COMMUNITY LIAISON AND SUPPORT
GOOD PRACTICE CASE STUDY

Flame of The Forest Safari Lodge, Kanha
Award Winning Women’s Empowerment and Broader Support

After three years working to break the ice with tribal ladies in the villages around Flame of the Forest Safari Lodge on the subject of menstruation, a taboo subject, patient persistence paid off. The lodge now has sixteen women working for a monthly salary making and distributing reusable sanitary pads to more than 42 villages around Kanha National Park. This empowering initiative has enabled these women to become less dependent on the financial contribution of the men in their families and is also providing dignity and relief to the women. The materials are sustainably sourced and can be reused up to 70 times without requiring hot water. The initiative won Flame of the Forest the TOFTigers Wildlife Tourism Related Community Initiative Award in 2016.

The lodge also runs stitching training for local women. The resulting embroidered fabrics made at the lodge’s workshop are exported to Switzerland for sale in Zurich and online at Hathi providing new income streams to these rural women. Work opportunities are provided on a part-time basis to enable mothers to juggle several responsibilities.

Broader community support by the lodge has included the installation of solar-powered emergency lighting, medical camps for seven villages run in collaboration with the Corbett Foundation, distribution of medicated mosquito nets and blankets and sweaters for cold winter nights. The village school benefits from stationery and English-speaking classes run by lodge staff. The lodge has also provided financial support for the development of a school kitchen.

An area in the grounds is allocated for use by village farmers to grow crops such as sweet potatoes and watermelon. The lodge buys seeds and plants for the farmers; produce is shared between them and the lodge. A waterhole constructed by the lodge has made a dramatic contribution to recharging ground water levels and the village’s open wells.

Supporting and empowering women on menstruation, previously a taboo subject.

Social enterprise, Hathi, run the lodge providing stitching training to village women juggling other responsibilities.

Raising awareness for the need to support local women.