

Conserving Nature and Restoring Habitats section

Khem Villas, Ranthambhore

People, landscape and sustainable tourism - a visionary approach



Before and after landscape restoration.

to conservation

The Rathore family lie at the heart of an inspiring story of landscape restoration, sustainable tourism and visionary community support which have helped to transform Ranthambhore's fortunes over the years into a conservation success story.



25 acres of once ravaged desert land on which the lodge now stands into a thriving wilderness haven. Extensive planting with indigenous shrubs and trees and six lakes dug to harvest monsoon rains, have created a mosaic of forest, open grasslands and watering holes. The grounds are now home to more than 180 species of birds, 45 butterfly species, crocodiles and a host of mammals for guests to enjoy.

*A natural oasis created with extensive indigenous planting and six water bodies home to an abundance of wildlife. **JPGs for all three PLEASE***



DRAFT KHEM VILLAS PROFILES FOR TOFTIGERS PUG RESOURCE – PLEASE CONFIRM DETAILS ARE CORRECT AND SUPPLY JPGs WHERE POSSIBLE GIVING PHOTO CREDITS IF REQUIRED.



Seedling nursery for local farmers

More than 600,000 trees have been planted in villages around Ranthambhore with support from Dr Rathore's foundation, the Prakratik Society. Farmers have been provided with seedlings to grow their own wood plantations rather than cutting down the existing forest. In addition, over 600 households have benefitted from biogas digesters for cooking to improve lives and replace wood previously collected from the forest. Support for animal husbandry has seen an improvement in milk yields

from fewer stall-fed cattle, an additional measure to reduce grazing pressures on the park.

The Society works closely with Tiger Watch, an NGO started by Goverdhan's father to find alternative employment for the Moghiya community, for centuries poachers, with tourism bringing alternative income opportunities. Tiger Watch's Village Wildlife Guardians programme, run with Goverdhan's support, with TOFTigers a founding funder, is providing intelligence and changing local perceptions to prevent poaching and wildlife/human conflict.

A multi-specialty hospital and outreach medical camps run by the Prakratik Society for Ranthambhore's poor are also helping to change poaching habits with Tiger Watch providing free support where possible. For those not yet converted, the Society operates a legal cell to help prosecute poachers and to train and support forest officers.



Mittal Gala, one of Khem Villas three in-house naturalists.

The Society's Fateh Public School serving 400 pupils aims to change perceptions and instill pride in natural heritage amongst the locality's young people alongside providing a quality education. Khem Villas' world-class naturalists lend their expertise to the school and the community to spread conservation awareness besides inspiring lodge visitors. Mittal Gala, joint runner-up in TOFTigers 2016 Lodge Naturalist of the Year Award, is Ranthambhore's only female naturalist.



Students from the Fateh Public School taking part in a wildlife conservation programme

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*...helping to clear garbage and plastic from Ranthambhore Park.
Photo: Padmini Singh*



... taking part in a Bird Club formed by Khem Villas' naturalists.

The combined efforts are paying off. Tigers have recovered since 2003, from eleven individuals to over 70 wild tigers today living alongside the Reserve's local communities and inspiring visitors. A win-win for conservation, communities and the local economy.

Snapshot case studies



Khem Villas has created an oasis for wildlife through making six water bodies and its extensive planting with indigenous trees, shrubs and grasses which act as a natural aquifer recharging ground water levels. Crocodiles have taken up residence at the property and guests can also enjoy seeing more than 180 species of birds, 45 butterfly species and a host of mammals at the property. Read more.



Sitting area at Khem Villas with wildlife literature complementing its in-house library. I'VE LEFT THIS AS YOU CAN SEE THE MAGAZINE



In-house naturalists are an integral part of outstanding nature-based lodges and resorts, enriching guest experience and helping to educate local communities. Pictured here Mittal Gala, one of Khem Villas' three in-house naturalists, Ranthambhore's only female naturalist, joint TOFTIGERS runner-up in 2016.

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Engaging local schools in education on their natural heritage, conservation and eco practices is good practice. Pictured here, students taking part in a wildlife conservation programme at Fateh Public School, set up by Khem's Villas' founder through his NGO, the Prakratik Society...



... and students from Fateh Public School helping to clear garbage and plastic from Ranthambhore Park. Photo: Padmini Singh. Read more.



The Ranthambhore Sevika Hospital, established by the Prakratik Society, set up by the owner of Khem Villas, is one of a series of initiatives to convert poachers into protectors. Khem Villas and the Society also work closely with NGO Tiger Watch which runs a Village Wildlife Guardians programme and helps to find new sustainable livelihoods. Read case study. **HAVE FOUND LOW RES IMAGE FROM AWARDS – LET ME KNOW IF YOU WOULD PREFER THE OTHER YOU SENT THROUGH**



A seedling nursery financed by the Prakratik Society is enabling local communities to grow their own supply of wood. The society has also provided more than 600 households with biogas digestors for cooking fuel to reduce pressure on the forest.



An artificial insemination centre and sustainable stall feeding has been established by the Prakratik Society to help improve cattle breeds and milk yields and reduce pressure on grazing land. **JPG PLEASE**

Community Liaison and Support section

Khem Villas and the Prakratik Society, Ranthambhore

Enriching lives and saving tigers



Cutting edge Ranthambhore Sevika hospital established by the Prakratik Society, an NGO initiated by the founder of Khem Villas

Dr Goverdhan Singh Rathore, son of Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve's most-celebrated Director and tiger conservationist Fateh Singh Rathore, realised early on that the reserve's tigers can be saved only if local people benefit from its thriving presence. The Prakratik Society, an NGO he founded in 1994, winner of TOFTigers 2012 Community Related Tourism Award, has made impressive strides in transforming lives amongst the large and growing

population of poor people around Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve to enable people and wild animals to co-exist peacefully. A proportion of the profits generated by Khem Villas, the eco-lodge set up by Dr Rathore and his wife in 2006, are fed into their philanthropic work each year. Guests are also encouraged to contribute.

Healthcare



Founder Dr Goverdhan Singh Rathore at the Ranthambhore Sevika Hospital with a new infant in a warming bed.

Before the Prakratik Society set up the Ranthambhore Sevika Hospital in 1997, villagers had to travel 200 kms to reach the nearest hospital. Today this multi-specialty hospital provides quality healthcare for the region's poor with free support given where possible to help reform communities previously engaged in poaching.

Outreach medical camps are also organised to reach economically marginalized, rural families. Over 3,000 people were treated in 2017-

18 in 99 camps covering 200 villages adjacent to Ranthambhore.



*Outreach medical camp. **JPG PLEASE***

Education



Fateh Public School set up and run by the Prakratik Society

More than 400 students from nearby towns and villages attend the Fateh Public School, an English language High School established by the Prakratik Society in 2001 to bring quality education to the region and develop understanding and pride in their natural heritage. Amongst the subjects taught are history, maths,

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science, literature, business and computers. Art, music and sports are also part of the curriculum. Khem Villas offers free education for all female students to address lower than average literacy rates amongst girls in the area and for one child of each staff member.



*A broad curriculum is provided at Fateh Public School. Education for all female students is free. **JPGs PLEASE***

Renewable Energy and Wood Resources



*Biogas digestors have provided free, sustainable cooking fuel to more than 600 local households. **JPG PLEASE***

More than 600 biogas digesters have been provided to local villagers since 1999 winning Dr Rathore an Ashden Award for sustainable energy in 2004. Cow dung, available in abundant supply, is used to produce methane piped into homes for cooking fuel, reducing dependency on forest resources. Seedlings for farmers are also provided



to provide them with their own renewable **JPG PLEASE**

supply of timber and wood fuel.

Artificial Insemination and Dairy Development



*Villagers and forests benefitting from dairy development initiative. **JPG PLEASE***

An artificial insemination centre and sustainable stall feeding has been established by the Prakratik Society to help improve cattle breeds and milk yields and reduce pressure on grazing land

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Sustainable Livelihoods

Khem Villas provides a hub for local employment with 90% of its staff drawn from local communities. Local procurement - food, maintenance and locally sourced goods for its shop - contributes further to sustainable livelihoods for the rural community.

The lodge's foundation, the Prakratik Society, works closely with NGO Tiger Watch to find alternative employment for the Moghiya, a tribe historically involved in poaching. The lodge supports Dhonk, a crafts enterprise run for local Moghiya women and sells their wares in its shop.



Dhonk, a women's crafts enterprise supported by the lodge.

Snapshots



EDUCATION Khem Villas offers free education for one family member for each of its staff and for all female students at Fateh High School, a mid-years school set up by the lodge owner's foundation, the Prakratik Society. The school provides a multi subject curriculum for 400 pupils. The initiative is part of a broader, visionary approach to community support. Read case study.



HEALTH The Prakratik Society, set up by Khem Villas' owner, has built and runs a state-of-the-art hospital in Ranthambhore. Read case study. **JPG PLEASE**



Outreach medical camps also organised by the Society, treated over 3,000 people in 2017-18 in 99 camps covering 200 villages adjacent to Ranthambhore.



RENEWABLE ENERGY The Prakratik Society has provided more than 600 biogas digesters to local villages around Ranthambhore providing clean cooking fuel for villagers and reducing dependence on wood.



AGRICULTURE The Prakratik Society is helping to improve cattle breeds and milk yields for local villagers.

Energy Conservation, Renewable Energy and Carbon Footprint section

Khem Villas, Ranthambhore



Solar water heater combined with water treatment to save energy and water

Khem Villas heats all its water using solar energy backed up by heat pumps, **an energy efficient source of energy when it is cloudy.** A biogas unit turns waste from its kitchen and dairy into fuel for cooking alongside LPG, a cleaner cooking fuel than wood. Hot water is fixed from 6am-1pm and 6pm-9pm to conserve energy. A substantial amount of produce is sourced from the lodge's kitchen garden, dairy and local procurement to reduce its carbon footprint and support the local economy.

The Prakratik Society, founded by Khem Villas' owner, Dr Rathore, has been internationally recognized for providing clean energy to local communities surrounding Ranthambhore. The foundation won an

Ashden Award in 2004 for its pioneering efforts in installing 250 biogas digesters in villages on the fringes of Ranthambore providing cleaner and safer fuel for cooking for poor local communities and compost from the digester output. Khem Villas and the Society combined have planted more than 600,000 trees, capturing carbon and transforming denuded dry landscape into an oasis for wildlife.

All power other than air conditioning is operated with a battery back up to minimise fossil fuel use if power goes down. Air-conditioning uses VRV technology with the highest energy rating made by Daikin. LED lighting is used throughout to minimise energy consumption further.

Snapshots



Khem Villas has its own professionally maintained dairy to meet the dairy needs of the lodge. Organic waste and cow dung are used for the lodge's biogas unit to produce biofuel for cooking.



Water at Khem Villas is heated through solar thermal boosted by heat-pumps, an energy efficient technique, when it is cloudy.



The Prakratik Society has provided more than 600 biogas digesters to local villages around Ranthambhore.

Water Conservation and Treatment section

Main image for Profile



Khem Villas has created six water bodies, restored its landscape and gives back more water than the lodge consumes. Read case study.
JPG PLEASE

Khem Villas, Ranthambhore



One of six rain-fed water bodies surrounded by indigenous planting recharging groundwater levels and enabling wildlife to thrive.

Giving back more water than the lodge consumes

By planting indigenous shrubs and trees, harvesting rainwater to store monsoon rains and by carefully reusing recycled wastewater, Khem Villas manages to give back more water than it takes from groundwater. Six artificial waterholes created long ago now look like natural wetlands and are a haven for wildlife. The extensive planting with indigenous trees, shrubs and grasses acts as a natural aquifer; pathways made with natural materials allow rainwater to percolate back into the ground.

Grey water is recycled into the lodge's ponds after going through a grease trap and reed filter using Khus grass. Black water is treated in septic tanks. Water in the chlorine-free plunge pool is fed back into a pond.

Drinking water is cleaned using reverse osmosis and bottles with the filtered water provided to guests to minimise the use of plastic. Dual flush toilets, aerated taps and low flow showerheads minimise water use. Guests are encouraged to reuse towels and linen. A drip irrigation system is used to water the kitchen garden.

Aerated taps, one of several measures to conserve water.



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The lodge sources its water supply from open wells rather than bore holes. Thanks to their efforts, the water table is stable and around 40 feet just after the monsoon and 80 to 90 feet in summer months.



Khem Villas - an oasis of green in an arid landscape.

Snapshot case studies



LANDSCAPE AND PLANTING Khem Villas has created an oasis of green in an arid landscape by extensive indigenous planting which acts as a natural aquifer and has created six water bodies to harvest the monsoon rains. More than 600,000 trees have been planted on lodge grounds and in the surrounding area. The lodge gives back more water than it uses. Read case study.

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Sustainable Building section

Snapshot case studies

Tented



Tents at ***Khem Villas***, part of their accommodation offer, are set in a restored landscape and made from local canvas. **JPG IF POSSIBLE**



Showers use natural materials including bamboo. Aerated taps, low flow showerheads and dual flush toilets are used to minimise water use.



Water is heated by solar power backed up by heat-pumps, an energy efficient technology. Grey water is recycled into the lodge's ponds after going through a grease trap and reed filter.

Landscapes and rainwater harvesting



The landscape at ***Khem Villas*** has been extensively restored with indigenous trees, shrubs, grasses and six water bodies. The cottages and villas are roofed with local thatch to blend into the landscape. Rainwater harvesting combined with landscaping and water conservation measures allows the lodge to put back more water than it consumes. See Water case study.

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Waste Management and Recycling section

Snapshots



*FOOD AND GARDEN WASTE
Khem Villas uses food waste and manure from its on-site dairy to power the biogas unit at Khem Villas providing a source of energy for cooking. **JPG IF POSSIBLE***



CLEAN UP DRIVES Students at Fateh Public School, a school in Ranthambhore funded by Khem Villas' Foundation, are educated about the impact of litter and the need to avoid it. Pictured here, students helping to clear garbage and plastic from Ranthambhore Park. Photo: Padmini Singh

Local Economy, Employments, Skills, Equality and Enterprise

Snapshots



LOCAL EMPLOYMENT, FAIRNESS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Mittal Gala, one of the naturalists at Khem Vilas - Joint runner up of TOFTigers Naturalist of the Year Award 2016 - is the only

Health and Safety section

Snapshots



COMMUNITY A range of lodges and resorts extend their medical care to the community. Pictured here the hospital built by the Prakratik Society, set up by Khem Villas' owner in Ranthambhore. The Society also organises regular medical camps for the local community - 99 medical camps covering 200 villages around Ranthambhore in 2017-18.