

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

### 1. HOW I REMEMBER MY THREE YEARS TENURE IN NAMDAPHA TIGER RESERVE

Renovation and improvement of the existing Wireless communication system of the Park during 2010-11 was my first initiative towards the Protection of Namdapha Tiger Reserve. This humble initiative helped us a lot during subsequent years especially during Camera Trapping Exercise of Tiger in the Tiger Reserve as there were no other means of communication in the Park except W.T. Network with handsets during field visit.

Nine 0.315 Rifles were kept unused for last many years. Some were issued to other Divisions. Collected three Rifles from Dy. Chief Wildlife Warden, Itanagar, two Rifles from Director, Forest Training Institute, Roing and got repaired them along with four Rifles kept in the Field Director office for use in protection duty.

Sufficient ammunition were procured and issued to protection Squad during 2011-12. Supply of Arms & ammunition to frontline staff during patrolling hours has deterrent impact on the poachers. Even the underground outfit who frequently visits the forest of Tirap & Changlang Districts is curious to know what type of Uniform and Weapons have been prescribed by the Park Management for Protection Squad.

Raised Protection Squad/Strike Force Unit and trained them by State Police personal and later on by Ex-Servicemen during 2010-11 for Protection of Namdapha Tiger Reserve.

Thirteen Ex-Servicemen were recruited in the Squad for protection as well as imparting training the personnel of Protection Squad in handling Arms & ammunition during 2012-13. Recruitment of Ex-Servicemen is first time in the history of Namdapha National Park. Full mark to Shri L. Karlo, Range Officer, who is also the Overall In-charge of the Protection Squad. He is a very strong capable officer

and has the ability to marshal and deploy them effectively in the P.A.

After taking over the charge of the CF & Field Director I initiated for rehabilitation of Lisu community who encroach the P.A. A series of meetings involving Local Administration, Local people including representative from Lisu community were held for peaceful rehabilitation of Lisu encroachers as per guidelines and packages announced by the Government of India. An alternative area was also selected outside the P.A. by constituting a committee headed by Circle Officer, (Land Record) during 2010-2011.

However, the rehabilitation process could not be streamlined due to rigid stands taken by Lisu people not to leave the P.A. Lisu rehabilitation initiative could not be materialized but we cannot forget the pain and interest taken by Shri T. Mara, Adl. Deputy Commissioner, Miao and cooperation extended by Singpho and Tangsa leaders for Lisu rehabilitation and their well being.

I also organized Medical Camps in many villages namely, Lewang, Phanyak as well as in Miao Singpho village Primary school and M'Pen Forest Check Gate for free treatment of fringe villagers during 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Renovation of staff quarters and other buildings located at 10<sup>th</sup> mile (Gibbonsland) for facilitating staff to stay there and also to start functioning of Gandhigram Range from there at itself. This initiative serves two purposes i.e frontline staff including Protection Squad personals got proper accommodation and on the other hand protection was ensured in that sector which was vulnerable to illegal activities earlier.

Coordination meetings were conducted on

28-11-2011 and 16-3-2012 at Miao and Deban respectively where local Administrative Officers, State Police, Para Military force like Assam Rifle, Public leaders including Lisu & Gorkha representatives and other NGO's were present. In the coordination meeting, issues like illegal hunting of wild animals in and around the Park and its preventive measures were discussed and chalked out strategy accordingly.

Ten influential villagers from fringe villages have been engaged by paying Rs. 2500/- p.m. to spread the message not to hunt wild animals in the Park since 2012-13. This initiative is also first time in management of Namdapha Tiger Reserve and has positive impact on Protection of P.A.

For the convenient of the patrolling staff a temporarily Bamboo Bridge was constructed over River Dehing for the first time in the history of management of Namdapha Tiger Reserve. Credit goes to Shri H.Nyorak, Assistant Field Director who has conceived the idea of construction such bridge over Dehing river.

Eight bicycles were provided to frontline staff deployed along the Miao-Vijoyanagar Road for collecting their essential commodities from the nearest market. These initiatives also help our frontline staff for procurement of their daily essential commodities when Departmental vehicles are out of reach.

In my initiative Camera Trapping Exercises were conducted during 2011-12 in Namdapha Tiger Reserve in collaboration with Aaranyak, a Guwahati based NGO. For first time in the history of Namdapha

Tiger Reserve Tigers were trapped in Camera. A part from Tiger as many as 42 species of animals including Clouded Leopard and Common Leopard were captured in the Camera.

We have also carried out collection of 79 Scat samples from various locations for DNA test in Genetic laboratory, Guwahati, the result of the DNA test also confirmed the presence of Tiger in Namdapha Tiger Reserve.

In addition, tracing of pugmark from various locations of the P.A. confirmed that there are Tiger in Namdapha Tiger Reserve. These facts prove the speculation in a some quarters that there is no Tiger in Namdapha Tiger Reserve wrong.

Presence of Tiger in Namdapha Tiger Reserve is now proved beyond doubt and it is possible due to concerted efforts of Protection measures and cooperation of local people in and around Tiger Reserve. Thanks to Shri L. Karlo, Range Officer, Namdapha Wildlife Range and Shri H. Tungkhong, Range Officer, Miao Wildlife Range who alongwith their dedicated field staff protect the Flora & Fauna of Namdapha Tiger Reserve for the benefit of the State and the Country as a whole.

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