

LIFEFORCE REPORT 2010

INTRODUCTION

Regular readers will be aware that, having fully funded the 'Employment Cell' project for its initial three years, the future of the project came into question as the third year (2009) passed and funds were largely exhausted. As the project has been so successful and addresses all the immediate threats to tigers, great efforts were made to keep the project going. Due mainly to the efforts of LifeForce's partner, the Satpuda Foundation, this has happened, albeit on a more modest scale than previously. LifeForce was also able to make further, but also modest, contributions and, all together, the following has been achieved.

CONSERVATION WORK

During 2010, 31 individuals have been trained and placed in employment (as, for examples, security guards, hotel workers, manual labourers and road toll collectors). In addition, a slightly higher number of people received skills training to enable them to rear rabbits, silk worms and poultry, keep bees and make items from lantana. In conjunction with this, the education programmes (to literally thousands of people) emphasising the importance of conservation, and the health camps for tribal people, have also continued, as has training in organic farming, and conservation work such as fire-fighting, patrolling and cleaning of water holes, and the implementation of water conservation strategies.



Conservation Officer Anoop Awasthi introduces a lantana training programme



made from lantana: hangers, hair clips / pins
and chairs



Whilst conservation strategies in the forests continue, various major threats to the remaining natural environment, principally from the coal and (other) mining industries, dramatically increased during 2010 and have continued into 2011. Attempts to challenge them will be covered in the next report.

Although much time and energy is associated with trying to deal with these issues there is not, as yet, a great deal to report on them and this relatively slender report does not reflect the time and effort of LF and/or Satpuda Foundation personnel which has been taken by these issues. Nor does this report reflect the time and effort spent on the subject of the next sub-section...

THE LARGER LIFE FORCE

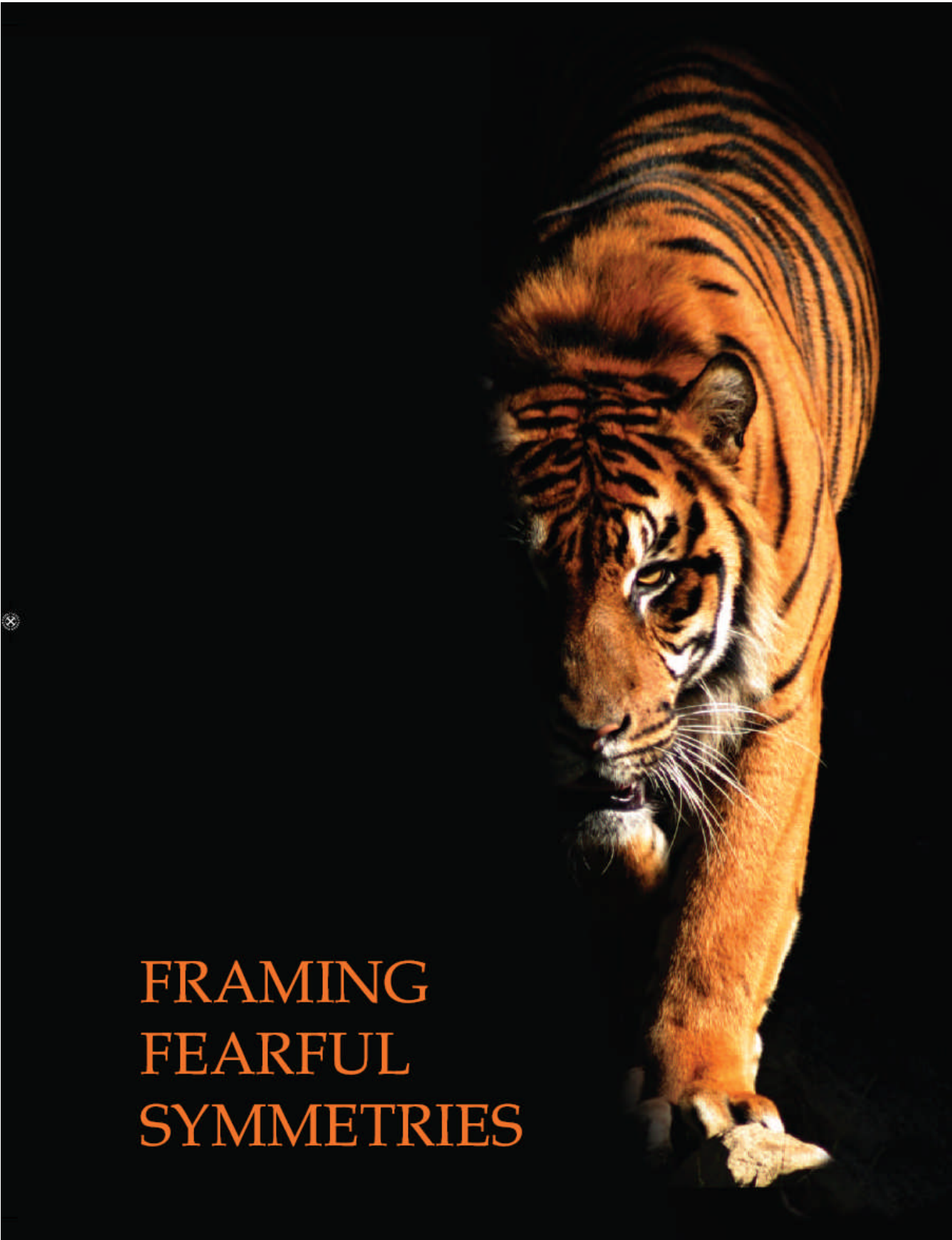
Distribution of this report was held back until a date for the availability of the book (mentioned in the previous report) was known. If all goes to plan, the book, entitled 'Framing Fearful Symmetries' will be available during late November (2011). It is hoped that LifeForce members may not only be interested in obtaining a copy for themselves but also be able to sell at least one copy. The book is a large hardback (270 x 200 mm - or approx. 9½ x 8 ins. in 'old money'!) with spine sewn and glued, printed on acid-free paper (pages will not yellow or brown with age) and all, of course (!), sourced from sustainable plantations. It considers the tiger crisis in particular and the environmental crisis in general and suggests reasons and solutions for both that are still available to us as individuals. It also considers the meaning of our individual lives in the context of nature and, in doing so, includes many and varied perspectives such as those of literature, poetry, science, religion, philosophy...and dear old common sense - so often neglected in today's hi-tech world. This variety (hopefully) adds much of interest to the book, which also contains many colour illustrations, diagrams and maps. It would make an ideal Christmas present, priced at £30.00 + p&p.

(For those of you who do not have a copy of the 2009 report to hand, a couple of sections relating to this book are repeated here):

Whilst all proceeds will go to LifeForce, and the author has made no charge for writing it, the price of £30.00 does not guarantee profits for LifeForce. The costs of production, in addition to the commission taken by retailers (50 – 60% of the cover price) mean that it is possible it could make a loss. To minimise this possibility, please purchase any copies you are able to, directly from LifeForce through which no commission will be charged. To keep sales and distribution as simple and streamlined as possible (the website (www.lifeforceindia.com) will also be advertising the book), all sales must take place via an email order to lifeforcelink@hotmail.com and (preferably) a bank transfer of funds via the Internet (LifeForce sort code 08-92-50 account number 65031742) or via the credit / debit card facility on the website (this method also requires the purchaser to send an email order to distinguish the payment from a donation. It will also be subject to a small commission charge). We apologise to members who do not have direct access to the Internet and request they ask a friend or relative who does, to order on their behalf. The next best source (at 15% commission) will be the publishers: Matador, 9 Priory Business Park, Wistow Road, Kibworth Beauchamp, Leicestershire LE8 0RX. Tel: 0116 279 2299 email:matador@troubador.co.uk. It should also be available through larger retailers but their level of commission explains why sales through the two sources just referred to are preferable.

If profits are far from guaranteed, why has it been written? The best answer to this question is to read it! Members will know that LifeForce work has never been about financial profits but finding solutions to our collective environmental predicament - and this is also the book's main purpose. In addition, it offers readers views of life extending far beyond conservation and environmental issues and some readers may discover new ways of assessing their lives, values and priorities. As the world will only be healed by each person's healthy contributions, this book tries to illustrate, from many perspectives, the importance of individuals' positive peaceful actions, both practically and spiritually. Finally, if any lift to the LifeForce profile results, and LifeForce still exists to utilise it, it will have been achieved by a means of communication LF believes is 'healthy' i.e. not via the media.

A copy of the cover and Introduction follow:



FRAMING
FEARFUL
SYMMETRIES

INTRODUCTION

Whilst this book includes scientific information about tigers and suggests innovative techniques for their conservation, its tigers roam far beyond physical jungles, and the reader is invited to track these tigers through personal, psychological and philosophical terrain. This book does not cover the standard 'tiger topics' of geographical distribution, life-history, size and weight, fossils, art and advertising etc. – assuming the reader interested in tigers has access to this information many times over.

Perhaps 'interested in tigers' sounds too tepid – tigers are usually associated with higher temperatures and burn brightly beyond Blake's forests of the night. Finding the exact words to describe your reaction to, or the impression made by a tiger, might be difficult and, even if found, they probably can't quite capture the tiger, or your feelings. For now 'passion for' might be preferable to 'interest in'.

Yet, passion cannot be seen from a scientific perspective and you might see a tiger in terms of biology, ecology and genetics, and what some scientists see as a refined product of aeons of evolutionary blindness and natural selection.

You possibly stand somewhere between the romantic and the scientist, somewhere between mysticism and reason, recognising functionality at the same time as aesthetic beauty and sensing something of mystery and unanswered questions. Even from a purely romantic viewpoint, you may still see ecological connections and the tiger's role in a greater scheme while, at the other extreme, a scientific view might see something silently challenging any claim that a tiger can only be form and function.

All these views can be seen from trails leading through the following chapters. Some of our questions and the difficulties we have defining our reactions to a tiger, might be answered or resolved along the way. However, complementing these, you might find that we can learn as much from questions that remain unanswered, such as those of William Blake's. Poems in addition to Blake's have relevance for our journey and, rather than relegate apt verses of poetry to decorate chapter headings, they feature in the text where they convey meanings more effectively than prose.

From wherever you view the tiger, there should be something in this book to interest you and, perhaps, something tempting you to try another viewpoint. For readers wanting to read about tiger biology, chapter II offers content which, to this author's knowledge, has not been published before, and should therefore be of fresh interest. Readers not particularly interested in tiger biology could omit most of chapter II, picking up at subsection 'Notes on Innate v. Reasoned Behaviour'. Jim Corbett is the main topic of chapter III, and we rest at his place for a while, taking a break from the exclusive rule of reason. This marks the mid-point of our journey and from there onward we consider points of view not completely constrained by logic and reason - without dismissing those that are.

In chapter IV we look into some of nature's mysterious mirrors and in Chapter V learn of conservation programmes and their importance for us all. However, trying to halt and reverse the decline of tigers, or any other species, without addressing our other environmental problems is of limited value or a waste of time, comparable to trying to save a leaf on a tree while the trunk is being sawn through. Although there seems to be an endless array of problems to address (environmentally and otherwise) many of them, when examined, do reveal common connections. In terms of the analogy just used; tracing sufficient 'leaves' backward leads us to branches, boughs and then a trunk. These interconnections cover a wide breadth of topics, not allowing an in-depth analysis of any particular one. Hence, experts on 'leaves and branches' may note much that is missing or mistaken but, hopefully, the main connections are illustrated clearly enough for readers to make their own investigations and subsequently fill in and correct as necessary.

Examination reveals many of our problems to be as old as humanity. However, unlike previous generations, the scale of these problems is now global and critical and, as we have nowhere else to go, we need to finally address them and do so without further delay. Although the most important of the solutions are of equal vintage, the suggestions presented here offer some fresh perspectives and, if these new labels on old bottles prove appealing and prompt an active response, their contents will bring benefits to the tiger, the environment, and the reader.

END OF BOOK PREVIEW

As LifeForce is paying for the printing costs, only a limited number of copies are being printed - so, as they say, 'order early to avoid disappointment'!!! Wishing every member a healthy Christmas and New Year.