

Co-production efforts for establishing a Planetary Health Interpretation Center in Pakke Tiger Reserve: a multidisciplinary and participatory approach

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We highlight the co-production efforts undertaken to establish a Planetary Health Interpretation Center in Pakke Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh in Northeast India. Here, we integrate intersectoral approaches inspired by One-Health and planetary health principles through collaborating with experts across disciplines (public health, forestry, and veterinary care). Previous studies conducted in Pakke Tiger Reserve revealed a high prevalence of malaria among forest guards, leading to a significant disease burden and decreased park management efficiency. These findings influenced the development of a ten-year tiger conservation plan, emphasizing the need for health contingencies for anti-poaching staff. Subsequent research focused on noncommunicable disease risk factors and social inequality patterns, highlighting the importance of site-specific data collection. We outline our process, including interactions with stakeholders through interviews, focus group discussions, and virtual addas (huddles/ meetings during pandemic times). The engagement with stakeholders is categorized into research, field-level, and communication groups, and we describe the involvement of Abstract various stakeholders, such as researchers, doctors, forest department staff, artists, designers, and filmmakers, as well as local communities in this One Health approach. We also highlight the creative contributions of artists from Arunachal Pradesh in creating a community map and a filmmaker living around the tiger reserve, documenting their lens in understanding human and natural world linkages and the challenges faced by communities in the area. Overall, our work will provide a process-driven understanding of the multidisciplinary and participatory approach employed in.... establishing the Planetary Health Interpretation Center in Pakke Tiger Reserve, in the Eastern Himalayan Global Biodiversity Hotspot.

Dr Nandini Velho, an ORA India Fellow and Adjunct faculty member at the Institute of Public Health Bengaluru, initiated and currently leads Canopy Collective. As a wildlife biologist, she has a decade of field experience, a PhD from James Cook University, Australia, postdoctoral experience at the Earth Institute, Columbia University, and previous faculty roles at Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design and Technology. She founded Canopy Collective. This multidisciplinary group comprises scientists, storytellers, and practitioners dedicated to addressing the science and educational needs of forest departments and indigenous communities in northeast India. This initiative involved collaboration with DBT Wellcome Trust India Alliance and other partners to establish one of the first Planetary Health Interpretation Centers in India, situated at the Pakke Tiger Reserve. Dr Velho led a team of experts from various disciplines, including public health, forestry, wildlife, and veterinary care, in integrating One Health principles on the ground.

