CAT (Conservation, Art and Training) Foundation, a NGO set up by the owner of Tigergarh Wildlife Resort, is working to catalyse new income opportunities for local women through training and support with materials. Fifteen women were trained over a ten-day period to make bags from old clothes, a colourful lasting alternative to plastic. A second initiative has trained twelve young women to make vibrant mats for the floor from knitting strips of recycled sarees. The workshops took place at the resort with the products on sale in their shop and plans to sell the items more widely in cities.

Bamboo mats, lamps, dustbins and baskets have been commissioned for use in-house and for sale. Kasa, a local grass is used for broomstick making. The foundation is now setting its sights on helping to revive and promote a broader range of traditional local handicrafts and to support traditional animal husbandry. Amaari (Leaped Mellow), a local plant with strong fibres is being explored for a new range of products. Developing a market for fabrics made from traditional local loom weaving is also on the cards.

90% of the resort’s team of fourteen are from the local community with roles in management and as naturalist.