



**Involving Local Religious Leaders  
in Conservation Communication Efforts  
2018-2020**





















































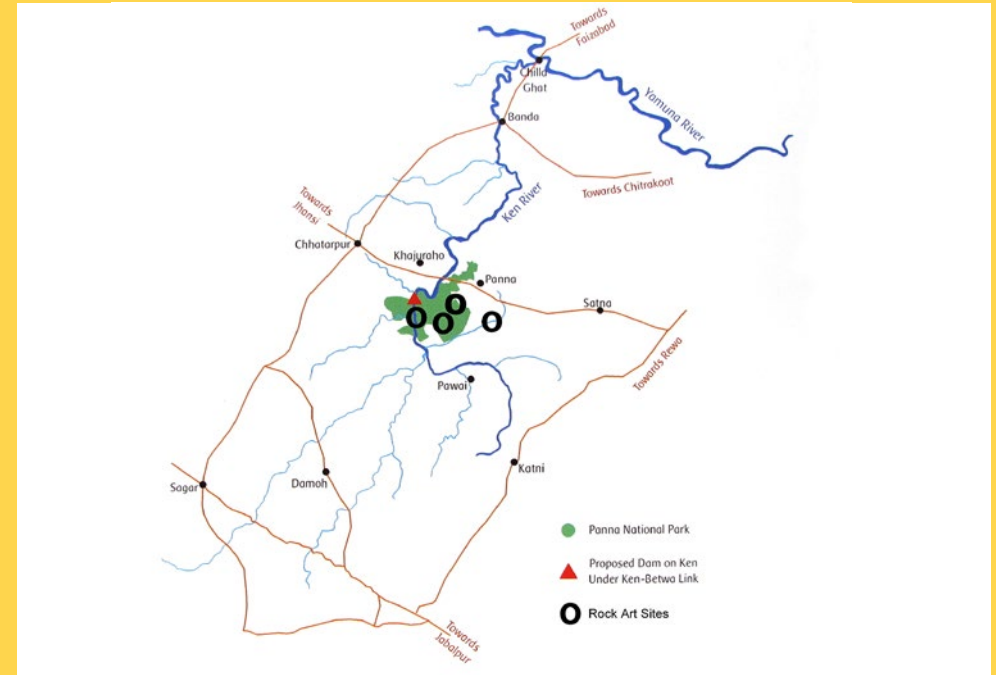




**Involving Local Religious Leaders in Conservation Communication Efforts** is a project that seeks to increase conservation awareness amongst local communities with the help of local faith leaders in the Panna region of Central India. The project aims to complement the conservation of tigers, the forests and the heritage sites in the region by promoting awareness in the way local people understand. Research conducted by Dr Shekhar Kolipaka on human-wildlife –forest interactions in the Panna region shows that local people's traditional practices and beliefs on wildlife and forests have both positive and negative impacts on the region's wildlife and forests. This booklet is designed to help faith leaders to initiate conversations with local people on local heritage (rock art) and forests conservation in general. We hope that awareness messages promoted using local belief systems will decrease some of the negative practices that people pursue and benefit local wildlife, forests and the preservation of heritage sites within the forest landscape.

**This booklet is meant for educational purposes and not for sale.**

**For further information please visit the website [www.wildlifetracking.in](http://www.wildlifetracking.in)**



## Rock Art

The Panna region has several rock art sites. The rock art found in this region is dated from 10000 years BP to present time. The panels illustrate life in the past, the changes that transpired, and the rock art is still relevant and sacred to the local people. For these reason preserving this local heritage for the local communities is critical. Preserving means ensuring that the sites are not disturbed and vandalised and such measures will also benefit local forest conservation and local wildlife. Photographs presented in this booklet are from three sites and marked on the map.

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If you would like to support this project please e-mail Dr. Shekhar Kolipaka at [shekmarks@hotmail.com](mailto:shekmarks@hotmail.com)