



Advancing Sustainable & Wildlife Tourism

Editor's Note

As conversations around sustainability move from intent to action, tourism has a unique responsibility - and opportunity - to lead by example. Wildlife and nature-based tourism, when done responsibly, can protect ecosystems, support local livelihoods, and create meaningful travel experiences that go far beyond leisure.

At TOFT, we continue to work closely with our members, partners, and certification bodies to strengthen credibility, transparency, and impact across the tourism value chain. This issue highlights a member lodge that exemplifies responsible operations on the ground, expert insights on the future of sustainable tourism, and key updates from the world of wildlife and sustainability.

We also welcome new members and newly certified lodges joining the TOFT and Travelife community - each committed to making tourism a force for good.

Happy reading,
Team TOFT



Sustainability is not a trend - it is
the foundation of tourism's future.

SUPPORTER
FEATURE

Lodge of the Quarter



Barahi Jungle Lodge Chitwan National Park, Nepal

Set along the gentle flow of the Rapti River, this lodge offers a refined yet authentic connection to the landscapes of Chitwan National Park. Tharu-inspired thatched villas are thoughtfully positioned across the grounds, providing comfort, privacy, and a strong sense of place.

Guests explore the surrounding grasslands and forests with experienced local naturalists, by river, on foot, or at a relaxed pace. As evening falls, unwind on your private balcony, enjoy a drink by the pool, and savour locally inspired cuisine in the open-air dining space, surrounded by the quiet presence of nature.



[More Details](#)





EXPERT PERSPECTIVE

Sustainability Certifications: From Compliance to Competitive Advantage

By Pradeep Dadlani, Sustainable Tourism Consultant

For many tourism businesses, sustainability certifications were once viewed as optional or compliance-driven. Today, they are fast becoming a strategic necessity. As travellers grow more conscious of their environmental and social footprint, credible certifications offer assurance, transparency, and trust.

However, the real value of certification lies beyond logos and checklists. When implemented meaningfully, sustainability standards improve operational efficiency, reduce resource consumption, and strengthen relationships with local communities. Certified properties often report better staff retention, stronger brand loyalty, and improved market access—especially in international and high-value segments.

Wildlife and nature-based tourism businesses have an even greater responsibility. Fragile ecosystems require careful management, ethical interpretation, and long-term planning. Certifications like Travelife and TOFT's PUG audit help translate conservation intent into measurable action.

"Sustainability certification is not about perfection—it is about progress."

The future of tourism will reward those who integrate sustainability into their core business model rather than treating it as an add-on. Certification is not the destination—it is the framework that guides continuous improvement.



Sustainability & Wildlife

Latest Updates



Professional Naturalist Training (PRONAT) by Pugdundee Safaris

PRONAT is India's first Professional Naturalist Training Program, conducted at Denwa Backwater Escape, Satpura National Park, from 18 August to 08 September 2026, with an optional guiding extension. Offered by Pugdundee Safaris in association with Wildlife Forestry Services (WFS), the program has trained over 140 graduates since 2018.

With only 18 seats available, PRONAT opens new pathways for those looking to turn their passion for nature into a profession.

[More Details](#)

Sustainable Practices

Utsav Camp Sariska

The property has strengthened its sustainability initiatives by improving waste segregation and composting, with organic waste reused for on-site landscaping. Greater emphasis has been placed on sourcing local produce and services from nearby villages, directly supporting local livelihoods. Guests are actively sensitised to Sariska's biodiversity, conservation challenges, and responsible safari practices, enriching their understanding of the region.

[More Details](#)

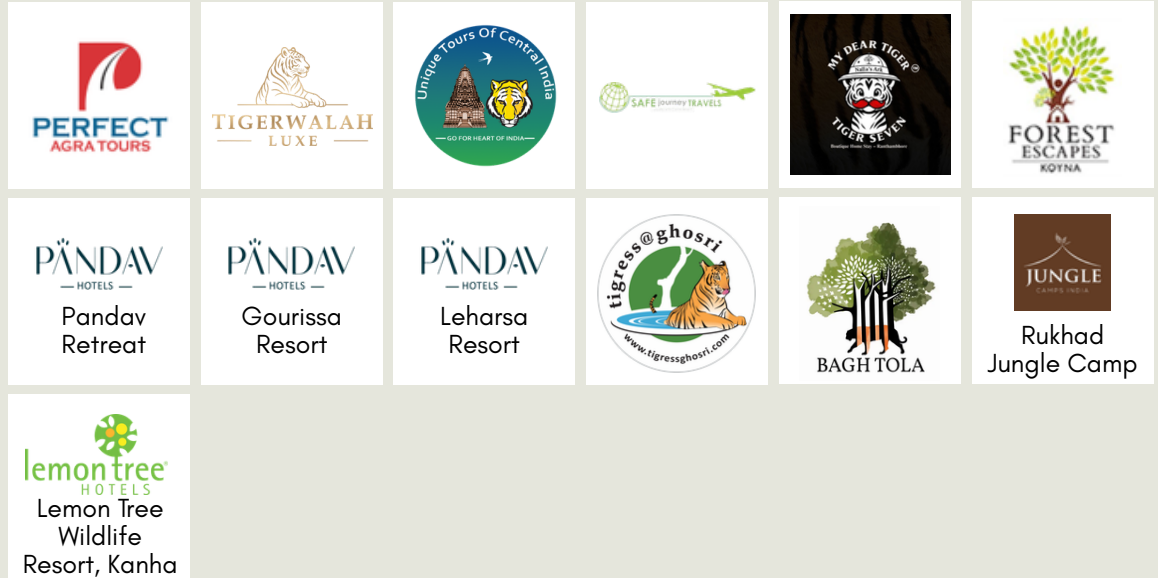


New Supporters & Certifications

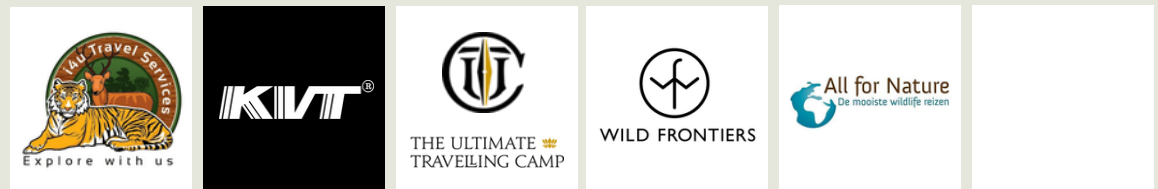
New



Supporters



Renewals



New



PUG Audited Lodges

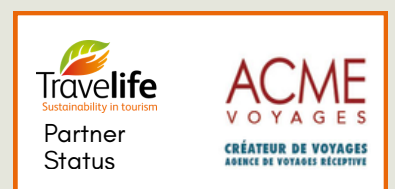


New



New

Status Achieved



Members

Event Highlight



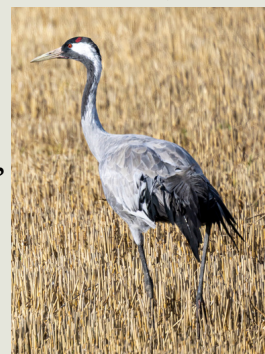
[More Details](#)

Blending Heritage and Nature: Uttar Pradesh Showcases Wetlands Vision at Nature and Bird Festival 2026

The Nature and Bird Festival 2026 was held at Mahavir Swami Wildlife Sanctuary, Deogarh, to mark World Wetlands Day. With the theme “Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage,” the festival brought together nature lovers, birding enthusiasts, students, and local communities.

Set along the Betwa River in the Vindhya Hills, the sanctuary is ideal for birdwatching and nature experiences, home to diverse bird species, leopards, nilgai, and ancient Jain temples.

The festival highlighted wetlands conservation, cultural heritage, and sustainable eco-tourism - best visited from November to April.



Upcoming Events



[More Details](#)

SATTE 2026 - TOFT as Sustainability Partner

Celebrating 33 Years of Building Travel Connections SATTE is South Asia's leading travel and tourism exhibition, connecting global buyers and sellers for over three decades. It has shaped the tourism industry by providing a platform for networking, business opportunities, and thought leadership.

SATTE stands as South Asia's largest and most trusted travel and tourism exhibition, offering unmatched access to global markets, industry leaders, and high-impact business opportunities. With a 32-year legacy, SATTE brings together exhibitors, buyers, tourism boards, policymakers, and innovators on one powerful platform enabling collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and future-ready growth for the entire travel ecosystem.

Supporter Spotlight



Wilderness Travel

Wilderness Travel is a wonderful example of how adventure travel can be a force for good. With decades of experience, they continue to set a high standard through thoughtful, responsible journeys that respect wildlife, cultures, and local communities. Their commitment to conservation and meaningful partnerships, including their support for TOFT, reflects a genuine dedication to positive impact. We truly appreciate their ongoing efforts and leadership in responsible tourism.

[Read more here](#)

[Visit Website](#)

Get Involved

We invite supporters and partners to:



Share sustainability stories and best practices



Contribute guest articles and expert insights

FROM TOFT

TOFT Takes Action to Safeguard Karnataka's Wildlife Tourism Sector

In response to the recent suspension of land- and water-based tourism activities in Karnataka's protected areas following the 7 November human-wildlife conflict incident, TOFT has taken proactive steps to address the issue. We submitted a comprehensive, evidence-backed letter to the Secretary of Tourism, Government of Karnataka, supported by decades of scientific research. The letter clearly demonstrates that responsible nature tourism is not a causal factor in human-wildlife conflict and highlights the risks of misattributing such incidents to tourism.

Through this advocacy, TOFT has:

- Urged the immediate review and reversal of the tourism closures.
- Highlighted the critical role of regulated wildlife tourism in funding conservation, protecting habitats, and supporting local communities' livelihoods.
- Called for accurate public communication to dispel misconceptions about tourism and human-wildlife conflict.

These efforts reflect TOFT's ongoing commitment to sustainable tourism, conservation outcomes, and the economic well-being of communities living alongside Karnataka's protected areas. By engaging with policymakers and presenting scientific evidence, TOFT aims to restore stability and confidence in the nature tourism sector while safeguarding both wildlife and people.



Apply for joining TOFT, Travelife certification, or PUG audit

For joining TOFT and PUG Certification – admin@toftindia.org

For Travelife Membership – toftigers@toftindia.org



TOFT works to promote responsible tourism that supports conservation, communities, and credible sustainability standards.



www.toftigers.org

Job Openings

Name of the Organisation

Job Position

Location

Expected Joining Date

Professional Movements / New Joinings

Photograph of the new joiner
(high-resolution image preferred)

Name of the Organisation

Name & Designation of the New Joiner

A brief introduction (2-3 lines)

Member Milestones



Two TOFT member lodges recognised for outstanding community engagement



Increased adoption of sustainability reporting across member properties

