

Radio-telemetry of the Indian Leopard in Gir Landscape

Gujarat has done commendable work for the conservation of Asiatic Lions and has achieved worldwide significant recognition. For the conservation of Asiatic Lions, the Government of Gujarat, Gujarat Forest Department, local communities and various organizations have always worked in harmony. Through the participation of more than 12 lakh citizens in the celebration of the 'World Lion Day' in five districts, Gujarat state has made a world record. As per the latest enumeration, 674 Asiatic Lions are distributed across the 30000 sq. km area of the Asiatic Lion Landscape, which is a matter of pride for each citizen.

The Indian Leopard, another important member of the cat family also found in the state of Gujarat. This species is quite shy and remains elusive. The lack of information about the Indian Leopard and its behavior more often results in human-wildlife conflict.

The Government of Gujarat is committed to the conservation of Asiatic Lions and all the other wildlife found in the state. Recently, Wildlife Division, Sasan-Gir, Gujarat had initiated a scientific research project under which two leopards have been radio-collared and release successfully in the Gir landscape. A total of five leopards will be radio-collared under this project. For this significant work, the radio-collars, specially designed for Indian Leopard have been procured and imported. These unique radio-collars are similar to the coat of the leopard and thus cat camouflaged with the body. The work is being completed by the qualified and experienced team of Wildlife Division, Sasan-Gir, Gujarat.

As per the objectives of this scientific research project minute observations will be kept on the movement of the radio-collared Indian Leopards. This work may help in collecting the lesser-known information about the species like its daily movement during the day and night, habitat preference, activity pattern, etc. The use of modern technology may reveal numerous hidden facts about this elusive big cat. Such information may provide scientific knowledge to mitigate human-wildlife conflict in the future.

The entire exercise was carried out under the direction and guidance of Shri Shyamal Tikadar, IFS, PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW, Gujarat State, Shri D.T. Vasavada, IFS, CCF Wildlife Circle, Junagadh, and supervision of Dr. Mohan Ram, IFS, DCF, Wildlife Division, Sasan-Gir, Gujarat. This work is being carried out by the team of veterinarians Dr. J. P. Desai, Dr. D.R. Kamani. And Dr. D. Ram. During the entire work, the collection of the scientific information and other documentation has been done by Mr. Karshan Wala and Lahar S. Jhala from the Wildlife Division, Sasan-Gir, Gujarat.

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Press Release

Images of the Radio-telemetry of the Indian Leopard in Gir


