

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sanjay-Dubri Tiger Reserve spreading over an area 1674.511 sq. km. lies between 23°48' 57" to 23°49' 06" N latitudes and 82°10' 48" to 82°14' 06" E longitudes. It is situated on the north-eastern part of Madhya Pradesh and is bordered by Guru Ghasidas National Park in south. It is part of Bandhavgarh-Sanjay-Guru Ghasidas - Palamau landscape and has been identified as one of the potential tiger meta-population landscapes which are currently in need of conservation inputs. The terrain of Dubri sanctuary is almost plain while that of Sanjay National Park is hilly. Various perennial rivers flow through the reserve viz. Gopad, Banas, Mawai, Mohan, Kodmar, Umrari *etc.*

The Core area comprising of Dubri Wildlife Sanctuary and the Sanjay National Park has been responding well to the protection measures initiated including the establishment of new patrolling camps, regular patrolling on foot by the field staff and members of eco-development committees. Relocation process has been completed in Kanjara in the Dubri sanctuary, is in final stages in Beherwar, Goindwar and Tingi and is initiated in Bhainsadol, Baigatola (Dubri), Suhira, Chafal, Karcha, and Garuldand. Villagers of 16 other villages have given their written consent for voluntary relocation.

A Buffer area of 862 sq. km has been notified. A part of the Dubri Wildlife Sanctuary (16.655 sq. km) is located in the buffer and is not included in the critical tiger habitat. In addition to 22 villages in the core, one village in the buffer area viz. Kona has also asked for relocation. The buffer area is moderately rich in wildlife. Three working circles were prevalent in the buffer with prescriptions aimed at production forestry as it has been under the territorial forest divisions. This TCP is an opportunity to override any of the prescriptions of any working circle in favour of wildlife management operations, in case there is a conflict.

Sanjay Tiger Reserve has five important external corridors i.e. connecting the Tiger Reserve to other Protected Areas/Forests:

- i. **Corridor I:** In North Shahdol division, between Panpatha Wildlife Sanctuary of Bandhavgarh and Dubri Wildlife Sanctuary of Sanjay Tiger Reserve. This corridor was frequently used by tigers and other wild animals to cross over from Bandhavgarh to Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve prior to the raising of the height of the Bansagar dam.
- ii. **Corridor II:** This connects the Panpatha Wildlife Sanctuary of Bandhavgarh and Dubri Wildlife Sanctuary of Sanjay Tiger Reserve south of the first corridor.
- iii. **Corridor III:** Sanjay Tiger reserve also shares a 53 km long common boundary with Guru Ghasidas National Park, which was part of erstwhile Sanjay National Park.
- iv. **Corridor IV:** This fourth corridor connects Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh with Guru Ghasidas National Park in Chhattisgarh through the Shahdol district in M.P. and Koriya and Manendragarh districts in Chhattisgarh.
- v. **Corridor V:** This fifth corridor is the elephant migration corridor which extends from the core area of the Tiger Reserve to the adjoining areas in Singrauli Division and beyond.

This Tiger Reserve is a part of the Bandhavgarh-Sanjay-Guru Ghasidas-Palamau landscape of over 25000 sq. km with a current tiger population estimate of 74 tigers. It has been identified as one of the four potential tiger meta-population landscapes whose corridor connectivity has become fragile requiring intervention of policy and restoration for functioning as effective wildlife corridors. Apart from tigers, the reserve also provides shelter to wild elephants that frequent the Mohan range.

The entire area along with the surrounding forests and the connectivity mentioned above in 'Ecological Values' has a tremendous potential to become an important source population of tigers. The adjacent areas too have an equally immense potential of re-colonising of tigers in the region.

Sanjay Tiger Reserve is the birth place of '*Mohan*', the first white tiger of Rewa state. The tribes groups found here include Kols, Bhilalas, Barelals, Tadvis, Banjaras, Gonds and Mankars. These different ethnic groups have their own unique historical, cultural and religious identities.

The fossil sites in Sanjay TR seem to be contiguous with the 'fossil park' in the state of Chhattisgarh. This area needs to be conserved as a fossil park too.

There are many religious sites in the Tiger Reserve. There are many important natural sites located in the Park which definitely attract many tourists

The Tiger Conservation Plan

The Tiger Conservation Plan (TCP) has been prepared in 4 parts i. TCP – Core Zone ii. TCP Buffer Zone, iii TCP Adjoining Areas and iv Security Plan. The six corner-stones on this Tiger Conservation Plan are (1) Strong basic field work and ground presence, (2) Supportive Tools and Technology Development, (3) Promotion of Science in Management, (4) Efficiency and dedication of Management and staff, (5) Innovative Approaches supported by common sense (6) A strong Matrix of Monitoring, evaluation, feedback mid- course rectifications and accountability.

The Salient Features of this Tiger Conservation Plan are as follows:

1. Extensive digital spatial database generated using Ground data, Remote Sensing and GIS.
2. Each Zone Plan and Theme Plan is well thought of and has separate specific objectives and an Action Plan associated.
3. In case of the Tourism Zone apart from the tiger reserve, potential of the adjoining areas is also proposed to be harnessed.
4. As soon as the TCP gets approval from NTCA a Timeline and Milestones Framework will be generated and the same will be strictly adhered to.
5. Indicative Budgets have been given for Core Zone, Buffer Zone and Adjoining Areas

The entire Management Effort is supported by a strong Monitoring and Evaluation follow-through.

The focus areas of the Plan are as follows:

1. Relocation of Villages from the Core Area
2. Exclusive Tiger Agenda for enhancement of tiger numbers.
3. Participation and economic enhancement of forest dependent communities
4. Capacity and competency building of forests staff and officers, communities and Line Agencies.
5. Retrofitting Measures and Convergence issues.
6. Inculcating scientific principles in management.
7. Strict Protection Measures.
8. Applications of modern tools and technology to assist the field work by staff.
9. Implementation of Monitoring and Evaluation Protocols.
6. Feedbacks and Continuous Participatory Process Development.

The methods used were as follows:

1. Secondary Literature and plans of the Forest Department.
2. Primary Data collected by the Department
3. Literature Review
4. Extended SWOT Analysis
5. Briefing from Officers and
6. Field Visits
7. Digital Spatial Database Generation in GIS Domain-

Zone and Theme Plans

Core:

The zone plans proposed under the Core are as follows:

1. Prey and Tiger Revival Plan
2. Eco-tourism Zone Plan
3. Voluntary Village Relocation Zone Plan

The theme plans proposed under the Core are as follows:

1. Protection
2. Tiger/Prey/Habitat Monitoring
3. Prey-base Augmentation Theme Plan
4. Communication Theme Plan
5. Research and Monitoring Theme Plan
6. Wild Elephant Management Theme Plan
7. Compensatory Ameliorative Habitat Interventions
8. Education and Outreach Theme Plan

9. Capacity Building for staff development Theme Plan
10. Fire Management Theme Plan
11. Wildlife Habitat Relationships Theme Plan
12. Livestock Depredation by Tiger Theme Plan
13. Prophylactic Livestock Immunization Theme Plan
14. Convergence and Critical Development issues Theme Plan
15. Stray dog management Theme Plan
16. Retrofitting Measures Theme Plan

Buffer:

The zone plans proposed under the Buffer are as follows:

1. Forestry Zone Plan
2. Multiple-Land Use Zone
3. Wildlife Conducive Areas Zone Plan
4. Eco-Tourism Zone Plan
5. Special Treatment Zone Plan for Beohari

The theme plans proposed under the Buffer are as follows:

1. Wildlife management in managed forests Theme Plan
2. Education and Outreach Theme Plan
3. Protection Theme Plan
4. Forest Fire Management Theme Plan
5. Human Wildlife Conflict Theme Plan
6. Research & Monitoring Theme Plan
7. Wildlife Habitat Relationship Theme Plan
8. Eco-development Theme Plan
9. Capacity building Theme Plan
10. Critical development issues Theme Plan
11. Convergence Issues Theme Plan
12. Management of Wild Elephant Theme Plan
13. Security Theme Plan
14. Stray/Feral Dog Management Theme Plan

Corridor and Adjoining Areas

The zone plans are not applicable for Corridor and adjoining areas hence they aren't proposed.

The theme plans proposed under

1. Protection
2. Forest Fire Management Theme Plan
3. Habitat Management and Restoration
4. Supplementing Declining Local Populations and facilitating their Re-colonisation
5. Corridor Evaluation Assessment and Designing

6. Education for Sustainable Development
7. Capacity and Competency Building of Frontline Staff
8. Capacity Building of Local Communities
9. Orientation and Capacity Building of Line Agencies
10. Human Wildlife Conflict
11. Retrofitting Measures

Security Plan

The plan takes into consideration various threats to the park and has divided the park into zones depending upon the degree of threat to it. It then proposes prescriptions to counter the threats and strengthen the security of the park.

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