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भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान  
Wildlife Institute of India



SPEED POST

No. WII/RTI/CPIO/2018-19 (Qtr-I)/4

Dated 25.04.2018

To,

Shri R.K.Sharma,  
X-1742, Gali No. 18,  
Rajgarh Colony, Gandhi Nagar,  
Delhi - 110 031

**Sub.: Information sought under Right to Information Act, 2005- reg.**  
**Ref.: Your RTI Application dated 02.04.2018.**

Sir,

Please refer to your **RTI Request** on the above cited subject and reference under RTI Act, 2005. In this context, the point-wise replies to your queries are as under -

Sl. No.	Queries	Reply
1.	Date of receipt the above reference letters dated 14/12/2017 and Reminder dated 23/2/2018 to Dr.V.B.Mathur, Director and marked by the Director, WII on record	Annexure-1 (pages 1-4)
2.	Photocopy of the direction/remarks/comments/note of the Director, WII on the letters for needful action.	Annexure-1 (pages 1-4)
3.	Photocopy of the action taken report of the concerned authority of WII	Annexure-2 (pages 1-6)
4.	Reasons for no response/reply by the Director, WII to the same two letters till date	Concerned officials were on tour.

If you are not satisfied with the aforesaid reply, you may file an appeal before the First Appellate Authority i.e. "Dr. V.B.Mathur, Director, Wildlife Institute of India, P.B.18, Chandrabani, Dehradun - 248 001, Ph. 0135-2646102, 2640910" within a period of one month.

Thanking you,

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
25/4/18

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
25/04/18  
Yours faithfully,

( Dr. Anju Baroth )  
CPIO & NO, RTI

Encl: as above.

पत्रपेटी सं० 18, चन्द्रबनी, देहरादून - 248 001, भारत  
Post Box No. 18, Chandrabani, Dehra Dun - 248001. INDIA

ई.पी.ए.बी.एक्स : + 91-135-2640111 से 2640115 फ़ैक्स : 0135-2640117, तार : WILDLIFE  
EPABX : + 91-135-2640111 to 2640115: Fax : 0135-2640117; GRAM : WILDLIFE

ई-मेल / E-mail : wii@wii.gov.in



Dated: Delhi, 28 February, 2018

By Speed Post

To,  
Dr V B Mathur,  
Director,  
**Wildlife Institute of India**  
Post Box # 18, Chandrabani  
Dehradun - 248001  
(UTTARAKHAND)

01  
28/2/18

**REMINDER**

**Sub:** Authenticity of data submitted to Hon'ble Supreme Court in WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) No.337/1995 titled WWF-India Vs UOI in respect of prey density in Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary by Mr. Faiyaz A. Khudsar

Sir,

Do refer to my earlier letter dated 14-12-2017 sent to you by speed post delivered to your office on 18/12/2017. (photocopy attached for your ready reference). We are waiting for your response.

Hope to receive your response in next 15 days.

Regards

Yours sincerely,

*RK Sharma*

(R K Sharma)  
X-1743, Gali No.18  
Rajgarh Colony, Gandhi Nagar  
Delhi-110031

*Urgent*  
*In Kuno*  
*No scan 2 sent*  
*(1) A.Y. J Thale*  
*(2) tiger cell*  
*(3) A. Khudsar*  
*No examine 2 sent*  
*UOI*  
*28/2*

**ATTESTED**

*[Signature]*  
28/2/18  
CPIO, Wild Life Institute of India, Dehradun



2  
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Dated: Delhi, 14 December, 2017

By Speed Post

To,  
Mr. V B Mathur,  
Director,  
**Wildlife Institute of India**  
Post Box # 18, Chandrabani  
Dehradun - 248001  
(UTTARAKHAND)

**Sub:** Authenticity of data submitted in Hon'ble Supreme Court in WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) No.337/1995 titled WWF-India Vs UOI in respect of prey density in Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary by Mr. Faiyaz A. Khudsar

Sir,

I have come to know that in **WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) No.337/1995** with **W.P. (C) No. 202/1995** titled WWF-India Vs UOI (wherein WII also one of the parties) data was submitted in respect of prey density in Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary by Mr. Faiyaz A. Khudsar on behalf of WWF India. The said data was relied upon by **Hon'ble Supreme Court** in its **judgment dated 15.04.2013 in WP (C) No. 337/1995**. As you are aware, any material filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court becomes part of its record and in case it comes to the knowledge of the Court that the material submitted was incorrect, forged or false an action can be taken against the person by the Court under Contempt of Courts Act being the Court of Record and also under provisions of Criminal Procedure Code.

There are few observations in respect of above mentioned data which I wish to bring to your knowledge which raises doubt with regard to its authenticity. Your response on the same will be appreciated.

It is stated in the material supplied to the Hon'ble Supreme Court that the data was collected by Faiyaz A. Khudsar during his field research in 2004/2005 and 2006 in respect of prey density in Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary. That means that Mr. Faiyaz A. Khudsar was personally present in Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary when he was collecting the data in the relevant period i.e. 2004-2006.

Mr. Faiyaz A. Khudsar was enrolled for Ph.D. research in Jiwaji University, Gwalior in May, 2004 on the project titled "Monitoring wildlife population and habitat assessment in the proposed Lion Introduction site - Kuno Wildlife



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Sanctuary, M.P". Due to irregularity, he has to leave the research and re-enrolled in Aug-2008. In June-2005, Mr. Faiyaz A. Khudsar joined the temporary post of so called Field Biologist/Rangeland Expert at Yamuna Biodiversity Park, Delhi for the works as assigned to him from time to time with respect to the development and management of Biodiversity Parks & other allied works and received salary from DDA. He continued to work at the said post at Yamuna Biodiversity Park till date.

As Mr. Faiyaz A. Khudar was working regularly on the salaried post at Yamuna Biodiversity Park, Delhi from June-2005 to Dec-2006, he could not have been present at Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary, M.P. during the period 2005-2006 for the field research and the data submitted for the said period cannot be authentic. A person cannot be present at two places in two different Institutions and two different locations during the same period. We have authentic material in our possession in support of our above statement. We also have material with us collected by another scientist in field research for the year 2006 which shows wide disparity with the data alleged to have been collected by Mr. Faiyaz A. Khudsar during 2004-2006.

As the data collected by Faiyaz A. Khudsar was submitted in Hon'ble Supreme Court by WWF India and also accepted/supported by WII and the same was relied upon by Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 15.04.2013 and as there are material to show that Faiyaz A. Khudsar has not collected data in his field research, an investigation is necessary in respect of the same so that the truth can come out.

You are requested to let us know the steps taken in this regard by your Organization. We thought it fit to first approach you (Govt of India's nodal wildlife institution) and seek your intervention and investigation instead of approaching the Hon'ble Supreme Court. An early reply will be appreciated.

A

Regards

Yours sincerely,

R K Sharma  
(R K Sharma)  
X-1743, Gali No 18  
Rajgarh Colony, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi





21/12/2017

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Track Consignment

You are here Home > Track Consignment

Track Consignment

\* Indicates a required field.

\* Consignment Number ED434493478IN

Booked At	Booked On	Destination Pincode	Tariff	Article Type	Delivered At Mohbewala B.O	Delivered On 18/12/2017
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Event Details For : ED434493478IN Current Status : Item delivered at Mohbewala B.O

Date	Time	Office	Event
18/12/2017	16:59:00	Mohbewala B.O	Item delivered
18/12/2017	11:20:45	Clementtown S.O	Item Received
18/12/2017	11:20:45	Clementtown S.O	Bag Opened
18/12/2017	11:08:47	Clementtown S.O	Bag Received
17/12/2017	04:16:09	NSH DEHRADUN	Bag Despatched to Clementtown S.O
17/12/2017	02:03:08	NSH DEHRADUN	Item Bagged for Clementtown S.O
16/12/2017	19:56:56	NSH DEHRADUN	Item Received
16/12/2017	19:56:55	NSH DEHRADUN	Bag Opened
16/12/2017	19:50:51	NSH DEHRADUN	Bag Received
16/12/2017	04:45:18	PALAM TMO	Bag Despatched to NSH DEHRADUN
16/12/2017	02:52:29	PALAM TMO	Bag Received
16/12/2017	02:23:58	BNPL SP Hub NEW DELHI	Bag Despatched to PALAM TMO
16/12/2017	01:55:49	BNPL SP Hub NEW DELHI	Item Bagged for NSH DEHRADUN

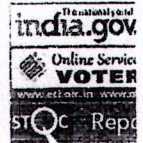
[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Employee Corner](#) | [Tenders](#) | [Forms](#) | [Right To Information](#) | [Opportunities](#) | [Holidays](#) | [Website Policies](#) | [Related sites](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Sitemap](#)

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Registered Office Address


Department of Posts  
Dak Bhawan, Sansad Marg  
New Delhi-110001





1. Reference to this, prey top monitoring was undertaken by the WII and M.P. Forest Department collaboration during January - Feb., 2005. Report was submitted to the M.P. Forest Department in April, 2005.
2. Mr. Fayaz Khudear was not engaged by the Institute for assessment of Prey Populations in KWS, though some logistic support was taken.

As far as I know, there was no further prey base monitoring was requested by the M.P. Forest Department and was undertaken.

  
(Dr. S. P. Goyal)

ES 23.04.18

Dr. Y. V. Jhalga

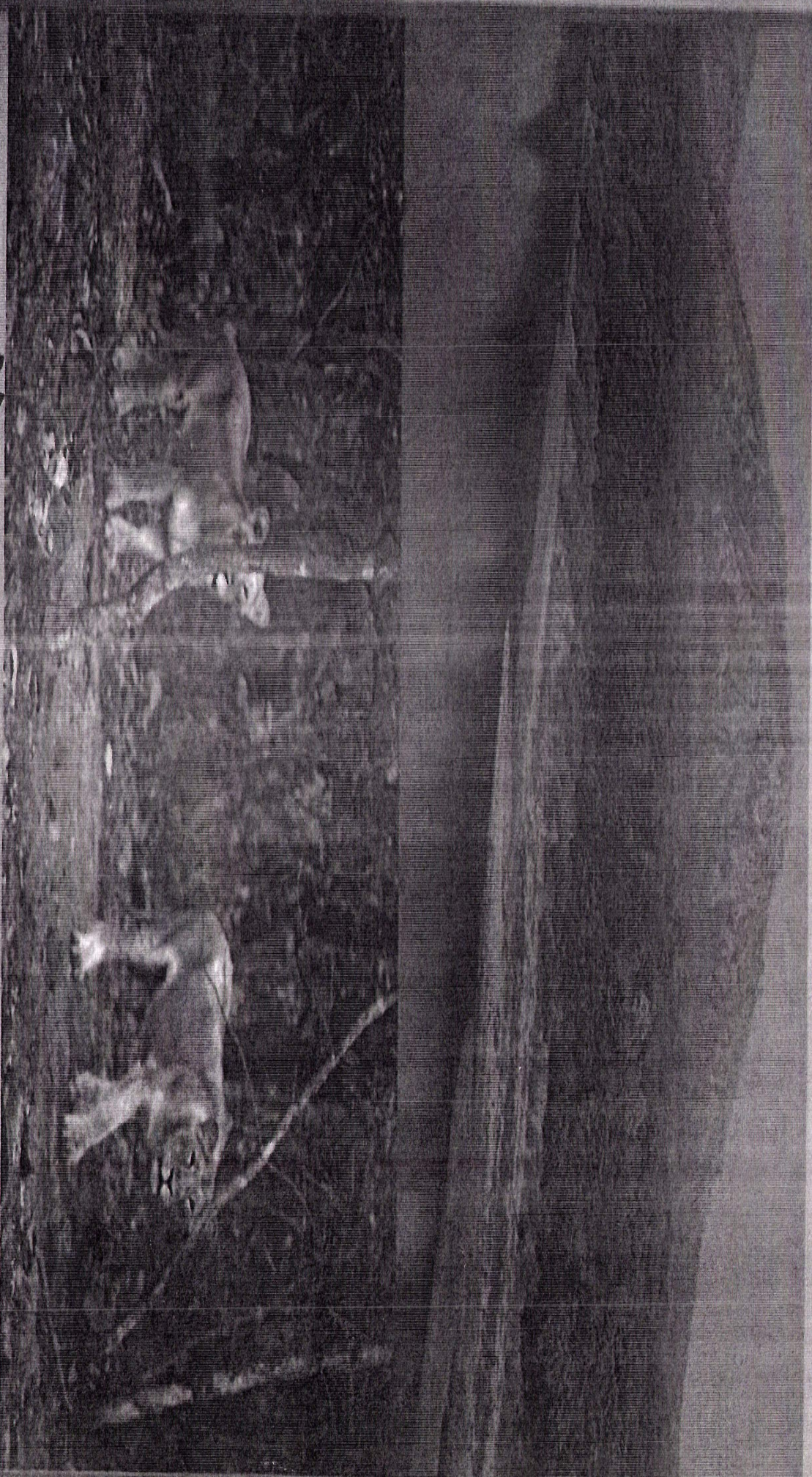
ATTESTED  
  
25/4/18  
CPIO, Wild Life Institute of India, Dehradun



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2

Assessment of prey populations for lion re-introduction  
in Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary, central India



विलुप्त प्राणी संरक्षण  
Wildlife Institute of India

April, 2005



## Short Communication

# Preparations for the reintroduction of Asiatic lion *Panthera leo persica* into Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh, India

A.J.T. Johnsingh, S.P. Goyal and Qamar Qureshi

**Abstract** Approximately 300 Asiatic lions *Panthera leo persica* are confined to the 1,883 km<sup>2</sup> Gir forests in Gujarat, western India. To establish a second home for the Asiatic lion in its former range, Kuno Wildlife Division (1,280 km<sup>2</sup>, with a core 345 km<sup>2</sup> Sanctuary) has been identified in Madhya Pradesh. To assess whether the Sanctuary has sufficient wild ungulates to support a population of lions 17 transects totaling 461 km were surveyed over an area of 280 km<sup>2</sup> in early 2005. The density of potential ungulate prey was 13 animals km<sup>-2</sup>. There are also c. 2,500 feral cattle, left behind by translocated villagers; the cattle are considered to be buffer prey in case droughts adversely affect the populations of wild ungulates. Control of poaching,

moving of two villages, grassland management and building a rubble wall around the Division to keep out livestock would lead to a substantial rise in the population of ungulates (to c. 20 animals km<sup>-2</sup>) by the end of 2007. This density would support the first group of five lions (three females and two males) due to be reintroduced in the beginning of 2008. Even if all the three females raise cubs there will be sufficient wild prey by the end of 2009 to support the males, females and cubs.

**Keywords** Asiatic lion, canine distemper, India, Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary, *Panthera leo persica*, reintroduction, ungulates.

The only free-ranging population of Asiatic lions *Panthera leo persica*, categorized as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List (IUCN, 2006), exists in Gir Wildlife Sanctuary (1,154 km<sup>2</sup>), Gir National Park (259 km<sup>2</sup>) and surrounding forests (470 km<sup>2</sup>), an area totalling 1,883 km<sup>2</sup> in Gujarat, western India (Singh, 1996; Johnsingh *et al.*, 1998). The total lion population is c. 300. Such small animal populations restricted to single sites face a variety of extinction threats from genetic and environmental factors (Gilpin & Soule, 1986). Catastrophes such as an epidemic, an unexpected decline in prey or reprisal killing by people could result in the extinction of a threatened species when it is restricted to a single site. The outbreak of canine distemper in the lions of the Serengeti National Park, Tanzania, in 1994 killed an estimated 30% of the population (Roelke-Parker *et al.*, 1996). The lion population in the 40,000 km<sup>2</sup> Serengeti-Mara ecosystem is large, with c. 2,500 lions (Bauer & Van der Merwe, 2004). If an

epidemic of this scale were to affect the lions in Gir, it would be difficult to save them from extinction, given the much smaller area of the lion habitat and the considerably smaller population. The establishment of a second free-ranging population of Asiatic lions would help to guard against this.

An attempt to establish such a population in Chandrabha Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh in 1957 failed (Negi, 1965) because of a lack of monitoring and the small size of the Sanctuary (96 km<sup>2</sup>), and because lions moved outside the Sanctuary, leading to conflicts with people and poisoning and poaching of the lions (Divyabhanusinh, 2005). However, in a renewed attempt to establish a second population of lions, surveys of Sitamata and Darrah-Jawaharsagar Wildlife Sanctuaries (Rajasthan) and Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary (Madhya Pradesh) were made by the Wildlife Institute of India in 1993–94. The 345 km<sup>2</sup> Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary, 830 km north-east of Gir (Fig. 1), established in 1981, was identified as the most suitable site because it lies within a large forested area of 3,300 km<sup>2</sup> (Chellam *et al.*, 1995) that could support a growing population of introduced lions within former lion range (Pocock, 1930; Chellam, 1993). The Government of India and the State Government of Madhya Pradesh were receptive to the recommendations made by the Wildlife Institute of India and between 1996 and 2001, 24 villages (Fig.

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\*Current address: Nature Conservation Foundation, 3076/5, IV Cross,  
Gokulam Park, Mysore 570 002, India.

Received 14 July 2005. Revision requested 14 December 2005.  
Accepted 30 March 2006.



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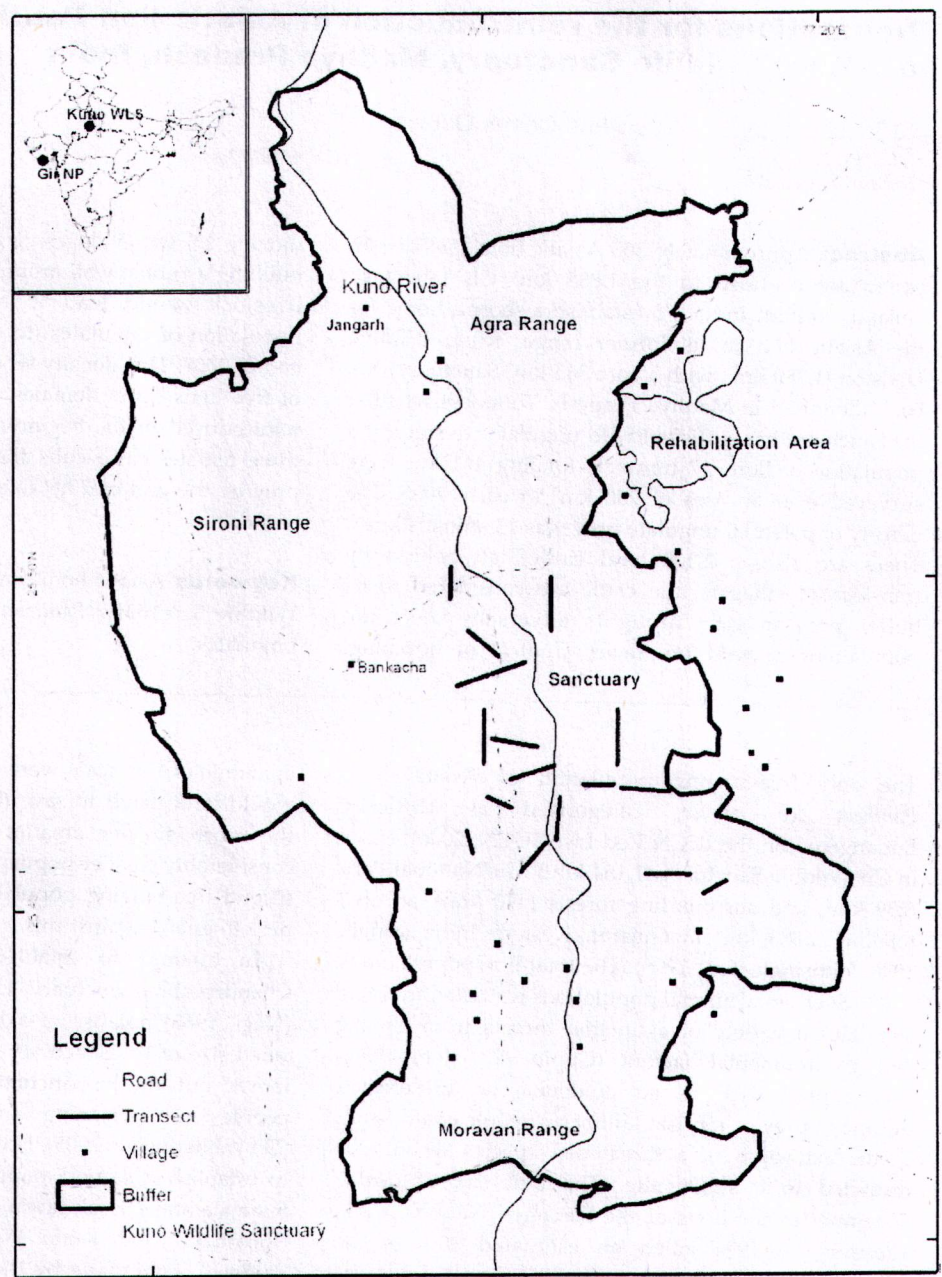


Fig. 1 Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary, showing the 17 transects (thick lines) walked for prey assessment, the surrounding forest divisions, and villages. The inset shows the locations of Gir National Park, Gujarat, and Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh, in India.

1) containing 1,547 families were translocated from the Sanctuary. The villagers were willing to move out as they were facing problems due to lack of a market, hospitals and all-weather road facilities, and harassment from dacoits. The Government provided them with an appropriate relocation package. A 1,280 km<sup>2</sup> Kuno Wildlife Division, encompassing the Sironi, Agra and Morawan forest ranges around the Sanctuary, was also demarcated. The Government has so far spent

c. USD 3.4 million in programmes related to the Sanctuary.

An assessment of the prey base for any lion reintroduced to Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary was carried out in January-February 2005. Seventeen transects 1.8–3.2 km, over an area of c. 280 km<sup>2</sup>, were walked 17 times each. The total distance covered was 461 km. The transects were walked in the mornings and evenings, and for each sighting of ungulates sighted



distance and angle were recorded. Analysis of transect data was based on the *Distance* model (Laake *et al.*, 1994). No tiger pugmarks were seen during the survey, although tigers have been reported from the Sanctuary area in the past (Chellam *et al.*, 1995). The density of potential wild prey (spotted deer *Axis axis*, sambar *Cervus unicolor*, nilgai *Boselaphus tragocamelus* and wild pig *Sus scrofa*) for lions was 13 animals km<sup>-2</sup>, giving a total of c. 3,600 animals available in the Sanctuary (Johnsingh *et al.*, 2005). Estimation of the number of cattle, left behind by the translocated villagers, by the line transect method is not necessarily reliable as the cattle occur in large groups confined to specific locations. Therefore we used a population estimate based on counting the cattle at yarding sites, which gave a minimum of 2,500 in 2004 (Khudsar & Chundawat, 2004). Including cattle, the estimated total potential prey was c. 6,100 animals. We consider other large mammals in the Sanctuary, the arboreal langur *Semnopithecus entellus*, *chowsingha* or four-horned antelope *Tetracerus quadricornis* and the fleet-footed chinkara *Gazella bennettii*, as prey rarely available to lions.

The energy or prey requirements of a carnivore can be determined using body weight (Carbone & Gittleman, 2002). Therefore, to estimate the prey requirements of lion we used the data available for tiger, which is almost equivalent to lion in body weight. A female tiger kills 40–45 ungulates per year, consuming c. 2,000 kg of meat (c. 3,000 kg of live prey) for maintenance, and when raising three cubs needs c. 60–75 prey animals per year; males require c. 4,000 kg of live prey per year (Sunquist *et al.*, 1999). Assuming that 50 wild ungulates can support one lion for 1 year, on average, then five lions (three females and two males) will require a total of c. 250 wild ungulates per year. Medium to large predators in various ecosystems remove 9–10% of estimated prey biomass per year (Schaller, 1972; Karanth *et al.*, 2004). Therefore we estimate that in 2007, 5–8 lions could be supported by the then estimated 19 animals km<sup>-2</sup> in Kuno. Johnsingh *et al.* (2005) recommended, however, that the lions (three females and two males) should be introduced into Kuno in the beginning of 2008 to ensure that the prey base is greater than required. Based on the available information on the growth rate of ungulate populations for habitats similar to Kuno (0.23–0.41; Chellam *et al.* 1995), and using the logistic growth model, the prey base of wild ungulates for lions by the end of 2007 will be 5,400 animals, and 7,460 at the end of 2009. This prey base will therefore be sufficient to support the reintroduced lions even if all three females raise three cubs each (requiring 700 animals per year) by the end of 2009.

Reported average genetic heterozygosity and polymorphism in Asiatic lions is 0.087 and 0.19, respectively.

This is low compared to African lions, which have values of 0.567 and 1.0, respectively (Uphyrina & O'Brien, 2003). This makes it imperative to eventually replace old males in Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary with young males from Gir (Chellam *et al.*, 1995). This should be done preferably when the females have grown-up cubs, as new males could kill the young sired by other males (Schaller, 1972). It may also be necessary to introduce females from Gir periodically to enhance genetic vigour. Other recommendations (Johnsingh *et al.*, 2005) will also need to be implemented in advance of any reintroduction: the villages of Bankcha and Jangarh (Fig. 1) should be relocated from Sironi forest range (to add a further 300 km<sup>2</sup> of human-free habitat to the Sanctuary), grassland management is required to improve forage availability, and a rubble wall needs to be built around the Kuno Wildlife Division to keep out livestock. In addition, there will need to be recruitment and training of staff, control of poaching, and launching of a public awareness and conservation education campaign about coexistence with a large and potentially dangerous carnivore (Kellert *et al.*, 1996). The Government of India and Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat Forest Departments are working on the implementation of the lion translocation, and the Forest Department of Madhya Pradesh has initiated the habitat improvement programme.

**Acknowledgements**

We thank the Director of the Wildlife Institute of India and Madhya Pradesh Forest Department for support. Thanks are also due to Mr J.S. Chauhan, Director, Kuno Wildlife Division for the support extended for field work, Mr Fayaz Khudsar for sharing his knowledge of Kuno and assistance in field, Dr Nima Manjrekar for reading through the manuscript and Drs M. Agarwal and D. Bakar for help in preparation of the map.

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### Biographical sketches

A.J.T. Johnsingh has studied species ranging from fishes to elephants, including mammalian carnivores, and he studied dholes *Cuon alpinus* in Bandipur Tiger Reserve, south India, in the late 1970s. After retirement from the Wildlife Institute of India in October 2005 he has worked for WWF-India and the Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore.

S.P. Goyal specializes in the ecology of large herbivores, including elephants, and large carnivores, focusing in particular on leopard-human conflict in the Himalayas. He has also developed a forensic facility at the Wildlife Institute of India.

Qamar Qureshi is a specialist in geographical information systems, remote sensing, landscape ecology and large mammal conservation. He presently assists the Government of India to assess tiger populations.