

A Conversation on Conservation - a journey of personal experiences!

'**It's all about connecting the dots looking back... AND to stay Hungry & Foolish**' said [Steve Jobs](#) in his [Stanford speech](#) to the graduating class of 2005. Five years ago I could only respect his saying it, today I can relate to him. Zooming back to 2007, when I made a decision to relocate to India after a corporate career of about 12 years in the US, it seemed shaky ground but being a firm believer of 'think with your Mind but do what your Heart says' - gave me most of the conviction required and there's been no looking back!

Again, come September 2008 after a move up the corporate ladder within my organization, the global recession looming huge on our business forecasts and some personal commitments pushing me the other way - a similar situation presented itself yet again! Pursue what I 'love' or ride out the recession in the corporate world and see how it spans out. The heart ruled once again and I set out on a journey of personal discovery of sorts. It all started as I headed into [Africa](#). The next 6 months took me through 30,000+ kms of sub-Saharan terrain and 26 border-crossings. Some experiences - standing on the [Equator](#) in Uganda to witness the earth's magnetism behave 3 different ways, a 1988 [dream](#) to see the [mountain gorillas](#) in [Rwanda](#) at 5000 ft and get elbowed by one, seeing lions chase game in the 14,763 sq km [Serengeti N.P](#), lead a camping tour of 25 on the edge of [Ngorongoro Crater](#), fending off a pack of invading [hyenas](#), snorkeling with a family of [dolphins](#) off the [Zanzibar](#) coast, swimming in the world's big Clearwater lakes [Malawi](#) & [Tanganyika](#), living in the 15,000 kms of [Okavango delta](#) where the desert swallows a complete river, 5 of us overnight on a uninhabited island in the [Bazaruto Archipelago](#) with a million crabs for company after sundown, braving the [world's highest bungy](#) jump, and many more. One doesn't easily get all these within his lifetime and it has felt nothing short of a re-birth.

This wonderful journey also put forth man-animal conflicts, decimation of nature and showed mankind is mostly dependent on 'Nature'. It made me think - what could be done? and lead to 'Why not help the [conservation](#) cause in India to avert such situations and save our greens. Also what better than [Project Tiger](#)? On checking the Forest Department requested - *If you can help our main goal of creating [inviolable](#) space you would help conservation many-fold!* '**Sure, why not?'** said something inside. This is my story as I work with the FD to relocate about 1000 families across 5 villages to a better life and in turn add up to 500 acres to the inviolable space - thus aiding conservation all around, outcome remains to be seen! **More when we meet !!**

About the Presenter

Professionally: An industry expert with 16 years in international leadership & management experience across Operations, IT & Outsourcing with strategic planning skills and industry vision. Held multiple roles, my last as Head - Global Operations for a USD 58M Business Unit, managing responsibilities of operational governance, supply chain and costs control for over a 1000 member team. Past industry experience spans across Auctions, Financial, Pharmaceutical and Entertainment segments. Decisive, energetic, focused team leader building high-performance teams through instilling best practices, governance, implementing structural changes and improvements. A global work & cultural exposure having worked across Americas, Europe and Asia with a strong flair for business.

Philanthropy: Think-tank / lobbyist as Vice President, Immigrants Support Network and Head of Congressional Communication. Involved in refining Green Card legislation in The Immigration and Nationality Act. Led lobby drives representing issues in US immigration law to the White House, Senate & Congress. This resulted in Bill AC21 signed in to law by President William J. Clinton in October 2000 benefiting half a million non-immigrant workers across the US. Supporter to various charity organizations.

Naturally: A avid wild lifer, global conservation catalyst and climate change issues supporter. Extensive traveler across four continents. Goodwill Ambassador to India's Project Tiger. Partner to several global conservation foundations and others. Extra-curricular pursuits - spreading education/awareness, managing family businesses, adventure sports, sailing, photography and collector of various antiquities.

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CREDITS: S Dattatri's [Truth About Tigers](#) The United Nation's [2011 Year of the Forests](#)
The GoodPlanet Foundation's [HOME](#) video The Earth-Policy Institute's [Presentation](#) & [Book](#)

