



# **KANHA-PENCH LANDSCAPE SYMPOSIUM**

*Advancing the conversation on conservation*

*February 16-18, 2014*

*Mocha Village, Kanha Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh*

## **Declaration of the Kanha-Pench Landscape Symposium**

The Kanha Pench Landscape Symposium, held February 16-18, 2014 in Mocha, Madhya Pradesh, was a forum to exchange ideas among researchers, forest and wildlife managers, and NGOs working in the landscape. The aim was to foster communication, identify research gaps and priorities, and develop a shared vision for science-based conservation in the landscape.

The Kanha Pench landscape in central India is of national and global importance for a substantial proportion of the tiger population along with other endangered species.

Many demands compete for land outside protected areas in the landscape, including crops, grazing, highways, railways, mines, production forests, watershed protection, and conservation. Maintaining critical functions for wildlife, livelihoods of local people, and infrastructure development requires reconciling these competing needs and managing land use across the region.

Decisions about land use in the region call for coordinated and continual interaction and communication among all stakeholders.

Based on the best available science, participants agreed that protected areas in the Kanha Pench landscape are the cornerstone for conservation. However, protected areas alone are not sufficient to maintain genetically-healthy wildlife populations of large animals. This requires maintaining connections across the landscape that allow animals to move across lands between protected areas.

Engagement of researchers, managers, and NGOs in this symposium fostered new interactions. Mechanisms should be established to continue the process and help identify innovative solutions to the challenges of managing the Kanha Pench landscape.