

Rescue and Release of three leopard cubs back into the wild.



People of village Kanthan, Reasi Dist, were agitated by repeated lifting and killing of their cattle by a leopard which was seen roaming in that area along with three month-old cubs. The mother leopard was scared away leaving behind the cubs which were taken by the villagers to the nearby village. On receiving inputs from reliable sources, the forest department officials of Mahore Forest Division rushed to the spot and assessed the situation. On the advice of Wildlife Department, it was decided to rescue the cubs from the villagers and release them back into the wild. After much deliberation, the villagers were convinced on moral and ethical grounds against orphaning the cubs who had little

chance of survival without their mother.

The rescue and release was finally agreed upon and was successfully conducted by the forest guard along with about twenty villagers. The safety of the cubs was also confirmed when the mother leopard came and carried away the cubs with her. This was a moment of immense happiness for the field staff to witness the successful union of the mother with her cubs, who would otherwise have lived an orphaned life in one of the rehabilitation centers.

