

Environmental Education Centre Project

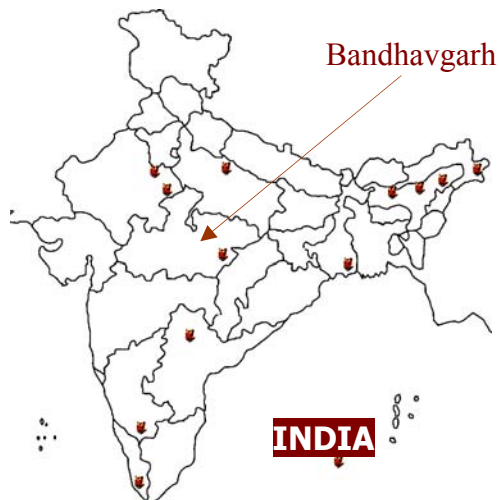
Bandhavgarh, Madhya-Pradesh
Central India



ANF India (n.g.o.), Agra/Bandhavgarh M.P.

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Vivek Sharma with local schoolchildren visiting Bandhavgarh for the first time



Vivek Mohan Sharma, playful environmental education in the Bandhavgarh area

Project: Environmental Education Centre ANF Bandhavgarh



Managing Director: Vivek Mohan Sharma

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Naturalist, Landscape Architect

Dr. Manuela Seifert, Biologist,
Scientific Advisor ANF.

Dancker Bijleveld, Chairman ANF

Mr. Harm Teijen, Public Notary, Secretary
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Bruce Pearson, Artists, Vice Chairman ANF

Fundraisers:

Dancker Bijleveld, Florian Hupkes

Hans Rademakers, Ysbrand Brouwers

Vivek Mohan Sharm, Teacher, Naturalist & Director ANF India

The following describes the proposal for creating an accommodation and information-centre for the Artists for Nature Foundation on the edge of probably the most beautiful and most varied tiger reserve Bandhavgarh in Madhya-Pradesh, Central India.

Area ten Acres, near the Southern entrance of the National Park "Ghori Gate", where there is no other accommodation to be found at this moment!

History:

In 1997, the Artists for Nature Foundation (ANF) got a commission from "Glasgow Museums and Galleries" to portray the tiger in its own environment around Bandhavgarh.

After a research trip and a visit with a group of well-known artists from all parts of the world, an art-book was published and a very successful exhibition was mounted. It travelled from Glasgow (240.000 visitors) to Zeist Castle - The Netherlands, and toured for three years through various Zoos in Germany. The book and the exhibition still receive much interest from the public.

Recently ANF shipped almost 500 copies of the tiger book to India, with the help of the Wildlife Art Gallery in Lavenham - England, to promote the work of ANF in India.

The artwork, created by the artists, in collaboration with the school children in Tala, is also presented in the book and raised a lot of enthusiasm among all parties concerned.

Shortly after ANF's visit, the idea came up to enter lasting relations with the schools in the vicinity of the reserve.

ANF India:

It was in the year 2001, when ANF could further expand on this idea, especially after ANF came into contact with Vivek Mohan Sharma, who locally is active as a teacher, information officer and guide. With the aid of Vivek and his family, ANF India was officially founded and registered with Agra as place of residence.

In the following years the ANF team India organized various drawing competitions on different schools to track down talent, and to give the children an idea what the tiger means for their environment.

ANF India did this with a modest financial contribution from ANF's head quarters in Holland.

Moreover excursions with a nature educational aspect were organized in the park against a reduced price. ANF was able to finance these expenses out of the contribution of the Tiger exhibitions in Germany and gifts from different friends of ANF.

Daily the children see the tourists enter the park in jeeps, however they themselves have no idea what the park looks like other than from stories that they may have heard of. When the park was founded, several villages within its boundaries were cleared and it became forbidden to gather wood and keep cattle there. This did not help to make the National Park popular among the locals

ANF is convinced that nature protection starts with good and honest information, instruction and co-operation with the locals. ANF has experienced that its program shows encouraging results and that gradually a change of mentality has been acquired among the local community.

Lasting Help

With the aid of a sponsor, ANF was able to invite Vivek Sharma to Holland in 2001 in order to give a number of presentations and interviews on tiger protection and nature education. From private means, ANF helped Vivek to acquire a good second hand single lens reflex camera and lenses. During his excursions, Vivek is often in the opportunity to take pictures of unique meetings with tigers and other wildlife that is so abundant in Bandhavgarh. Due to his exceptional skill and persistence, Vivek Sharma regularly has been able to sell his photographs to foreign magazines.



First light at Bandhavgarh

Photo: Vivek Mohan Sharma

Environmental Education and Conservation Centre

As an 'open sky' environmental education facility the proposed centre plans to encompass the faculties of environment, biology, astronomy and human art of living, and will seek to serve as a guardian of native biotic and cultural resources. Its mayor aim is to enhance the public's (villagers, schools and visitors) appreciation of, and sense of responsibility for the environment and to raise public awareness and understanding of tigers and the conservation of their habitat.

The main building will be used for nature educational projects and information about the benefits of nature education for local inhabitants, especially schoolchildren and their teachers:

- **Visitor Centre:** open daily, featuring exhibits of nature and wildlife art, photographs from ANF and from local villagers
- **Resource Centre:** reference and loan library with conservation resources applicable to the wider Bandhavgarh region
- **Interpretive Audio:** video on wildlife and nature conservation.

The centre will also promote and facilitate:

- Free access workshops for the local people
- Act as a meeting place for local craftsmen and women,
- Act as a base for ANF artists, who will arrange free workshops for local artists and paying guests whenever possible.

It is hoped that the lodge will also become a meeting point for 'serious' eco-tourists visiting the park. After an introduction, they would be guided through the park by centre staff who have great local knowledge.

To ensure the centre has minimal environmental impact and the tiger's habitat sustainability will affect every aspect of its design, construction and operation. The following technologies will be applied and promoted, especially to the local community:

- Cooking and water heating by means of solar energy,
- Use of parabolic box cookers,
- Water treatment by means of a helophyte filter,
- The creation of an organic kitchen garden, where fresh vegetables and herbs can be grown for immediate use,
- Composting by means of worms and organic fertilizers, in order to recycle all biodegradable kitchen waste and refuse from the lodge.

Nowadays most villagers burn the ground and apply chemical fertilizers as well as insecticides and pesticides, which can result in poisoning saprophytic birds as vultures. Even water holes, used by tigers and many other wild animals, showed high levels of pesticides!

Demonstrating the cheap and useful application of bio-fertilizers will hopefully convince people of a clean and cheap alternative.

- Creation of a demo nursery and garden with medicinal, aromatic, special and useful plants, as well as a research centre (project HAMP).

HAMP stands for Herbal Aromatic and Medicinal Plants.

Previous research on plants that are not eaten by wild animals but are useful to humans has been run with success. Often wild animals like sambar, spotted deer and wild boars raid wheat and rice fields around the villages and destroy the crop of farmers. Tigers and leopards often follow these animals and instead kill livestock. With planting 'unattractive' plants for wild animals, but useful to humans, confrontation of locals and wildlife would be diminished – reducing the risk to tigers especially.



Illustration: Wolfgang Weber



Walking the pool

Photo : Ysbrand Brouwers

Plot

A 10-acres plot has been officially bought through the relevant channels. It borders the park and has yet to be fenced to protect it against cow grazing and illegal timber felling.

The lodge will be constructed in such a way that that will leave most of the prominent vegetation intact and the setting will be landscaped so as to attract great number of butterflies, birds, small mammals and reptiles. Self-guided walks will be laid out around the lodge with existing trees, interesting plants and other features will be labeled.

Buildings

Construction will be of soft bricks (a mixture of soil, straw and cow dung, also known as adobe), which is familiar in India, especially around Bandhavgarh.

The advantages are: well camouflaged with surroundings; the soft bricks are extremely effective insulation (warm in winter and cool in summer); ethnic/traditional dwelling in keeping with local environment; living in a mud hut' would be a new experience for many guests All the raw materials will be from local sustainable sources and the construction and installation will be by local craftsman. The buildings will be decorated by local paintings on the walls.

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Members of the Board ANF INDIA

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Profession</i>	<i>Title</i>
Vivek Mohan Sharma	11/24 Rose Cottage B.M.Khan, AGRA 282002	Naturalist	President
Sh.P.S. Dubey	Sarmatura Dist. Dolphur, Rajasthan	Economist	Vice President
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Mrs. Shruti Dixit	8/304, Shankar Sadan Bheron Park, Belanganj AGRA-282004	Teaching	Treasurer
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Mr. Sanjeev Goyal	At 7 p.o. Sihaul, Dis or Saharsa BIHAR	Computer eng.	Executive member
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To whom it may concern

Zeist, June 02, 2006


The World Wide Fund for Nature-Netherlands has decided to co-fund the project "Ecolodge in India", by the Artists for Nature Foundation (ANF), for a amount of € 15,000.-. The ecolodge will be established in the National Park Bandhavgar in India, which is a highly biodiverse and important area for tiger conservation.

The lodge will be established for community services as well as nature conservation purposes. High level market ecotourism should, after the initial stage of establishing the lodge and starting up the commercial activities, result in a self supplying centre, with possible profits reinvest in local community work.

WWF-Netherlands considers this an innovative and promising approach.

We hope that other potential parties are equally interested in this project and that they are willing to provide financial means to ANF to co-fund this initiative as well.

Yours sincerely,


Gerhard van den Top
Director Nature Conservation
WWF-Netherlands

Environmental Educ. Centre Bandhavgarh
Proposed Budget in GBP 1000

	Particulars	One time establishment costs December 2006	Annual maintenance costs
1	Land cost for 7 acres at Gohri gate, Bandhavgarh	12,10	
	Land cost for additional 3 acres adjacent to first lot	2,50	
	Fencing of total land with barbed wire on poles + labour	1,60	
	Revenue Tax + Panchayat Tax		0,33
2	Registry of Land	2,42	
3	Construction of 10 Eco huts with bathroom/Washroom	17,60	
	with facilities of living comforts		
	Annual maintenance & upkeep (house keeping, repairs, paints, etc.)		1,76
4	Interiors and furniture (for 10 Eco huts)		
	(Bed & beddings, writing table, chair, cooler, curtains, interior decoration, floors, fans, lights, electrical fitting, luggage rack, etc.)	5,50	
	Annual maintenance & upkeep of accessories mentioned above, repairs, etc.		0,83
5	Dining area cum interpretation centre		
	construction	3,08	
	furniture	1,00	
	fans, tube lights & other electrical equipments	0,55	
	electric fitting for electrical gadgets	0,28	
	Annual maintenance & upkeep repairs, replacements, paints, house keeping etc.		0,59
6	Kitchen construction + platforms + plumbing	2,00	
	kitchen accessories (cutlery, crockeries, oven , mixer, Aqua Guard, gas)	1,25	
	refrigerator	0,28	
	annual maintenance & upkeep (gas expenses, groceries, crockeries, repairs, replacements, etc.)		0,71
7	Solar panels for water heating from Solar Hart+Solar cookers <i>parabolic and box</i>	3,30	
8	Medicinal plants + organic veg. garden + worm compost + labour	0,50	
	annual maintenance (gardener, fertilizers, watering, etc.)		0,80
9	Bore Well + water lifting pump and pipelines	1,25	
	water tax, pipe maintenance		0,13
10	1 Jeep (second hand) + garage	5,25	
	maintenance (petrol, tires, road tax, repairs)		0,60
11	Silent Generator (5 KVA) & its fitting + generator shed. A generator is an	0,70	
	alternate source of electricity generation for emergency operations like water lifting etc. during power failure, which is quite frequent up to 4-5 hrs a day		
	maintenance (diesel, repairs, etc.)		0,40
12	Installation of electricity & telephone connections	0,70	
	annual maintenance (electricity bills, telephone bills, etc.)		1,20
13	Staff room & Store room	0,55	
14	Initial running costs	2,50	
	Staff salaries, etc.		2,50
15	Inspection tour to India ANF director Brouwers 2007, travel/lodging expenses	1,60	
16	Other Miscellaneous Expenses	2,20	
	annual miscellaneous expenses		1,50
	Total in pounds sterling (x 1000)	68,71	11,34

Grand Total (initial + annual costs for the first year)

80,04
11,40
91,44
Conversion rate to Euro
1,50
1,50
Euro amounts (in 1000)

120,05
17,10
137,20
USD amounts (in 1000)/ conversion USD 1,0=Euro 0,76

180,46



Rose Ringed parakeet

Foto: Ysbrand Brouwers



White spotted deer(Chital) and common Myna

Foto: Ysbrand Brouwers

Projects Artists for Nature Foundation (founded in 1990) 1990 -2006

Schiermonnikoog Book	The Netherlands (Barrier Island) 'Wind, Wad & Waterverf'	<u>1990</u>
Biebrza Marches Book	N. Eastern Poland 'Leven Tussen Land en Water' 'Portrait of a Living March'	<u>1992</u>
Extremadura Book	Spain 'De Vlucht van de Kraanvogels' 'Artists for Nature in Extremadura' 'Las grullas vuelan a Extremadura'	<u>1994</u>
Loire Book	France 'Pour une Loire Vivante', 'That the Loire May live'	<u>1995</u>
Wexford Coast Book	Ireland Brochure only.	<u>1996</u>
Copper River Delta Book	Alaska, U.S.A. 'Alaska's Copper River Delta'	<u>1996-1997</u>



Tiger, By Wolfgang Weber

Bandhavgarh Book	India M.P. 'Tigers', A.N.F. in India. 'Tijgers', A.N.F. in India.	<u>1998</u>
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Overijssel exhibition	Het Reestdal, The Netherlands	<u>1998</u>
Pyrenees Book	Spain, Catalonia 'Mature forests in the Pyrenees' 'Bosques maduros del Pirineo'	<u>2001</u>
Algarve Book	Portugal, Quinta do Lago 'Living Paintings Artists for Nature in Quinta Do Lago'	<u>2002</u>
Tumbesian region Book	Peru & Ecuador 'Treasures of a Forgotten Forest' 'Bosques Sin Fronteras'	<u>2003</u>
Great Fen Book	England 'The Great Fen' ANF in England	<u>2004/2006</u>
Utrecht province Book	Holland 'Wieken, Wind & Weidevogels' 'Sails, Wind and Meadow birds'	<u>2005-2007</u>

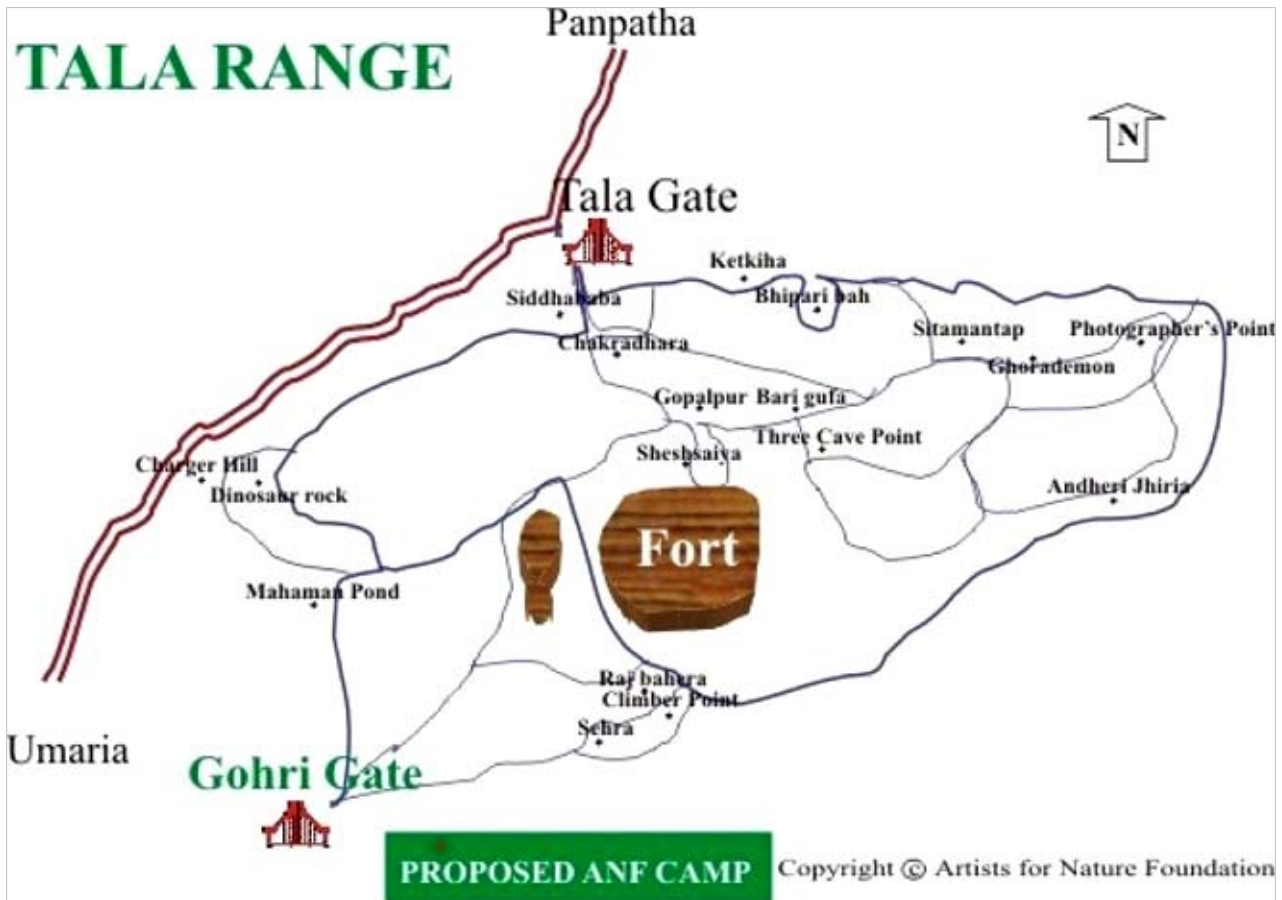


Reflection: Golden Jackal

Foto: Ysbrand Brouwers

Potential projects under preparation: 2007 - 2008

Lowland Heath lands	United Kingdom
Danube Delta	Ukraine and Rumania
Hula Valley	Israel



ANF The Netherlands

Staff:

Ysbrand Brouwers sr.	Director
Vicky Kneplé	Treasurer
Dr. Manuela Seifert	Biologist, Scientific Adviser, Head Environmental Education Projects.

Board:

Dancker Bijleveld	Chairman (lawyer and banker)
Bruce Pearson SWLA	Vice Chairman (artist, U.K.)
Harm Teijen	Secretary (public notary)
Hans Rademakers	Marketing and P.R.
Florian Hupkes	Member (museum conservator)

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