

# Sanctuary Asia

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**TRAVEL**

## TADOBA TALES

An eight-year-old's perspective on the park.

**CONSERVATION**

## BARRING NONE

The Centre for Wildlife Conservation and Rehabilitation rescues every wild animal in need.

**TAKE ACTION**

## WILDLIFE UNDERPASSES

Central Indian elephants deserve safe passage near NH6.

**PHOTOFEATURE**

## ODE TO LIFE

Life on earth is a symphony of shapes, colours and forms!

# Super-organism Earth

Our planet doesn't just host life, it's alive!

**ON THE COVER**

## The Asian Elephant

This gorgeous iconic megaherbivore was photographed in the Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand.

# CUB

FOR YOUNG READERS

# Barring None

**The effort to rescue every single animal in need is why the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation has saved close to 4,500 wild animals over two decades!** BY SHATAKSHI GAWADE

## Each individual counts

When Sudan, the last male northern white rhinoceros on Earth, died in 2018, hearts broke everywhere and brought attention to the plight of rhinos worldwide.

In Assam, India, 5,000 km. from Sudan's home, one organisation has been protecting wildlife like Sudan, one individual at a time, through its rescue, rehabilitation and emergency relief efforts for two decades! It is the Wildlife Trust of India's Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation in Panbari, near the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve.

## CWRC in Assam

The multi-species centre, established in August 2002, has rescued over 7,500 wild animals of 350 species such as rhinos, elephants, leopards, tigers, loris, birds and reptiles. It is a joint initiative of the Wildlife Trust of India, Assam Forest Department, and the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

Dr. Samshul Ali, project head and veterinarian at CWRC, believes the attention to saving and rehabilitating every single animal is why they have been successful. With about 66 per cent animals returned to the wild, CWRC has saved close to 4,500 of the rescued 7,500 wild animals! The centre is staffed with two vets, 12 animal keepers, a biologist and a communications officer.



SUBHAMOY BHATTACHARJEE/CWRC

Members of CWRC rescue a rhino calf stranded in floods in 2016. The greater one-horned rhino is grey-brown in colour and has skin folds, which give it an armoured appearance. It has one black horn, about 20-63 cm. long. It is endemic to parts of India and Nepal.

## No strings attached

Dr. Ali remembers every rescue he has conducted over the 10 years he has been with CWRC. His first was of two elephant siblings who were stuck on an island after they lost their mother. They brought the female calf to the centre, and successfully released her in the Manas National Park.

CWRC has a peculiar rule – they never name rescued animals. “We don’t want to be attached to the animal, and we don’t want them to be attached to us because we have to send them back into the wild,” he shares.

## Why more rescues?

Dr. Ali has observed that the number of rescues have increased. He says, “I think it is because people know CWRC and call us quickly.” Awareness is not the only reason. He believes people of Assam are compassionate, and they want animals to be safe. CWRC has rescued leopards and elephants from human habitation, and rarely has wildlife been killed. They have satellite stations around Assam for flood situations, which allows them to reach animals in danger in just 15 minutes!

To join CWRC, one needs to be a veterinarian, biologist, or wildlife photographer or documenter. The centre takes volunteers and interns who are above 18 years old.



MADHUMAY MALLIK/CWRC

A rescued elephant calf at CWRC in Assam.