

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I
took the one less travelled by, and
that has made all the difference.

-- Robert Frost

POWERED BY
Google™

FINANCIAL Chronicle ePaper

11:16PM Monday December 16, 2013

[Home](#) [My Money](#) [My Stocks](#) [My Brands](#) [My World](#) [My Space](#) [My Mind](#) [None of My Business](#) [Community](#) [Interviews](#) [Gallery](#) [Mobile App](#)

[Login](#) [Register](#)

You are here » [Home](#) » [FC Know](#)

Catch 22

By Kumar Kakumanu Dec 16 2013

Tags: Knowledge

It is true that man-eating tigers are a menace, but they exist because we usurped their habitat. Human-animal conflict mismanagement only escalates the problem

Tension and fear ruled in Bandipur last week because of a man-eating tiger. Local anger was understandable because some lost family members to the tiger. While it is necessary to be sensitive to the feelings of the victims' families, it is also important to understand how human-animal conflict mismanagement has resulted in such scenarios time and again. After all, shooting the animal will not guarantee that there will not be another man-eater in the future.

Now that the tiger has been captured and the pressure decreased, the need of the moment is to address real issues and causes. If not, people will tend to paint tigers as 'evil' creatures, which will be counter-productive to the conservation cause. For one, without public support it is not possible to conserve wildlife.

True, in Bandipur the tiger attacked four unfortunate humans. But it is a culmination of a series of lapses over a long period of time, all of which are human. Under natural conditions, an injured tiger would have died of starvation inside a forest and not resorted to attacking humans. But thanks to our system of governance, the conditions in our forest fringe areas are far from natural and the incident points to the failure of the system to manage human-animal conflict issues.

The human-animal conflict issue needs to be managed like any other major risk in a professional and scientific manner. The potential risks need to be identified, assessed, monitored and appropriate control measures have to be put in place for risk mitigation and prevention. Along with an overall risk management plan that focuses on risk prevention of human-animal conflicts, there also needs to be a system for incident handling, if and when incidents occur. This plan should deal with mitigation and containment of the impacts of such an event with clear escalation procedures and associated trigger conditions.

A number of factors point to human error in the Bandipur incident. The lack of risk preventive measures is clearly a contributing factor. First off, it should be noted that the tiger had not entered villages and killed people. It killed people inside the forest area. A related question then is why is cattle grazing or NTFP collection allowed in forests with tigers. If cattle are banned from grazing inside the forest, then why is there no enforcement of this ban? Fencing the forest areas bordering the villages needs to be seriously considered.

Though sustainability is a popular buzzword in urban development, there is a complete lack of it in the forest fringes. There was no emphasis on alternate livelihood options and sustainable development of the people living in the forest fringes.

Also, without a pre-defined objective criteria for decision-making and a formal incident management plan, there is an increased chance of reactive decisions that may cost lives in the already high pressure human-animal conflict situations. In this particular case, after the search operation was

MORE FROM FC KNOW

Stay ahead of the game
Creating value across the supply chain
Best of both worlds
Don't worry, be happy
How smart is that!

RELATED VIDEO



YC
DeveshwarITC
Group
Sep 22, 2012



Sanjay, Fincorp
Aug 06, 2012



Ganesh, Dell
India
Jul 31, 2012



Ajoyendra, TCS
Jul 31, 2012



Matangi, BP
Singapore Pte Ltd
Jul 31, 2012

FC SUPPLEMENTS



Ethics and leadership
you're hired
Keep cyberthieves at arm's length

[FC Invest](#) | [FC Build](#) | [FC Roar](#)

- 22:55 WPI inflation hits 14-month high at 7.52%
- 22:55 Glaxo makes \$1b open offer to raise stake in pharma arm
- 22:55 Lt-governor for president's rule in Delhi
- 22:55 Taper fear spooks market, but IT counter gets a high
- 22:49 Gold fund assets tank 31% as safe haven appeal wanes
- 22:49 MFs pull out Rs 13,721 cr from stocks in '13 so far
- 09:47 Sensex down 56 points, WPI data raises rate hike risk
- 10:33 Rupee lower ahead of key WPI data
- 09:41 GSK to spend \$1 billion to raise stake in Indian unit
- 16:56 Investment professionals optimistic on Indian economy
- 12:36 Headline inflation surges to 14 month high of 7.52 pc
- 12:01 Indian units of global companies gain after GSK open offer

- 22:28 Top bankers hail work of outgoing RBI chief
- 20:23 China steals the show at BRICS summit
- 23:14 Beware of the nameless citizen
- 23:50 Farewell, friends
- 23:43 A Lifetime's Achievement
- 23:35 Maker of Modern India

EDITORIAL OF THE DAY

Entry load

If it does make a re-entry, it must do so in an innovative form
Entryload in the Indian mutual fund industry is an issue that refuses to die.
more...

[PREVIOUS EDITORIALS](#)

FC NEWSLETTER

Stay informed on our latest news!

E-mail: *

[Sign Up](#)

called off, not only did the tiger kill another innocent villager, but the death also forced the officials to hit the panic button and issue a shoot-at-sight order.

This also has the obvious side effect of ruling out less extreme and more humane options such as containment of the impact of the incident and defined escalation procedures. The last three innocent human deaths could have been avoided, if, immediately after the first victim's death, there were awareness campaigns in the villages with clear warnings not to enter the forest till the incident is handled.

The tiger was captured after firing 72 rounds of tranquilisers/shots according to newspaper reports. , this was a man-eating tiger and field conditions made things difficult. Nevertheless, 72 rounds are a bit too much. Obviously, people need to be given specialised training to deal with these types of situations. The tiger, after capture, was also found with multiple porcupine quills lodged in its neck and body. Besides, the tiger had further injured itself by struggling violently in the confined space, by biting the iron cage and damaging its canines. This was after it was transported to the treatment centre and regained consciousness. Though it is commendable that the tiger was captured and not killed, it still makes us wonder if there is no better way to deal with an injured wild tiger. This reiterates the need for a planned and tested incident handling mechanism.

The solutions to human-animal conflict issues are complex and very debatable. The society needs to take responsibility for the unfortunate deaths of the innocent villagers as well as the consequent demonisation of the tiger. In a country of billion plus people and with only about 1,500 wild tigers left, the tigers don't stand a chance unless we are willing to find better ways to share the planet with them. With incidents such as this, we need to rethink about our rights, responsibilities and relationships with nature. zz

(The writer is director

of TigerFirst)

junglee.com

50% OFF
on Sarees & Kurtas

Visit Now

Financial Chronicle on Facebook

Follow us on

Inspired by the 7 promises forged over fire

View collection

Click Here

azva.
It's your seven

INTERVIEWS

GV Nageswara Rao
MD & CEO, IDBI Federal Life

Timothy Moe
Goldman Sachs

Chander Mohan Sethi
CMD, Reckitt Benckiser India

COLUMNIST

Richard Rekhy
Time to embrace winds of change
"I am fundamentally an optimist. Whether that comes from nature ..."

Kuruville Pandikattu SJ
Idleness may be the ideal sometimes
Our struggle against the clock is ancient. As far back ...

Gautam Gupta
The gloomy state of Indian handlooms
A few months ago, I had written about the need ...

INTERVIEWS

William D. Green
Chairman & CEO, Accenture

BOOKMARK EMAIL PRINT

0 comments [Post your Comment](#)

Post new comment

Your name: *

E-mail ID: *
E-mail ID will not be published

Comment: *

CAPTCHA

This question is for testing whether you are a human visitor and to prevent automated spam submissions.

Smoking Kills!!!



Type the **Blue** word from the above image

Type Here:

affinity

Home

- About us
- Ethics Code
- Contact us

My Money

- Mutual Funds
- Insurance
- Banking
- Real Estate
- Currency

My Stocks

- Stock Market
- Sectoral Watch
- Technical Analysis
- Derivatives
- Commodities

My Brands

- Companies
- Retail
- Advertising
- Products
- Consumer

My World

- Economy
- Policy
- Politics
- Governance
- Society

My Space

- Careers
- Opportunities
- Knowledge
- Technology
- Enterprises

My Mind

- Opinion
- News Analysis
- Editorial
- Leisure Writing
- Debate

None of My Business

- Art and Culture
- Fashion and Style
- Sports
- Food
- Travel

Community

- Blog
- Forum

Interviews

- GV Nageswara Rao
- Timothy Moe
- Chander Mohan Sethi

Video Gallery

- My Money
- My Stocks
- My Brands
- My World
- My Space
- My Mind
- None of My Business

Newsletter

- Subscribe