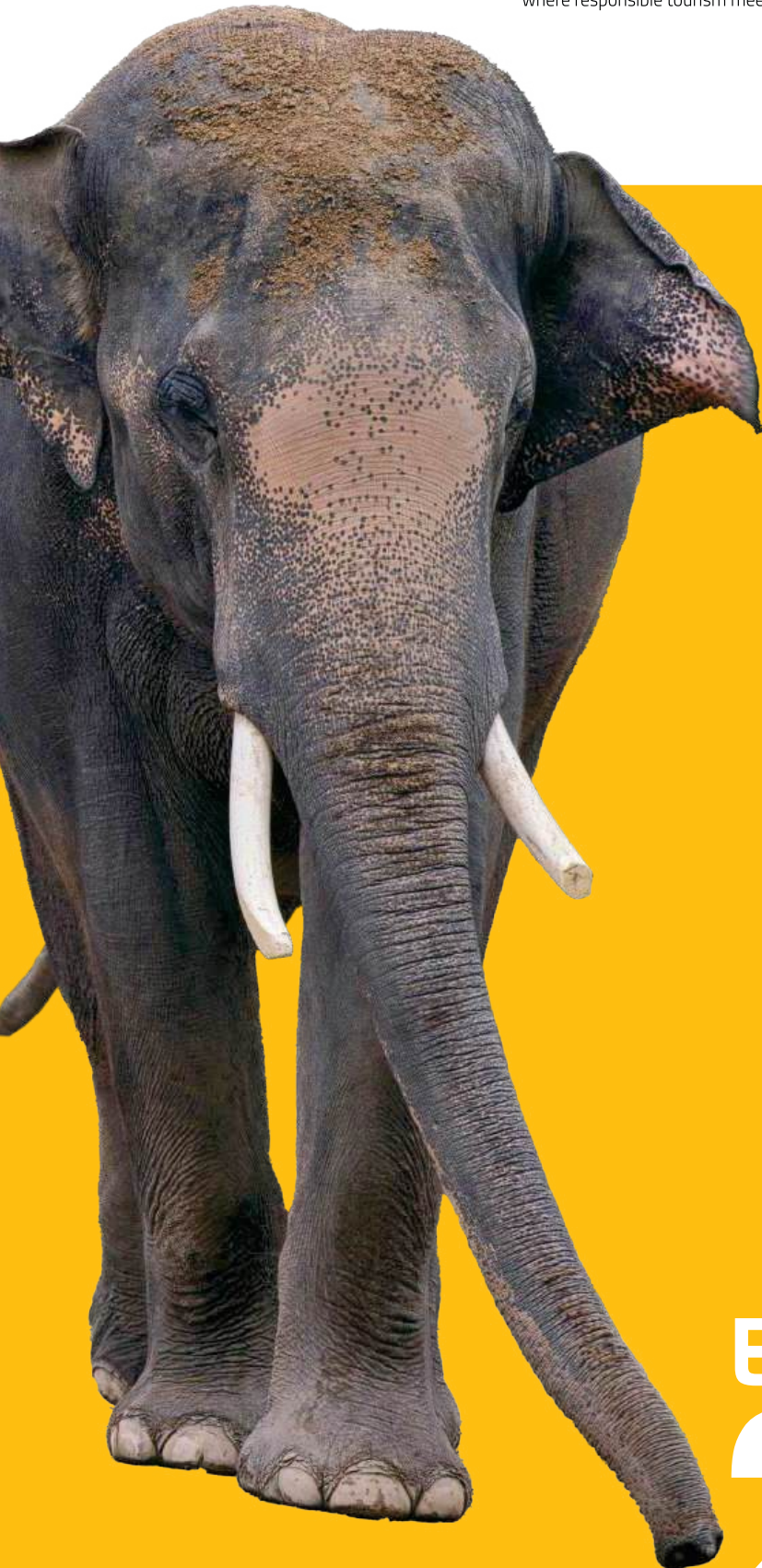




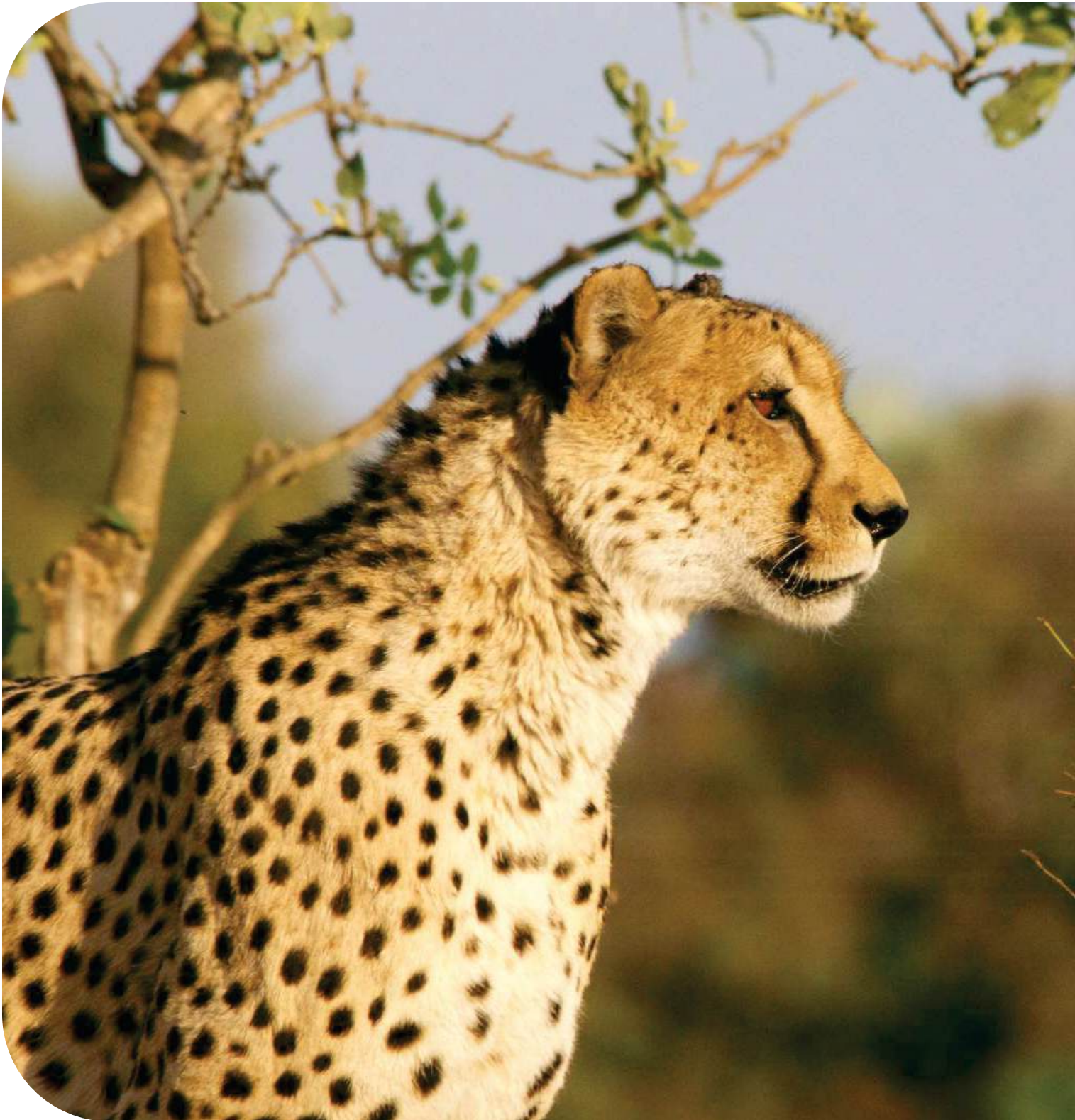
GLOBAL WILDLIFE

FAIR

where responsible tourism meets wildlife conservation



EVENT REPORT
2025



CONTENT

01	INTRODUCTION
02	CONCEPT & VISION
03	PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS
04	EXHIBITORS & MARKETPLACE
05	PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
06	CULTURAL & CREATIVE EVENTS
07	ACADEMIC & STUDENT ENGAGEMENT
08	CEREMONIES, AWARDS & NETWORKING EVENINGS
09	OUTCOMES & LEGACY
10	CONCLUSION



Partnered with



Delhi Tourism



Gujarat Tourism



UTTAR PRADESH TOURISM



UP Eco-Tourism Development Board
GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH



Love the Wild,
Live it Here.



01 INTRODUCTION

The Global Wildlife Fair (GWF) 2025 was designed to be more than another conference—it was meant to be a working ground where conservation, tourism, education, and culture could sit at the same table and leave with shared commitments. Hosted at the Constitution Club of India (CCI) in New Delhi, the fair brought together the full spectrum of the wildlife economy: ecolodge owners and tour operators, conservation NGOs and researchers, state tourism boards and policy voices, photographers and filmmakers, educators and students, artists and musicians. The guiding belief was simple but firm: if wildlife is to thrive, the people and businesses around it must thrive responsibly too.

From day one, GWF framed itself as a practical platform. Attendees didn't just browse booths or listen to lectures; they met counterparts they could actually work with—exhibitors showcasing responsible products and destinations, NGOs seeking on-ground allies, photographers and filmmakers offering visual storytelling, and students hungry for real pathways into conservation careers. Conversations moved fluidly between the exhibition floor, the Speaker Hall, and side rooms where working sessions unfolded and stimulated learn, align and act responses in the audience.

The event also carried a strong sense of continuity. In the year leading up to GWF, weekly online broadcasts had quietly built a community around ecotourism, conservation practices, technology, and community engagement. Those digital touch points seeded relationships across Asia, Africa, Australia, USA and Latin America; many of the people who first met on camera finally met in person at the fair. That pre-fair ecosystem gave GWF both momentum and focus—panels and workshops didn't start from zero; they picked up conversations already in progress.

Partnerships were central to the fair's credibility. The Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), celebrating its 25th year, anchored the conservation agenda and convened the second Conservation Partners Meeting (CPM-2), a forum that moved policy and field realities into the same conversation. The Asian Ecotourism Network (AEN), marking its 10th anniversary, connected the dots internationally and hosted Asian Ecotourism Standards for Accommodations (AESAs) training to ground the hospitality side of ecotourism in standards. State partners brought place-based leadership to the stage, wherein, Gujarat Tourism hosted the Awards and Inaugural Dinner, Delhi Tourism engaged families through a Children's Participation Pavilion, and Uttar Pradesh Tourism highlighted the link between wild landscapes and living heritage. Corporate and institutional supporters, spanning logistics, water stewardship, CSR, and venue, made the whole effort workable at a high standard.

GWF's marketplace felt intentional. Exhibitors represented the living economy of conservation, including ecolodge and wildlife resorts, tour operators, optics and camera companies, conservation initiatives, green tech startups, artists, and destination boards. For many, the fair was a year's worth of outreach achieved in a few days, new partners met, itineraries scoped, content commissioned, ideas tested. The cultural layer deepened the atmosphere after hours. Evenings featured performances that treated nature not just as subject matter but as collaborator through live art and music, classical recitals on rare instruments, and ambient storytelling personified mountains and rivers into the courtyard.

Finally, GWF looked beyond its own walls. A strong academic current ran through the fair, with students, ambassadors, and faculty shaping follow-through in classrooms and communities. And the concept of a Global Mammal Big Day—an annual, open, citizen-science event—emerged as a unifying legacy addressing a simple, inclusive, and global approach by design. In spirit and in structure, the fair positioned itself as a continuing movement—one that matches the urgency of conservation with the pragmatism of a well-run marketplace.

02 CONCEPT & VISION

The GWF was conceived to solve a practical problem, wherein conservation and the tourism economy often talk past each other, even though they depend on the same landscapes, species, and communities. Therefore, the concept was to set a simple goal, i.e. 'to put all the actors shaping the wildlife economy in one room, to give them a shared language and standards, to move from ideas to implementable work'. This intent not only shaped the GWF design choice, including who was invited and how sessions were structured. But, grounded the story of 'how the fair would live on' after the closing day.

On the other hand, deeply rooted, the origin and vision for GWF grew out of three decades of ecotourism and conservation practice in India and across Asia. These included field projects that worked, others that didn't work, along with a clear lesson that conservation only sustains when communities benefit, and markets reward good behavior. GWF's founders wanted a platform that was neither a trade show nor a seminar, but a working marketplace for conservation—where ecolodges, tour operators, photographers, researchers, policy makers, and state tourism boards align on standards, routes, and revenue models that keep habitats intact.

Pre-fair momentum was further meticulously designed to avoid a "cold-start" networking. Wherein, the team ran weekly online broadcasts for a full year before the fair. Short digital sessions introduced voices from Asia, Africa, Australia, and Latin America covering operators, conservationists, researchers, technologists, and grassroots leaders. That cadence not only pre-aligned participants on themes like responsible guiding, ethical photography, AESA-aligned hospitality, and community revenue-sharing, but also warmed up collaborations that could be formalised at the fair. By the time people met in Delhi, conversations were already mature; sessions focused on decisions rather than definitions.

The guiding philosophy of GWF was built on three principles:

1**Community-first:**

Tourism must pay local people fairly, respect land use, and support skills and enterprises that keep young residents rooted in place.

2**Science-led:**

Protected areas, corridors, and species plans guide where and how tourism happens; monitoring and naturalist training are core.

3**Market-aware:**

Standards, storytelling, and distribution need to be good enough that responsible choices also win commercially.



Ethically, the fair promoted AESA training, responsible optics/photography practices (no baiting, no disturbance), and transparent communication (accurate species claims, realistic itineraries).

The design principles for the event addressed a mixed-use layout to connect different activities; decision-oriented sessions that focus on actionable outcomes; open-door learning to build long-term capacity; and operational responsibility for sustainability.

To extend the fair's purpose beyond a venue and a week, GWF proposed Global Mammal Big Day — a simple, inclusive citizen-science event where people everywhere record mammal sightings on a single day each year. Inspired by birding's global models, the idea serves multiple aims: raise awareness of mammal diversity, generate usable observational data, spur local guiding and nature walks, and build a shared calendar moment that connects schools, lodges, clubs, and parks worldwide.

The GWF's pragmatic vision mattered to align incentives for all concerned stakeholders. Reflecting key ecotourism principles i.e. keeping forests standing, rivers healthy, and corridors open contributes directly to good business for communities and operators, and good policy for governments. In practice, that means better product-market fit for responsible tours, stronger interpretive quality, fairer community contracts, and measurable conservation outcomes. GWF's concept and vision, in short, was to make conservation work like a system with standards, stories, and a marketplace that all pointed in the same direction.

03 PARTNERSHIPS

The Global Wildlife Fair 2025 was, at its heart, a tapestry woven through partnerships. The event's credibility and impact drew strength from the range and integrity of its collaborators—government agencies, NGOs, private companies, academic institutions, and individuals who each brought a piece of the conservation puzzle to the table. The organisers understood that the challenges facing wildlife and nature-based tourism cannot be solved in isolation; the fair had to function as a model ecosystem, where diverse entities could work interdependently yet with shared purpose.

Institutional and Conservation Partnerships



The Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) formed the cornerstone of the fair's conservation architecture. In 2025, WTI celebrated its 25th anniversary — a symbolic alignment that deepened its connection with the event's mission. Its presence anchored the conservation dialogue in decades of field experience. WTI's 2nd CPM, hosted alongside the fair, became one of its defining sessions. Conservation leaders from across India and Asia gathered to exchange ideas on human-wildlife coexistence, policy frameworks, and fundraising for critical species and corridor protection projects. The organisation also curated the special session "25 Years of Wildlife Trust of India", featuring Jose Louies and Dr Sandeep Kumar Tiwari, both of whom articulated the evolution of India's conservation landscape and its intersections with tourism.



The Asian Ecotourism Network (AEN) acted as the fair's international backbone. Under the leadership of Masaru Takayama, AEN lent GWF international gravitas, aligning it with global ecotourism standards and initiatives. The organisation coordinated the participation of international speakers, orchestrated AESA training, and celebrated its own 10th anniversary during the fair. Its involvement underscored the principle that responsible tourism must adhere to measurable, region-specific standards while fostering cultural respect, local empowerment, biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods.



RARE India, representing a curated collection of conscious luxury hotels, bridged conservation with hospitality. Their presence brought in the perspective of sustainable luxury—hotels and lodges that thrive on authenticity and low-impact design. By facilitating participation from exemplary properties such as Snow Leopard Lodge (Ladakh), Utsav Camp (Sariska), and Kaav Safari Lodge (Karnataka), RARE India helped define what a truly regenerative tourism model looks like.

COLLABORATIONS

Government and State Partners

At the national level, the **Ministry of Tourism (Government of India)** supported the fair by permitting us to use the 'Incredible India' logo on the website.

The role of state tourism boards was pivotal. **Gujarat Tourism**, a State Partner, showcased the state's biodiversity and tourism success stories through an exhibit titled "Wild Gujarat." Beyond exhibitions, Gujarat hosted the Global Wildlife Fair Awards and Inaugural Dinner, transforming its participation into a full-state collaboration. The showcase highlighted icons like the Asiatic lion in Gir, the blackbuck of Velavadar, and the salt plains of the Rann of Kutch, demonstrating that responsible tourism can drive both conservation and livelihoods.

Delhi Tourism introduced the eco-trails of Delhi and supported the fair as a tourism partner. The interactive space for young visitors, the Children's Participation Pavilion, featuring singing sessions and wildlife storytelling, was created. It was a statement that conservation must start with education, shaping future travellers into informed stewards of the planet.

Uttar Pradesh Tourism used its platform to connect wildlife and culture, featuring Dudhwa National Park, Chambal Sanctuary, and Jageshwar's temple heritage. The pavilion presented an emerging tourism philosophy where pilgrimage, heritage, and wilderness coexist harmoniously.

Corporate and Institutional Collaborations

Corporate partners gave the fair operational strength and financial viability without compromising its sustainability ethos. **Safexpress** helped the fair with sponsorship. **Jaquar India** showcased its commitment to 8 stalwarts who were felicitated with awards. **Oil India Ltd.** participated through its CSR arm, committing to educating the youth. **The Farida Danish Foundation** supported women-led enterprises and crafts linked to conservation zones, creating bridges between social impact and ecology.

The Constitution Club of India, serving as the venue partner, provided not just the physical space but also the symbolic gravitas—a democratic forum where ideas on policy and practice could coexist. **Roundglass Sustain** and a consortium of environmental media partners extended the event's reach far beyond Delhi, turning the fair's conversations into digital and print narratives that reached global audiences.

The Power of Partnership

Together, these alliances created a fabric of accountability, innovation, and shared action. The partnerships enabled the fair to operate smoothly, attract a global audience, and inspire confidence among stakeholders. They also demonstrated that the **wildlife economy can thrive only when built on collaboration**—between states and citizens, businesses and communities, decision makers and visionaries and implementers. In many ways, the partnerships forged and strengthened at GWF 2025 are its most enduring legacy, ensuring that the dialogue continues long after the exhibition lights get dimmed.

04 EXHIBITORS & MARKETPLACE

If the partnerships were the fair's spine, the exhibitors were its beating heart. The exhibition floor was designed as a working marketplace and not a gallery of banners. Booths were clustered by purpose so buyers, researchers, and enthusiasts could navigate by need, including: Ecolodges & Wildlife Resorts, Tour Operators & Destination Specialists, Conservation NGOs & Research Initiatives, Optics & Imaging, Green Tech & Low-Impact Infrastructure, Wildlife Artists & Photographers, and Safari Operators & Destination Boards. This zoning cut down aimless footfall and increased the kind of conversations that turn into itineraries, pilots, and projects.

Ecolodges and Wildlife Resorts showcased models of hospitality that protect habitats while sustaining local jobs. Many presented conservation-first operating practices like waste-light housekeeping, water stewardship, native landscaping, and naturalist-led interpretation. Property owners arrived with bookable products (fixed departures, shoulder-season specials, citizen-science weekends) and community stories visitors could understand and support. This combination reflected clear inventory in addition to clear impact and proved magnetic for responsible tour operators and media.

Tour Operators and Destination Specialists used the fair to stitch multi-park circuits and cross-border routes with like-minded partners. The matchmaking desk helped move meetings from "nice to meet you" to "here's a draft departure calendar." Several operators brought content kits (route maps, species lists, photography guidance, best-season advice) that made it easy for lodges and agents to co-market cleanly and ethically with a clear message of 'no exaggerated sightings, no baiting, no disturbance'.

Conservation NGOs and Research Initiatives treated their booths as knowledge points. Instead of passive brochures, they ran live micro-sessions on corridor protection, conflict mitigation, rescue protocols, and community revenue-sharing models. Many displayed call-to-action boards—volunteer intakes, citizen-science signups, micro-grant opportunities for village enterprises—so interested visitors could convert enthusiasm into action right on the floor. This kept the economy-conservation loop visible i.e. tourism revenue feeds conservation, conservation credibility feeds tourism.



In the **Optics & Imaging zone**, visitors could test binoculars and scopes. Camera bodies and telephoto lenses sat beside field-practical accessories (beanbags, rain covers, harnesses). Demonstrators focused on ethics and technique i.e. photographing without stress, low-light strategies that avoid spotlighting, and composition that tells an honest story of the animal and its habitat. Buyers appreciated transparent comparisons and service commitments (warranty, local spares, field support).

The **Wildlife Artists & Photographers corridor** added the human texture that makes a fair memorable. Original works, limited prints, and field journals sat beside rights-licensed imagery for lodges and boards. Several artists offered on-commission interpretive panels like species ID boards, trailhead graphics, and room art that doubles as education. This became a quiet but important bridge between aesthetic value and interpretive value.

A dedicated **Marketplace Operations Desk** kept the floor moving: slotting appointments, posting daily “What’s On” boards, nudging speakers and buyers to the right place at the right time. A Media & Content Corner allowed journalists and creators to schedule story pitches with exhibitors—profiles of community rangers, restoration diaries, equipment explainers—ensuring the stories forged at GWF would travel further than the venue walls.

Two principles underpinned the marketplace: **standards** and **access**. Exhibitors agreed to a basic code of practice—truthful species claims, no baiting, no harassment, clarity on inclusions and safety. Access-wise, student badges unlocked short ‘career windows’ at select spaces — Q&As on field roles, training paths, and internships—so the next generation could see how the wildlife economy actually works.

What made the marketplace feel different was its bias toward closure. Many meetings left with named owners, dates, and first steps (pilot departures, familiarisation visits, equipment trials, content handovers). For some, the fair compressed a year’s email trail into a single decisive afternoon. In that sense, the exhibitor floor delivered exactly what the GWF promised at the outset: a place where conservation values and commercial realities don’t cancel each other out—they complete each other.



05 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The GWF 2025 at the CCI, New Delhi, India was a landmark in multi-disciplinary programming, bringing together experts, educators, exhibitors, and field practitioners from across the world. Each hall pulsed with activity, offering its own rhythm of discourse—training, knowledge exchange, creativity, and collaboration. From scientific presentations and policy dialogues to storytelling, art, and community workshops, the event proved that conservation thrives best when participation is inclusive and knowledge is shared freely.



Board Room – Training, Innovation, and Standards

The Board Room hosted a series of focused, skill-driven workshops and discussions designed to empower professionals and enthusiasts alike. The day began with Kunal Girotra from **ZEISS Optics**, who spoke on Community Building and How It Supports Conservation, emphasising how collaborative learning networks can strengthen field research and ethical tourism. Egor Sánchez followed with an engaging demonstration of Using Artificial Intelligence to Identify Birds by Sound, introducing new technology that simplifies data collection for ornithologists and guides alike.

Herpetologist Robin Suyesh conducted an immersive presentation on Frogs of India, highlighting the importance of amphibians in wetland conservation. The afternoon featured a creative storytelling workshop titled Wild Narratives—Crafting Narratives for a Fragile World, organised by **Roundglass Sustain**, which trained participants to communicate science through empathy and narrative structure.

The following days saw intensive sessions on AESA, led by experts from the AEN. This training gave ecolodge owners and tour operators tools to align their businesses with measurable sustainability criteria.

By the closing day, the Board Room turned into a classroom for photography and field ethics as Adam Rainoff delivered Introduction to Bird Photography: Travelling Light—Exploring Wilderness, followed by Soulinnara Ratanavong from Laos, who outlined best practices under the ASEAN Ecotourism Standards. Together, these sessions created a bridge between technology, field ethics, and operational sustainability—translating ideals into practical standards.



Conference Room – Ecotourism Learnings for Students

The Conference Room was dedicated to student learning and international academic exchange, conducted in hybrid mode under the coordination of the AEN. Moderated by AEN members Dr. Alan Wong, Prof. Jennifer Kim Lian Chan, Dr Yung-Song Chen, and Samir Thapa, the sessions served as a classroom for the next generation of wildlife professionals.

Morning session themes created a great momentum for each of the three days of learning for the students. The theme on Entrepreneurship in Wildlife Tourism for Young People, featured Dr Gana Damba Gantemur (Vice Chair, AEN, Mongolia) on building resilient nature-based enterprises. Timothy Teo (AEN, Singapore) spoke about creating memorable guest experiences, while Nipatpong Chuan Chuen (Thailand) showcased science-based tourism models. Anirudh Chaoji of the Ran Mangli Foundation joined the panel to discuss India's community-led innovations.

The theme on Skills in Wildlife Safaris and Tours, was inaugurated by Dr David Fennell (Brock University, Canada), who presented research on the ethics of animal-based tourism. Supporting talks by Prabha Gautam and Samir Thapa drew from Nepalese experience, and Dr Shailja Sharma (IITTM) underlined the role of trained guides in ensuring safety, education, and responsible guest behavior.

The theme on Pursuing a Career in Wildlife Conservation and Ecotourism, brought together inspiring professionals—Hitesh Mehta (HM Designs, USA), Nidhi Aggarwal (BVIEER, Pune), Pham Hong Long (Vietnam National University), Dr Rajiv Bhartari (NITI Aayog Fellow), and Rohit Chakravarty (NCF). They mapped academic pathways, skill development strategies, and the emotional commitment required to make conservation a lifelong profession.

Afternoon tracks broadened the scope with discussions on Wildlife Management and Human–Tourism Conflict (R.P. Singh, Dr Fiffy Hanisdah Binti Saikim, Nilanjan Basu), Community-Based Wildlife Tourism (Raj Basu, Wita Permatasari Simatupang, Dr Shruti Kulkarni), and Technological Innovation in Wildlife and Ecotourism (Dhruvam Desai, Dr Ashwin Viswanathan, Dr Sarita Subramaniam).

Panels concluded with a collective pledge to nurture responsible tourism leadership among students—one that balances livelihood with stewardship.



Speaker Hall – Dialogues that Defined the Fair

The Speaker Hall, the intellectual nucleus of GWF, brought together over 80 speakers from India and abroad.

Day One, themed Nature, Human, Wildlife Harmony, opened with addresses by Masaru Takayama (AEN Founder and Chair) and Jose Louies (CEO, WTI). Special guests included Sh. Kapil Mishra (Hon. Minister, Delhi Tourism), Ravi Singh (WWF-India), Ajeet Bajaj (ATOAI), and Dr D.K. Sasikumar (Gujarat Forest Department). A celebratory session titled 25 Years of Wildlife Trust of India by Jose Louies and Dr Sandeep Kumar Tiwari traced WTI's evolution from grassroots activism to policy advocacy.

The day closed with creative presentations by Astral Foundation, Sriharsha H.K. & Adarsh N.C. of Felis Creations, and conservation storytellers Ritu Makhija, Bhavna Menon, and Kalponika of Baaghini Homestay.

Day Two, themed Wildlife Conservation through Ecotourism – The Art and the Artists on Field, featured keynote addresses by Dr Dipankar Ghose (WWF-India), Sh. Dharminder Sharma, Dr Dhananjay Mohan, Dr Kishore Rithe (BNHS), and Prof. Prodyut Bhattacharya. Conservationists Dr. Rajwant Singh, Founder President, EcoSikhh; Dr Supreet Kaur (EcoSikh), Dr Rajiv Singh, and Noam Weiss (IBRCE, Israel) shared experiences of integrating spirituality, education, and science in fieldwork. Afternoon sessions expanded with voices from Asia—Dr Gantemur Damba (Mongolia), Dr Pham Hong Long (Vietnam), Nipatpong Chuan Chuen (Thailand)—joined by Preeti Srivastava (UP Tourism), Egor Sánchez (Colombia), Tashi Tenzin (Bhutan Tourism), and Delhi Tourism delegates.

Day Three, Envisioning Ecotourism Responsibly, reflected on global ethics. Prof. Jennifer Chan Kim Lian (Malaysia) set the tone with a keynote on sustainable frameworks, followed by Seema Bhatt, Jari Peltomäki (Finnature), Rafael Armada, Marc Guyt, Ramesh Sapkota (JGI Nepal), and Ramcharan Vijayaraghavan (Polar Educators International).

A film screening and discussion by Roundglass Sustain, moderated by Megha Moorthy, with panelists Dhritiman Mukherjee, Soity Banerjee, and Neha Dara, redefined travel as an act of empathy. The event concluded with addresses by Raj Basu, Luis Segura (Trogon Tours), Vinay Jindal, IAS, Jai Sharma (Muddy Lessons LLP), and Dr Priya Bhalla (SCS Global Services), with closing remarks by Masaru Takayama and Mohit Aggarwal.

Deputy Speaker Hall – The Marketplace of Ideas

Parallel to the main sessions, the Deputy Speaker Hall hosted a global showcase of exhibitors.

Presenters included Jari & Kaisa Peltomäki (Finnature, Finland), Alfredo Scott (Costa Rica Wildbird), Luis Segura (Trogon Tours, Argentina), Erwin Agnel Droese (Just Nature Expedition), Riaz Cader (Natural World Explorer, Sri Lanka), Rene Montero (Jaguarundi Travel, Colombia), Mohit Batra (Oceanwide Expeditions), Raj Singh (ANTARA River Cruises), Bhanu Prabhat (Ramganga River Reserve), Divyanshu Neerdiv Bankoti (Quantum Explorer), Luis Eduardo Urueña (Manakin Nature Tours), Gunnar Engblom (Kolibri Expeditions), Vipul Gupta (Earth Focus Foundation), and Ashan Piyasinghe (Classic Destinations, Sri Lanka).

Later sessions featured Noam Weiss (Israel), Dr Yung-Song Chen (Taiwan), Johnnie Kamugisha (Uganda), Ismail Shariff (Banjara Experiences), Gaurav Shirodkar (Last Wilderness Foundation), Prabha Gautam (Burhan Wilderness Camps), Samir Thapa (Silver Mountain), Pankaj Lad (Planet Life Resorts), Joseph Rajan Passah (RARE India), Braun Subimo (Sukau Greenview), Dr Hiren Shah, and Vineet Mahendru (Aranya by Sita). The hall became an international forum for cross-learning, networking, and shared inspiration among exhibitors representing every continent.



Deputy Chairman Hall – Conservation Partners Meeting (CPM-2)

The 2nd Conservation Partners Meeting (CPM-2), hosted by the Wildlife Trust of India, was the fair's scientific and policy cornerstone. Led by Jose Louies and Dr Sandeep Kumar Tiwari, it convened representatives from partner organisations including Dusty Foot Foundation, Aaranyak, Earth Brigade Foundation, Vanvasi – Adivasi, Daanveda, and Last Wilderness Foundation. Workshops and discussions were facilitated by Dr Samir K. Sinha, Neha Singh, Saymanti B., Irfan Bashir, and Lovish Sharma, covering topics like rescue protocols, outreach, wildlife law, and field documentation.

Field visits to Aravalli Biodiversity Park with Vijay Dhasmana and Yamuna Biodiversity Park with Dr Faiyaz A. Khudsar added a hands-on dimension. Other notable contributors included Dr Bhaskar Choudhury, Peeyush Sekhsaria, and Ananda Banerjee, who led sessions on education, communication, and awareness-building.

Our Partners



Delhi Tourism



Gujarat
Tourism



Uttar Pradesh

UTTAR PRADESH TOURISM

Incredible India



UP Eco-Tourism
Development Board
GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH



Distribution Redefined



Farida Danish Foundation



Our Exhibitors



Workshops, Walks, and Cultural Interludes

The fair's creative layer included outdoor and indoor activities that blended science with community joy. Workshops such as Falling in Love with Birds (Pankaj Gupta), Birding Basics (Dr Rajesh Kalra), Reading Jungle Indicators (Anirudh Chaoji), Reconnect with Nature Through Art (Richa Kedia), and Storytelling for Conservation (Sohail Madan) connected participants to nature experientially.

Evenings came alive with performances by Gunnar, Krsnav and Siddharth, marking the launch of Art for the Wild, where art and music fund conservation initiatives. An accompanying exhibition of paintings and photographs raised funds for elephant corridor protection and student fellowships.

Networking dinners—including the AEN International Ecotourism Awards 2025 at the venue—honoured outstanding contributions to responsible tourism and conservation.

The program at GWF 2025 thus demonstrated a rare synthesis of science, business, culture, and empathy. Each hall, each speaker, and each participant added a layer of meaning to a collective truth: that conservation must be lived, not merely discussed. The sessions and interactions built a network that will outlast the fair itself—continuing as collaborations, projects, and movements that speak for the wild.



06 CULTURAL & CREATIVE EVENTS

The GWF 2025 was not limited to dialogue, research, and trade—it was also a celebration of creativity inspired by the natural world. The evenings at the Constitution Club of India transformed into immersive cultural experiences that wove together music, art, and storytelling, giving the fair its emotional centre. These performances reminded participants that conservation is not only about data and policy but also about the feeling of belonging to nature. Each act, curated with intention, explored how artistic expression can move hearts and spark empathy for the wild.

Music as a Language of the Wild

The series of live performances—collectively called *The Soul of the Evenings*—offered the audience an emotional journey through sound, silence, and imagery. On the first evening, Finnish-Peruvian artist Gunnar Engblom unveiled *Voices of the Wild*, a performance with instrumental fusion.

The second performance came from Indian classical musician Siddhartha Bannerjee, who performed *Strings of Serenity* on the *Siddh Veena*, a rare and ethereal instrument. His recital unfolded as an invocation to nature—each raga reflecting a landscape, from the stillness of dawn to the energy of the monsoon.

The third evening featured Krsnav Aggarwal, a young musician and composer whose performance *Echoes of the Global Wildlife Fair* was inspired by the Himalayan forests and rivers of Kumaon. Blending acoustic guitar with recorded ambient sounds of flowing streams, bird calls, and wind, he transported the audience to high-altitude landscapes.

Art, Film, and Expression

Throughout the fair, visual art exhibitions complemented the musical programs. The *Art for the Wild* initiative, supported by Roundglass Sustain and RARE India, displayed 18 original paintings and 24 wildlife photographs by emerging and established artists. The works reflected themes of coexistence, fragility, and the beauty of India's natural heritage.

Short films curated by Roundglass Sustain and Dusty Foot Foundation were screened each evening in the atrium. Films such as *Reframing Wildlife Travel* and *Conservation Through the Lens* offered glimpses into the lives of field workers, researchers, and communities living alongside wildlife. These screenings blurred the boundaries between education and art, engaging viewers both intellectually and emotionally.

A Celebration Beyond Words

What made these cultural events significant was their capacity to unite diverse audiences—scientists, policy makers, students, and travellers—through shared aesthetic experience. Every note played, every image projected, and every story told became part of a collective memory of what the fair stood for: connection, reverence, and responsibility.

By the end of the fair, it was clear that the cultural evenings were not an accessory to the program but an essential part of it. They offered what data and policy could not—the emotional truth of conservation. The music, art, and films of GWF 2025 did more than entertain; they inspired the audience to see the natural world not as a resource, but as a masterpiece worth protecting.



07 ACADEMIC & STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Education and youth participation stood at the very heart of the GWF 2025. The organisers envisioned the fair not only as a professional convergence of experts and businesses but also as a living classroom for future conservationists. Students from universities and colleges across India and Asia—representing disciplines as varied as ecology, tourism, design, and communication—were given access to the event’s intellectual ecosystem. Through workshops, mentorship programs, and structured interactions, GWF positioned itself as an educational catalyst that extended learning beyond the confines of the classroom.

Academic Integration and Global Collaboration

The academic program was coordinated by the AEN, with leadership from **Prof. Jennifer Kim Lian Chan, Dr. Alan Wong, Dr Yung-Song Chen, and Samir Thapa**. Their goal was to bridge academic research and field practice, ensuring that theoretical understanding of sustainability translated into employable skills and ethical leadership. Universities from India, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Taiwan participated through hybrid sessions, panel discussions, and virtual classrooms, allowing students from distant campuses to learn alongside those attending in person.

About 100 students received Certificates of Participation, jointly endorsed by Asian Adventures, UMS and AEN, recognising their contribution to sustainable tourism learning. These certificates symbolised more than attendance—they marked the beginning of a professional journey rooted in ethical responsibility.

Legacy of Learning

What set the academic engagement of GWF apart was its inclusivity. Students sat alongside diplomats, business owners, and field biologists, asking questions, challenging assumptions, and absorbing diverse perspectives. Many described the experience as transformative—a glimpse of how conservation, education, and livelihood can coexist when built on curiosity and care.

In essence, GWF 2025 became a blueprint for the education of tomorrow’s conservation leaders. It demonstrated that if young people are given access, mentorship, and real-world exposure, they will not only learn about the wild—they will learn to protect it.

08 CEREMONIES, AWARDS

While the Global Wildlife Fair 2025 was anchored in panels, workshops, and academic rigour, its spirit truly came alive through its ceremonies and social gatherings. These evenings transformed professional exchange into a celebration of community, purpose, and gratitude. From the inaugural dinner hosted by Gujarat Tourism to the closing awards, each event symbolised a milestone in the growing alliance between tourism, conservation, and culture.

The Inaugural Dinner

The Global Wildlife Fair opened on the evening of October 9, 2025, with an Inaugural Dinner at Silver Oak, India Habitat Centre. This dinner set a dignified yet warm tone for the days ahead. Delegates from across India and 25 nations gathered under one roof—representing ministries, embassies, NGOs, universities, and the ecotourism industry.

Five awards were presented that night to stalwarts of conservation and ecotourism from Gujarat, recognising their exemplary efforts in sustainable wildlife management, community involvement, and heritage preservation. The event celebrated Gujarat's conservation leadership—the lions of Gir, the blackbucks of Velavadar, and the salt plains of Kutch—as proof that tourism and ecology can flourish together when guided by vision and commitment.

Mohit Aggarwal, founder of Asian Adventures and the Global Wildlife Fair, welcomed guests by describing the fair as “a living bridge between the marketplace and the biosphere.” He emphasised that the event was not a convention but a movement—an intersection where ideas, partnerships, and empathy meet.

The atmosphere mixed elegance with camaraderie. Conversations moved from policies and destinations to personal stories of fieldwork and discovery. It was during this dinner that many early introductions blossomed into collaborations announced later during the fair.



NETWORKING EVENINGS

The AEN International Ecotourism Awards 2025

The Asian Ecotourism Network – International Ecotourism Awards (AEN-IEA 2025) celebrated ecotourism excellence at the Global Wildlife Fair in New Delhi. The event recognised outstanding accommodations and destinations in Asia, judged by GSTC-recognised standards, that demonstrate environmental stewardship, cultural preservation, and community empowerment. It served as a platform for networking, knowledge sharing, and collaboration among tourism leaders, promoting sustainable and regenerative tourism.

Networking Dinners — The Fair’s Informal Universities

Over the next two evenings, the Constitution Club transformed into a hub of informal learning and collaboration through two Networking Dinners. Here, boundaries blurred between exhibitors, policy-makers, conservationists, and students.

Representatives and stakeholders sat together to design ideas for eco-circuits and joint campaigns promoting responsible travel. Photographers, tour operators, and lodge owners brainstormed ways to reduce carbon footprints and improve community partnerships. With light music playing in the background and snacks being served, the overall atmosphere became notably more cheerful.

The dinners doubled as a toast to AENs decade of leadership. A short address by Masaru Takayama celebrated ten years of building standards, ten years of friendship. Laughter, gratitude, and promise filled the air as certificates of appreciation were handed to contributors who kept the fairs complex machinery running seamlessly.





Letter of Intent (LOI) Signing Event

A formal Letter of Intent (LOI) ceremony was held during the GWF 2025 in New Delhi, marking a major milestone for the AEN Academic Committee's Educational Initiative Program. The event established strategic partnerships between universities, industry leaders, and NGOs to advance environmental conservation and sustainable tourism development through academic collaboration and capacity building.

Senior representatives from participating institutions — Universiti Malaysia Sabah (Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation), Asian Adventures (India), Yayasan Ekowisata Indonesia, Taiwan Ecotourism Association, and Silver Mountain School (Nepal) are committed to strengthening cooperation in ecotourism research, training, and biodiversity protection.

Key areas of collaboration include joint research, knowledge exchange, eco-guiding and community training, internship programs, and co-hosting of conferences and symposiums. Partners also agreed to pursue joint funding opportunities and share resources to enhance impact.

The signing reaffirmed a shared commitment to responsible tourism, tropical biodiversity conservation, and community development—cementing this initiative as a cornerstone for global academic–industry cooperation in sustainable ecotourism.

International Photo Awards and Closing Ceremony

The final day culminated in the International Photo Awards and Closing Session, a celebration of visual storytelling. Nine photographers and a student contributor were recognised for images that captured the quiet beauty of coexistence. Winning entries ranged from the African elephant to the Indian Pitta. The jury consisting of 5 eminent wildlife photographers did a great job - Marc Guyt (Netherlands), Rafael Armada (Spain), Jaime Culebras (France), Jainy Maria Kuriakose (India) and Dhritiman Mukherjee (India).

Masaru Takayama and Mohit Aggarwal delivered valedictory addresses that distilled the fair's essence: that every photograph, every tour, and every story is an act of advocacy for the planet. Jose Louies and Dr Sandeep Kumar Tiwari joined them in thanking volunteers and partners whose dedication turned an idea into a global platform.

The evening ended on an emotional note as delegates stood together for a group photograph—hundreds of conservationists, travellers, and students united by one mission. The applause that followed was less for closure and more for continuity.

Art for the Wild — Creativity as Conservation

Running parallel to these celebrations was the Art for the Wild exhibition, curated by Asian Adventures, Roundglass Sustain and supported by Rohit Sharma and Dhritiman Mukherjee. The sale of fourteen paintings created by Peter Elfman will generate funds that will be used to support a small wildlife initiative.

Artists and photographers shared brief reflections on how art can deepen emotional connection to the environment. The exhibit became a quiet yet powerful thread linking the fair's cultural and conservation narratives.

A Celebration with Purpose

Taken together, the inaugural dinner, the AEN Awards, the networking gatherings, and the closing ceremonies transformed GWF 2025 from a conventional fair into a holistic movement. These evenings embodied the belief that conversation alone cannot drive change—connection does.

They showcased how gratitude, recognition, and creativity can strengthen the collective resolve to act for nature. Each event—formal or spontaneous—added texture to the larger picture: a community learning to celebrate responsibly, collaborate sincerely, and conserve meaningfully.

The spirit of those nights will continue to echo in every future edition of the Global Wildlife Fair, reminding all who attended that conservation, at its core, is a shared celebration of life itself.



09 OUTCOMES & LEGACY

The GWF 2025 concluded not merely as an event but as a catalyst — a bridge connecting science and society, commerce and conservation, art and empathy. Its legacy extended far beyond the Constitution Club of India, continuing through the partnerships, projects, and purpose it inspired. The fair measured success not by applause or attendance, but by how it reshaped attitudes and generated long-term cooperation.

Quantitative and Qualitative Reach

Across three days, the fair drew over **3,000 attendees**, **70+ exhibitors**, **international attendees from 35+ countries**, and **80 speakers** and panellists leading **40 sessions** and **25 interactive workshops**. It certified more than **100 students** through the Asian Ecotourism Network (AEN) and Asian Adventures training modules, supported by **80 volunteers** and covered by **40 media outlets**, reaching over **250,000 digital viewers worldwide**.

Yet numbers told only part of the story. What resonated most was the transformation in tone — from competitive to collaborative, from individual advocacy to collective stewardship. The fair fostered an emotional rhythm that echoed long after closing day.

Business and Collaboration Outcomes

The marketplace became the event's heartbeat, turning ideas into agreements. New tour-operator alliances linked continents. In innovation, **Pardus Wild-Tech LLP** secured interest from three NGOs and state departments to pilot its AI-based wildlife-monitoring systems. Many such collaborations happened between optical companies, tour agencies, and student bodies.

These collaborations signalled the emergence of a new ecosystem where business and biodiversity reinforce each other rather than compete.

Conservation and NGO Impact

The Conservation Partners Meeting 2 (CPM 2), integrated into the fair's schedule, brought policy into the public sphere. Chaired by Dr Sandeep Kumar Tiwari and Jose Louies, it resulted in outcomes like the WTI Partner Collaboration Charter, partnerships for human-wildlife conflict mitigation, a Wildlife Protection Handbook, and a proposal to improve rehabilitation protocols. The meeting's impact extended to remote villages, providing tools for livelihood and conflict resolution.

Educational and Student Engagement

The academic impact of GWF was as deep as its policy impact. More than 100 students earned certificates endorsed by AEN and Asian Adventures, with discussions initiated to develop joint research exchanges and university modules on Conservation and Ecotourism Integration. Thirty students were appointed as **Wildlife Fair Ambassadors**, tasked with conducting awareness drives in their institutions. Universities requested access to panel recordings for future courses on Ethical Photography, Women in Wildlife, and Conservation Marketing. Through such initiatives, the fair became a curriculum catalyst that linked academic learning with real-world experience.

Governmental and Institutional Recognition

Officials from the **Ministries of Tourism** publicly commended the fair's sustainability model. Informal roundtables with the stakeholders and private-sector leaders gave rise to the concept of a **Global Wildlife Tourism Alliance** — envisioned as a permanent think tank for responsible tourism frameworks.

Such endorsements positioned the fair as a credible voice in national policy dialogue.

Environmental and Sustainability Performance

Sustainability was a living principle rather than a side agenda. Key achievements included paperless registration, zero single-use plastic, biodegradable cutlery, refillable bottles, vegetarian local menus, etc. These choices demonstrated that ecological responsibility could be woven into every operational detail without compromising comfort or efficiency. By closing loop systems for waste and resources, the fair proved that large-scale events can achieve near-zero impact when planning aligns with principles.

Emotional and Psychological Impact

Perhaps the most profound outcomes were intangible. Many conservationists said the event “recharged their motivation,” tour operators committed to marketing conservation over luxury, and students described feeling part of a larger movement. Volunteers left more confident in leadership and communication. As one visitor summed up, “GWF did not just inform minds — it healed spirits.” The fair reminded attendees that conservation is as much about emotional resilience as it is technical strategy.

Global Visibility and Digital Footprint

Through coordinated coverage on Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube, the Global Wildlife Fair reached a global audience. Features in travel blogs and ecotourism journals amplified its message, while live interviews with speakers and artists turned the fair into a digital story that continued to inspire viewers worldwide. This visibility established the fair as a flagship event in the global responsible-tourism calendar.

Symbolic Legacy and Future Vision

Beyond metrics and agreements, the Global Wildlife Fair 2025 left a symbolic imprint. It proved that art, academia, commerce, and policy can coexist under a shared ethic of care. Plans for the **Global Wildlife Fair Online Portal** began immediately after the event — a digital ecosystem to connect exhibitors, NGOs, researchers, and eco-travellers throughout the year.

Building on this foundation, the organisers outlined initiatives such as the **Global Mammal Big Day**, linking citizen science to tourism through annual mammal-recording campaigns and awareness events across continents. These projects will ensure that GWF remains a living movement — not a moment frozen in time.

Human Legacy

As the final photograph was taken in the courtyard at sunset, a volunteer shouted, “See you at the next one!” and the crowd cheered. That spontaneous moment captured the event's essence: the belief that collaboration, not competition, will define the future of wildlife conservation. The Global Wildlife Fair 2025 ended with gratitude, but its true closure lies in continuation — in every project, partnership, and pledge it set in motion.

10 CONCLUSION

As the last lights dimmed at the Constitution Club of India, the air still pulsed with connection, conviction, and quiet triumph. The Global Wildlife Fair 2025 did not conclude—it transformed into continuity. Over three days, it had proven that conservation could transcend silos, uniting tourism boards, NGOs, artists, students, and technology innovators under one shared emotion: care.

The fair's closing moments carried the serenity of achievement without spectacle. Volunteers stood together as the final banners were rolled, and a stillness settled over the courtyard. Yet that stillness was alive—with the residue of voices, music, and purpose that had filled the space. "The Global Wildlife Fair was never ours alone," said Mohit Aggarwal, founder of the fair and of Asian Adventures, during his farewell note. "It belongs to everyone who believes that life, in all its forms, deserves celebration." It was a simple sentiment, yet it captured the essence of what had unfolded.

A Bridge Between Worlds

Through Asian Adventures, the fair connected private tourism markets in Europe, Southeast Asia, and the Americas, while partners like the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and the Asian Ecotourism Network (AEN) ensured scientific and ethical grounding. The fair's signature strength lay in this triangulation—NGO + Academia + Industry—a model that became its hallmark.

It demonstrated that conservation is no longer the sole domain of field biologists or activists. It is also the language of photographers, policymakers, students, and communities, each bringing their distinct energy to the cause. The fair was where these energies converged, creating a network that would outlive the event itself.

India's Moment on the Global Map

By hosting the first edition in New Delhi, the organisers placed India at the heart of a conversation that often happens in different parts of the world. For once, the global debate on wildlife policy, ethical tourism, and conservation finance was happening on Indian soil, moderated by Indian professionals.

Delegates and journalists from across continents witnessed India's biodiversity in a real context through post-fair excursions to Gujarat, Rajasthan, Kerala and Uttarakhand. In doing so, the fair projected India not as a destination but as a philosophy of coexistence, reverence, and resilience.

Sustainability as the Soul of the Event

Every operational decision reflected the fair's theme, "Conservation through Connection." There were no single-use plastics; water refill stations replaced packaged bottles; decorations were made from recycled materials; and participants were encouraged to arrive by metro—turning logistics into a lesson in low-carbon behaviour.

This wasn't tokenism; it was transformation. The fair itself became an educational prototype for how sustainability can be practised, not preached.



A Founder's Philosophy Realised

For Mohit Aggarwal, the fair embodied a philosophy shaped over three decades in the field of ecotourism. It stemmed from his belief that “the real work of conservation lies with grassroots NGOs and indigenous communities—the people who live with wildlife every day.”

By aligning tourism revenue with conservation funding, he demonstrated a sustainable model where travel could serve protection, not exploitation. The fair thus became an act of gratitude to the forests, villages, and species that shaped his journey.

A Future Beyond Borders

The Global Wildlife Fair was never meant to be static. Plans are underway to host future editions in Dubai, Mexico, and Africa, making it a truly global platform for ecotourism and conservation exchange. The upcoming Global Wildlife Fair Online Portal will extend the dialogue year-round, connecting businesses, researchers, and communities in one digital ecosystem.

A Movement, Not a Moment

The Global Wildlife Fair 2025 stands as more than an event:

A platform
where commerce
meets conscience.

A celebration
where art meets
science.

A training ground
where young minds
meet mentors.

And a movement
where local voices
meet global allies.

Its true measure lies not in the halls it filled, but in the hearts, it stirred and the bridges it built. What began in Delhi will travel the world—carrying India's voice, values, and vision for a planet shared in harmony.

**Where the Wild Calls
the World Together.**



A Global Platform for Conservation, Ecotourism, & Community Collaboration

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Organised by **Asian Adventures** in collaboration
with the **Wildlife Trust of India (WTI)**
and the **Asian Ecotourism Network (AEN)**

