***Supplementary Material II***

**Re-building Communities: Voluntary Resettlement from Wildlife Reserves in India**

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**Background of the voluntary relocation project at Tadoba, Kawal, Wayanad, and Nagarahole**

**Tadoba**

Voluntary relocation of settlements within Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve was first proposed in 1997, two years after the 625 km2 reserve was notified. The relocation of 997 interior families was finally initiated in 2003. Prior to the relocation, people faced difficulties in access to basic amenities, including frequent power cuts, poor roads, a poor transportation system, low employment opportunities, absence of teachers in schools, and lack of medical facilities within villages. Although crop damage by wildlife was not a severe threat, people frequently reported livestock loss to tigers and leopards. Between 2005-2011, a total of 132 carnivore attacks on humans were recorded in and around the reserve (Dhanwatey et al. 2013).

In 2003, 49 families from Kolsa, and all 79 families from Botezari villages moved to Bhagwanpur outside the reserve (Nagendra et al. 2010; PCCF 2015). Under the previous Beneficiary-Oriented Tribal Development (BOTD) scheme, families received a package of INR 1 lakh (US$ 1557) including agricultural land, housing and facilities. However, this relocation was poorly executed. Families complained of inadequate irrigation facilities, and of poor quality of construction, and agricultural land. Following this, families from Palasgaon village, that were supposed to move out in 2003, refused to move out. This village is now slated to move in 2018-2019 and is awaiting fund allocation. Post-relocation, the government has now invested in lift irrigation, and cattle sheds for the relocated families at Bhagwanpur.

Two of the villages included in our study, Jamni and Kolasa, have been awarded land-based compensation since our 2012 surveys, and have moved out of the reserve. Following the issues faced at Bhagwanpur, people at Jamni and Navegaon constructed their own houses at the new site.

The main agencies involved in the relocation process were the District Collector, Forest Secretary, Forest Department, local community leaders, and NGOs like Tiger Research And Conservation Trust (TRACT). The bureaucratic and political support of the Forest Secretary’s office was especially crucial in minimizing delays, and ensuring project progress at the state government level. Leaders from the local community were instrumental in addressing people’s concerns and helping familiarize them with the relocation process (*Dhanwatey P. pers comm*). The NGO TRACT is association with Wildlife Conservation Society-India helped facilitate the process, and created awareness amongst villagers, acting as a bridge between the government and the community. Through advocacy with policy makers, the NGO ensured that women, and family members who had reached adulthood since evaluation was completed received individual compensation packages, as per government policy. At Jamni, TRACT was involved in checking, and sorting issues related to land acquisition. The government has continued hand-holding residents of Jamni and Navegaon through multiple convergence schemes. Other NGOs have been involved in providing livelihoods training, solar power, and building cattle sheds for these families.

Families from Jamni settled at Sonegaon, while those from Navegaon settled near the adjacent Pewara village. The local Range Forest Officer led the families to inspect the new sites prior to relocation. Once selected by villagers, the land, classified as ‘degraded forest’ was reclassified as revenue land. Schools and primary health centres at the relocation site are managed by the government. For higher education, students travel to the neighboring town of Chimur. Vocational training is provided by both the government and NGOs. These sites are equipped with all facilities including water, electricity, roads, markets, toilets at schools, cremation grounds etc. As compared to Bhagwanpur, the relocation from Jamni and Navegaon was more successful (*Dhanwatey P. pers comm)*.

**Kawal**

When voluntary relocation was first proposed at Kawal by the local NGO Hyderabad Tiger Conservation Society (HyTiCoS) in 2011, it faced stiff opposition from tribal rights activists. As the agitation subsided in 2013, HyTiCoS along with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), India arranged a field visit for local leaders to relocated sites at Tadoba. Tribal leaders from Maisampet, Alinagar, Gangapalli, Rampur, and Malyal at Kawal visited and interacted with villagers at Navegaon Ramdegi near Tadoba. Following this interaction, all five villages, comprising around 300 households formed village-level committees and applied for relocation out of the village. As of December 2017, relocation from Maisampet and Rampur is in the early stages of land identification. Alinagar, Gangapalli, and Malyal residents are awaiting land selection.

Villagers residing within Kawal have to transport their produce over poor, damaged roads, leading to delays and and consequently lower market rates. At Rampur, people complain about lack of electricity, and having to travel up to 15 km to reach the nearest school. Additionally, villages inside the reserve do not have proper healthcare facilities. Crop damage by herbivores is frequent, but farmers do not receive timely and adequate compensation from the Forest Department (*Siddiqui I. pers comm)*.

Around 80% of relocating villagers at Maisampet and Rampur have applied for a land-based compensation package, the rest have applied for cash-only relocation. Unlike in Maharashtra state, only adult men are eligible for a compensation package in Telangana. The Forest Department has identified 414 ha of degraded forest land near Kadam village for people who wanting the land-based compensation package. This site has been visited by families, and is now awaiting clearance from the State government. The main actors involved in the relocation process have been the District Collector, Forest Department, and HyTiCoS.

**Wayanad**

In early 2000s, the state government-run Kerala Forest Research Institute conducted a survey of families living within Wayanad wildlife sanctuary. One of the key recommendations of this report was the relocation of 800 families from the interior of the reserve (Easa & Sankar 2001). After the publication of this report, the Wayanad Prakruti Samrakshan Samiti visited and interacted with relocated families, officers and NGO teams at Nagarahole, in a field visit organized and coordinated by Wildlife Conservation Society-India (WCS-India) staff. The visit helped the NGO understand the process of implementation of such projects, and spurred them to mobilize public support for the same. In 2011, a proposal as submitted to MoEFCC for approval of funding for 50 families. A team headed by conservationist Arul Badsha, met with officials at the ministry, and the Kerala Chief Minister, and helped secure the release of the first instalment of INR 5 crore for these families. Following this, 50 families from Goluru and Ammavyale moved out of Wayanad. As of December 2017, more than 270 families have been relocated, 68 families from Kurichiyat are being relocated, whereas funding has been secured for another 180 families at Chettiyalathuru.

Families living in the interior of Wayanad mostly belong to the Chetty community, and are paddy cultivators. However, high human elephant conflict has severely affected their primarily agricultural livelihoods, compelling them to shift to animal husbandry. Livestock are frequently attacked and killed by carnivores such as leopards and tigers. Similarly, human elephant interactions sometimes lead to human deaths, further impoverishing the residents. People living within the park suffer due to the absence of livelihoods, employment, and deprivation of basic facilities including access to water, electricity, healthcare and education. Hence, unlike in neighboring Nagarahole, relocation out of Wayanad was widely supported by both the media and politicians. The local media was instrumental in creating awareness about the problems faced by families due to high human elephant interactions. Such coverage also helped sensitize politicians and local leaders who subsequently took up the cause. The popularity of the measure was evidenced by the state Chief Minister inaugurating the first relocation of families outside the reserve. Owing in part to high land prices, most families opted for the cash-only compensation package. While families from tribal communities settled close to the reserve, others have settled across Wayanad district.

The District Relocation Committee was one of the major agencies that provided post-relocation support to relocated families, including prioritizing them in acquiring free electricity and housing subsidies. Additionally, WCS-India provided agricultural inputs and assisted people with obtaining government documentation after the move.

**Nagarahole**

In 1991, a group of tribal community members met the Chief Minister of Karnataka to propose resettlement out of the reserve. At the time, a Karnataka Forest Department census indicated almost 1550 families lived within 55 settlements inside Nagarahole. Subsequently land was identified for resettlement in the adjacent Kodagu district. However, this move was scrapped following strong local opposition from NGOs, and the resultant refusal of families to move out. In 1997, the NGO Living Inspiration For Tribals (LIFT) motivated families living within the reserve to move outside. Accompanied by 50 families, they submitted a proposal to the Forest Minister requesting relocation under Project Tiger. In 2000, the first set of 50 families from different settlements were relocated to Nagapura. Subsequently 200 families followed, availing of the INR 1 lakh cash and 5 acre land compensation package offered under the BOTD relocation policy. In 2001, 45 families, and in 2006, 30 families relocated from the interior to Nagapura. In 2008, 60 families moved to Sollepura village, but received the revised INR 1 lakh cash, and 3 acres of land compensation package. In 2010-11, another 115 families moved to Shettihalli, whereas 130 families moved to Heballa in 2014-15. These families benefited from the recent NTCA package that allowed a total compensation of INR 10 lakh (US$ 15,570), including land and housing.

Most families within Nagarahole belong to the Jenu Kuruba tribe, while others belong to Betta Kuruba and Irrawa tribes. People are mostly engaged in farm labor, or work with the Forest Department. NTFP collection is banned within the reserve. Families living within Nagarahole lack access to basic facilities, employment, education, and adequate healthcare. Families choosing to relocate face difficulties due to remoteness, and lack of roads, and often have to transport all belongings to the nearest patrolling road, before it can be shifted to the new site. The relocation from Nagarahole has faced significant opposition from tribal rights NGOs, local leaders, politicians, and a section of the media, that advocate for the right of families to live and cultivate within the forest. Despite this opposition, houses constructed outside the reserve find willing occupants from within Nagarahole (*Muthanna pers comm*). The relocation at Nagarahole has been carried out by District Relocation Committee, and the Forest Department, with support from some tribal leaders, and NGOs such as LIFT and WCS-India.

Families at the relocation centres within Sollepura, Shettihalli, and Heballa have been settled within, or close to existing settlements. This raises the potential issues of discrimination against these forest-dwelling tribal newcomers. However, owning land is seen as a symbol of social status in the community, and the 600 landholding relocated families are socially at par with other landowners (*Muthanna pers comm*).More than a thousand families still live within the reserve, out of which around 300 families living deep within Nagarahole are currently being assisted in their efforts to relocate.

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