

## HSBC Presents the WILDLIFE TOURISM AWARDS 2010

Travel Operators for Tigers (TOFT) is an international travel trade campaign, backed by leading conservationists and experts, to advocate and support better policies and practices in wildlife tourism across India, recognising that nature tourism is a vital tool in wildlife conservation and habitat restoration.

TOFT many members include International tour operators, Indian Travel agents, tourism services providers and park lodges and resorts.

The HSBC presented TOFT Wildlife Tourism Awards aims to highlight and reward the very best in their field, those individuals, businesses, service providers and community enterprises who are leading the way in their field. Each in their own way will be pioneering new ways to support and inspire conservation and the restoration of wildlife habitat and wilderness through their actions.

You can help us here to find the best.

## HSBC presents TOFT Wildlife Tourism Awards 2010 Award Categories 2010

- ♥ **The John Wakefield Memorial Award for Most Inspirational Eco Lodge of the Year 2010**
- ♥ **The Billy Arjun Singh Memorial Award for Best Wildlife Guide of the year 2010**  
(also carries INR 15000 prize)
- ♥ **Lodge Naturalist of the Year 2010**  
(also carries a INR 15000 prize)
- ♥ **Visitor Friendly Wildlife Destination of the Year 2010**  
(also carries a prize INR 50000 worth of kit or equipment to be used in tiger protection/conservation)
- ♥ **Wildlife Promotion Company of the Year 2010**
- ♥ **Wildlife Tourism Community Initiative of the Year 2010**  
(also carries a prize of INR 25000)
- ♥ **Wildlife and Tourism Initiative of the Year 2010**  
(also carries a prize of INR 25000 towards equipment/services for the benefit of the community)

## Awards – Eligibility

Each Award has separate eligibility criteria as detailed below:-

**Most Inspirational Eco-lodge of the Year 2010** - We are looking for an inspirational eco-lodge located in an India tiger reserve or habitat, which raises the bar in terms of its eco friendly lodge design and operations, its contribution to wildlife conservation, its ethics and its visitor experience.

*The lodge in question must have been in existence for at least two years. The lodge need not be a member of TOFT or be accredited to the PUG Certification scheme, but it must meet or excel the laid down PUG Certification standards.*

**Wildlife Guide of the Year 2010** - We are looking for an inspirational, knowledgeable and effective Park Guide/Naturalist who has worked to guide tourists in an India tiger reserve or habitat for a minimum of five years, and gone the extra mile to support the park's conservation efforts.

*Ideally the individual should be a local who is registered or employed by the Park authorities as a freelance guide who can be held out as an example for other guides to emulate.*

**Lodge Naturalist of the Year 2010** - We are looking for an employee of a wildlife lodge, government or privately owned, who has been conducting visitors through a tiger reserve or habitat tiger habitat for a minimum of two years. The candidate should be an inspirational individual whose knowledge love and concern for nature is channelled into meaningful nature experiences for lodge guests, or visitors, and has proven his support for park conservation efforts.

*The nominee must be an employee of a wildlife lodge, government or privately owned, who has been conducting visitors through a tiger reserve or tiger habitat for a minimum of two years.*

**Visitor-Friendly Wildlife Destination of the Year 2010** - We are looking for an Tiger Reserve or Wildlife Sanctuary that can be an inspiration to others in the way that its has used tourism and tourist activities to effect better wildlife conservation measures, enhanced wildlife viewing experiences, and supported local communities.

*The wildlife destination has to have tigers within its boundaries with sightings being documented in the 6 months prior to the closing date for nominations. The park does not have to be currently covered by TOFT. The park must be prepared to showcase its efforts.*

**Wildlife-Promotion Company of the Year 2010** - We are looking for an inspired Destination Management Company, Agency or Travel business who abide by the principles of responsible practice and can prove it through their tour itineraries and feedback from their clients. They should offer wildlife watching as one of their key travel products.

*The winners must have a registered office in India and the company must have been a full TOFT member for at least 6 months prior to the closing date for entries, or a member of another credible Indian Travel Association. Its entry must be supported by at least 2 independent referees - both must be International Tour Operators who are accredited members of TOFT or other reputable Travel Association. The nominated Company itself must also have paid any outstanding subscriptions in full and prior to the closing date for final information.*

**Wildlife Tourism Community Initiative of the Year 2010** - The judges are looking for an innovative community generated wildlife tourist project or initiative that has proven its ability to raise local awareness and nourish greater care for the wilderness area or forests in which it operates. It must be connected with tourism in parks or forests where there is wildlife watching opportunities.

*The definition of what constitutes a Community Initiative will be decided at the absolute discretion of the judges but for general guidance it would be expected that ownership of the initiative would reside within the local community (5km radius of the project) and not involve commercial operations such as a private lodge(s) having a commercial interest of greater than 49.9%. Nominations must be supported by at least one travel or service provider or lodge catering for wildlife watching tourists. .*

**Wildlife and Tourism Award 2010** - We are looking to encourage innovative and ecologically sustainable thinking through enterprising wildlife tourism businesses and wildlife watching activities within India. The winner will have a proven track record in combining ecotourism activities with enhancing wildlife conservation efforts, in new and inspiring ways.

*this award does not need to be tiger related but the lessons learnt must be capable of being applied in tiger viewing areas. The project or enterprise must be prepared to showcase its efforts.*

## How to nominate your favourite

This can be made on this Application form below or via the online nomination form at [www.toftigers.org/WildLifeTourismAwards.aspx](http://www.toftigers.org/WildLifeTourismAwards.aspx). The completed online or mailed form must be received by midnight on 12th July 2010 at the address at the bottom of the application form.

## Judging Process

The initial judging of nominations will be undertaken by a small expert committee combining experts in tourism and conservation. The final judging panel made up of recognised experts in their field will determine the winner and runner up, after referees are contacted and testimonials completed. The Chairman's decision is final. For detail of the judging panel go to [www.toftigers.org/judging-panel.aspx](http://www.toftigers.org/judging-panel.aspx)

## THE TOFT Awards Gala Ceremony

The Winners and Runners up will be announced on the 30th September 2010 at a high profile Gala Awards Ceremony in New Delhi, to which all shortlisted nominees will have been invited.

## The Rules and Nominations Eligibility for these Awards

Before completing this application form please ensure you have read the Eligibility rules for nominees and the rules laid down for the Awards themselves overleaf or online at [www.toftigers.org/awardrules.aspx](http://www.toftigers.org/awardrules.aspx). By signing the application you have agreed to abide by these rules and eligibility criteria.

# Rules

- 1) By entering the Awards the applicants agree to be bound by the rules.
- 2) The judges' decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into in relation to any short listing or judging decision.
- 3) The judges, in their absolute discretion, may decide not to make an award if they believe no entrant is of sufficient quality to meet the requirements of the Awards.
- 4) Applications must be made on the official TOFT Wildlife Tourism Awards Application Form.
- 5) Applicants may be asked to submit further information as part of the judging process, failure to provide this information within the timescale stipulated at the time of the request may invalidate the application. No correspondence will be entered into in relation to such a decision to invalidate an invitation.
- 6) In certain categories the judges will require the applicant to supply independent references, where such references are requested these must be completed in the format requested and provided within the timescale stipulated.
- 7) Connections and associations (eg financial, family relationships, employment, etc) with the nominee will not invalidate an application but must be declared on the initial application. Failure to declare such interest will invalidate an application.
- 8) Whilst information contained within application forms and assessments will be treated as far as possible as confidential, the organisers accept no responsibility for loss or damage should any information become public knowledge at any time.
- 9-a) Applicants agree that if they are short-listed this decision will be made public, together with outline details of their project. In addition, in some categories, a short film report may be made of the nominees and their project. The applicants agree to cooperate in such filming and to be filmed and that such film may be used to promote the Awards as the Organisers may decide. Such uses may include web, broadcast television, DVD, or other medium and may also be shown at the Awards. All Material is the sole property of TOFT.
- 9- b) At the Sole discretion of TOFT, TOFT can use all materials provided for Award's promotions and publicity. TOFT does not However guarantee promotion of any winner or finalist.
- 10) Applicants consent to their images, trade marks, logos etc being made public in promotional material related to the Awards and this may include press, web, radio or broadcast.
- 11) Awards may be withdrawn in the event that information subsequently becomes available to show that information provided at the time of judging was incorrect or unavailable and that such information had it been available would have made the award inappropriate.
- 12) Winners of cash prizes agree to be bound by the conditions stipulated in the individual Awards in regards to acceptable uses for such cash prizes.
- 13) Where appropriate the Organisers may arrange for the money due in cash prizes to be paid only when appropriate invoices, and or, receipts are available, and or, that the organisers are satisfied that the goods, services etc to be provided to the person community, organisation, or group have in fact been supplied.
- 14) In the case of cash prizes the Organisers decision that the conditions described in Clause 10 have been fulfilled will be at the Organisers' absolute discretion and no correspondence on its decisions in regard to these clauses will be entered into.
- 15) No responsibility is accepted by the organisers for any application submitted by email but not received by the organisers. Applicants concerned about whether an application has been received have to make their own enquiries to ensure their applications have been received.
- 16) The Organisers can terminate one or more of the Awards if they see fit or shorten or curtail the award ceremony should circumstances prevail that do not allow it to continue.

# HSBC presents TOFT Wildlife Tourism Awards 2010 Application Form

Please state the Category of Award you are nominating for:

\_\_\_\_\_

Full Name of your Nomination (Please state the organisation, lodge, person, park project you wish to be nominated) \_\_\_\_\_

A contact person of the nominee \_\_\_\_\_  
(if not known please leave blank)

Nominees address and/or region in which they operation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
(inc full International access code) (inc full International access code)

Proposed by:  
(Note- You maybe contacted separately for more information and referees.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Pin \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by: (Where possible? If you have another person to endorse your nominee)  
(Note- You maybe contacted separately for more information and referees.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Pin \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain why you wish to nominate this organisation, lodge, person, or project.  
Up to 500 words. Send on attached sheet if necessary.

**ADDITIONAL MATERIAL REQUIRED**

(If possible. TOFT will have to ask the nominee for this material if you are unable to do this.)

Please attach with this nomination

- i) The reason why you are proposing your nominee for an award (max 500 words)
- ii) Biographical notes where necessary (max 500 words)
- iii) Any photos of the project, lodge commitments or person at work
- iv) Any press clipping/ material published , if any, plus any other material for the benefit of the judges. Please do not send original copies

\*In signing this nomination form you agree that you have seen the rules and eligibility criteria for each awards, that you are not related to the nominee or a shareholder or employee of the nominee, but know the individual, company or project proposed well.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this signed application (or the email equivalent) arrives on or before midnight on Monday 12th July 2010 to:

**TOFT Wildlife Tourism Awards 2010**

A1/76, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi 110029

Phone +91 9810722634, +91 9811811525

Fax: +91 11 41652410

Email :- [awards@toftigers.org](mailto:awards@toftigers.org) and [admin@toftindia.org](mailto:admin@toftindia.org)

Please feel free to use photocopies of the appropriate forms.