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# 'Wildlife corridors essential to prevent inbreeding among tigers'

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**LUCKNOW:** Experts from the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) have emphasised on the need for wildlife corridors or green corridors connecting various natural habitats of tigers. This is essential to prevent inbreeding and genetic diseases in the big cat.

Addressing a press conference, WTI officials pointed out that wildlife corridors, which connected wildlife populations across human barriers like roads and buildings, allowed an exchange of individuals among a species, thus preventing the harmful effects of inbreeding and genetic diversity that occurred in isolated animal populations.

"There is a corridor between Dudhwa and Uttarakhand but it does not meet the requirement. A corridor for tiger needs to be more spacious and inclusive of preys than a corridor for elephants. This is because tigers tend to hide themselves," said NVK Ashraf, chief veterinarian of WTI.

WTI and Aircel are working on a tiger conservation project since the past two years to mitigate the negative impact of human-animal conflict in Uttar Pradesh. The Dudhwa tiger reserve has approximately 115 tigers and falls in Tarai region.

"Our project in Dudhwa is the single project in India that aims to address human-animal conflict,"

## DISAPPOINTING DAY FOR FORESTERS

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**KANPUR:** Even as the foresters were positive of trapping the prowling tiger by Friday night, the big cat belied their expectations and remained elusive as ever on Saturday.

The wild animal did not come out of its hiding place in search of prey, as was being anticipated, much to the chagrin of the officials on the lookout for it.

Divisional forest officer Ram Kumar said, "Though the tiger has changed its location from Kaluagaon, it is still within three kilometres of the forest area surrounded by the villages of Kanhapurva, Dudhvakhara and Paharipur."



PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

The entire area has been put under surveillance and experts, including some on elephants' backs, are combing the area.

"Going by the directives of the government, we will first try to trap the tiger in the cage prepared for the purpose. But in case it does not enter, we will have to look for alternatives," Kumar added.

said Brinda Malhotra of Aircel, adding that equipping frontline forest staff to effectively patrol the park was critical for the survival of tigers.

The long-term tiger conservation goal includes creating awareness among locals to enable peaceful conflict resolution, creating sustainable models of conflict mitigations in the state and expediting project implementation.

➤ A CORRIDOR FOR TIGER NEEDS TO BE MORE SPACIOUS AND INCLUSIVE OF PREYS... BECAUSE TIGERS TEND TO HIDE THEMSELVES

NVK ASHRAF, chief veterinarian, WTI