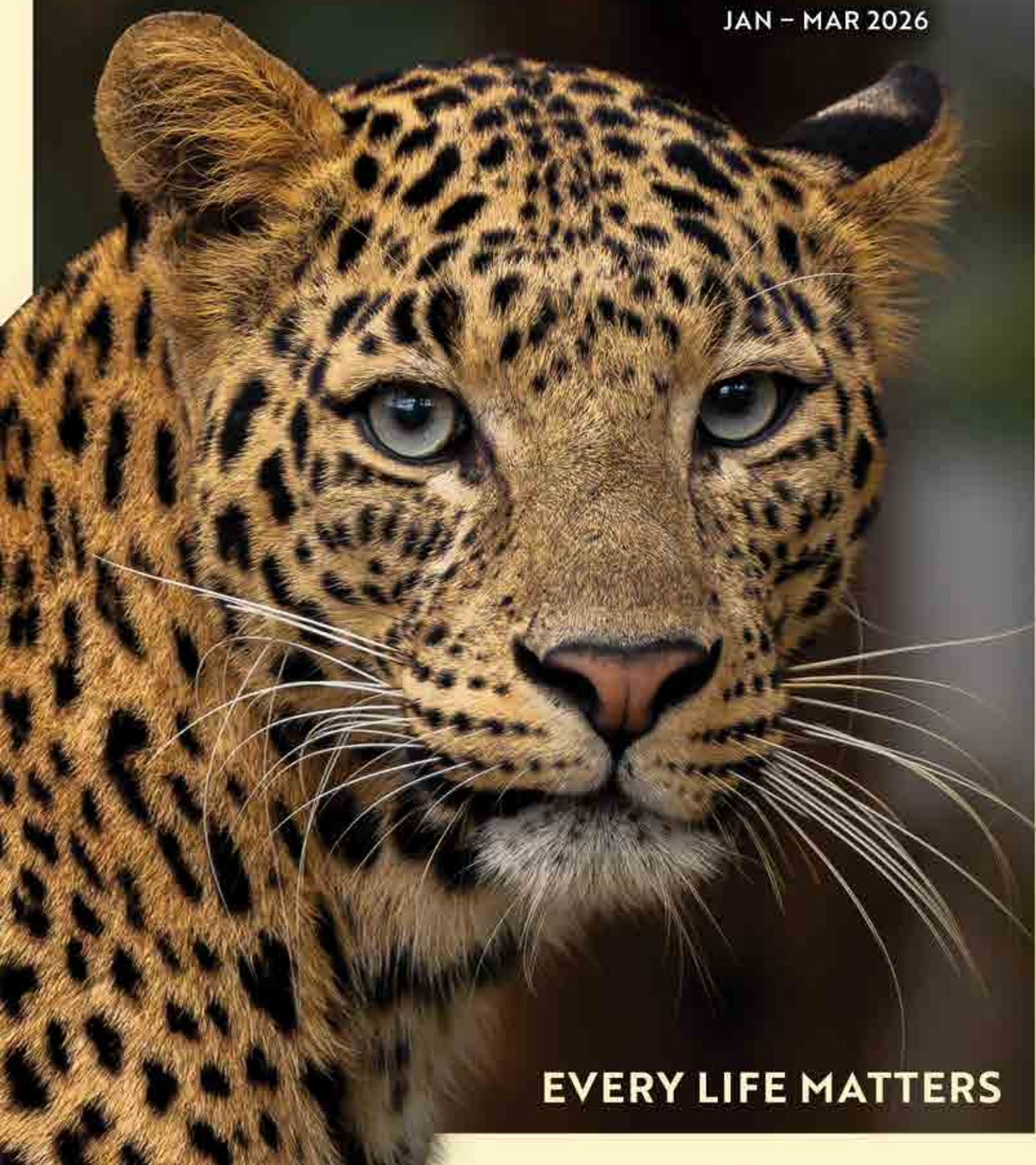


TIMES OF VANTARA®

JAN - MAR 2026



EVERY LIFE MATTERS

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EDITORIAL TEAM

Dr. Manilal Valliyate
Dr. Akshaya Mane
Shwetha Jois

BRANDING TEAM

Sonal Saigal
Jeet Vaghela

COVER PAGE:

Nisha the Leopard

CREDIT:

Nikhil Chaudhary

BACK PAGE:

Jupiter the Lion

CREDIT:

Umang Sethia

FROM VANTARA'S DESK

At Vantara, conservation is not defined by a single moment, but by a continuous journey, one that brings together science, compassion, and responsibility.

This edition reflects our focused work on big cats, species that demand space, precision care, and deep ecological understanding. From the transformation of Tina, who rediscovered her natural instincts, to the clinical recovery of London, a rescued tigress treated for a complex oesophageal condition, each story represents a shift from survival to stability.

Across landscapes, our efforts extend further. In Junnar, we supported conflict mitigation by providing long-term care for relocated leopards, while initiatives such as Asiatic lion genetic research reflect our commitment to future-ready conservation.

What guides us is a clear principle: conservation must be both humane and scientifically informed. Every paddock, every rescue, and every collaboration is designed to preserve not only species, but their behaviour, dignity, and ecological role.

Equally important are the people behind this work, our teams and partners, whose dedication transforms intent into impact.

As we move forward, we remain committed to bridging science with action, ensuring that conservation today secures a more stable future for wildlife.



IN THE NEWS

From providing healthcare for 1000s of rescued wild animals to Punjab flood aid, Vantara highlights achievements on first anniversary



”

An effort like Vantara is truly commendable, a vibrant example of our centuries old ethos of protecting those we share our planet with," PM Modi had said after inaugurating Vantara last year. (Credit: Vantara)

Supreme Court Clears Vantara Wildlife Imports, Rejects Probe Plea; Says "No Law Violated"



A Bench comprising Justices PK Mishra and NV Anjaria observed that the concerns raised in the petition were not new and had already been investigated by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) appointed by the Court. The Bench noted that the SIT had submitted its final report, which was accepted by the Supreme Court in September 2025. Importantly, the report clearly concluded that there was no violation of any domestic or international law in relation to the functioning of the Vantara facility.

Reiterating this finding, the Court stated,

”

“On the contrary, the said document records that CITES Secretariat found no evidence that the animals had been imported without the requisite CITES documentation or import permits and there is no evidence that such imports were for commercial purposes.”

RESCUE IN FOCUS

Amid rise in human–animal conflict, 20 leopards from Pune’s Junnar relocated to Vantara in Gujarat



“

According to a press release issued by the Deputy Conservator of Forest (Junnar Division), several leopards captured from the region were being housed at the Manikdoh Leopard Rescue Center in Junnar

As many as 20 leopards captured from the Junnar area in Pune district have been relocated to ‘Vantara’, an animal rescue, care and rehabilitation centre in Gujarat established by the Reliance Foundation.

A significant rise in leopard–human conflict has been reported in the Junnar division of the state Forest Department, which comprises the Junnar, Ambegaon, Shirur and Rajgurunagar talukas of Pune district.

According to a press release issued by the Deputy Conservator of Forest (Junnar Division), several leopards captured from the region were being housed at the Manikdoh Leopard Rescue Center in Junnar.

However, the Manikdoh Leopard Rescue Center has the capacity to accommodate only 50 leopards, while the number of animals captured from areas under the Junnar division is much higher. Therefore, it became necessary to shift some of the leopards to other safe locations, the release stated.

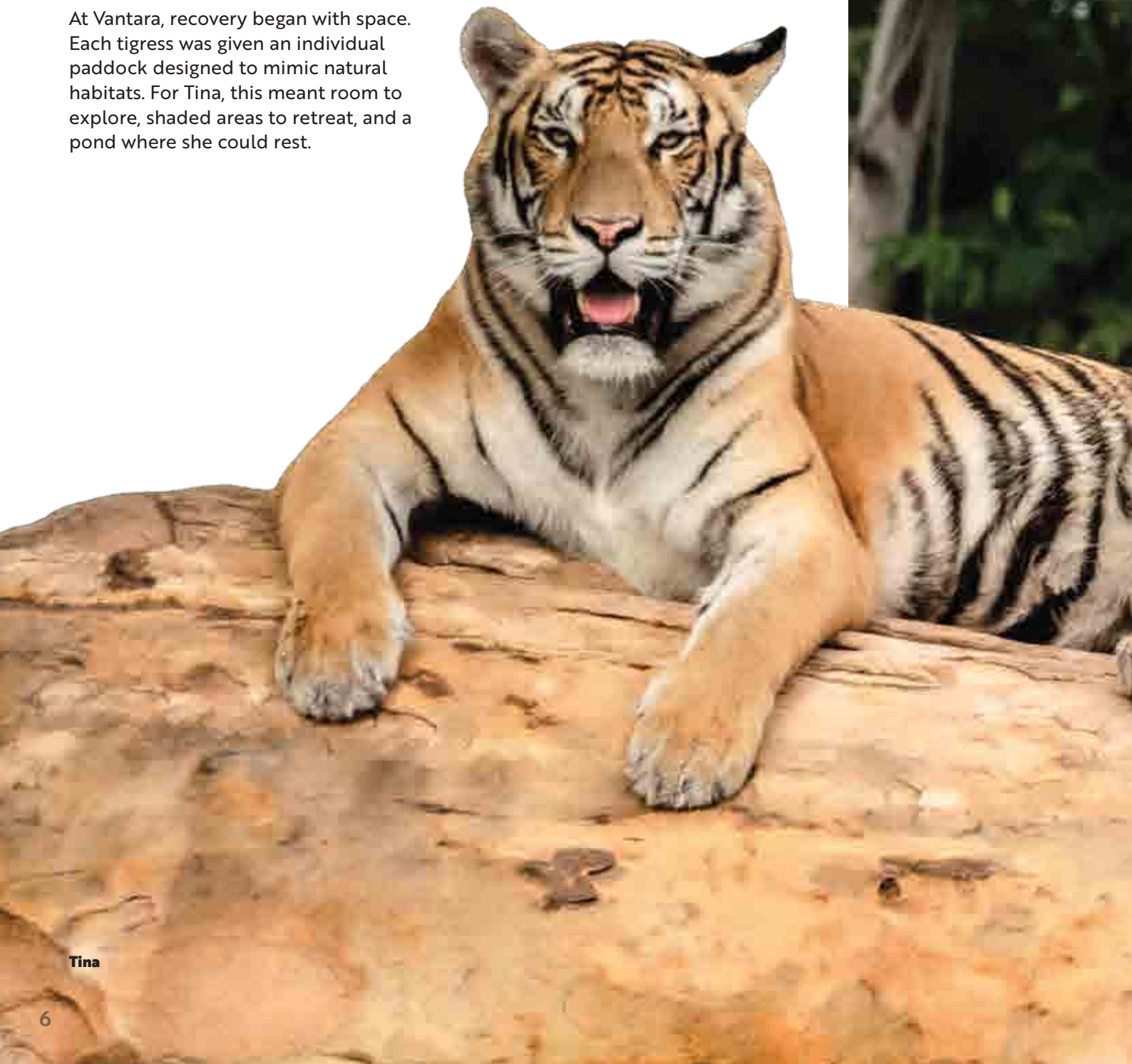


TRACING THE TRANSFORMATION

They arrived together, five young female Bengal tigers, each shaped by a difficult past. Raised in conditions with little space and no solitude, they had become increasingly aggressive, often fighting out of fear and frustration. For a naturally solitary species, the absence of territory created constant tension.

Among them was Tina, whose distress was especially visible. She was always alert, reactive, and defensive, showing the strain of a life without calm or control. Before arriving at Vantara, she had never been able to express the natural instincts of a tiger in a safe and peaceful environment.

At Vantara, recovery began with space. Each tigress was given an individual paddock designed to mimic natural habitats. For Tina, this meant room to explore, shaded areas to retreat, and a pond where she could rest.



Tina



Tina

THE TERRITORY THAT TRANSFORMED TINA

How is Tina Now?

The change was gradual but clear. Her pacing (*repeated to and fro walking pattern*) reduced, her posture softened, and natural behaviours such as patrolling, resting, and observing began to return. With freedom and patient care, Tina slowly grew calmer and more confident.

Today, Tina is no longer defined by the aggression that once protected her. She moves with the grace of a tigress reclaiming her natural rhythm. Her journey is a reminder of how space, dignity, and the right environment can transform a life.

SNOW LEOPARD

Scientific Name

Panthera uncia

Home at Vantara

High-altitude inspired enclosures with rocky terrain and cool zone

Diet

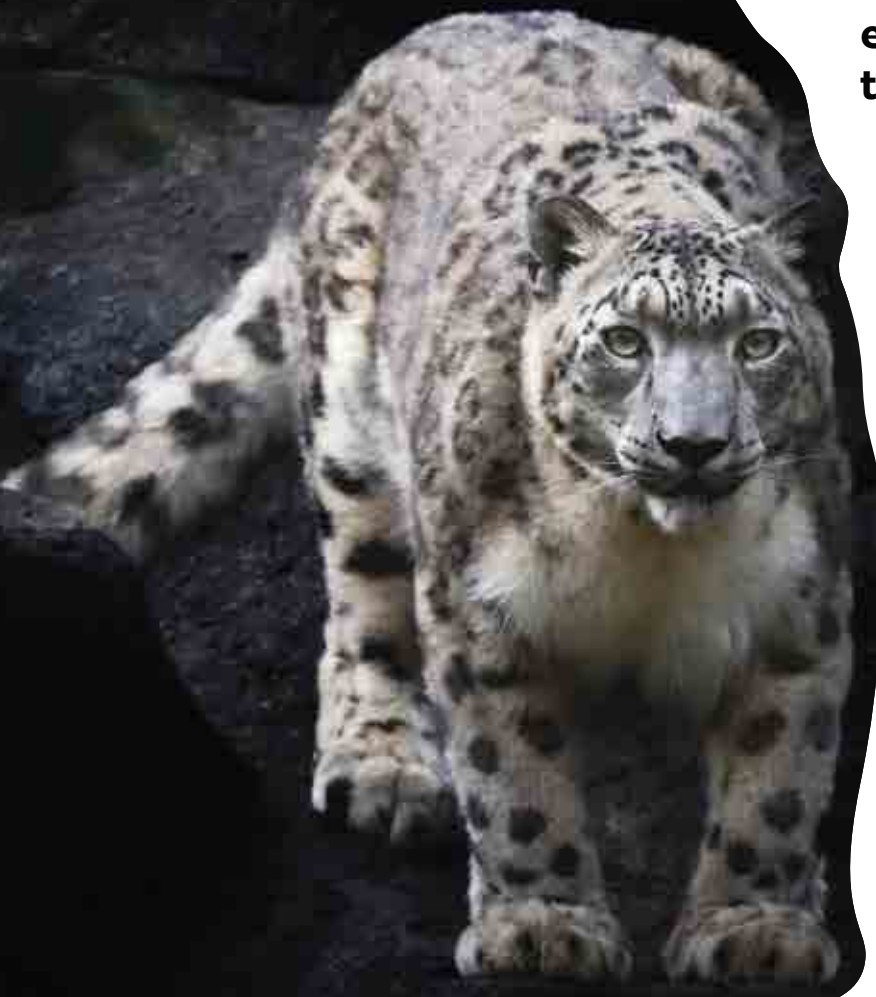
Carnivore

Urgency for Conservation

Declining population due to habitat loss and poaching

Behavioural Insights

Elusive, solitary, and highly adapted to extreme environments



Global Conservation Status

**Vulnerable
(IUCN Red List)**

ROSETTES & STRIPES

The Unique Signatures of the Seven Big Cats

Cheetah	Lion	Tiger	Leopard	Puma	Snow Leopard	Jaguar
						
Solid spots	Plain coat (cubs spotted)	Stripes	Small rosettes	Uniform tawny	Pale rosettes	Rosettes with central dots
Habitat Open savannah	Habitat Grassland	Habitat Forest & grassland	Habitat Highly adaptable	Habitat Americas (widest range)	Habitat Alpine mountains	Habitat Rainforest & wetlands
Unique Feature Fastest land animal	Unique Feature Only social big cat	Unique Feature Only striped big cat	Unique Feature Climbs & stores prey in trees	Unique Feature Silent stalker	Unique Feature Long tail	Unique Feature Strongest bite force

RESEARCH & INNOVATIONS

Endoscopy-Guided Precision Care on London, the Snow Tigress

High-resolution endoscopic imaging was the decisive factor in saving London, a rescued snow tigress suffering from severe esophageal ulceration. This advanced visualization technology provided an immediate, internal view of the affected tissue, enabling a level of diagnostic certainty that traditional methods could not achieve. By merging real-time digital insights with laboratory data, the team could apply highly specific therapeutics and dietary protocols. London's recovery highlights how sophisticated technological integration is transforming wildlife medicine, ensuring the survival of rare species through digital precision and data-driven care.



London

Inside the Mini ICU: Precision Care, Zero Contact

What does critical care look like when even proximity can cause stress?

Wild animals, especially young, rescued, or medically compromised individuals, are highly sensitive to human presence and environmental disturbance. Delivering care with minimal intervention is therefore critical.

At Vantara, the Mini ICU Box provides a controlled, no-contact environment designed for such cases. Compact yet efficient, it supports the stabilisation of like primates, birds, and reptiles. under reduced stress conditions.

Treatments such as nebulisation are administered without direct handling, ensuring calm and uninterrupted recovery. The unit also features inbuilt oxygen generation and waste management systems, maintaining a clean, regulated environment essential for critical care.





TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Collin A. Chapman

Shared key insights from long-term primate research at Kibale, emphasizing habitat dynamics, community-based conservation, and the role of science in effective wildlife management.

29th January, 2026

Dr. Gerhard Wess

Shared insights into veterinary cardiology, focusing on diagnostics, early detection, and advances in clinical care. Highlighted the role of research and innovation in improving cardiac outcomes and overall animal health.

11th March, 2026

AFRICAN LEOPARDS

live in open savannas, using trees to rest and store prey away from scavengers.

Ajinkya

Credit: Hemraj Chavhan

PUMAS

have a tawny coat that helps them blend into many environments, from forests to deserts.

Keshav

Credit: Nikhil Chaudhari

THE CONSERVATION JOURNEY

Science-led protection.
Future-focused recovery.



Conservation Breeding Programs

- Protect endangered species
- Maintain genetic diversity
- Support future rewilding



Welfare-first model

- Natural breeding
- Habitat replication
- Non-invasive monitoring



Integrated Science

- Veterinary care
- Genetic tracking
- Long-term monitoring

ASIATIC LION

40 – **LIONS**
Under Managed Care

95.6% – **GENETIC DIVERSITY**
Preserved

25 – Natural Litters
IN 3 YEARS

Strengthening genetic resilience of Asiatic lions
through science-led, welfare-focused breeding.

REWILDING BEGINS AT BARDA

With Spotted Deer Release

• 1970s

Population decline

• 2000s

Habitat recovery

• 2024

Planning phase

• 2025

33 deer released

• 2026

Population strengthening



Key Highlights

- Health screening & scientific transport
- Stress-free acclimatisation

Scientific protocols ensuring safe translocation and successful adaptation.



Future Direction

- Long-term monitoring
- Strengthening predator-prey balance
- Expanding rewilding models.

Building sustainable, scalable models for an enhanced ecosystem in the long-term.

Challenges

- Past local extinction
- Habitat pressure
- Absence of adaptation monitoring

Addressing ecological pressures and ensuring long-term survival in the wild.



Impact Snapshot

- 72 deer reintroduced
- Suitable habitat restored
- Govt + Vantara partnership

A targeted rewilding effort restoring in Barda.



VANTARA
Every Life Matters



Featured: Kevin D'Costa

Kito

KITO'S KONNECTION WITH KEVIN

Kevin D'Costa has spent four years working with lions at Vantara. Over time, his presence has become a familiar part of their daily rhythm.

Among them, Kito responds in a way that stands out.

When we set out to capture this moment, nothing around him had changed. The paddock, the routine, and the space all remained the same. But the moment Kevin came into view, Kito reacted. He moved forward quickly, closing the distance with certainty, marked by a clear sense of recognition and excitement.

While it may seem unusual, such responses are not uncommon. Rescued animals, even lions, can form consistent and lasting associations with their caregivers through time, routine, and trust.

This was not an aggressive approach, but a controlled, expressive movement—more a greeting than a display. In that brief moment, the intent was clear. Beyond this response, Kito remains composed in Kevin's presence, moving with a sense of familiarity and ease.

Kevin's continued work with the lions reflects a relationship built over time, where consistency, patience, and care shape how animals respond.

COLLABORATIONS & MOUs

Shaping the Future of Asiatic Lions Through Science

Just as care at Vantara is built on understanding individual animals, the journey also extends to the future of entire species.

With the approval and in collaboration with the Gujarat Forest Department, and with necessary permissions, Vantara is planning a non-invasive DNA profiling initiative for Asiatic lions across the Gir landscape. This effort focuses on understanding genetic diversity and long-term resilience within the population.

Designed to work at scale, the initiative uses faecal examination as the method, allowing insights to be gathered without disturbing animals in the wild. Supporting this is our *Lab on Wheels*, enabling field-based sample collection and initial processing closer to where lions live.

Through careful coordination and scientific planning, this work brings research closer to the field, strengthening how we prepare for the future of Asiatic lions.



"Bringing science closer to the field is essential for strengthening long-term conservation outcomes."

Dr. Riyaz Kadivar,
Sr. Veterinarian



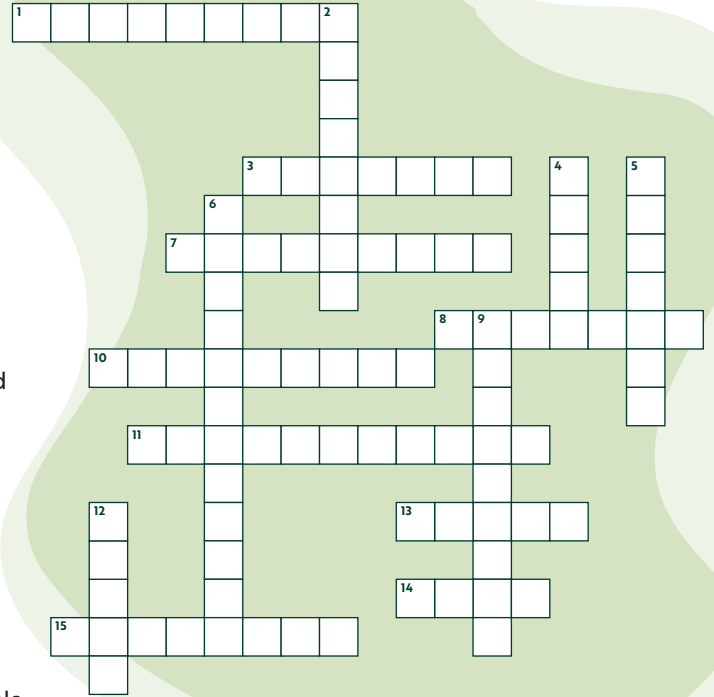
THE CURIOSITY CORNER

Across Clues

1. A long-term interaction between different species where both (or at least one) benefit.
3. Flightless Antarctic resident in a permanent tuxedo.
7. Annual epic journey as animals follow food, climate, or instinct.
8. Restricted to a particular geographical region.
10. Conservation approach aimed at restoring self-sustaining ecosystems.
11. Top hunter, peak performer in the food chain.
13. Grassy wetland where water and wildlife quietly mingle.
14. Large omnivore who strolls flat-footed through forests and mountains.

Down Clues

2. Sunlit grassland dotted with trees and big horizons.
4. Vast ocean dweller that "sees" the world through sound.
5. Africa's long-legged, speed-built, flightless heavyweight.
6. Life's full range, from genes to ecosystems.
9. Creatures that come alive after sunset.
12. Seasonal wardrobe change for furred and feathered animals.



DID YOU KNOW?



A Tiger's Stripes Stay for Life

Every stripe is unique to each individual and are found on both their fur and skin, making them easy to identify.

Asiatic Lions have a Social Life Unlike Others

Found only in India, they live in social groups, setting them apart from most other big cats who prefer to stay alone.



Leopards are stronger than they look.

They can carry prey heavier than their own body weight, often lifting them into trees to protect them.

RESCUE RANGERS



**GUIDE THE BIG CAT SAFELY TO THEIR HOME.
PICK THE SAFEST PATH.**



ANSWERS

CROSSWORD

Across

1. Symbiosis
3. Penguin
7. Migration
8. Endemic
10. Rewilding
11. Apex Predator
13. Marsh
14. Bear

Down

2. Savanna
4. Whale
5. Ostrich
6. Biodiversity
9. Nocturnals
12. Molting

HELP THE BIG CAT



Scan QR and share
your feedback

EVENTS & INITIATIVES



Vantara at Vibrant Gujarat

11th – 15th January

Bringing conservation into focus at a global event.



Vantara Foundation Day

2nd March

Marking purpose, progress, and shared commitment.



World Wildlife Day

3rd March

Celebrating biodiversity and global conservation efforts.

Run for Wildlife | 1 March

Vantarians ran as a pack for conservation.





Embassy & Consulate Visit
 2nd - 4th March
Delegates of 13 countries celebrated Vantara Foundation Day



International Women's Day
 8th March
Celebrating the women of Vantara.

CELEBRATE THE WILD

- 24th April, 2026
Pallas Cat Day
- 25th April, 2026
Penguin Day
- 27th April, 2026
World Tapir Day
- 27th April, 2026
Hyena Day
- 25th May, 2026
World Otter Day
- 8th June, 2026
International Lynx Day
- 17th June, 2026
World Crocodile Day
- 21st June, 2026
World Giraffe Day





VANTARA®
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PHONE
+91 90160 12345

WEBSITE
www.vantara.in

ADDRESS
SSO, Annexe 5, At & Post - R Greens, Motikhavdi, Gujarat 361142

EMAIL
contact@vantara.in

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