

# Sanctuary Asia

VOLUME 42 | ISSUE 10 | MUMBAI

October 2022 | PAGES 100 | INR 100/-



## THE FUTURE OF WILDLIFE TOURISM

Conservation, Culture and Livelihoods





Photo Credit: Dr. Anish Andheria

## FOREVER STRIPES

The survival of the tiger and all the creatures that share its habitat, including leopards, wild dogs, elephants, rhinos and uncounted plants, insects, birds and reptiles, depends on whether humans can set aside vast undisturbed wildernesses for nature.

The wildlife conservation movement needs the support of us all. For more information on how you can help, or to pledge your support for those who work round-the-clock to protect our wildlife, write to Dr. Anish Andheria (President, Wildlife Conservation Trust) at [anish@wctindia.org](mailto:anish@wctindia.org) or visit [www.wildlifeconservationtrust.org](http://www.wildlifeconservationtrust.org)

**#DOGOODBEGOOD**

**DSP**  
MUTUAL FUND

This advertisement is issued in public interest and shall not constitute any offer to sell or solicitation of an offer to buy units of any of the Schemes of DSP Mutual Fund.



# 40

**JAYESH PARANJPE**



*Founder of The Western Routes, a Pune-based travel company that focuses on culinary and cultural tours across India, he curates food trails across the country to popularise the concept of culinary tourism.*



# 56

**TALLULAH D'SILVA**

*An architect, educator and writer dedicated to the cause of the environment, she has won numerous awards for architecture, writing with truth and integrity, and as an environmentalist.*

# 60

**BHAVNA MENON**



*A psychology graduate with a postgraduate degree in journalism, Bhavna' has been a Programme Manager at the Last Wilderness Foundation for the last 13 years. Her focus is on human-wildlife conflict mitigation and the creation of alternative sources of livelihood.*

To submit articles or photographs, read the terms and guidelines [here](#) (we cannot accept responsibility for unsolicited material). Reproduction in whole or part, electronically or in print, without prior permission of the publisher is strictly prohibited. For back issues, contact [suscriptions@sanctuaryasia.com](mailto:suscriptions@sanctuaryasia.com).

**Issued in the interest of wildlife**

[www.dspim.com](http://www.dspim.com)



# 72

**SHASHANK BIRLA**

*A naturalist, photojournalist and film-maker, he is the founder of Wilderlust Expeditions LLP, which organises hosted safari experiences in India and Africa.*

## On the cover

In the Central Zone of the Kaziranga National Park, a highly distressed rhinoceros *Rhinoceros unicornis* charges straight towards the safely distanced photographer's vehicle (not seen in the image), stopping dangerously close. A horde of tourists in jeeps carried on their cacophonous chatter, unaware of their effect on this magnificent pachyderm. The scene brings to mind Friedensreich Hundertwasser's sage advice: "You are a guest of nature... behave!" – which ought to become a compass for tourists, tourist policy makers and tourism professionals. That is the door on which this issue of *Sanctuary* is knocking.



Photographer: Vikram Sathyanathan

## 24 Cover Story

**Rewilding India, One Parcel of Land at a Time** It is now clearer than ever that Nature Needs Half to give our planet a fighting chance to repair the damage we have inflicted on the biosphere. Tourism, when undertaken sustainably, strategically and thoughtfully, presents an economically viable, low-footprint, and high-impact solution to the urgent need to restore and rewild larger parcels of land. Francesca Cotta looks at five inspiring rewilding stories in India to learn how tourism and rewilding can positively intersect.

## NEWS

- 8 World Scan** Europe bans deep sea fishing; the clothing company Patagonia donates all shares to Earth; oil refinery threatens Nigerian forest reserve
- 9 India Scan** Assam's Gangetic river dolphin on the decline; no oil drilling in forests; 90 per cent mangroves lost in Katchal island; new gecko discovered in Tamil Nadu
- 10 Climate Watch** Greenland prioritises ecosystem over tourism; the climate crisis is shuffling travel itineraries; climate change strikes world's largest cotton producer; worst floods, drought disrupt Pakistan, China

## PHOTOFEATURE

- 12 Off the Tiger Trail** Our Protected Areas have become hotspots for tourists who consider their trips successful only if they spot a tiger. From butterflies of Arunachal to stunning tiny critters of the Western Ghats, in this photofeature,



12

- 64 How *Not* to be a Tourist** Responsible tourism demands that all players accept that protecting the integrity of the habitat and its wild denizens is in their own interests. With caution and awareness while travelling, we can protect nature, and ourselves. Check out some examples of what we do NOT need to see happening.

## PEOPLE

- 32 Meet Raj Basu** Bittu Sahgal and Lakshmy Raman speak about sustainable tourism with **Raj Basu**. Founder of Help Tourism, and Advisor to state governments in the East Himalayan and Indo-Burma border region, he has been quietly transforming one village at a time in east and Northeast India, Nepal, and Bhutan.