



YOUR ADOPTION UPDATE

Tigers



STRIPY SURPRISE!

LATEST CAMERA TRAP IMAGES REVEAL
EXCITING NEWS ABOUT KALIKA

ALSO
INSIDE

SNIFFING OUT
WILDLIFE CRIMINALS

YOUR FIELD REPORT



COMPILED BY
MAYA YOGI OF THE KHATA
CORRIDOR PROJECT, WHICH
YOU SUPPORT



“KALIKA HAS RAISED HER CUBS WELL AND THEY’RE ALL FULL-GROWN AND INDEPENDENT, WHICH MEANS THEY COULD SOON MOVE AWAY TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN TERRITORIES”

Main: The magnificent fourth cub of Kalika

Inset far left: Male tiger T30 passes through the area marked by T12

Inset above: Kalika is still full of energy

Inset right: Shahipur Pothi with her cub beside her



STAYING VIGILANT



Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, you’ve supported crucial efforts to keep Khata corridor healthy and intact for tigers, other wildlife and people

We’ve been thrilled to discover that Kalika has more cubs than we thought – and she’s not the only mother in the corridor

Thankfully, our amazing citizen scientists have obtained permits to continue monitoring the tigers of Khata corridor through Covid-19 restrictions. We’re very grateful for their commitment and really thrilled at their latest camera trap findings, which show Kalika has successfully raised four cubs – not three as we previously thought!

CUB CLUES

We made this exciting discovery after carefully comparing the latest camera trap images of Kalika’s cubs with those from earlier surveys. By studying the unique stripe patterns on each tiger we were able to identify the fourth cub. Plus, we can now tell you that three cubs are female and one is male.

DID YOU KNOW?

TIGER URINE IS SAID TO SMELL A BIT LIKE BUTTERED POPCORN!



Kalika has raised her cubs well and they’re all full-grown and independent, which means they could soon move away to establish their own territories. The crucial monitoring work you support shows that some tigers, like Kalika, make the corridor their permanent home. We also know that others use it as a route between Bardia National Park in Nepal and Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary in India. We’ll have to wait and see whether Kalika’s youngsters stay or go. Meanwhile, there’s even more cub-tastic news to share with you about females Shahipur Pothi and Khairi Pothi.

TIGER TOTS

Footage from previous camera trap surveys showed Shahipur Pothi with just one cub. So you can imagine our surprise when we found new images of her with two! Both cubs are female and

are around seven to eight months old. Tiger cubs are usually weaned by this age, yet they’re still not old enough to catch their own prey. Shahipur Pothi’s two youngsters will remain reliant on her until they grow their permanent canine teeth at around 12-18 months old.

At just two to three months old, Khairi Pothi’s cubs are still suckling from her, and she’s being very protective towards them. She’s hiding them away as much as possible and, when the family does venture out, the cubs are sticking very close to her!

Mighty male tiger T12 was caught on camera too. In fact, he’s been roaming the corridor, sniffing out his fellow tigers and spraying a particular tree with urine to mark his territory. A week later, male tiger T30 inspected the same tree, so it appears that T12’s whiffy warning signal was still going strong. 🐾

IMAGES © WWF-NEPAL

The tigers you help protect share the corridor with hundreds of people, who depend on the forest for food, fresh water and firewood. With your support, we work with these local communities to help them manage forest resources sustainably. The pandemic makes our efforts all the more vital.

Unfortunately, during lockdown there have been reports of increased numbers of people illegally entering protected forests, as the pandemic has forced some to rely more on the forests for resources such as firewood and food. Our citizen scientists are helping with monitoring patrols and reporting any potentially illegal activities they find to local police, to help them protect the corridor.

Maya



Our citizen scientists showing camera trap photos to local police

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HONG KONG



CANINE CRIME FIGHTERS

THANKS TO YOU, THE RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE OF INDIAN RAILWAYS NOW HAS TWO SNIFFER DOG SQUADS TO HELP THEM FIGHT WILDLIFE CRIME

Rail is the most widely used form of transport in India. But it's also exploited by smugglers to traffic tiger parts and other illegal items across the country and into border areas. By supporting these 'super sniffers', you're helping to stop the wildlife criminals in their tracks.

DOGGED DETECTIVES

Two railway-based sniffer dog squads have been trained so far, as part of our pioneering programme with TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network. The four-legged friends and their handlers graduated in June this year, following a rigorous nine-month training programme you helped fund.

Not only can the dogs sniff out wildlife parts such as tiger bones, elephant ivory and bear bile, they can also detect live birds, snakes, turtles and other animals – helping to stem a wide range of trafficking. These intrepid super sniffers are now putting their crime-busting skills to good use on Indian Railways' northern and eastern networks. We think they'll do a grrreat job! 🐾



FROM PUPS TO PROFESSIONALS

Here's how playful young puppies become well-honed and disciplined wildlife sniffer dogs in less than a year

PHASE 1

At six to nine months old, the puppies begin building a trusting relationship with their handlers. They're taught to only accept food from their handlers and to follow the handlers' instructions, even in intense situations.

PHASE 2

This is when the young dogs learn and develop key skills such as scent identification, tracking, searching and sniffing out concealed wildlife products.

PHASE 3

Training continues in realistic settings, enabling the 'dog squads' to detect and seize illegal wildlife trade products as they would in normal working situations.

PHASE 4

At the end of the nine months, the dog squads undergo a series of tests to demonstrate their well-developed skills, before becoming fully-fledged super sniffers.



Sniffer dogs and their handlers (above) can play a big role in stamping out wildlife crime



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As well as helping to safeguard tigers,
your adoption supports our other vital work to help
protect our beautiful planet and its wildlife.

Thank you.



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