

24<sup>rd</sup> February 2013

Bhushan H. Sethi  
60 Jared Drive  
North Brunswick,  
NJ 08902, U.S.A.  
Ph: +1.732.636.2953

**To:**, The Chief WildLife Warden, Rajasthan

**Re: Helping Relocation efforts at Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan**

Dear Sir,

At the outset I extend my heartfelt greetings and commend your initiatives underway to safeguard Rajasthan's environment and forests. To offer a quick introduction, I am a corporate executive based in the United States and a strong conservation supporter and catalyst. I have travelled extensively across most of the North American, African and Indian landscapes and built a personal initiative to help understand and support the green initiatives and wildlife.

In India specifically, over the past three years, I have been involved with the ground level initiatives and village relocation undertaken by the Rajasthan Forest department at RTR towards habitat development under Project Tiger. While this has provided many insights into the challenges our habitats face due to anthropogenic pressures, it has also offered me perspectives into challenges faced by the wildlife itself towards their sustenance. My regular visits, association and involvement with this work have given me unique perspectives of life in the semi-arid terrain of Rajasthan for man and animal alike. Even though the core N.P. habitat extends over an area of about 400 sq. km. namely Ranthambhore National Park (RNP), the greater CTH extends beyond RNP including the Sawai Mansingh Sanctuary, Sawai Madhopur Sanctuary, KelaDevi Sanctuary and Qualji Reserve forest totaling about 1100 sq. km. I further understand that there is a long term plan to create a larger 5000 sq.km. bio-sphere from RTR up to Ramgadh Bisdhari Sanctuary & Darra, encompassing a lot of the surrounding areas for the green cause. I commend all such initiatives and look forward to supporting your government over the coming years.

To offer a quick update on the relocation work so far, over the past three (3) years the Rajasthan Forest Department's RTR staff and the Sawai Madhopur District Administration have been overseeing relocation of approximately 1364 families across 8 villages under Phase I (Kalibhat, Hindwar, Mordungri, Bheed, Kathuli, Paddada, Indala & Mundhredi). I understand that about 70% of this initiative is nearing completion. The key success factor to this initiative is completion of the remaining 30% in a timely manner such that all loose ends are tied. I understand the last disbursement monies for the work has arrived from the NTCA. Further it is imperative that nothing gets left to chance that will jeopardize the good efforts of your government and forest department's efforts for the future of the green initiatives at RTR. The areas of land surrendered to the government have to be brought under the greening program and checks put in against re-encroachment. Especially Sawai Mansingh Sanctuary's revival is

critical to Project Tiger at RTR since this is the first overflow space for tigers growing up in the core area and there have been ten litters this past year alone and at least 26 cubs – all these need an inviolate space to move into if we have to sustain healthy tiger populations. The relocation of villages under phase-I is providing precisely this. ***I feel this initiative needs to be strengthened many fold and hence my letter.***

Per my experience I want to emphasize that the role taken up the RFD staff working on relocation is very involved, not only limited to the forest work but hand holding of villagers through various stages of moving out, information sharing time and again, working with the revenue department and collector's offices to ease out a lot of nitty-gritty and details – it's amazing team work that is required. **To further strengthen this work/initiative going forward, I think it will be worthwhile to join the State's Relocation Committee to share experiences from my global wildlife experiences to further strengthen your efforts. After spending the past 3 years on the ground in Ranthambhore I would like to add valuable insights in addition with my global management experience. I would also encourage representation from other experienced officers from the District Administration and Forest Department alike. I am very keen to see this activity strengthen many fold via participation.** As is evident, this relocation effort plays a *very critical role* for conservation as this is the main activity that helps to add to the inviolate space. I therefore write this letter in good faith and as a friend and well-wisher of Rajasthan Forest Department. **I would therefore appreciate if we can represent in your periodic State Relocation committee meetings.**

Please do the needful and oblige. Thanking you in advance for all your help in the matter. Do not hesitate to contact me at [bsethi@gmail.com](mailto:bsethi@gmail.com) / +91 98330 56346 / +1.732.636.2953.

Yours Sincerely,

Bhushan H. Sethi

Cc: Mr. UM Sahai, PCCF & HOFF  
Mr. P.S. Somasekar, CCF-Wildlife, RFD.