



## ABOUT WPSI

The WILDLIFE PROTECTION SOCIETY OF INDIA (WPSI) was established in 1994. The Founder and Executive Director is Belinda Wright, a renowned tiger conservationist and wildlife campaigner who has spent over 40 years working on wildlife issues in India. From its inception, the Society's primary aim has been to bring new focus and energy to tackling India's growing wildlife crisis.

WPSI does this by providing support and information to government authorities to combat poaching and the escalating illegal wildlife trade, particularly in wild tigers. Another major focus is human-animal conflict involving tigers, leopards and elephants, and the development of new conservation strategies. With a team of committed environmentalists, WPSI is one of the most respected and effective wildlife conservation organizations in India.

WPSI supports conservation projects on subjects as varied as human-elephant conflict, census techniques, and the protection of olive ridley sea turtles in Orissa. Site-specific projects include assistance in and around protected areas, including Sundarban, Simlipal, Bandhavgarh, Kanha, Pench, Tadoba, and Corbett Tiger Reserves.



*Tiger skin & bones seized by the Uttarakhand Police with WPSI's assistance on 15 May 2016*

In collaboration with state governments, tiger reserve managements and enforcement authorities WPSI has hosted more than 280 wildlife enforcement workshops throughout India and provided training to over 15,500 Forest, Police and Customs officers in 17 states. Copies of the Wild Life (Protection) Act and other resource material have been distributed to the workshop participants. A WPSI manual on wildlife crimes has also been given to every senior police officer in India by the country's premier enforcement agency, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Over the past 20 years, WPSI has pioneered investigations into wildlife crime and has been instrumental in the arrest of hundreds of wildlife criminals and the seizure of wildlife products. A countrywide network of WPSI field investigators provides a constant flow of information that is processed and used to assist enforcement authorities to curb poaching and wildlife trade.

A comprehensive database on wildlife crime that has been built up by WPSI since 1995, plays an important role in revealing the extent of poaching and trade in India of endangered species, such as the tiger, elephant, rhino, musk deer and bear. WPSI's wildlife crime database presently holds records of over 25,000 wildlife crime cases, along with details of over 19,000 wildlife criminals trading in more than 400 species.

Under its Legal Programme, WPSI has filed intervention petitions to support the prosecution of tiger-related poaching and trade cases, and cases involving other endangered species. WPSI also files public interest litigations on important conservation issues, including encroachment of protected areas.

### **Wildlife Protection Society of India**

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WPSI's publications include a book that covers all wildlife-related laws in India and a handbook titled "Wildlife Crime; An Enforcement Guide" (published in English and Hindi). The books have been distributed throughout India to enforcement authorities, state high courts, district courts, judges and lawyers. In 1997 a WPSI report, "Fashioned for Extinction; An Exposé of the Shahtoosh Trade", exposed the workings of the shahtoosh trade and its links with the trade in tiger parts.

In 2005 and 2006, WPSI and the UK-based Environmental Protection Agency (EIA) carried out a joint investigation into the tiger and leopard skin trade in the Tibet Autonomous Region and other provinces in China. Their findings revealed a hitherto unknown scale of illegal cross-border trade in Asian big cat skins. The results of the investigation and the condemnation of the trade sparked a massive movement in Tibet to stop the use of wild animal skins. In 2007, WPSI returned to China to document the two largest tiger breeding centres.

WPSI is a member of the *International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)*, the *Global Tiger Forum* and the *Species Survival Network (SSN)*. The Society is also a member of the *State Boards of Wildlife of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh*, a member of the *Uttar Pradesh Tiger Protection Samiti* and a former member of the *National Board for Wildlife (2007-2010)*, chaired by the Prime Minister. WPSI's Executive Director, Belinda Wright, is a member of the *State Wildlife Board of Rajasthan*, an *Honorary Wildlife Warden of NCT Delhi*, a member of the *IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group*, an Emeritus Director of the *International Crane Foundation*, and a Patron of the Indian Chapter of *The Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufacturers and Commerce (RSA)*. She was elected an *Ashoka Senior Fellow* in 2009. Belinda has received various awards for her wildlife conservation work, among them the *OBE* in June 2003, the *Carl Zeiss Wildlife Conservation Award* in 2005 and the *Sanctuary Lifetime Service Award* in November 2012. She received the prestigious *NDTV Indian of the Year 2015 Award* for her work in protecting tigers.

In addition to its projects and activities, WPSI is actively involved in virtually every major wildlife conservation issue in India and has been in the forefront of media campaigns to highlight the importance of wildlife protection. WPSI also constantly liaises with policy makers and international conservation agencies, particularly on issues concerning poaching and the illegal trade in wildlife products. WPSI's work has been featured by *National Geographic*, *BBC*, *CBS News' 60 Minutes*, and others.

WPSI is registered in India as a non-profit charity. The Society's conservation activities are generously funded by a number of national and international foundations, organisations, and individual donors.

WPSI publications include:

- *India's Tiger Poaching Crisis*
- *A God in Distress: Threats of Poaching and the Ivory Trade to the Asian Elephant*
- *Fashioned for Extinction: An Exposé of the Shahtoosh Trade*
- *Handbook of Environment, Forest and Wildlife Protection Laws in India*
- *Wildlife Crime: An Enforcement Guide* (English & Hindi)
- *Signed and Sealed: The Fate of the Asian Elephant*
- *The Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 – A Hand Guide With Case Law & Commentaries*
- *A Brief Guide to The Wild Life (Protection) Act* (several editions, English & Hindi)
- *The Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 - as Amended with effect from 3 Sept. 2006*
- *Warden Alert* (English & Hindi editions)
- *Monitoring Tigers in Ranthambhore using the Digital Pugmark Technique*
- *Skinning the Cat; Crime & Politics of the Big Cat Skin Trade* (with EIA)
- Videos include 'Bones of Contention', 'Birds of the Indian Monsoon' (in English & Hindi), '...And Then There Were None', and 'The Big Cat Skin Trade in Tibet' (with EIA)