorship efforts, HyTiCoS continues to bridge the gap between science and society—empowering youth, promoting evidence-based conservation, and cultivating a community of environmentally conscious changemakers committed to protecting Telangana’s natural heritage.



Conclusion

Hyderabad Tiger Conservation Society stands at the forefront of grassroots wildlife conservation in Telangana — combining science with community.

Through a year marked by intensive field research, community partnerships, and capacity-building initiatives, HyTiCoS has reaffirmed its role as a catalyst for landscape-level conservation in Telangana.

Whether through tiger and prey-base monitoring, voluntary relocation efforts, roadkill assessments, or academic mentorship, each activity reflects a holistic approach — one that recognizes the interdependence of ecosystems and communities.

By integrating traditional knowledge with modern science, supporting sustainable livelihoods, and nurturing young conservationists, HyTiCoS continues to strengthen the foundation for a resilient conservation future. Its work in the Amrabad and Kawal landscapes embodies the essence of coexistence — ensuring that wildlife thrives, ecosystems recover, and communities prosper in harmony with nature.



