

Human-Wildlife Conflicts: Animals, Humans & the question of 'And' & 'Or'

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Anil Agarwal Dialogue 2019: Annual Media Conclave

12th February 2019



India's Conservation Achievements

- Very commendable but a mixed record
- Species: Charismatic **vs** not so charismatic
- Habitats: Tall and moist forests **vs** the Rest
- Ecosystem functions, Habitat contiguity & quality, Geographical scale, Time scale
- Inclusion of local communities
- Application of science both in management and in monitoring
- Lack of transparency

India's Conservation Achievements

- Focus more on the fate of individual animals and population growth, rather than on taking a habitat-based long-term view
- Human costs of conservation – Relocation
- Following the law
- Ethical framework
- Development and then conservation
- We can do better





Introduction

- Conflicts - Not all are easy to recognise
- Attitudes, mind set
- Fear, constraints in activities
- Physical conflict (crop damage, livestock predation, property damage, human injuries and death)
- Constraints in access to wildlife habitats
- Nature of relationship between local communities and management authorities

Introduction

- Conflict is not new: State policies; acute due to complete lack of local agency
- Tolerance, acceptance, co-existence
- Species – lions, leopards, tigers, snow leopards, elephants, wild pigs, nilgai, blackbuck, peafowl, parakeets, monkeys, crocodile, snakes.....
- Impact of urban lifestyles, climate change and more distant events on the local ecology and the resulting drivers of conflict.

Introduction

- Mitigation
- Removal of the animal - Driving the animals
- Capture and relocation – Lethal options
- Physical barriers - Impacts
- Compensation payments
- Insurance schemes
- Behaviour – People and animals
- Proactive policies and partnerships















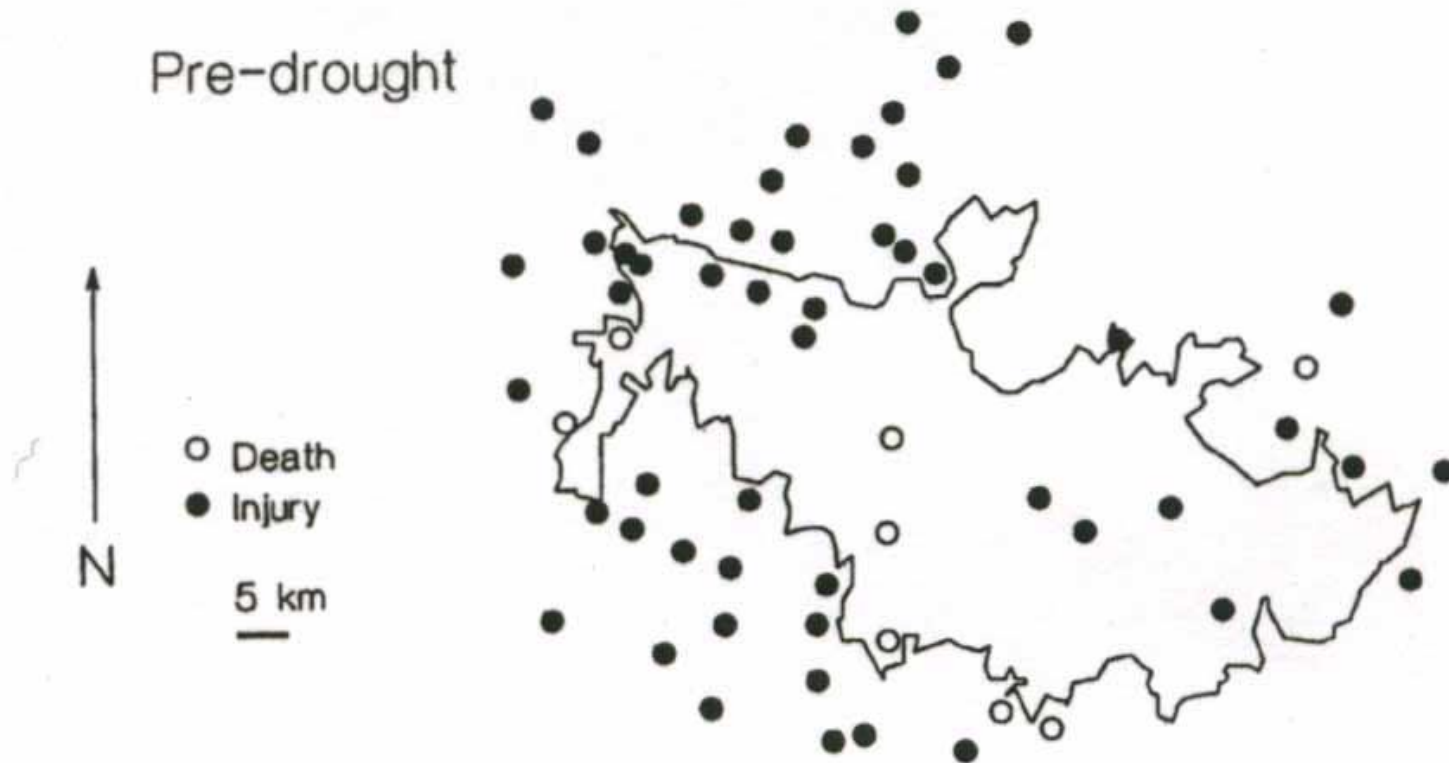
- Lion-human conflict in the Gir Forest, India, V.K. Saberwal, J.P. Gibbs, R. Chellam, A.J.T. Johnsingh (1994) Conservation Biology 8(2) 501-507

- 1978-91 – 193 attacks 14.8/year – 28 people died 2.2/year (14.5% of the attacks)
- 1987-88 very severe drought
- Pre-drought 7.3 attacks/yr 0.8 deaths/yr
- Post drought 40 attacks/yr 6.7 deaths/yr
- 7 of the 20 corpses were fed on by lions

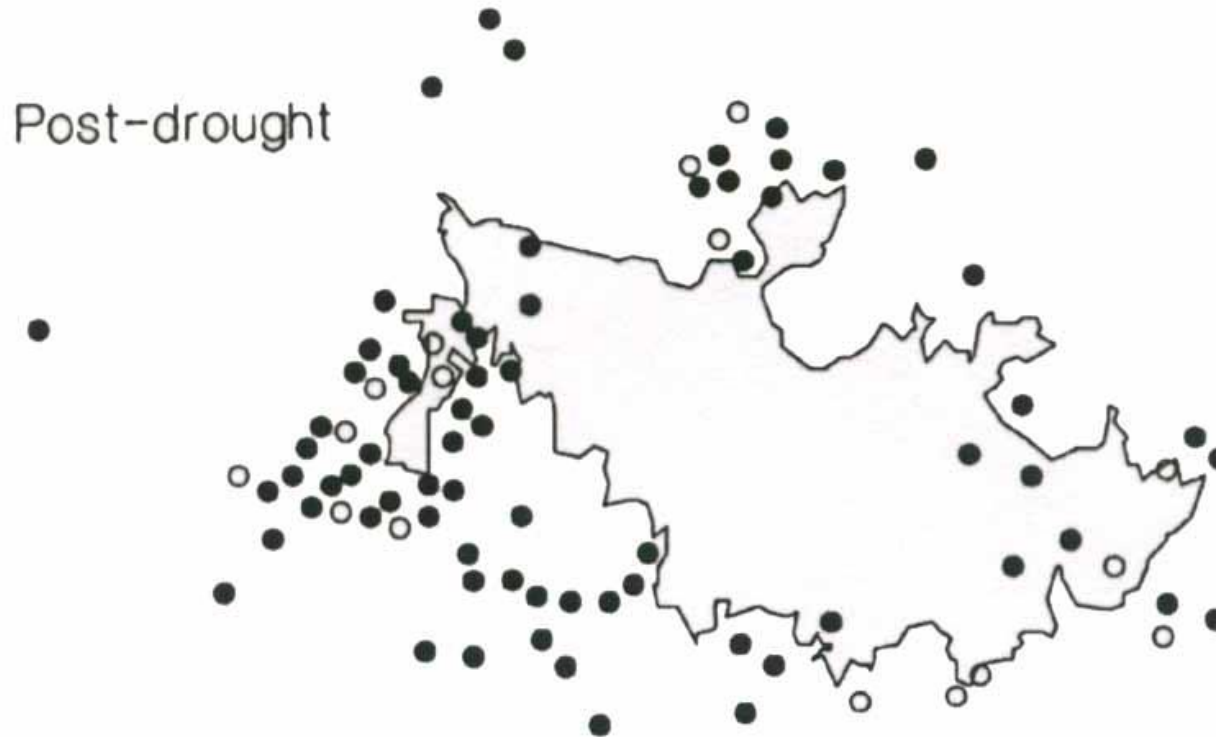
- High seasonality recorded in two (1988 & 89) of the three years of this problem – monsoon
- 82% of the attacks outside PA
- 50% < 9.5 km
- 75% < 18.5 km
- 95% < 32 km
- 100% < 73 km Median 9.7 km

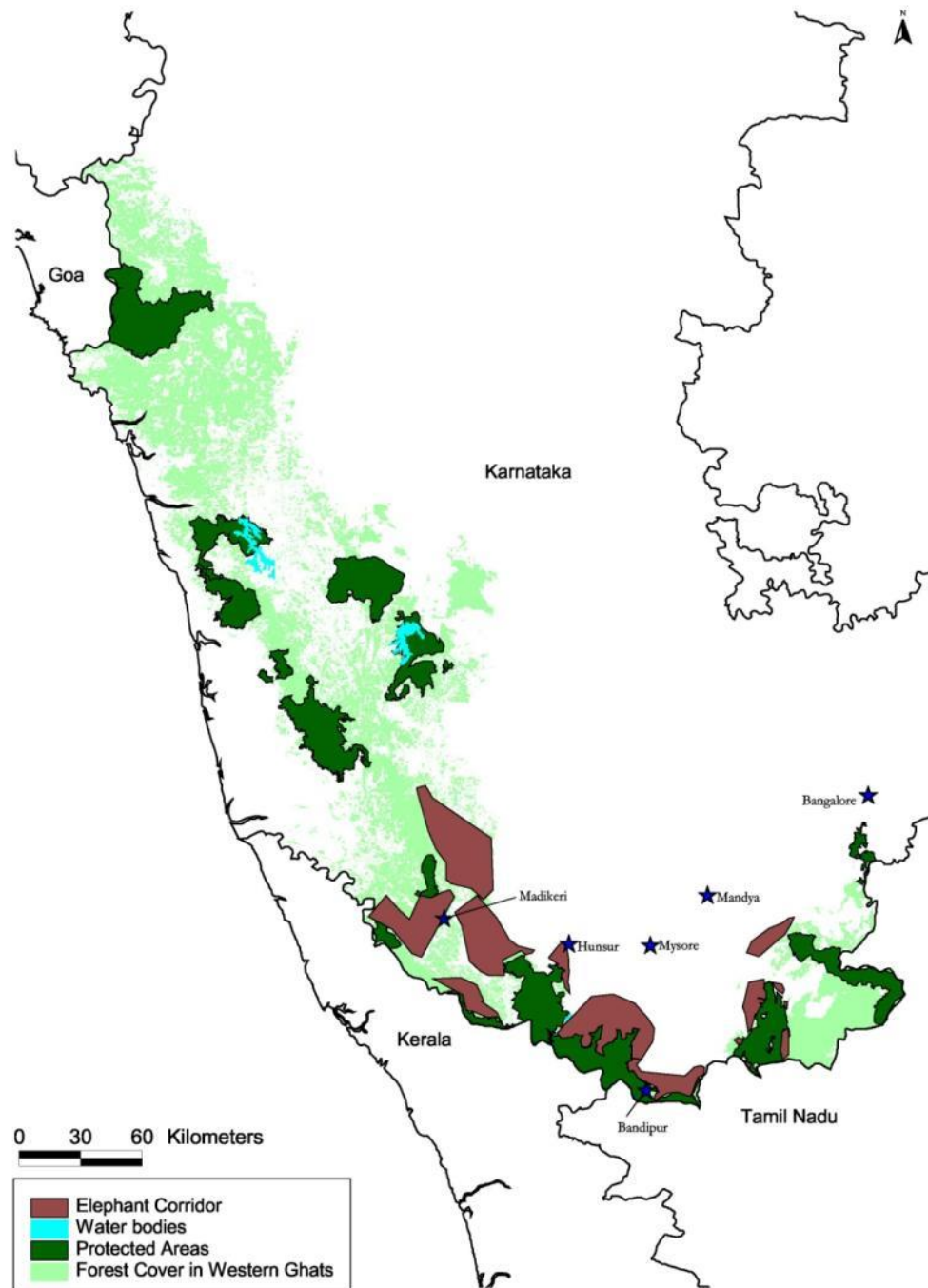
- Pre-drought spatial distribution of attacks was random
- Post-drought clustered in areas with greater PA and non-PA edge
- Closer to former lion baiting sites
- These two factors independently contributed to the observed spatial pattern

Spatial pattern of lion attacks- pre-drought

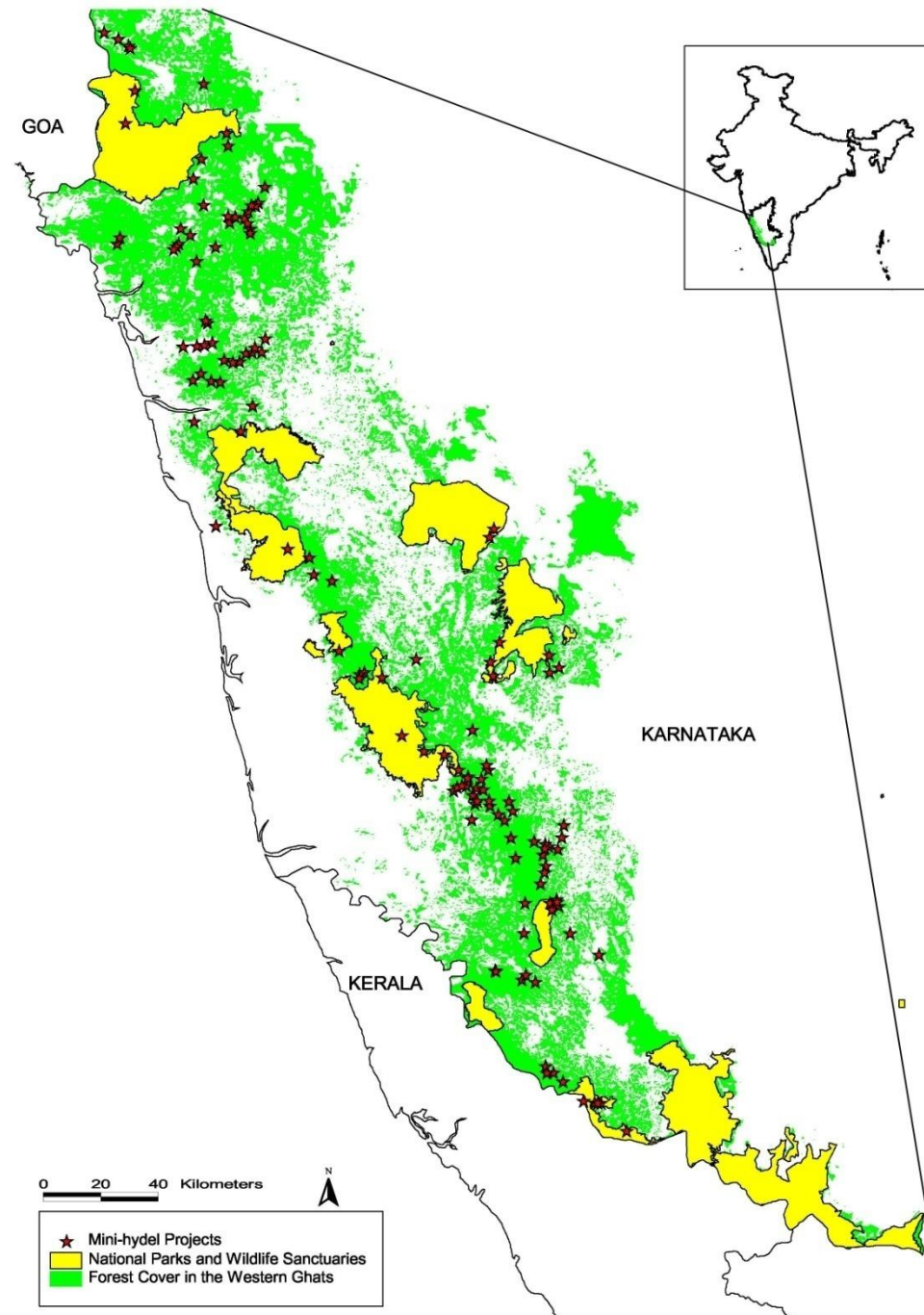


Spatial pattern of lion attacks- post-drought

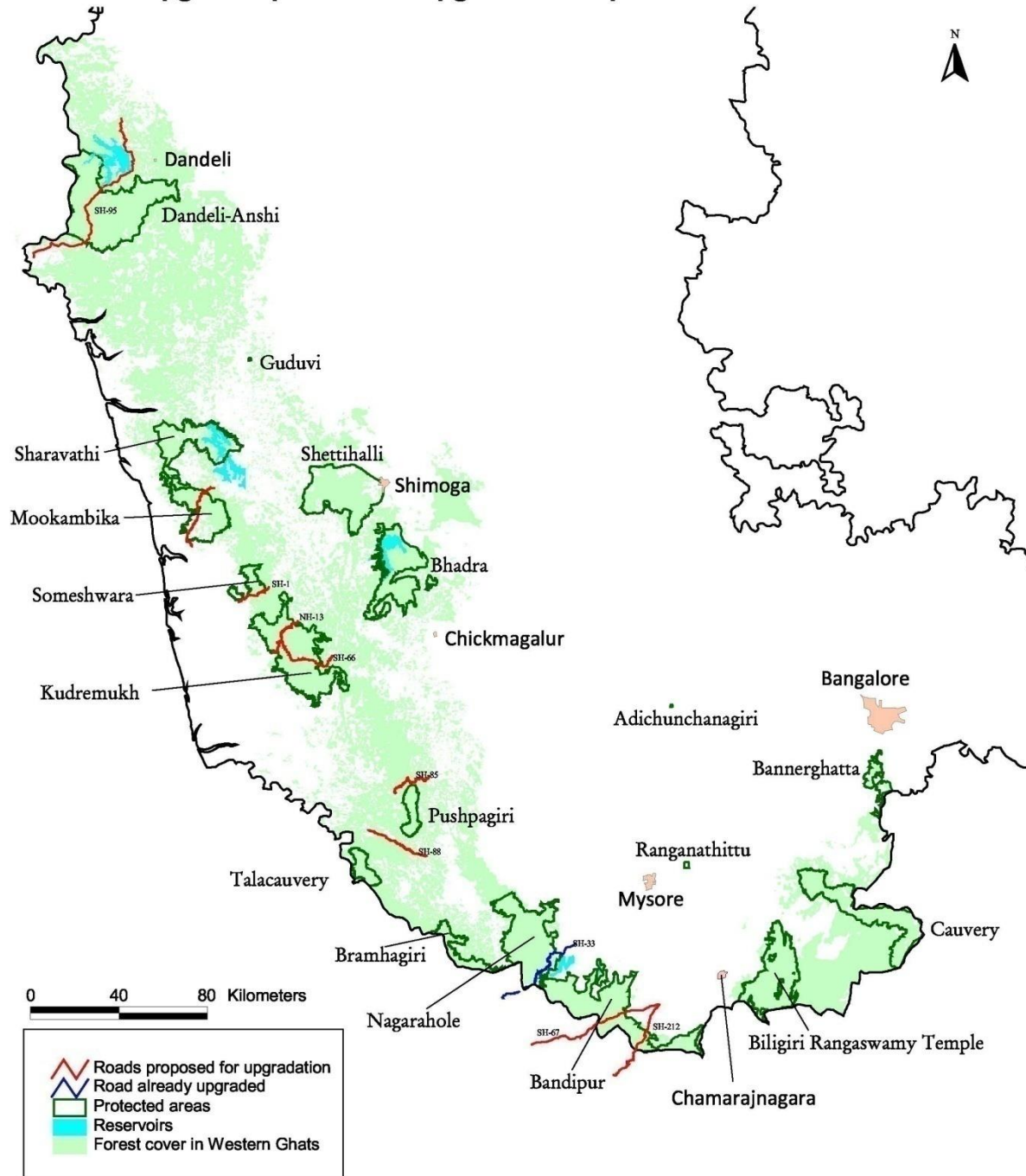




LOCATIONS OF PROPOSED/COMMISSIONED MINI-HYDEL PROJECTS IN THE WESTERN GHATS OF KARNATAKA



Roads upgraded/planned for upgradation in protected areas of Karnataka

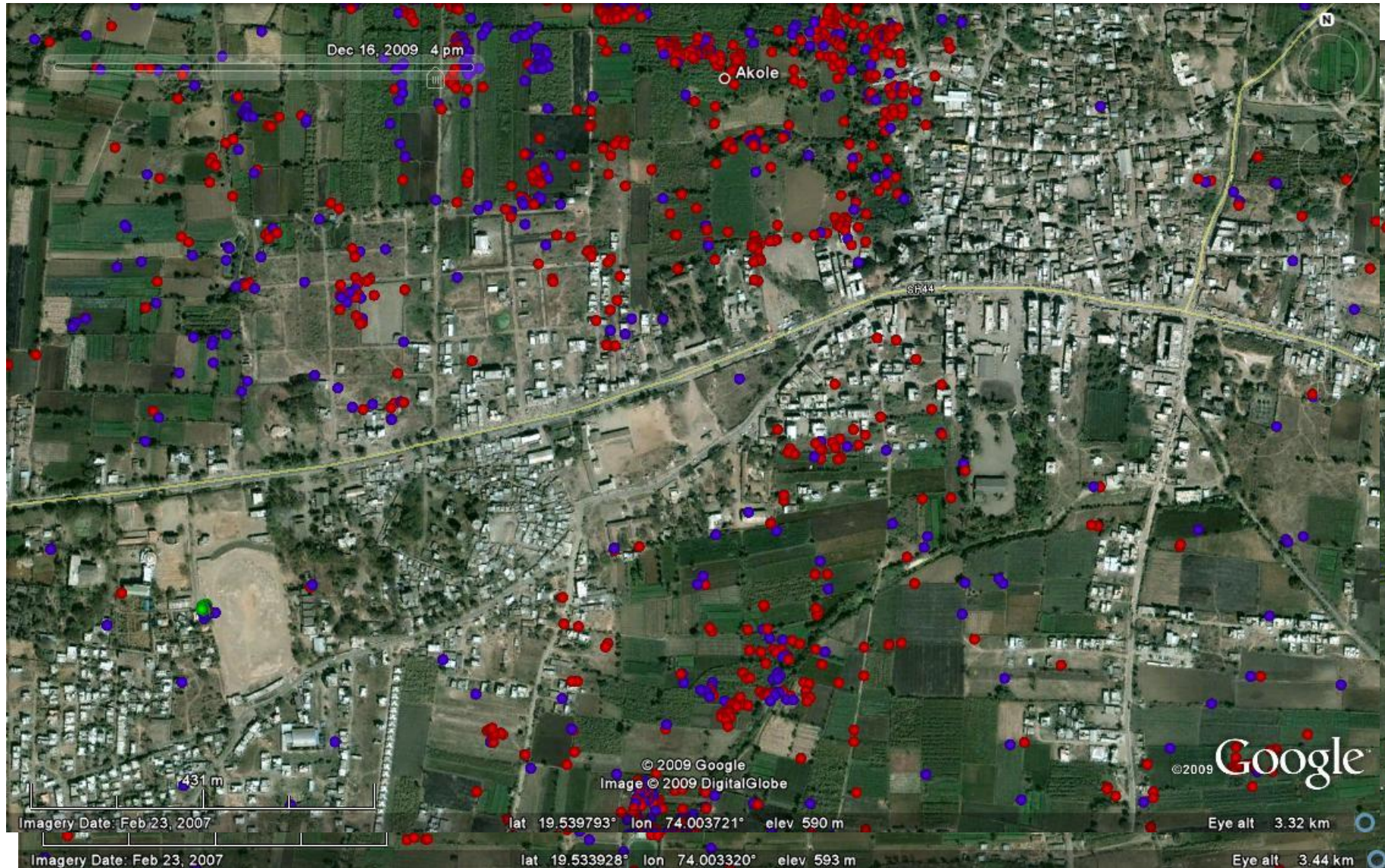




- Lo

- (11 adults and 4 cubs identified in about 100 sq km)

Town animals





Translocated animals - Ajoba







Take home messages

- India has done well in conservation
- Significant role of tolerance of local communities and cultural practices which revere nature
- Conflict has always existed
- Probably increased due to habitat degradation, fragmentation and loss
- Increasing local wildlife populations

Take home messages

- Significant presence of wildlife populations outside PAs and in human dominated habitats
- Changes in landuse as well livestock rearing practices
- Most importantly state's efforts to isolate and exclude local communities from conservation
- Decreasing tolerance and adoption of more direct actions – Threats to co-existence