

Kipling Camp, Kanha Tourism and Philanthropy Combined



Since the time Kipling Camp was established in 1982, its approach has been to actively support local community welfare alongside its wildlife conservation work. Operating as a not-for-profit since 2005, it distributes winter clothing and blankets to the local Baiga tribals, supports individuals with specific needs and medical emergencies and helps to fund marriages and funerals.

During the cold winter months in 2019, funds were raised by the lodge through visitors and friends to distribute 440 blankets, 52 children's sweater and 55 stainless steel *thali* and *katori* utensils among the Baiga communities around Kanha Tiger Reserve.



Supporting the local Baiga community with blankets, warm clothes and cooking utensils.



Renovated a Baiga school.

Guests are encouraged to bring school supplies and clothes to give to the poorer children and adults in the area.

Local schools have been supported with furniture, mats, cooking utensils, stationery for the children and other supplies. A village school has been renovated and a football ground has been built for the school in Mocha.



Children at the school.

Kipling Camp employs six paid local trainees in addition to its predominantly local staff. If trainees are unable to find jobs, they are invited back and trained in another skill. A local tribal cooperative that Belinda Wright, the lodge's owner helped set up, performs tribal dances for guests at the Camp and at other lodges. Gond tribal artists are assisted with art supplies and encouraged to exhibit their paintings to sell to guests.



Local tribal dance cooperative.



Local artist showing his work at the lodge.

An appeal launched by Belinda Wright, founder of the NGO, the Wildlife Protection Society of India, provided one month of food supplies to 500 local Baiga families around Kanha in September 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 shutdown and lack of income. Funds were donated by two tour operators, All For Nature in the Netherlands and Wilderness Travel in the US and match-funded by TOFTigers.



Responding to the COVID-19 crisis – humanitarian aid and support for local artists.
Photo 1: WPSI; photo 2: Kipling Camp.

An online sale of Gond art was also organised over the summer months of lockdown to help the local Gond artists.



Food supplies distributed around Kanha Tiger Reserve during COVID-19. Photo: WPSI