

# ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

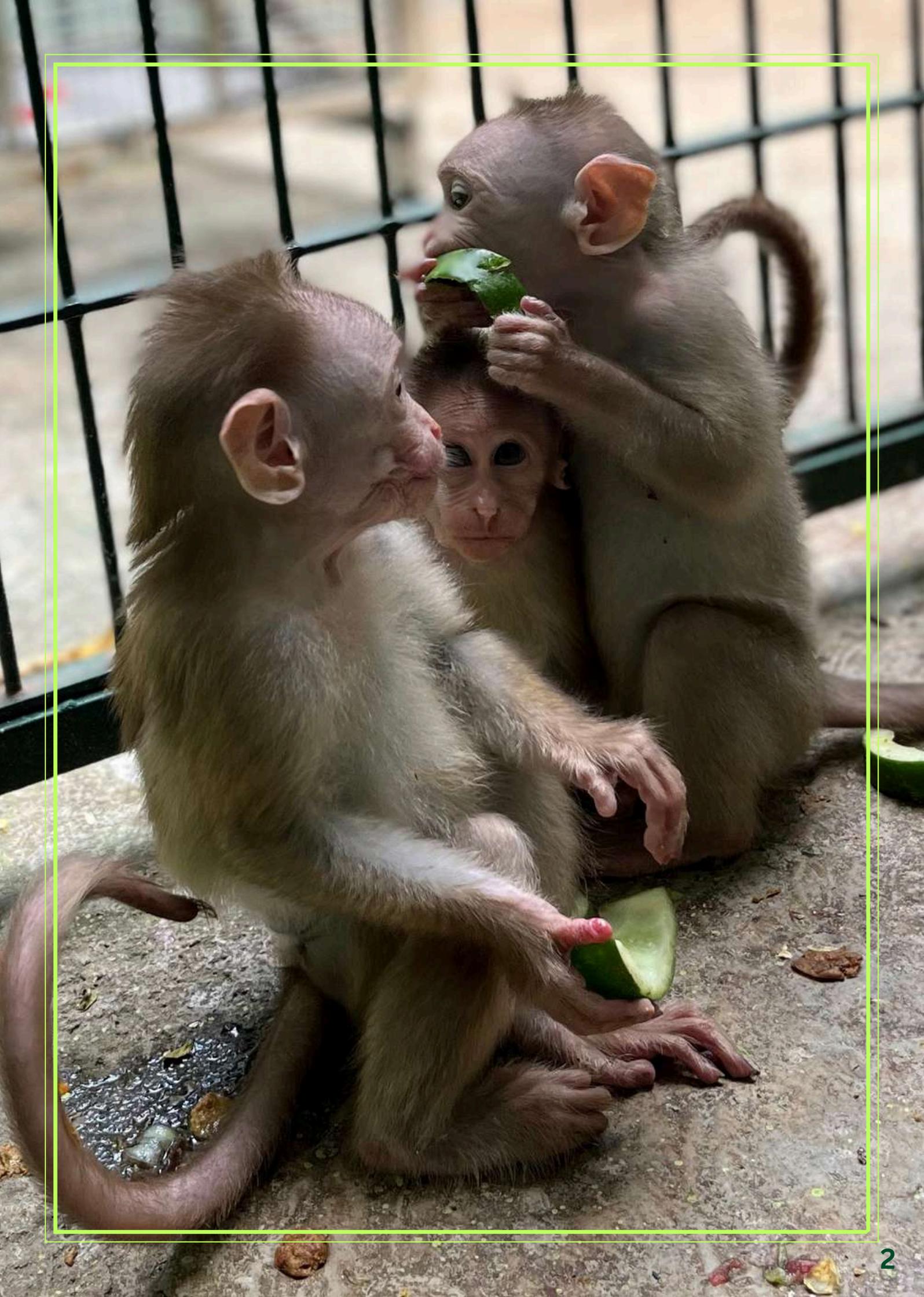
WILDLIFE RESCUE AND REHABILITATION CENTRE



# MISSION STATEMENT

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- Promote welfare and prevention of cruelty to animals, prevent killing of wild animals, with a focus on endangered species.
- Educating and sensitizing children.
- Rescue wild animals in distress, provide treatment and rehabilitate them.
- Protect wildlife and environment from destructive forces.
- Strive for balance in man-animal-nature relationship.
- Campaign against confinement or captivity of wild animals for entertainment or commercial use.
- Inculcate kindness and compassion towards animals and respect for the environment.



# CONSTITUTION OF WRRC 2022-23



**Left to Right : WRRC Board of Trustees, 2020- 2021 :**  
Gopi Shankar, Subrahmanian Shantakumar, Brinda Nandakumar,  
Sandhya Madappa, Suparna Ganguly, Dr. Shiela Rao and Shalini Santosh

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### Overseas Representative

Rosemary Poole - Crystal Rogers Animal  
Welfare Trust (CRAWT), UK

Dr. Sudeshna Baksi - Lahiri - CUPA, US

### Managing Committee Members

Rohit Agarwal,  
Gopakumar,  
Ramesh Belagere.

**Auditors:** B. Ashok, Chartered Accountant and Devendra Shetty, Chartered Accountant

# WRRC CENTRES AND ADDRESS

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**ELEPHANT CARE FACILITY (ECF)**

Lakshmisagara, Kolar Karnataka 563130

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**BANNERGHATTA REHABILITATION CENTRE (BRC)**

Survey No.129, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk  
Bangalore 56083

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**WRRC HEAD OFFICE**

Kensington Apartments, Flat A-3,  
First Floor, 18/1 Ulsoor Main Road,  
Ulsoor  
Bengaluru 560 008

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**REGISTERED ADDRESS**

302, Brigade Lavelle - I, 7th Cross, Lavelle  
Road, Bengaluru 560001

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# ABOUT WRRC

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The Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre (WRRC) is a sister organisation to CUPA. It was founded with the purpose of rescuing and rehabilitating animals in both urban and rural Bangalore. The WRRC not only rescues and rehabilitates wild animals, but also seeks to prevent cruelty through humane education, campaigns and legal battles, and research and surveys, on captive elephants. WRRC was established in July 1999 as a public charitable trust by the trustees of Compassion Unlimited Plus Action (CUPA) and manages two facilities in Bangalore: The Bannerghatta Rehabilitation Centre (BRC) and the Elephant Care Facility (ECF).



The Foreign Contributions Regulations Act permits WRRC to accept foreign contributions and grants income tax exemption under Section 80G for all donations. Additionally, WRRC is registered with the Animal Welfare Board of India, MoA, Government of India, and as a charity trust (under Registration No. IV/1999-2000). It has also been approved by the Karnataka Forest Department.

# PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

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The Bannerghatta Rehabilitation Centre (BRC) continues its dedicated efforts to care for small wildlife regularly brought in by the city police, rescuers, forest and district authorities. While witnessing the disheartening rescue of baby parakeets from the illegal pet trade, their subsequent release in the National Park was uniquely uplifting. A consistent influx of wildlife, particularly macaques kept as illegal pets and surrendered by the public due to the inability to cope with the challenge of dealing with their wild nature, has been a recurrent theme.

The elephants are cautiously exploring their vast surroundings, and we have plans to transition them to the forest areas for grazing in the coming weeks and months.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the Karnataka Forest Department who have given us 27+100 acres of verdant Reserve Forest land and the visionary leadership of the Chief Wildlife Warden for turning the dream of establishing an elephant care centre in the state into a reality. This collaborative partnership between the Forest Department and WRRC signifies a significant stride towards ensuring the well-being of these elephants in their new environment.

Presently housing five majestic elephants, the Elephant Care Facility boasts a devoted team of attentive mahouts, caring shelter staff and skilled veterinarians.



**“I am delighted to announce a significant expansion of our elephant family! Despite facing numerous challenges including adverse weather conditions, the elephant herd has successfully adjusted to their new permanent home..”**

Their consistent dedication goes above and beyond expectations, contributing immensely to the well-being of these gentle giants.

Among the residents, Kasturi, the latest addition to the herd, arrived at the ECF in February 2023, seeking treatment and relief from a history of lameness and chronic arthritis. A thorough examination revealed a potential malunion along her right elbow joint, highlighting the crucial significance of specialised care. Dedicated efforts are underway to address her specific needs, with a focus on enhancing her overall well-being and guiding her towards a healthier and more comfortable life.

Janu Mani, a 37-year-old elephant rescued from Goa in August 2022, became a resident in September of the same year. Her arrival brought a gentle and curious presence at the centre, reflective of her kind nature. Janu Mani consistently exhibits a willingness to engage and assist, showcasing innate benevolence. Despite potential challenges before her rescue, her demeanor reflects resilience and a positive outlook.

Janu Mani has made remarkable progress in making friends with the other ladies and is especially protective of Aneesha, who has lost much of her mobility due to a grievous injury suffered many decades back. She is getting used to life without chains and exercising her autonomy. Her first response to being introduced to the centre was rolling in mud and then liberally sprinkling herself with dry earth - an elephant's favourite activity in the wild!

Regardless of size, a common thread in the lives of wildlife is the profound damage inflicted on their minds and bodies by humans. Every creature seeking care and protection at the centre has experienced vandalism, abuse, and kidnapping from the wild at the hands of human beings.

Acknowledging that our efforts may seem like a mere drop in the vast sea of cruelty towards wild animals, it remains worthwhile than doing nothing at all.

Throughout this unique journey our donors, supporters, and friends have remained as steadfast and supporting pillars, demonstrating unwavering commitment. Their consistent dedication, month after month and year after year, has been instrumental in traversing challenging paths.

The celebration of our collective achievements is vividly depicted in this Annual Report.

It is crucial to recognize that without the unwavering support of WRRC staff, our mission to assist wildlife in need would have been impossible. Our heartfelt thanks to them and their wonderful dedication.



*B. Ganguly*

Suparna Baksi Ganguly  
Hon. Trustee & President

# BANNERGHATTA REHABILITATION CENTRE

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One of WRRC's two facilities, the Bannerghatta Rehabilitation Centre (BRC), was established in 1999 to aid Bangalore's urban wildlife and that of the area. The facility, which is a part of Bannerghatta Park, offers rescue and rehabilitation to animals in need. BRC receives a lot of animals that need a range of treatments, from life-saving surgery to homes for the sick and injured.

The treatment for the animals typically lasts a long time. Reptiles, mammals, and birds that have taken part in superstitious rituals, man-animal conflicts, been utilised for profit, or been unlawfully maintained as pets are among the species that are brought in. One of the main guidelines we adhere to at BRC is minimal human interaction in order to deter wild animals from approaching human areas in the future.

In the last few years, Bangalore has grown incredibly, not to mention uncontrolled, at a rate that is nearly unbelievable. As a result, the number of animals being admitted to BRC has dramatically increased. These animals' homes and health are being impacted by the unstable transformation of the metropolis brought on by a decline in greenery. It is imperative that we, as citizens, address this threat to wildlife and take all necessary measures to safeguard Bangalore's biodiversity.

The Karnataka Chief Wildlife Warden, the Chief Conservator and Executive Director of Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP), and the authorities and personnel of the Karnataka Forest Department and BBP are all thanked for their assistance by WRRC. We extend our profound gratitude to Dr. Roopa Satish, Dr Nirupama Jaisigh, Amith Tapse, and the entire BRC staff for their honest and tireless efforts in caring for threatened animals. We also thank the volunteers and rescuers for their assistance.



# FROM THE VET'S DIARY

BY DR ROOPA SATHISH



“Throughout this unique journey our donors, supporters, and friends have remained as steadfast and supporting pillars, demonstrating unwavering commitment. Their consistent dedication, month after month and year after year, has been instrumental in traversing challenging paths. The celebration of our collective achievements is vividly depicted in this Annual Report. It is crucial to recognize that without the unwavering support of WRRC staff, our mission to assist wildlife in need would have been impossible. Our heartfelt thanks to them and their wonderful dedication.”

## SOME INTERESTING, UNUSUAL AND TRICKY CASES WE ENCOUNTERED DURING THIS PERIOD ARE MENTIONED BELOW.

### **Purple Swamphen / Moorhen (Porphyrio porphyrio) - April 2022**

An eye-catching purple-coloured waterhen was rescued from Jigini, Bengaluru, in April 2022, this sub-adult bird had been kept as a pet and thus showed no fear of people and was quite friendly. Upon arrival, the bird weighed 500g and underwent a thorough examination before being placed in a clean enclosure with water. It displayed particular preferences in its diet, showing a fondness for shrimp. To diversify its diet, a mixture of freshwater plants and grasses was provided. Despite our efforts to limit human interaction in hopes of rewilding the bird, it insisted on daily contact with humans.

Whenever animal keepers approached the enclosure for feeding or cleaning, the bird would gently peck at them, as if greeting them. Due to its reluctance to stay away from humans, its release was postponed, fearing that it would be captured or harmed if set free.

After spending almost nine months in solitary captivity, another injured Moorhen was rescued from Bommasandra, suffering from a shattered leg bone inflicted intentionally using a catapult. Despite this ordeal, the bird was fortunate as no vital organs were harmed, and its leg fracture healed within three weeks with a simple plaster of paris (POP) cast.

Following recovery, both moorhens were housed together in a larger enclosure where they could move freely, exercise, and avoid each other if necessary. Initially, the pet moorhen displayed bullying behaviour towards the recovering wild moorhen, but they eventually formed a bond and grew comfortable in each other's company. The presence of the wild moorhen prompted a significant change in the behaviour of the pet moorhen, which became more shy and indifferent to humans. This transformation signalled readiness for release, and both moorhens were released in June 2023, into a clean, unpolluted water body away from the city. The interaction with a wild counterpart proved instrumental in rewilding the once-spoiled pet, guiding it to adapt to life in the wild.



## Indian Pitta (*Pitta brachyura*) - May 2022



A sub-adult bird weighing 55g was rescued from Airport Road, Bengaluru, on May 12, 2022, by BBMP forest cell personnel and brought to BRC. The bird underwent a weight check, examination for injuries, and rehydration with subcutaneous fluids. Fortunately, no external injuries were observed, and it was presumed that the bird had succumbed to exhaustion in the intense heat. Swift action by concerned individuals prevented it from becoming prey to birds like crows.

Pittas primarily feed on insects and small invertebrates found in leaf litter. At the centre, they were fed insects caught on-site. After a couple of days, it became evident that the bird was eager to regain its freedom. Therefore, it was moved to a larger aviary to assess its flight capability. Shortly after, it began flying effortlessly within the aviary, indicating its readiness for release. Following the necessary permissions, it was released within the centre itself on May 25, 2022. Given the diminishing tree cover and rapid urbanisation along Airport Road, it was decided to release the bird within Bannerghatta forest, providing a more suitable habitat.



# Russell's Viper (*Daboia russelii*)

## – November 2022

In November 2022, we received two Russell's vipers. Venomous snakes are thriving in and around the city due to plentiful rodent population. On November 21st, a sub-adult viper weighing 710g was found trapped in a glue trap in CK Palya, Bannerghatta Road. These traps, intended for rodents, also ensnare unintended victims like snakes. The viper was carefully freed from the glue trap using coconut oil to lubricate its body and was then hydrated, given pain relief, and left to recover in a specially prepared enclosure. On November 22nd, another sub-adult viper weighing 890g was rescued from Nagarbhavi after being mishandled by unlicensed snake rescuers, resulting in a spine injury. After receiving treatment and a week of observation, both vipers were released in separate locations closer to their original rescue sites in the presence of forest officials in early December 2022.



# Indian Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*)

## - July 2022

Rescued from Bannerghatta National Park on July 24, 2022, an adult female Indian Peafowl was brought to the BRC by forest officials. Found near the forest fringe adjacent to a village, she was in critical condition, displaying symptoms of poisoning and trauma. Prompt action was taken to administer fluids to counteract the poison, provide emergency medication, and create a warm and comfortable environment for recovery. Fortunately, she responded well to treatment, showing signs of improvement within days. After ten days, she had fully recovered, and with the relevant permissions obtained, she was released back into the wild at the BRC in the presence of the Range Forest Officer the following month.



# Spectacled Cobra

## (*Naja naja*)

### – August 2022

Rescued from Hosur on August 28, 2022, an adult Spectacled Cobra was brought in weighing 1.24 kg. Upon examination, it was evident that the cobra suffered severe infections in its head, eyes, and oral cavity, with wounds, pus discharge, necrotic tissue, and swelling. The absence of fangs and infected venom glands indicated that it had been captured by snake charmers, subjected to cruel treatment for entertainment, resulting in immense suffering.

Immediate treatment commenced with strong antibiotics, painkillers, and subcutaneous fluids to combat the infections and alleviate pain. The cobra's eyes and oral cavity were carefully treated with sterile solutions and antibiotic ointments, and it was housed in a clean vivarium for warmth and comfort. Over the course of a month, signs of recovery emerged, with improvements in eye and oral cavity wounds. However, permanent damage to the venom glands rendered the cobra incapable of hunting and surviving in the wild.



Meanwhile, a defanged cobra remains under our care, ineligible for release into the wild. If you encounter snake displays by charmers, please report them to the appropriate authorities or wildlife NGOs.

In the meantime we have a very strong and beautiful defanged cobra in our care at the centre who cannot be released back into the wild.



# Bonnet Macaque (*Macaca radiata*)

## – August 2022

Rescued from Kalkere, Bannerghatta Road on August 26, 2022, an infant female Bonnet Macaque was brought to BRC, weighing 1.140 kg. Upon examination, she was found to have a swelling on the right side of her abdomen, along with several old healing wounds. Further inquiry revealed that she and her mother were attacked, resulting in her mother's death and her severe injuries. Initially cared for by individuals who tended to her wounds, she was eventually surrendered to BRC due to the persistent swelling.



It was suspected that the attack had caused damage to her abdominal muscles, leading to a hernia where a portion of her intestines protrude below the skin. Surgery was deemed necessary to correct this condition. After a week of careful planning, she underwent anaesthesia and surgery. Adhered intestines were gently separated from the abdomen wall, pushed back into the peritoneal cavity, and the layers of tissue were meticulously sutured.

She was placed on antibiotics, painkillers and a soft diet of fruits. Along with a bandage applied for stability, she healed without complications in 15 days, with no recurrence of the hernia.

Now known as 'Goda', she is a happy and healthy youngster, enjoying her time with another orphaned female infant named Gauri. They are part of a group of orphaned young macaques, slated for eventual release into a suitable habitat once they reach sub-adulthood in 2-3 years.

# Indian Star Tortoise (*Geochelone elegans*)

## – September 2022

On September 6th and 10th, 2022, the RMC Yard Police Sub-Inspector rescued 960 and 172 Indian Star Tortoises, respectively, from Sidlaghatta taluk, these tortoises had been seized from poachers who intended to sell them as pets for substantial profits on the open market. To evade detection and seizure by authorities, the tortoises were crammed into suitcases and bags without adequate space, air, food, or water, resulting in the death of several small tortoises during transport.



All 1,132 rescued tortoises were carefully weighed (ranging from 15g to 515g), examined, and categorised into three groups: normal, abnormal, and dead or dying.

The normal tortoises were housed in a spacious, airy enclosure with ample feed, water, and sunlight. Due to decreasing temperatures and continuous rainfall, heating lamps were installed, along with waterproof tarpaulin sheets placed over the enclosure. The abnormal tortoises, suspected to be suffering from respiratory infections, were isolated and treated with prophylactic antibiotics, while the dying and dead were removed.

Indian Star Tortoises are terrestrial and herbivorous, so fresh wild grasses, leaves, grated carrot, beetroot, and finely chopped beans were provided, which they eagerly consumed. Unfortunately, within a few weeks of their arrival in September, 99 star tortoises died due to respiratory infections caused by stress, overcrowding, and suffocation, as revealed during post-mortem examinations. All carcasses were disposed of in the presence of forest officials.

To alleviate stress and prevent further infections, after three weeks of observation in September 2022, 350 active star tortoises with good appetite, activity, and no signs of illness were released into a safe, protected habitat under the supervision of the RFO. In October 2022, 200 tortoises were released, resulting in 201 deaths, while in November 2022, 265 tortoises were released, with 17 deaths. Out of the total 1,132 rescued tortoises, 815 were successfully rehabilitated and released back into the wild, while 317 died. This means that 72% of the rescued star tortoises were successfully released.



**Inventory Form of All Animals Treated at Bannerghatta Rehabilitation Centre- BRC (WRRC)**  
**Inventory Report for the Year 2021-2022**

## ANNUAL INVENTORY 2021-2022

### Mammals

S.No	Animal Name	Scientific Name	Arrivals	Releases	Deaths
01.	Bonnet Macaque	<i>Macaca radiata</i>	18	11	10
02.	Asian Palm Civet Cat	<i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>	01	01	01
03.	Black Buck	<i>Antilope cervicapra</i>	01	00	01
04.	Indian Flying fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>	01	00	01
05.	Indian Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>	02	02	00
06.	Indian Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	01	00	00
07.	Loris lydekkerianus	<i>Loris</i>	02	02	01
08.	Spotted Deer	<i>Axis axis</i>	03	00	03
09.	Short Nosed Fruit Bat	<i>Cynopterus brachyotis</i>	00	00	01
<b>Total</b>			<b>29</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>

### Reptiles

S.No	Animal Name	Scientific Name	Arrivals	Releases	Deaths
01.	Indian Pond Terrapin	<i>Melanochelys trijuga</i>	02	02	00
02.	Indian Rock Python	<i>Python molurus</i>	01	00	01
03.	Indian Rat Snake	<i>Ptyas mucosa</i>	08	06	01
04.	Indian Star Tortoise	<i>Geochelone elegans</i>	554	328	144
05.	Indian Spectacled Cobra	<i>Naja naja</i>	25	18	09
06.	Large Bengal Monitor Lizard	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>	01	01	00
07.	Mugger Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>	01	01	00
08.	Red Earth Boa	<i>Eryx johnii</i>	04	02	01
09.	Spiny Tailed Lizard	<i>Uromastyx hardwickii</i>	00	01	00
10.	Russel`s Viper	<i>Daboia russelli</i>	06	04	02
<b>Total</b>			<b>750</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>229</b>

# ANNUAL INVENTORY 2021-2022

## Birds

S.No	Animal Name	Scientific Name	Arrivals	Releases	Deaths
01.	Asian koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>	00	00	01
02.	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	26	00	00
03.	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	04	01	02
04.	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans govinda</i>	24	21	07
05.	Black Headed Munia	<i>Lonchura atricapilla</i>	36	36	00
06.	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	07	04	07
07.	Black Shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus axillaris</i>	03	00	00
08.	Grey Headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula finschii</i>	00	00	01
09.	Indian Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	03	00	03
10.	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	07	11	02
11.	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	01	00	01
12.	Large Billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchus</i>	01	01	03
13.	Red Vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	02	00	00
14.	Rose Ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	02	10	25
15.	Rock Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bengalensis</i>	01	01	01
16.	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brahma</i>	01	01	00
17.	White Cheeked Barbet	<i>Megalaima viridis</i>	01	01	00
	<b>Total</b>		<b>119</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>53</b>

**Inventory Form of All Animals Treated at Bannerghatta Rehabilitation  
Centre- BRC (WRRC)  
Inventory Report for the Year 2022-2023**

**Mammals**

S.No	Animal Name	Scientific Name	Arrivals	Releases	Deaths
01.	Bonnet Macaque Monkeys	<i>Macaca radiata</i>	15	10	6
02.	Black Buck	<i>Antelope cervicapra</i>	1	0	1
03.	Indian Giant Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista philippensis</i>	1	0	1
04.	Indian Flying Fox	<i>Milvus migrans govinda</i>	1	0	1
05.	Indian Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	0	0	0
06.	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	0	0	0
07.	Spotted Deer	<i>Axis axis</i>	2	1	1
	<b>Total</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>

**Reptiles**

S.No	Animal Name	Scientific Name	Arrivals	Releases	Deaths
01.	Banded Racer	<i>Argyrogena fasciolata</i>	1	1	0
02.	Common Sand Boa	<i>Gongylophis conicus</i>	1	0	0
03.	Common Wolf Snake	<i>Lycodon aulicus</i>	1	0	0
04.	Indian Flapshell Turtle	<i>Lissemys punctata</i>	2	1	1
05.	Indian Rat Snake	<i>Ptyas mucosus</i>	2	2	1
06.	Indian Star Tortoise	<i>Geochelone elegans</i>	1132	890	324
07.	Indian Spectacled Cobra	<i>Naja naja</i>	13	9	3
08.	Large Bengal Monitor Lizard	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>	1	1	0
09.	Red Earth Boa	<i>Eryx johnii</i>	3	3	0
10.	Russel's Viper	<i>Daboia russelli</i>	3	2	1
	<b>Total</b>		<b>1159</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>330</b>

# ANNUAL INVENTORY 2022-2023

## Birds

S.No	Animal Name	Scientific Name	Arrivals	Releases	Deaths
01.	Asian koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>	3	3	0
02.	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	23	12	25
03.	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	0	2	0
04.	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans govinda</i>	18	31	0
05.	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	6	3	5
06.	Black Shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus axillaris</i>	0	1	2
07.	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	1	1	0
08.	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	1	1	0
09.	Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros birostris</i>	1	0	1
10.	Indian Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	1	1	0
11.	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	5	3	2
12.	Indian Pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>	1	1	0
13.	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	1	1	0
14.	Large Billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchus</i>	0	0	0
15.	Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	2	0	0
16.	Red Vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	1	3	0
17.	Rose Ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameria</i>	5	16	28
18.	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brahma</i>	2	2	0
19.	White Cheeked Barbet	<i>Megalaima viridis</i>	2	1	1
	<b>Total</b>		<b>73</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>64</b>



# ELEPHANT CARE FACILITY (ECF)

Captive elephants, revered symbols of strength and grace, endure unimaginable hardships when subjected to the travails of tourist rides, wedding processions, and religious parades. Their majestic presence, once a source of wonderment, becomes a veil for the silent suffering they endure – from oppressive heat to harsh surfaces, from noisy crowds to the absence of their natural kin.

Isolated from their natural social and environmental conditions, these elephants lack crucial social, emotional, and physical stimuli. They are exploited for economic gain and often lack access to adequate medical care and enrichment activities.

In India, where approximately 4000 elephants are held in captivity, these animals are often torn away from their families at a young age, subjected to unimaginable mental and physical torment, and condemned to live in perpetual fear.

The Wildlife Research and Rehabilitation Centre (WRRC), with its decades of extensive research on these magnificent mammals, has been a vocal advocate for the welfare and proper management of captive elephants.

WRRC was approached by the Hon'ble High Court and the Forest Department in 2005 to assess several elephants in Karnataka. Upon discovering the extent of unnecessary suffering faced by these elephants, we became deeply concerned about the welfare of captive elephants. Since then, we have been diligently working to enhance their lives through legal advocacy, rescue missions, and community outreach efforts.

The first elephant care facility in collaboration with the Karnataka Forest Department was initiated in Malur and was home to the first three elephants Aneesha, Gowri and Durga. It quickly became inadequate to address their growing needs. The Karnataka Forest Department graciously allocated over 70 acres of land within the Lakshmisagara Reserve Forest. Within a year of moving, we welcomed Kasturi and Janumani, both of whom acclimated to ECF well.

This expansive space will provide a sanctuary where captive elephants rescued by the department can receive proper care, attention, and rehabilitation, offering hope for a better future for these magnificent animals. We take pride in the positive impact we have made on the lives of the five elephants under our care: Aneesha, Gowri, Durga, Kasturi, and Janumani. We are grateful for the generous support from individual and institutional donors, CSR partners, and volunteers who have contributed their time and resources to make our work possible.

Our dedicated veterinarians conduct weekly health check-ups for the elephants. The mahouts play a crucial role in their care, tirelessly attending to their needs. They assist with procuring and preparing food, maintaining the facility, taking the elephants on daily walks, and handling various other responsibilities essential for the operation of the facility.

At our centre, elephants are encouraged to engage in natural social interactions without restrictions. We prioritise positive reinforcement and the mahouts use gentle commands when necessary for simple tasks. Balancing sensitivity to the elephants' needs and behaviours while allowing them the freedom to express their natural behaviours is a delicate endeavour.

Our elephant care facility is dedicated to providing a compassionate and enriching environment for our resident elephants, where they can live fulfilling lives in accordance with their natural behaviours and needs.



## A Proud Milestone: WRRC Signs MoU with Forest Department for Elephant Care Facility in Kolar



# EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

WRRC, in collaboration with HCLFoundation, embarked on a series of education and outreach programs in schools surrounding eco-sensitive zones at Bannerghatta. Over a span of three months, the coordinator visited more than 100 villages, covering a distance of 2,500 km, to gather crucial information regarding human-animal conflicts from local communities. This extensive groundwork laid the foundation for the design of educational programs aimed at raising awareness. Between 2022 and 2023, these programs were implemented in schools in and around Bannerghatta Biological Zoo. Over 2,500 students benefitted from these initiatives, which focused on educating them about the detrimental impacts of keeping exotic animals and wildlife as pets. Furthermore, emphasis was placed on treating urban wildlife with compassion and understanding. Special attention was given to educating students about identifying venomous and non-venomous snakes to mitigate instances of harm to both humans and wildlife. Through these efforts, WRRC and HCLFoundation aimed to foster a culture of coexistence and conservation, thereby reducing the incidence of human-wildlife conflicts and promoting harmonious living between communities and the natural world.



## EVENTS



*On World Cleanup Day, September 24th, 2022, 7 volunteers from HCL came together to clean up the parking area of Bannerghatta Biological Park.*



*On March 25th, 2023, nine volunteers engaged in disinfecting and covering enclosures using pre-woven coconut leaves obtained from local villagers.*



*In celebration of the 46th HCL Day, WRRC partnered with HCL Foundation for a Monsoon Plantation Event at Bannerghatta Rehabilitation Centre. The event aimed to promote biodiversity and provide relief to urban wildlife. HCL volunteers, along with BRC staff, planted 112 saplings of various species, such as Jamun, Peepal, Bamboo, Fig, and Banyan, to support the animals in the centre and the surrounding wildlife.*



On March 11th, 2023, 12 volunteers participated in a workshop where they learned the art of weaving coconut leaves into mats. These mats were then utilised to cover animal enclosures, providing protection from both heat and predators.



On February 4th, 2023, twelve volunteers participated in a Mask Making activity. They dedicated the entire day to create masks using stencils, which were later distributed to students as part of education and outreach programs.



HCL Convergence Meet: Shivani Cintury, Abhishek Narayan, Brinda Nandakumar, Santhosh Kumar and Ajay Arjun Gather in Delhi

# EVENTS



12 Volunteers from BGSW visited ECF and helped clean up the plastic waste that had accumulated over time.



# EILEEN'S VISIT TO WRRC

In 2003, Eileen Weintraub first traveled to Bangalore, India, fueled by a desire to contribute positively to the world. Despite being new to the city, she connected with a local animal welfare advocate, which deeply impacted her future endeavors.

During her visit, Eileen was exposed to the severe challenges faced by local animal shelters and organizations striving to improve animal welfare. Moved by the dire conditions of the animals she encountered, she resolved to make a difference.

Back in the United States, Eileen founded Help Animals India, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting animal welfare NGOs across India, from remote villages to major cities. Motivated by her commitment to Buddhist principles and veganism, she particularly supports organizations like CUPA and WRRC.

Based in Seattle, Eileen works relentlessly to fundraise for over 27 NGOs in India and Nepal, advocating tirelessly for animals who cannot speak for themselves. Her efforts are characterized by an extraordinary blend of generosity, humility, and tireless dedication.

Eileen stands out for her unwavering commitment and selflessness in a world often focused on personal gain. Her continuous work to secure resources for vulnerable animals speaks volumes about her character and her passionate commitment to making a significant impact on the lives of animals.



# SECRETARY'S REPORT

It is with great pleasure and gratitude that I present to you the Secretary's Report, reflecting upon the remarkable accomplishments and challenges faced by our organisation over the past year.

At the Bannerghatta Centre, our dedicated team tirelessly worked to rescue and rehabilitate a diverse array of wildlife. Throughout the year, we received approximately 1252 animals, including birds, reptiles, and mammals. Among them, a significant number of young Alexandrine parakeets and tortoises were confiscated from illegal traders, their lives spared thanks to the timely intervention of law enforcement. Despite the daunting task of caring for over 1132 tortoises, our staff at BRC, led by Dr. Roopa, demonstrated exceptional efficiency and compassion, ensuring the survival of the majority of these creatures.

Furthermore, the relentless march of development in and around the city has resulted in a surge of injured cobras, vipers, and Bonnet Macaques seeking refuge at our centre.



“  
***Through our unwavering commitment to their well-being, many of these animals have been rehabilitated and released back into the wild, highlighting the critical role we play in preserving biodiversity.***  
”



Additionally, the Elephant Care Centre in Malur faced the pressing need to relocate our beloved elephants to a larger and more suitable habitat. Thanks to the generous support of the Karnataka Forest Department, we were able to establish a new facility in Lakshmisagara, Kolar, encompassing 70 acres of pristine forest land. This move not only provided our elephants, Aneesha, Gowri and Durga with a more natural environment but also welcomed new members, Kasturi and Janumani, into our family.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the unwavering dedication of our incredible team at WRRC. Their steadfast support and tireless efforts have been the bedrock of our success, and for that, we owe them our deepest gratitude.

As we reflect on the past year, let us also acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our donors, supporters, and allies. Your unwavering commitment to our cause and your selfless dedication to the welfare of animals inspire us every day. Together, we are making a profound difference in the lives of countless non-human beings who are integral to our environment.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you. May our collective efforts continue to flourish, and may the impact of our work reverberate for generations to come.



*Shiela Rao*

**Dr Shiela Rao**  
**Hon. Trustee & Secretary**

# CSR REPORT

Throughout the fiscal year of 2022-23, WRRC experienced incredible support from its CSR partners. Despite the persistent challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in preceding years, our CSR collaborators extended remarkable assistance, ensuring minimal disruption to our operations and the well-being of our animal residents.

Aligned with our primary objective for the year, which centred on executing education outreach and awareness initiatives within schools and communities in Bannerghatta, we also received invaluable support from one of our dedicated partners. This support enabled us to channel our efforts towards the setting up the new elephant care facility in Kolar, facilitating the successful relocation of five elephants previously held in captivity

The dedication and zeal exhibited by employees from our CSR partners were palpable, as they actively engaged in our various initiatives, including cleanup and plantation drives, crafting masks, and producing enrichment materials for the animals undergoing rehabilitation. Also, our partners generously helped us enhance our operational processes, resulting in significantly improved reporting methods. This was made possible by the valuable insights we gained through our collaborative efforts. We extend our gratitude to Bosch Global Software Technologies Private Limited, Google Inc and HCL Foundation for their unwavering support. We achieved noteworthy milestones throughout the financial year due to collective contributions.



**Ajay Arjun**  
**Head - Projects &**  
**Resources**

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- UDAY KUMAR
- VIJAY BOLLOJU
- VOICE OF ASIAN ELEPHANTS  
SOCIETY

# TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial year 22-23 marked a significant turning point as we began receiving direct Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds and grants, resulting in a notable increase of 60% in donations compared to the previous year. We are immensely grateful for the support of our donors, including esteemed contributors such as Bosch Global Software Technologies and HCL Foundation.

However, with increased funding comes heightened responsibility, and our expenditure saw a corresponding surge, particularly as we embarked on the establishment of a new elephant care facility. The endeavour to provide a sanctuary for these majestic creatures necessitated substantial investments in infrastructure and operational resources. Additionally, in our commitment to ensuring the highest standards of care, we expanded our team by hiring additional mahouts and helpers to facilitate the smooth functioning of the facility.

As we reflect on the financial landscape of the past year, it is important to recognise the major cost heads that accounted for approximately 40% of our overall expenditure. These include infrastructure setup of the Elephant Care Facility, animal care including salaries of staff directly involved in their well-being, staff welfare initiatives, and procurement of veterinary medicines.

Moving forward, we remain committed to responsible financial stewardship, ensuring that every contribution is utilised effectively to further our mission of promoting animal welfare and conservation.

Thank you for your continued support.



# WRRC Legal Advocacy

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## Alwyn Sebastian (Legal Advisor)

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The organisation has been on the forefront, along with the Karnataka Forest Department, with aiding and assisting them in the rescue and rehabilitation of captive elephants in South India, that continue to be victims of trade, logging and religious/cultural activities. WRRC has, both through petitions and as an intermediary, filed representations before the Department, alerting them about reported instances of wildlife abuse and hunting. WRRC has filed a petition before the Supreme Court in 2014, seeking larger reliefs to permanently end captivity of wildlife in India. That said, the Wildlife Protection Amendment Act, 2022 has set back our efforts by creating a dangerous exception to continue captivity and transfer of elephants for “religious and any other purposes”, and the same is also presently under challenge before the Supreme Court.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To

The Trustees of  
Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre  
Southern Cross, 9A Myrtle Lane,  
Richmond Town, Bangalore -560 025

**Opinion**

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the trust Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre, which comprises the Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2023 and Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion and to the best of my information and according to the explanations given to me, the aforesaid financial statements give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India, of their state of affairs of the trust as at March 31, 2023 and it's surplus for the year ended on that date.

**Basis for Opinion**

I have conducted my audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I am independent of the entity in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by ICAI together with the independence requirements that are relevant to my audit of these Financial Statements and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the ICAI's Code of Ethics. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion on the financial statements.

**Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

The Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance of the TRUST in accordance with the Accounting Standards. This responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.



### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Standards on Auditing will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these Financial Statements.

#### I further report that:

- a) I have sought and obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of my audit.
- b) In my opinion, proper books of accounts as required by law have been kept by the Trust so far as it appears from my examination of those books.
- c) The Balance Sheet and the statement of Income and Expenditure dealt with by this report, are in agreement with the books of account.



**B. ASHOK**  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT  
(Membership No:209296)  
UDIN: 23209296BGRNOI6547

Place: Bangalore

Date: 11.09.2023

## NOTES ON ACCOUNTS

1. The trust has followed cash basis of accounting.
2. Investments are valued at Cost.
3. Depreciation has been charged as per the rates prescribed under Income -Tax Rules.
4. Fixed asset has been accounted at cost of purchase and the cost incurred to bring the asset to the present location.
5. Figures have been rounded off to the nearest rupees.

For Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre

*AOB*



B. Ashok  
Chartered Accountant  
(Membership No: 209296)  
UDIN: 23209296BGRNOI6547

*Suparna Baki Ganguly*  
Ms. Suparna B Ganguly  
Hon. President

*Shiela N Rao*  
Dr. Shiela N Rao  
Hon. Secretary



Place: Bangalore  
Date: 11.09.2023



# Photography and design credits

- Ajay Arjun
- Shivani Cintury
- Likitha Appaiah
- Nikitha Singh
- Adith Cherian
- Eden Tanya
- Centre Managers

# Our deepest gratitude to

- **Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden, Karnataka**
- **Executive Director, Bannerghatta National Park**
- **The Karnataka Forest Department**

# Honorable Mention

- **The Karnataka Police Department**
- **The Animal Welfare Board Of India. MOA, Govt. of India**
- **The Vice-Chancellor and Dean, Karnataka Veterinary Animal & Fisheries Science University (KVAFSU)**





**Thank you for your constant support and care for  
the animals under the care of WRRC**

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 [communications@wrrcindia.org](mailto:communications@wrrcindia.org)