

pots of water full of small holes over each one, and the water slowly **dripped** down over several days.

Since then, Jadav has been planting saplings and seeds every day, for nearly 40 years. He gets up at 3.30 a.m. to milk his cows, which provide a living for his wife and children, and then sets out for the forest at 8.30.

Life returns

As the forest has grown and grown, wildlife has returned – eventually rhinos, tigers, and elephants began to take shelter among the trees. Jadav then had to face his biggest challenge – men. It wasn't only the **loggers** who wanted to cut down his trees, but local villagers, too. They were worried about the elephants and tigers eating their **crops** and attacking their animals. Jadav said they would have to kill him before they killed his forest. He had the idea of planting banana trees for the elephants to eat, and made sure there was enough deer for the tigers to hunt, so they wouldn't need to go into the villages for food. The tigers have taken some of his own cows, but then, says Jadav with a smile, 'they don't know how to farm, do they?'



Future forest

The forest is now 1,400 acres, nearly twice the size of New York's Central Park. Jadav's story has been made into a film, *The Forest Man of India*, by a Canadian filmmaker, Douglas McMaster. McMaster followed Jadav for a month and says,

'He taught me that you can **accomplish** a lot with very little ... He doesn't even wear shoes. His way of life is extremely pure; free of possessions, yet he is extremely happy and positive.'

Is Jadav himself satisfied with what he's achieved? Well, yes, but his aim now is to create another forest on other barren land nearby. 'It may take another 30 years, but I am optimistic about it,' he says. 'No more global warming if everyone plants forest!'

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- 6 Find the highlighted words in the article and try to *guess* their meanings.
- 7 Now match the words with their definitions.

shortage	alarming	single-handedly
to shelter	wept	barren
dripped	loggers	crops
		to accomplish

- 1 fell in small drops of liquid _____
- 2 without any help _____
- 3 to do something successfully _____
- 4 people whose job is cutting trees down _____
- 5 not enough of something _____
- 6 to protect yourself from bad weather _____
- 7 plants grown by farmers _____
- 8 very worrying _____
- 9 where nothing can grow _____
- 10 cried _____

What do you think?

- How would you describe Jadav's character? Why is his story called 'a rare species' in the title? What is amazing about his story?
- What are the biggest environmental problems in your country? Flooding? Water shortages? Pollution?
- What could you do as an individual to help the environment?
- Is it really a problem if some animals become extinct? Why/Why not?

Watch a video and learn more about another amazing transformation.

