



9th January 2026

Kind Attention:

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

SUBJECT: RE CLOSURE OF KARNATAKA SAFARIS

Dear Sir,

We write in response to the unlawful and unconstitutional closure of safari tourism within the state of Karnataka by the Forest Minister on the 7th November 2025, in response to three fatal killings by a man-eating tiger earlier.

The notion that this can be somehow be blamed on land and water-based tourism, given also that it was 30 to 50kms from the safari zone, is absolute nonsensical and has no bearing on reality or indeed factual or scientific evidence.

Tigers do not attack people because of tourism. Tigers attack people ONLY because they are old or injured and cannot feed any other way. They have usually been injured while fighting with other tigers or other animals, or have injuries from accidents like porcupine quills caught in their feet or mouths. This is nothing to do with tourism, their habituation to safari vehicles (as they have lived besides villagers for Millenia), or to the growth of tourism in any place, but simply the result of natural causes, that happen in the course of any individual animal's life. It's tragic – but it is NOT the result of tourism or the growth of tourism around Bandipur or Nagarhole, or any other part of India.

The reality is that tiger numbers have undoubtedly grown in numbers over the last decade, thanks to both a successful conservation and protection strategy by the Forest Department, but it's also been greatly enhanced by the sustained economic funding for park protection and for local communities that tigers have brought to these parks by the nature tourism sector, through visitor fees, job creation, local enterprises, improved infrastructure and increased taxes for local governments.

Tourism has instead made tigers hugely valuable - living legends indeed - economic drivers for once marginalised village communities around once denuded and unloved protected areas like Nagarhole and Bandipur. In 2010 TOFT India published in the Indian media that a single tigress can generate over INR 900 crore in her lifetime within a Rajasthan park, no doubt a similar figure to tigers in Nagarhole. Furthermore, our own published research (see attached) in 2018 in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan highlighted that village communities revenues, with or besides tourism infrastructure, were eight times higher than those villagers without such tourism benefits or enterprises.

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At this moment, thousands of critical local jobs that have been created – and are now hugely threatened and in dire distress – by the ridiculous notion that Karnataka’s nature tourism sector somehow is the cause of this man-animal conflict.

We would urge at once that the all parks are reopened to safari and boat tourism, before all the direct and indirect benefits of nature tourism are lost to Karnataka and its protection sector, and more especially its bordering communities.

Nature tourism has been the powerful monetary engine behind the government’s extraordinary success in conserving tigers, and the job now is to use it better and more wisely to restore more landscapes back to nature, for this expanding tiger population with all the other benefits of water, clean air and soil health that this brings, and NOT blame or shut down the very driver of this world beating success.

We appreciate any action you can do in resolving this issue and in changing the misinformed narrative.

We would be ready to help as needed.

With kind regards,

Julian Matthews
Founder

Vishal Singh
Director, Co-Founder

Deepika Chowdhry
Director

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Kind Attention:

Sri H. K. Patil

Hon'ble Minister for Law, Justice, Human Rights, Parliamentary Affairs, Legislation and Tourism
Government of Karnataka

SUBJECT: RE CLOSURE OF KARNATAKA SAFARIS

Dear Sir,

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Julian Matthews
Founder

Vishal Singh
Director, Co-Founder

Deepika Chowdhry
Director

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Kind Attention:

Dr. Thrilok Chandra K V. IAS
Secretary of Tourism,
Government of Karnataka

SUBJECT: RE CLOSURE OF KARNATAKA SAFARIS

Dear Dr. Chandra,

We write in response to the unlawful and unconstitutional closure of safari tourism within the state of Karnataka by the Forest Minister on the 7th November 2025, in response to three fatal killings by a man-eating tiger earlier.

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Kind Attention:

Shri Manoj Kumar, IFS
Principal Secretary (Forests)
Government of Karnataka

SUBJECT: RE CLOSURE OF KARNATAKA SAFARIS

Dear Shri Kumar,

We write in response to the unlawful and unconstitutional closure of safari tourism within the state of Karnataka by the Forest Minister on the 7th November 2025, in response to three fatal killings by a man-eating tiger earlier.

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We would urge at once that the all parks are reopened to safari and boat tourism, before all the direct and indirect benefits of nature tourism are lost to Karnataka and its protection sector, and more especially its bordering communities.

Nature tourism has been the powerful monetary engine behind the government’s extraordinary success in conserving tigers, and the job now is to use it better and more wisely to restore more landscapes back to nature, for this expanding tiger population with all the other benefits of water, clean air and soil health that this brings, and NOT blame or shut down the very driver of this world beating success.

We appreciate any action you can do in resolving this issue and in changing the misinformed narrative.

We would be ready to help as needed.

With kind regards,

Julian Matthews
Founder

Vishal Singh
Director, Co-Founder

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Kind Attn:

Shri P. C. Ray, IFS
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)
Government of Karnataka

SUBJECT: RE CLOSURE OF KARNATAKA SAFARIS

Dear Shri Ray,

We write in response to the unlawful and unconstitutional closure of safari tourism within the state of Karnataka by your Forest Minister on the 7th November 2025, in response to three fatal killings by a man-eating tiger earlier. The notion that this can somehow be blamed on land and water-based tourism, given also that it was 30 to 50kms from the safari zone, is absolute nonsensical and has no bearing on reality or indeed factual or scientific evidence, as you would be well aware as PCCF Wildlife.

Furthermore the reality is that tiger numbers have undoubtedly grown beyond the natural carry capacity of the protected areas, thank to both the very successful conservation and protection strategy by your Forest Department, alongside the sustained economic funding for park protection and for local communities that tigers have brought to these parks by the nature tourism sector, through visitor fees, job creation, local enterprises, improved infrastructure and increased taxes for local governments.

Tourism has made tigers hugely valuable - living legends indeed - economic drivers for once marginalised village communities around protected areas like Nagarhole, Bandipur and others. You may recall in 2010 TOFT India published in the media that a single tigress can generate over INR 900 crore in her lifetime within a Rajasthan park, no doubt a similar figure to tigers in Nagarhole or elsewhere. Furthermore, our own published scientific research (see attached) in 2018 in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan highlighted that village communities' revenues, with or besides tourism infrastructure, were eight times higher than those villagers without such tourism benefits or enterprises. At this moment, as you will be all to aware, thousands of critical local jobs that have been created – and are now hugely threatened and in dire distress – by the ridiculous notion that Karnataka's nature tourism sector somehow is the cause of this man-animal conflict.

We would urge at once that all parks are reopened to safari and boat tourism, before all the direct monetary and indirect benefits of nature tourism are lost to Karnataka and your protection service, but more especially to its bordering communities who are suffering as a result.

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Nature tourism has been the powerful monetary engine behind your government's extraordinary success in conserving tigers, and the job now is to use this sector better and more wisely, with better long term planning to restore more landscapes back to nature, for this expanding tiger population with all the ancillary benefits of water retention, clean air and soil health that your protection brings, and NOT blame or shut down the very driver of your world-beating conservation success.

We appreciate any action you can do in resolving this issue and in changing the misinformed narrative. We would be very ready to help as needed.

With kind regards,

Julian Matthews
Founder

Vishal Singh
Director, Co-Founder

Deepika Chowdhry
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Kind Attention:

Sri Akram Pasha, IAS
Director of Tourism
Government of Karnataka

SUBJECT: RE CLOSURE OF KARNATAKA SAFARIS

Dear Sri Pasha,

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13th January 2026

Kind Attention:

Sri Iswara B. Khandre
Honorable Minister of Forests, Biology and Environment,
Government of Karnataka

SUBJECT: RE CLOSURE OF KARNATAKA SAFARIS

Dear Sir,

We write in response to the unlawful and unconstitutional closure of safari tourism within the state on the 7th November 2025, in response to three fatal killings by a man-eating tiger earlier.

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Kind Attention:

Sri Prashant Kumar Mishra, IAS
Managing Director
Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC)

Dear Sri Mishra,

SUBJECT: RE CLOSURE OF KARNATAKA SAFARIS

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