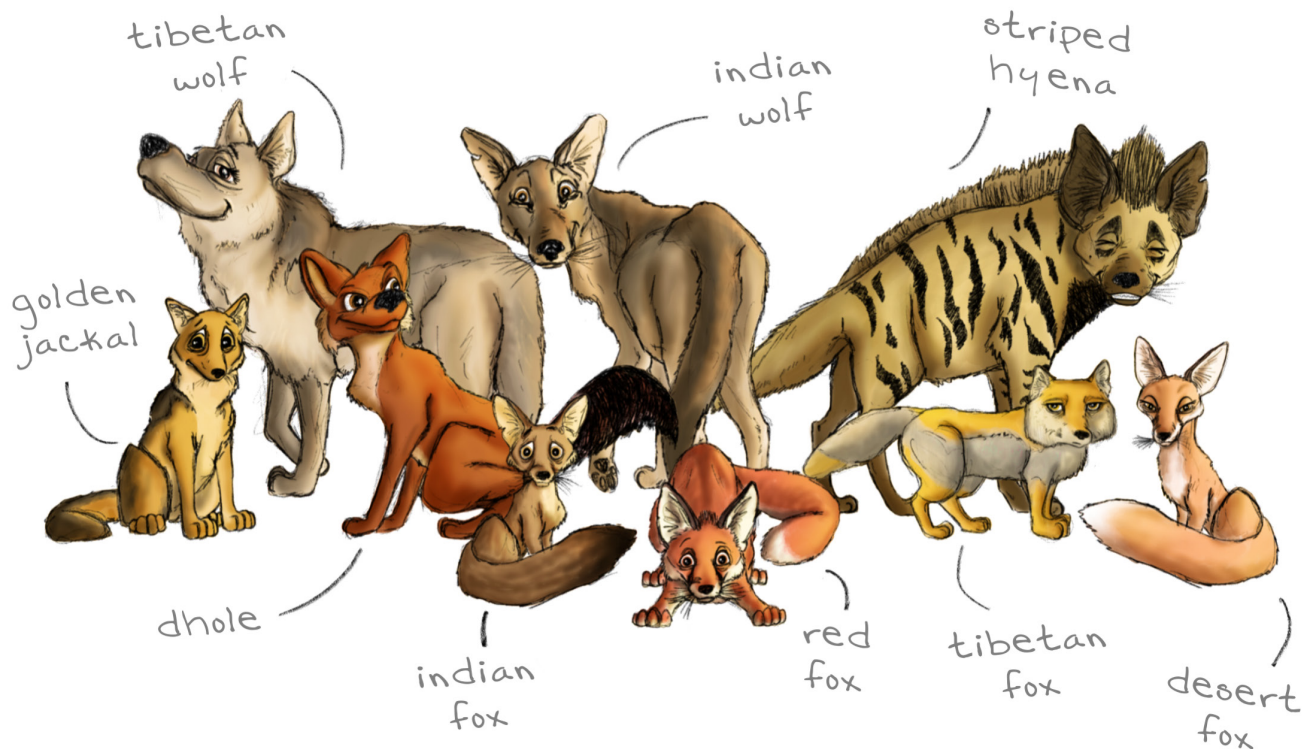


CaNid cRisiS?



Species that belong to the dog family are called 'canids'. India has 8 such wild canids, along with the striped hyena. We know very little about them, & this hampers their conservation.

Arjun Srivathsa



Wild Canids
India Project
wildcanids.net

arjunorivathsa.org

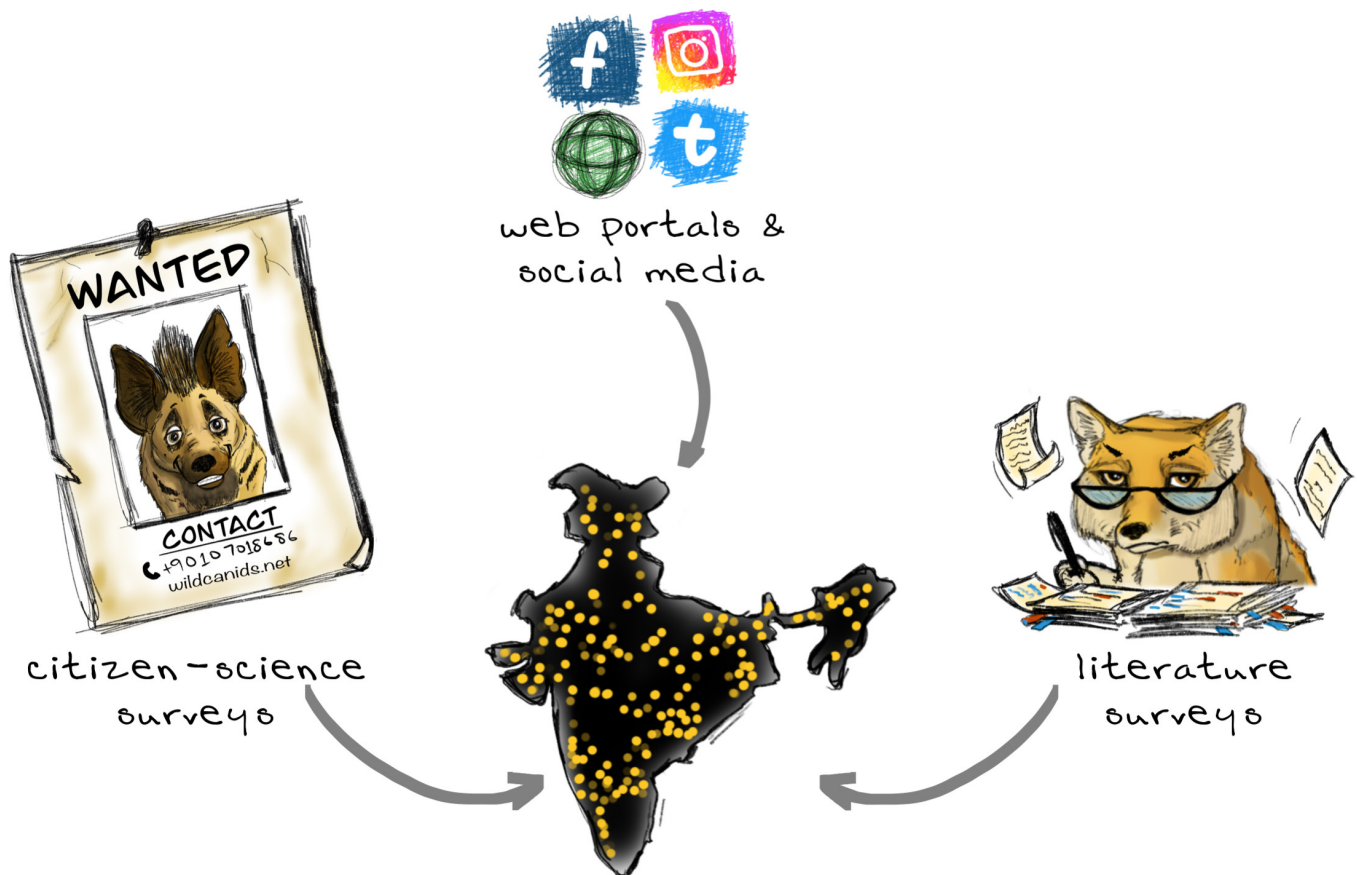
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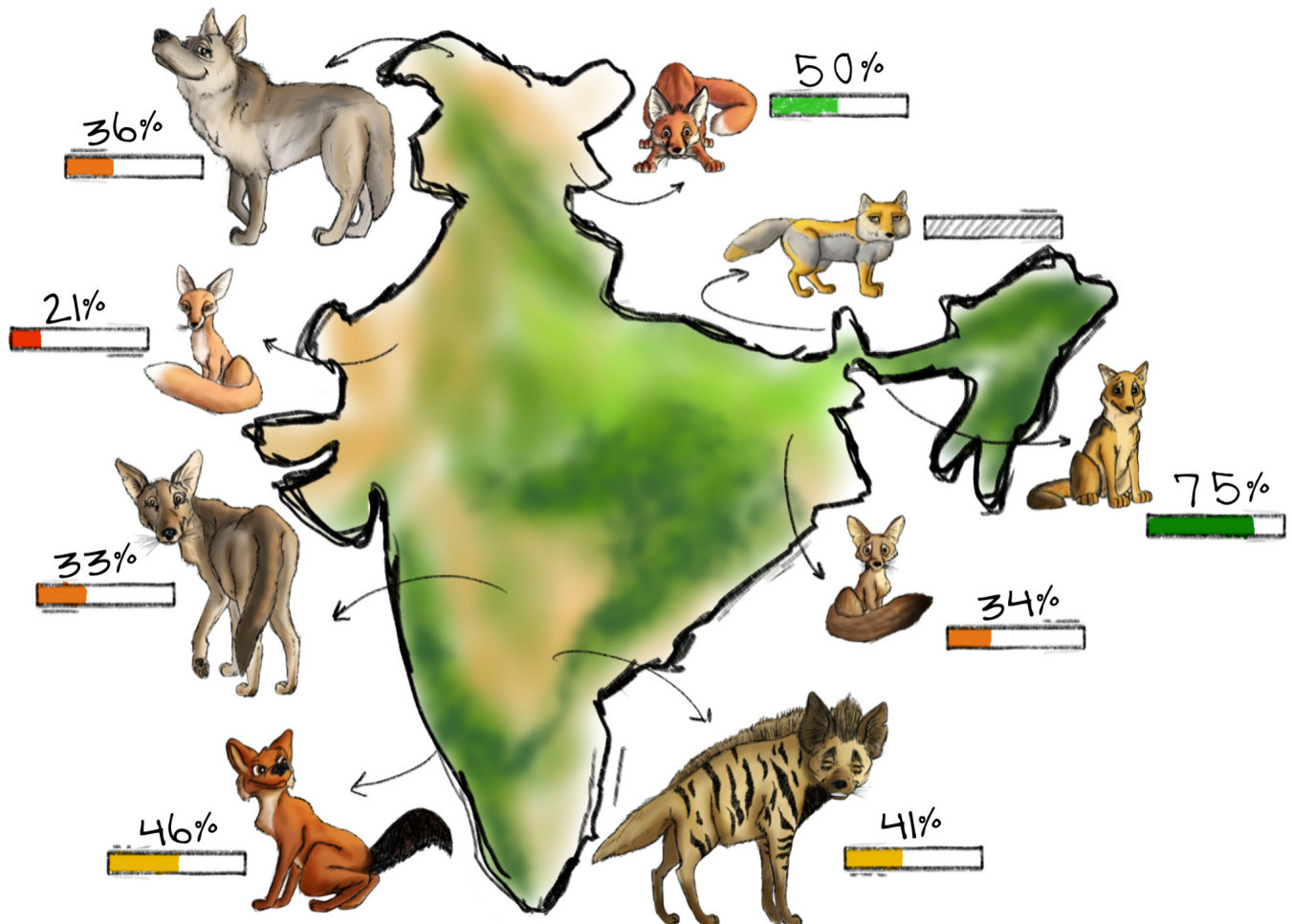
[@arjun_orivathsa](https://www.instagram.com/arjun_orivathsa)

How do we even map these species across the whole country ?



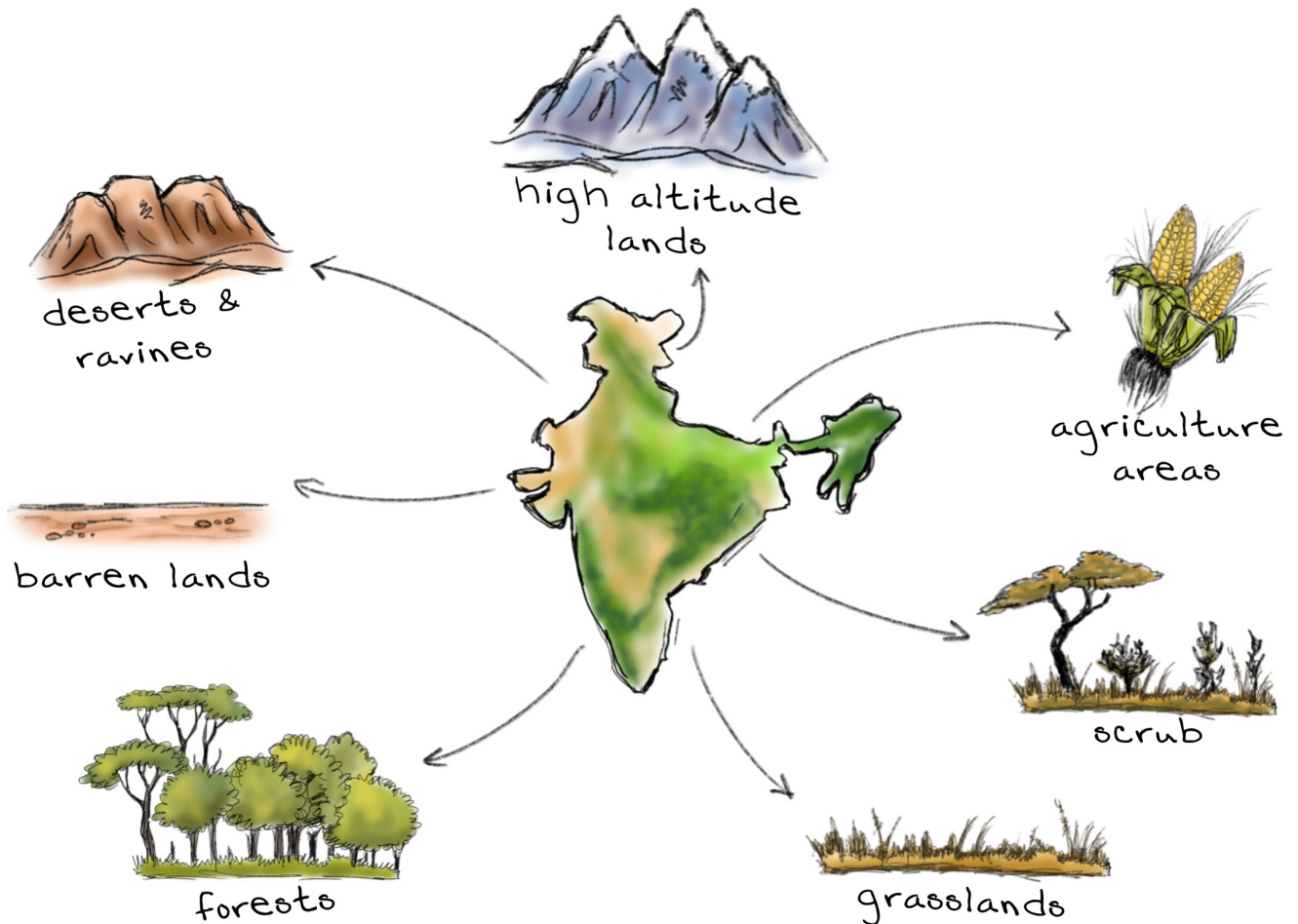
The Wild Canids-India Project used citizen-science surveys, photographs on social media & information from scientific literature to gather 5000 records & map these species across India.

How much area do
wild canids & hyenas occupy?



Some have restricted ranges & some are more widespread. For example, desert foxes occupy a small part of their potential range in the northwest, whereas jackals are found almost all over India.

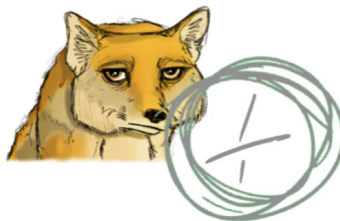
What kind of habitats do they need ?



They thrive in a wide variety of unique habitats. For example, dholes need forests, while Indian wolves, Indian foxes & hyenas need dry grasslands & scrub. Some even do well in agricultural areas.

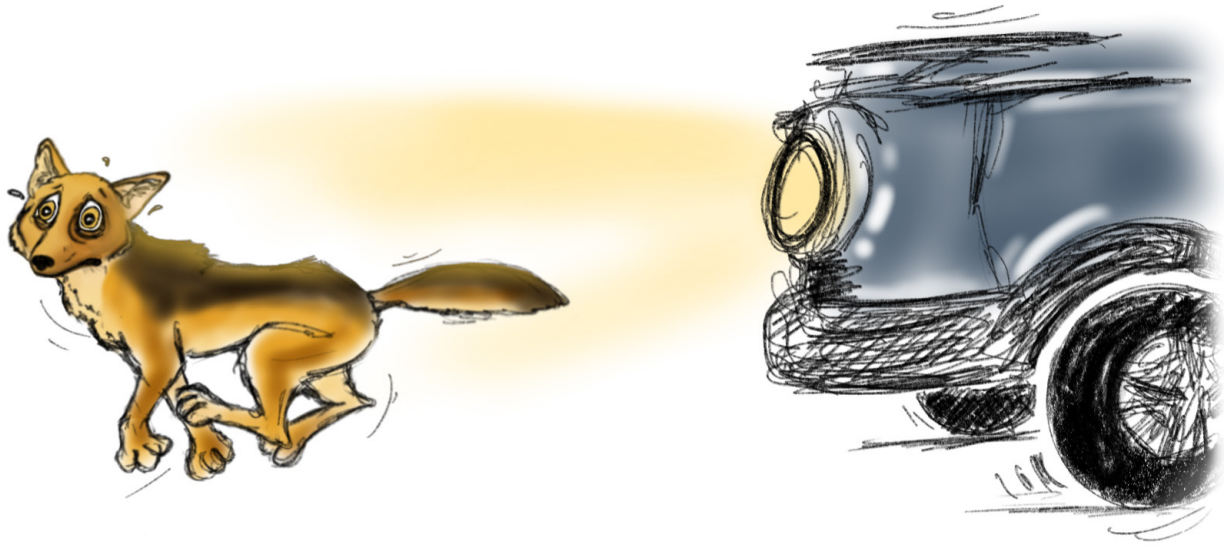
What is their conservation status in India?

Report Card



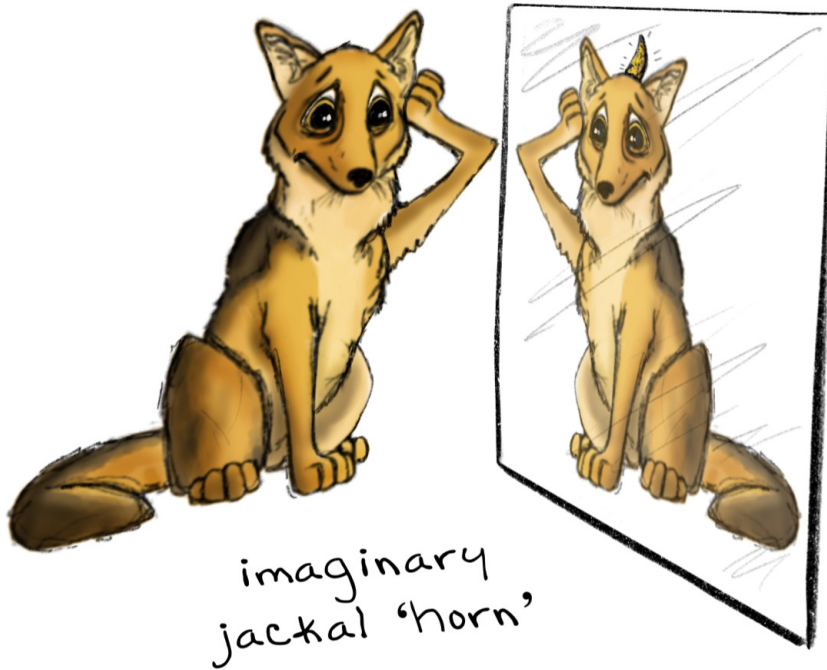
If we gave them grades (like in school) based on their conservation status in the country, then species like the jackal are doing ok, while others like Indian fox & striped hyena could do a lot better.

Do they face any threats at all ?



Vehicular accidents leading to 'roadkills' is one of the key threats that affects most of them. They are also threatened by domestic dogs which compete with them for food & spread diseases.

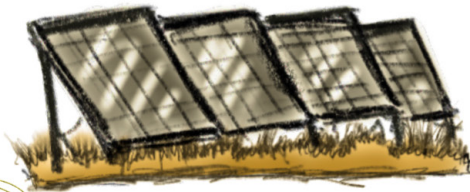
What's the deal with jackals ?



tails & skulls

Although golden jackals are doing fairly ok in India, they are still poached for their tails, skulls, & their imaginary, non-existent 'horns', which find use in superstitious & religious practices.

How safe are their habitats ?



1

solar farms



2

industries



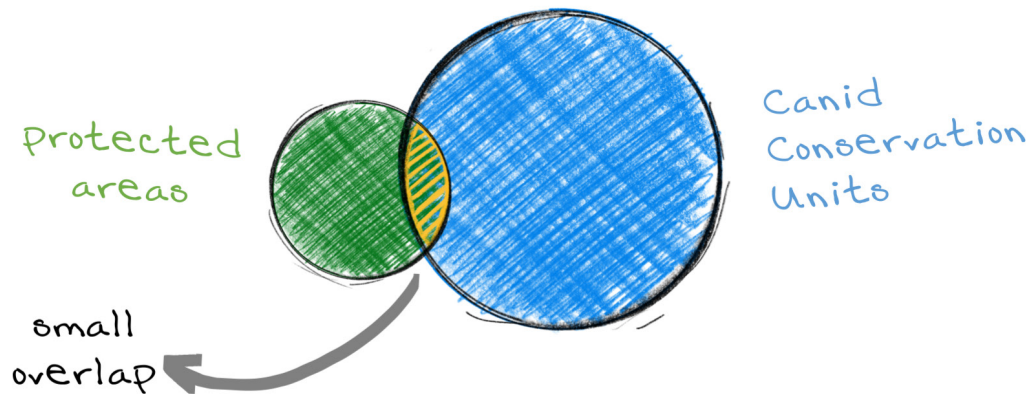
3



“afforestation”

Grasslands, scrub & barren lands are wrongly called “wastelands” & diverted for destructive infrastructure projects. They are also used for planting trees under afforestation schemes (mistake!).

Don't we already have
“protected areas” ?



Then how do we do this ?

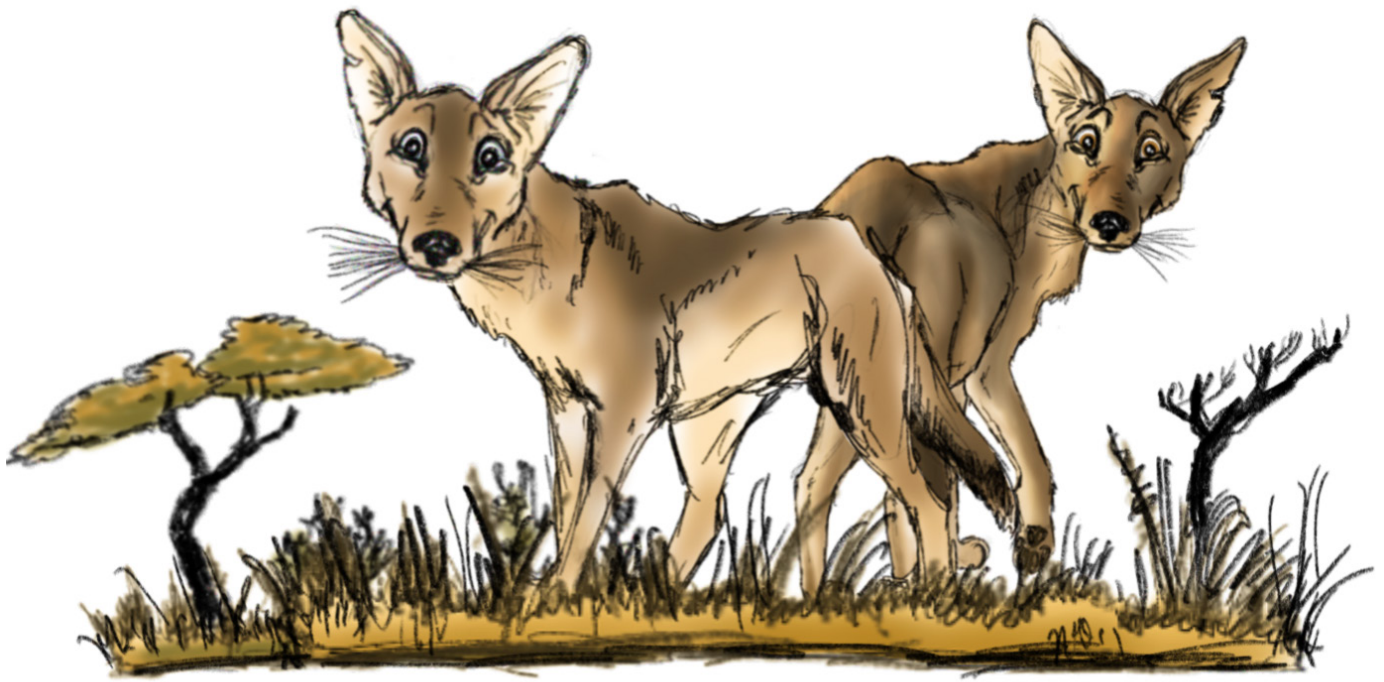


India's protected areas are mostly inside forests. These carnivores & all their non-forest habitats need innovative conservation models that protect wildlife & also the wellbeing of people in shared areas.

But do India's states
have the capacity to do this ?



Twelve states are of high priority, eight of which need to invest more money towards wildlife. But importantly, we need to expand our definition of conservation & rethink what/how we conserve.



Most of India's diverse species & habitats have long been ignored & overlooked. Safeguarding wild canids & hyenas will need continuous monitoring efforts by scientists, proactive support from citizens & committed, eco-conscious governments.

Arjun is a wildlife biologist who works on the conservation ecology of large carnivores in India. He earned a PhD from the University of Florida (USA), and is currently a Research Associate with Wildlife Conservation Society-India.



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