

SANCTUARY ASIA

What started out as India's first wildlife magazine in 1981, has since metamorphosed into the voice of India's nature conservation movement. Books, television programmes, national and international campaigns, conservation camps and a strong online presence have combined to forge *Sanctuary Asia* into a force that fights for nature, even as it celebrates its life-giving miracles. *Sanctuary's* Kids for Tigers, directly engages over one million children studying in 15 Indian cities. These future citizens are gently asking adults to remember that they are no more than trustees of a precious natural heritage that belongs to tomorrow.

Other titles published by *Sanctuary Asia*:

The Kaziranga Inheritance
The Bharatpur Inheritance
The Sundarbans Inheritance
The Corbett Inheritance
The Bandhavgarh Inheritance
The Periyar Inheritance
Forever Stripes – The young person's guide to saving tigers
India Naturally

Forthcoming titles:

The Kanha Inheritance

For details log on to:

www.sanctuaryasia.com



Tamil lacewing

Back Cover: Saurabh Tamne



A Tadoba tiger contemplates its peaceful but fragile kingdom.

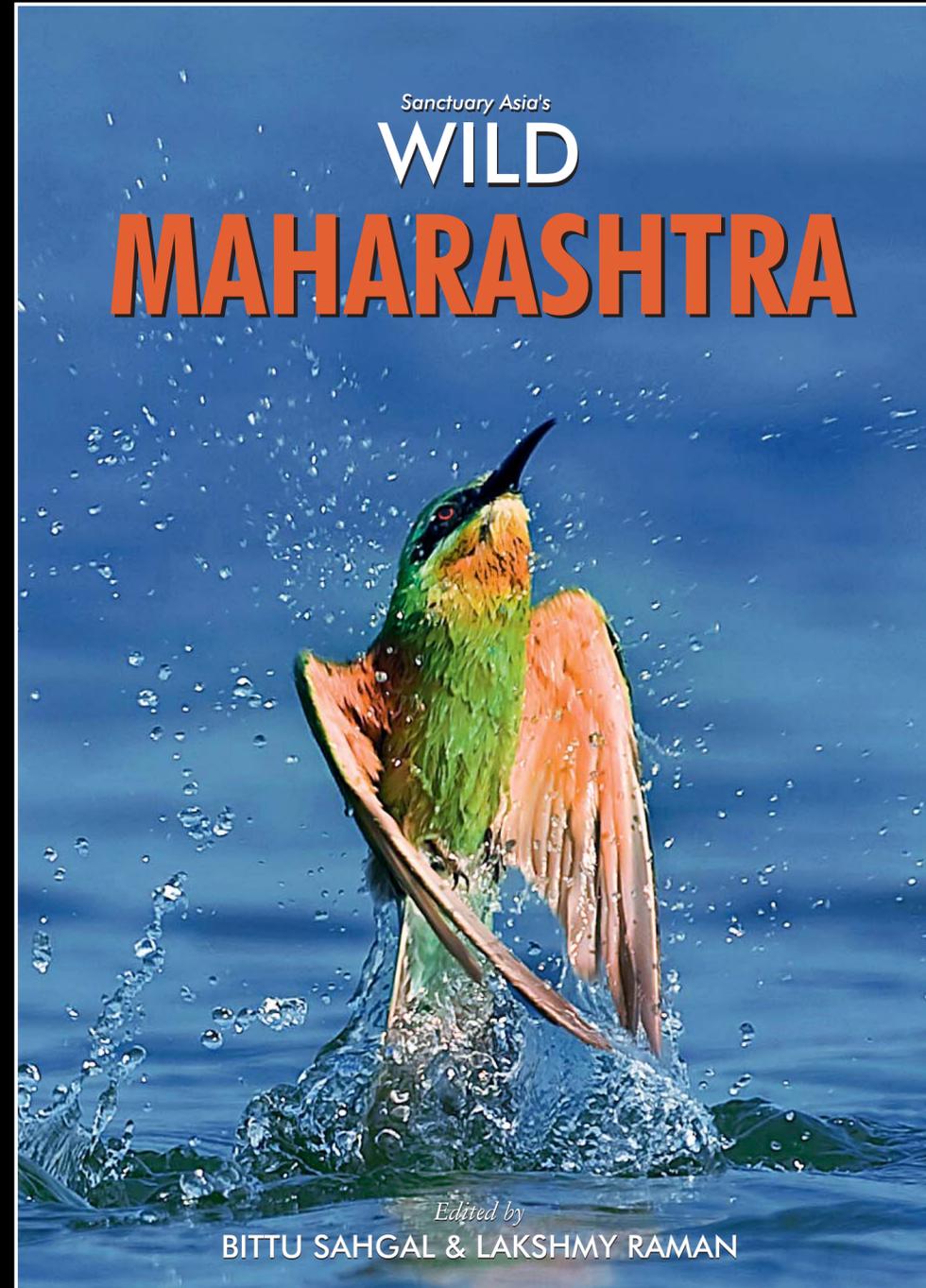


Sanctuary

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WILD MAHARASHTRA

SAHGAL & RAMAN



WILD MAHARASHTRA

Maharashtra is a universe unto itself. Appropriately named (*Maha* – 'Great', *Rashtra* – 'Nation'), its territory extends across just under 308,000 sq. km., and encompasses some of India's most diverse and beautiful ecosystems. It is this exquisite legacy that *Wild Maharashtra* celebrates.

Sanctuary Asia believes that this natural capital could attract millions of sensitive tourists from around the world in the years ahead. As they gaze in awe and delight at the extraordinary wonders this land has to offer, the traditional hospitality for which Maharashtra is justifiably famous, could be key to delivering unique experiences that help usher in an economic and social renewal.

Maharashtra's inventory of assets includes the Konkan's marine biomes, the 'water towers' and evergreen forests of the Sahyadri ranges in the Western Ghats, the grasslands of the Deccan Plateau, Vidarbha's tiger-stocked Satpuda range and Marathwada's semi-arid biotope that has gained popularity as the home of the Great Indian Bustard. For centuries, this land was fiercely defended by the likes of Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj who went on to establish the *Hindavi Swaraja* that withstood the might of the Mughals for over 150 years.

Since Independence, Maharashtra has taken justifiable pride in being India's economic powerhouse. But today, formidable challenges, primarily climate change, threaten our water, food, economic and social security. Restoring the natural ecosystems would help to mitigate such threats, but this will require statesmanship, and an understanding of the umbilical connection between biodiversity protection, climate change and the quality of human life.

It is to document and highlight Maharashtra's self-interest in protecting such natural life-support systems as forests, coasts, mountains, wetlands, grasslands, rivers and lakes, that *Sanctuary Asia* has dedicated itself to the *Wild Maharashtra* mission.

Cover: Baiju Patil

Sanctuary Asia's 'Wild Maharashtra': A glimpse of Maharashtra's natural treasures

Sanctuary Asia's 'Wild Maharashtra' edited by Bittu Sahgal and Lakshmy Raman, celebrates the vibrant natural heritage and culture of the state, even as it highlights the strong linkage between the quality of human life and the health of natural Maharashtra.

The bio-inventory of Maharashtra's assets includes plants and animals the Konkan's marine biomes, the 'water towers' and evergreen forests of the Sahyadri ranges in the Western Ghats, the grasslands of the Deccan Plateau, Vidarbha's tiger-stocked Satpuda Range and Marathwada's semi-arid biotope that has gained popularity as the home of the Great Indian Bustard and for the globally celebrated Ajanta and Ellora caves.

Working closely with the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) and the Maharashtra State Forest Department, the Sanctuary Asia editorial team has put together the work of some of India's finest photographers and writers who present Maharashtra as a universe unto itself. Appropriately named (*Maha* – 'Great', *Rashtra* – 'Nation'), within its boundaries exist some of India's most diverse and beautiful ecosystems and endangered animals including the tiger, which MTDC and the Forest Department suggest, could attract millions of sensitive people from around the world in the years to come. In turn, the authors who have contributed to the book point out, this could lead to a dramatic restoration of the fabled natural wealth of the state, which would be key to an economic and social renewal for the proud people of Maharashtra.

For a sneak preview of some of the stunning images in the book, check out the winning images of the Wild Maharashtra Photography Contest on www.sanctuaryasia.com