



NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY / PROJECT TIGER

Statutory Body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(Government of India)

SATKOSIA TIGER RESERVE

Satkosia Tiger Reserve is located in the heartland of Odisha and spread over four districts viz. Angul, Cuttack, Boudh and Nayagarh. The terrain is hilly with moderate to steep slopes and narrow valleys. The General elevation varies from 37 Mtrs. to 932 Mtrs. The lowest point is 37 m. on the view bed at Katrang and the highest peak is Sunakhania at 932m. The river Mahanadi flows through the valleys in the mid of the Reserve.

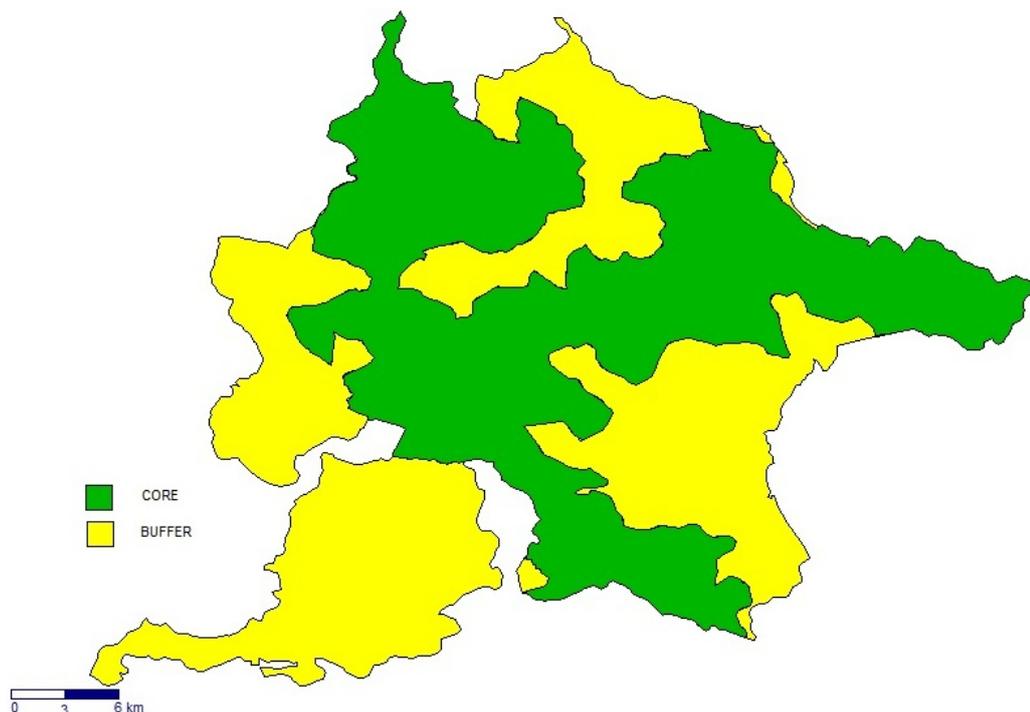
Area of the tiger reserve

Core/critical tiger habitat	: 523.61 Sq.kms.
Buffer/peripheral area	: 440.26Sq.kms.
Total	: 963.87 Sq.kms.

Location

Latitudes	: 20 ⁰ 25' 12" N 20 ⁰ 45' 36" N
Longitudes	: 84 ⁰ 40' 20" E 85 ⁰ 05' 24" E

Map



Habitat Attributes

Flora

The forest vegetation comprises of North Indian tropical moist deciduous Forests and Moist peninsular low level sal: Several plant associations are discernible, the main tree species being sal, which grows in gregarious formations. Other associate species are Asan (*Terminalia alata*), Dhaura (*Anogeissus latifolia*), Bamboo (*Dendrocalamus strictus*), and Simal (*Bombax ceiba*).

The Northern Tropical dry deciduous forest comprises of sal and mixed forests, interspersed with open forest and riparian zones. Besides, there are old Teak plantations.

In general more than 126 trees, 98 shrubs, 125 herbs and 561 timber species are found in the Reserve.

Fauna

The faunal diversity is tremendous and around 38 species of mammals, 161 species of birds, 27 species of reptiles and 183 species of fishes are found. The reserve has a low population of tiger, leopard, elephant, spotted deer, sambar, chowsingha, barking deer, bison, wild dog, sloth bear, jackal, giant squirrel and porcupine. The Satkosia gorge is the natural habitat of two endangered species viz. fresh water crocodile and the gharial. There are few meadows, invaded with mixed deciduous forest and bamboos.

Tiger Status

As per 2010 country level assessment, the tiger estimate for the Satkosia Tiger Reserve is 8 (ranging from 7-9). The Forest Divisions surrounding the reserve like Angul, Athagarh, Nayagarh and Boudh divisions also support resident tigers.

Core

There has been significant reduction of grass lands due to growth of woodland species, and weeds. This ecological setting has dispersed the Chital, Barking Deer population to smaller pockets. The presence of revenue villages results in considerable biotic pressure within the core which requires voluntary relocation under Project Tiger. Habitat development interventions are important to foster a viable tiger population within the carrying capacity of the habitat.

Buffer

The buffer area is under the administrative control of the Tiger Reserve Management. In the past, timber and bamboo working were in vogue along with plantations. The forestry operations at present are restricted to plantation activities. A large number of villages exist in the buffer zone and beyond. Human-wildlife conflicts are frequent. The peripheral areas have heavily used public infrastructure in the form of roads, markets, electrical transmission lines and related developments. Tourism is confined to the central zone of the reserve.

Corridor

The corridor connectivity with Similipal Tiger Reserve is crucial, requiring restoration. The corridor linkages with Angul, Deogarh, Keonjhar, Karanjia Forest Divisions are also important which call for fine tuning the management in such areas with a focus on tiger monitoring. The other important corridors are Athgarh, Dhenkanal, Anandapur (WL) & Baripada Forest Divisions. These corridor linkages are important for ensuring gene flow from the Similipal Tiger Reserve.

Management issues

Protection and monitoring of tiger is crucial in Satkosia and surrounding divisions. The Phase-IV monitoring in Satkosia is going on since 2012. The Phase-IV monitoring has been initiated , which needs to be mainstreamed in adjoining areas as well. The other important issues are intelligence based enforcement and anti-poaching operations, voluntary relocation of villages from core, immunization of peripheral village livestock, special monitoring of tuskers, securing habitat patches for spotted deer, Barking Deer, recovery of identified corridor connectivity, regulation of tourism as per the guidelines issued by National Tiger Conservation Authority, eco development in buffer areas to enlist local public support while reducing resource dependency, prompt payment of ex-gratia/ compensation for depredation due to wild animals, safeguards on roads and areas having electrical transmission lines and coordination with the adjoining forest divisions within the State for keeping track of moving tigers.

Good Practices

Phase-IV monitoring and creation of camera trap photo ID of tigers.