



# SIMPLE WAYS TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH SLOTH BEARS



**TRAVEL IN GROUPS**

Always travel in a group or with family. Avoid walking alone in forests. If you have to go alone, carry a bamboo stick and a bell or a whistle.

**AVOID TRAVELLING AT NIGHT**

Avoid travelling alone in the night. If you have to, inform someone about it and carry a bamboo stick and a torch.

**NEVER GO ALONE**

Always go in groups to collect *tendu patta*. Never go alone.

**REMEMBER...**

**BEARS ATTACK US ONLY WHEN WE SUDDENLY SURPRISE THEM.**

Considering their foraging behaviour, they remain busy searching for termites and ants and hence, do not sense human presence until we are very near.

**COLLECT MAHUA AFTER SUNRISE**

Collect *mahua* after sunrise; never at night or before sunrise.

Avoid going for defecation in forests or forest edges, especially before sunrise.

**AVOID DEFECATION IN THE OPEN**

**MAINTAIN CLEAN SURROUNDINGS**

Keep surroundings of your house clean. Avoid throwing garbage, especially *mahua* flowers which may attract bears.

Stay away from females with cubs. Remember, a bear is more likely to charge if she has cubs.

**STAY AWAY FROM MOTHER BEARS**

If, by chance, you happen to come across a sloth bear...



If you see a bear crossing your path before it sees you, stop and slowly retreat behind.



If a bear charges from a distance, appear large by flailing your arms in the air and shout loudly.



Unfortunately, if a bear attacks you, shout for help and try to protect vital body parts.



If you hear of an attack by a bear, rush the victim to a hospital and inform the Forest Department.

This awareness poster is published under the project 'Dynamics of Human-Sloth Bear Conflict in the Kanha-Pench Corridor, Madhya Pradesh, India'. This poster is dedicated to the people who depend on forests for a living, who share their habitat with wildlife, and who strive to co-exist in harmony.

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