

MyTigerFriend –Bamera–Newsletter 6

Welcome to the MyTigerFriend scheme Bamera Newsletter 6.

Things just seem to be getting worse for Bamera in recent months, despite intervention from the Forest Department vet the abscess on Bamera's fore paw was refusing to heal. Bamera had now become a serial killer of domestic cattle and many of his kills were made along the main Tala road as villagers moved the cows to legitimate grazing areas. Bamera would just lie by the roadside waiting for the cattle herds to come passed before bringing down the cow at the rear of the herd.

Historically the villagers haven't received compensation for cows killed along the Tala main road as it forms an intersection of the core area of the forest where cattle grazing is prohibited, but kills used to be less frequent. Bamera had killed three cows and a bull in just over 10 days so something had to be done.



Bamera as an Alpha male is never afraid of walking along the roadside in the open. Image ©Tigers4Ever

Tigers4Ever campaigned for the Forest Department to change their rules on compensation for loss of livestock and in March they had a breakthrough when the Field Director agreed to compensate villagers for the loss of their livestock due to tiger or leopard kills regardless of whether the kill occurred in the buffer or core forest. This also took a lot of pressure of Tigers4Ever and other NGOs who were frequently asked for loss of livestock compensation when the government refused to pay out. More importantly it also helps to reduce the risk of retaliatory poisoning of carcasses by

the villagers when they didn't receive prompt compensation for their loss.

Bamera was involved in another brutal territorial fight with his eldest son, the Langdhi male, who wouldn't have survived when his mother the Siddhababa female was killed had it not been for Bamera raising him and his sister from the age of 15 months. For the Langdhi male, there were no sentiments involved, he wanted Bamera's territory and more importantly his females. The only way to satisfy his lust was to battle his father. At 11 years old, Bamera still wasn't ready to surrender his kingdom.



Bamera sporting one of the battle scars given to him by his son, the Langdhi male. Image ©Tigers4Ever

Both tigers suffered deep wounds in the battle which was short but ferocious. Bamera was victorious but it was at a price. The wounds in his paw had opened up again and he retreated to one of his favourite caves on higher ground to lick his wounds and recover.

Sadly, this cave is close to one of the largest villages in the buffer zone of Bandhavgarh, and whenever Bamera wanted to eat he went into the village and took a cow. This continued for around two and a half weeks, the villagers were understandably angry and wanted action. The Forest Department vet was called. Bamera was tranquilised and taken to the enclosure where orphaned tiny cubs are often re-homed. The plan is to give Bamera chance to recover and then to release him back into his territory when he can hunt native prey. It is risky for both Bamera and his progeny but time will tell.....

Tigers4Ever continues to keep a close eye on the situation.

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