



Wildlife Management in **Buxa** Tiger Reserve

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Buxa Tiger Reserve is situated in Alipurduar sub-division of Jalpaiguri District. The location is a confluence of three major bio-geographic zones viz. Lower Gangetic Plains, Central Himalayas and Bramhaputra Valley. Representation of multi-tier vegetational assemblage from the plains to an elevation of 1750 mts in the hills, coupled with a good number of perennial water streams, enables this Reserve to be an excellent harbour for various wild animals.

Push from Below

The Forests of Buxa Tiger Reserve, previously known as Buxa Division, was managed with the intention of harvesting of timber to cater the raw materials of industrialisation and other development works. The first Working Plan prepared by William Schlich (1874-75 to 1905-06) stressed on systematic management, which graduated in the second Working Plan by C C Halt through prescribing: "selection felling followed by natural regeneration" for renewing the resource. E O Shebbear further improvised the management system. In the third Working Plan (1920-21 to 1924-25) Shebbear

recommended "artificial regeneration of clear felled areas by means of Taunga Plantation".

It was for the first time in the fourth Working Plan (1929-30 to 1948-49) where Homfray emphasised the need for maintenance and improvement of the savannah areas to provide habitat for rich grassland. However, such recommendation was widely applied in the forest areas where presently Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary is situated. In the fifth Working Plan (1945-46 to 1964-65),

Jaldapara Wildlife

Sanctuary was kept under a separate Game Sanctuary Working Circle to preserve and improve the existing stock of indigenous fauna. In the sixth (1965-66 to 1974-75) and the seventh (1975-76 to 1984-85) Working Plan, no special stress was given on wildlife except for the creation of Protection Working Circle where no felling was prescribed. This Working Circle was created for the protection of steep hill slopes and headwater of streams. Extraction of forest produce was limited. However, during these two plan periods, a vast area (5300 ha) in the plains within this Reserve was converted into Teak.

Meanwhile, in 1983, the Buxa Tiger Reserve was constituted. The Management Plan after creation of Tiger Reserve emphasised on identifying the limiting factors of the habitat and reduce those factors through ameliorative management and compulsory development by means of intensive anti-poaching, fire protection, elimination of cattle grazing, eradication of weeds, soil conservation measures, relocation of human habitation inside the Core area.

Chronology of Events

1. In 1866, the state forest department undertook the forests of Buxa Tiger Reserve,



A rare species of bird

which was used to be a subject of indiscriminate felling resulting into wasteland.

2. The process of declaring the forest as 'Reserved' according to the Indian Forest Act (Act VIII of 1878) started in the year 1879. The process continued till 1940.

3. Thus the forests of Buxa were formed over an area of 758.78 Sq Kms vide Government of India's Notification No. J-11025/18/B/FRY(PT) dated 16.02.1983. Subsequently, 2.09 Sq Kms resumed tea garden forest land was transferred by the district magistrate,

Jalpaiguri, in 1989. Thus total area of Buxa Tiger Reserve became 760.87 Sq. Kms.

4. The forests of Buxa became a Tiger Reserve in 1983.

5. An area of 314.52 Sq Kms was declared as Buxa Wildlife Sanctuary in 1986. In the year 1990, a further 54.47 Sq Kms was added. Thus the area of Sanctuary became 386.07 Sq Kms.

6. In 1997, an area of 117.10 Sq Kms of the Sanctuary was notified as National Park. Thus the area of Buxa Wildlife Sanctuary reduced down to 268.97 Sq Kms.

7. Eastern Dooars Elephant Reserve was formed with an area of 977.51 Sq Kms involving Jalpaiguri, Wildlife II, Wildlife III divisions and Buxa Tiger Reserve Circle vide Notification No. 3293-For/11B-19/2000 dated 28.08.2002 for the purpose of protecting, containing and developing wildlife (elephant) and its environment. Most of the area of Buxa Tiger Reserve was kept either under core or buffer area.

8. Recently, 459.13 Sq Kms area has been notified as Critical Tiger Habitat of Buxa Tiger Reserve vide Notification No. 6027-For dated 18.12.2007 where some buffer areas came under Critical Tiger Habitat Zone and some core areas were de-notified.

Vegetational Status of Buxa Tiger Reserve

Buxa Tiger Reserve is a forest of multi-tier vegetational assemblage. The most common species found within the forests are as follows:

In the Plains: Sal (*Shorea robusta*) along with its

associates viz. Champ (*Michelia champaca*), Chilaune (*Schima wallichii*), Chikrasi (*Chukrasia tabularis*), Bahera (*Terminalia belerica*), Sidha (*Lagerstroemia parviflora*), Toon (*Toona ciliata*), Lali (*Amoora wallichii*), Lasuni (*Aphanomixis polostachea*), Lampati (*Duabanga grandiflora*), Simul (*Bombax ceiba*).

In the adjoining area of rivers Simul, Sisoo and Sirish are commonly found.

In the Hills: Katus (*Castanopsis indica*), Mandane (*Artocarpus fraxinifolius*), Bhalukath (*Talauma hodgsoni*), Phalame (*Walsura tabulata*) associated with Kimbu (*Morus laevigata*), Panisaj (*Terminalia microcarpa*), Gokul (*Ailanthus grandis*).

Savannah Woodlands: Savannah woodlands are characterised by Kumbhi (*Careya arborea*), Tantari (*Dellenia pentagyna*), Jamun (*Syzygium cumini*) and Kul (*Zizyphus* sp.)

Forage Availability to Herbivores: The presence of wide variety of grass, herbs and shrubs enrich the fodder resources of the forest. The grasses mostly preferred by the Wild Herbivores are *Imperata cylindrica*, *Arundo donax*, *Themeda arundinacea*, *Phragmites karka*, *Paspalidium punctatum*, *Panicum maxima*, *Setaria glauca*, *Oryza* sp., *Saccharum* sp., *Andropogon* sp., *Thysanolaena* sp.

Faunal Varieties in Buxa Tiger Reserve
With the abundance of dense forests providing enough cover, plentiful of forages and fruits as food for herbivores and consequently a large prey base for the carnivores and perennial rivers and streams dissecting the Reserve, the area is a suitable habitat for Wild animals.

The main carnivores of Buxa Tiger Reserve include Indian Tiger (*Panthera*



tigris), Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*), Hog badger (*Arctonyx collaris*), Jungle cat (*Felis chaus*), Leopard cat (*Felis bengalensis*), Fishing cat (*Felis viverrina*), Wild dog (*Canis alpinus*), Jackal (*Canis aureus*),

Mongoose (*Herpestes edwardsi*), Fox (*Vulpes bengalensis*).

Among herbivores, predominants are Indian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*), Gaur (*Bos gaurus*), Sambhar (*Cervus unicolor*), Chital (*Axis axis*), Barking deer (*Muntiacus muntjac*), Hog deer (*Axis porcinus*), Wild pig (*Sus scrofa*) and Hispid hare (*Capropagrus hispidus*).

Many other animals like Porcupine (*Hystrix indica*), Rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulata*), Common Pangolin (*Manis crassiculata*) are also frequently in these forests.

Varieties of fishes are present in the rivers and streams flowing inside the forest, most commonly found are Chela, Boroli, Puti, Hum, Boal, Mrigel, Kalbaus, Chital, Sole etc.

Among reptiles tortoise, lizards, gecko, various kinds of snakes such as King kobra, Russel Viper, Black Crait, Indian Python and reticulated Python are found in this region.

Avifauna of Buxa Tiger Reserve adds to the richness of Bio-diversity. The important ones are Indian Jungle Maina, Indian Magpie Robin, Common Red Jungle Fowl, Peafowl, Indian Pied Hornbill. Around water pools, water birds such as Snake bird, Grey heron, Little egret, Paddy bird, Cattle egret are often met with.

Moreover, various kinds of Orchids and Butterflies adore the Bio-diversity of the Reserve.

Problem Related to Habitat Management

The faunal variety of Buxa Tiger Reserve faces various difficulties to spread over the entire Reserve, thus limiting their presence in some pockets. The limiting factors for wild animals are as follows:



Spotted deer

1. Hunting and Poaching: Poaching of Tigers was quite prevalent in India. Since imposition of ban on hunting Tigers in 1970, incidence of poaching of Tigers had remarkably reduced. Poaching incidence of Elephants, Gaurs, Leopards are also less.

2. Illicit Felling and Collection of NWFP: Illicit felling and collection of NWFP by and large occurs in Buxa Tiger Reserve. Such incidence occurs mainly in the outskirts of the Reserve near settlement and tea gardens, affecting the habitat adversely.

3. Shifting of River Courses: The recurrent flood in the flood plains of river Sankosh, Rydak, Jainty, Bala, Dima and Basra during the monsoon destroys wildlife habitat. Trees, boulders etc are carried down and get stuck at places and form barrier. This barrier sometimes gradually enlarges and acts like partial dams. The courses of the streams and rivers are diverted with the consequent erosion of banks.

4. Scarcity of Water: The rising of riverbed as a consequence of siltation has absence or flow of water in the streams and rivers during dry season (December to April). Though surface flow of water is available in the hills and very far

below beyond 23rd mile (Terai Zone) runs underneath the riverbed where the maximum area of the Reserve is located (north of 23rd mile). Moreover there are 4 water pools within the Reserve (Narathali, Pukuri, Phaskhawa and Adma Pokhri), which are insufficient.

5. Conversion of Natural Forests to Monoculture: Natural habitats were converted to Teak and Jarul (monoculture) plantations in many areas of Reserve like Sankosh, Kumargram, Bholka, Rydak, Dima, Rajabhatkhawa, Santrabari, Bhutri, Bharnabari, and Gudamabdri blocks as well as in National Park areas during the sixth and the seventh Working Plan period before formation of Buxa Tiger Reserve. Teak and Jarul plantations occupy 34% of total plantation of the Tiger Reserve, which is not congenial for wild animals. Natural carrying capacity of the habitat is reduced considerably on account of such adverse changes.

6. Grazing: Grazing by cattle inside the Tiger Reserve is a serious problem as it reduces the availability of fodder to the wild herbivores and exposes them to the risk of cattle born diseases.

7. Diseases: Wild animals, particularly the herbivores, are very susceptible to diseases, most of which are transmitted through domestic cattle. So, grazing not only degrades the habitat but also increases the chance of transmitting many diseases to wild animals. Anthrax, Rinderpest, Foot and Mouth disease, Tuberculosis etc are the common diseases, which usually kill the wild animals.

8. Roads, Railways and Transmission Line: A number of PWD roads, including a National Highway, NH 31C, pass through the Buxa Tiger Reserve. The meter gauge railway line from Damanpur to Hasimara, which has been graduated to broad gauge railway line, passes through the Reserve. Over years the roads and railway line have become very busy. The number of vehicles and trains plying during night has increased by many times. Consequently, wild animal death cases due to accidents have also increased. In addition, a major threat is the construction of a road all through the hills. The proposed Tala-Rydak road will further dissect the continuous undisturbed forest patch of Buxa Tiger Reserve and the forests of Bhutan. This is a threat to the stabilisation of hill slopes encouraging landslide, de-forestation and vehicular pollution. Debris released from these activities is still silting up rivers of BTR making them prone to frequent floods.

9. Forest Village: Forest villages constructed long ago within various pockets falling in the core area of Buxa Tiger Reserve acts as a limiting factor. The population of all forest villages has increased considerably, which also destroys wildlife habitat. 12 forest villages and two FD holdings are located within the notified sanctuary.

10. Invasion of Weeds: Eupatorium sp., Clerodendron sp. and ferns are the major weeds and Mikania is the main climber affecting forests and plantation.

11. Degradation of Grasslands: The savannah grasslands within the Reserve is situated in the flood plain of the rivers Rydak, Sankosh, Jainty, Bala, Dima and Basra. Trees like Sisoo, Simul, Sirish are gradually invading them. Grasslands were also converted in the past into monocultures of teak, Jarul etc in Bholka block. Grasslands within BTR have also degraded on account of grazing and fire.

Management Plan in Buxa Tiger Reserve

The entire area of Buxa Tiger Reserve is marked into four separate zones for separate management practices depending on the needs of habitat improvement as well as biotic pressure.

Wilderness Zone: The entire National Park and a part of the Sanctuary is included in this Zone extending over an area of 126.34 Sq Kms involving Jainty, East Rajabhatkhawa, West Rajabhatkhawa, Buxaduar, North Rydak and Kumargram Ranges.

Objectives of Management

1. To preserve this zone in as near natural condition as possible.
2. To maintain natural courses of natural succession.

Strategies followed in this Zone

1. Natural Forest in this zone is strictly preserved.
2. Improvement and protection works are carried out for the purpose of: (a) maintenance of roads and firelines and (b) Construction and maintenance of Artificial Water holes.
3. Boundary demarcation are carried out and staff amenities are provided only to the extent required for protection of this zone.
4. Grazing and fire are strictly prohibited in this zone.
5. No vehicular movement except for protection duties shall be permitted in this zone.
6. No collection of NTFP is permitted in this zone.
7. Only limited use for scientific and research purpose.

Habitat Management Zone: Most of the blocks falling within the Buxa Wildlife Sanctuary are included under this Zone. The total area of this zone is 260.37 Sq. Kms. This zone extends over Kumargram, North Rydak, South Rydak, Jainty, Buxaduar, East Rajabhatkhawa, Pana and Hamiltonganj Ranges.

Objectives of Management

1. Manage the habitat in such a way that encourages wildlife population, particularly the prey-base for large carnivores.
2. Preserve natural forests and other critical habitats.

Strategies followed in this Zone

1. Protection given against illicit felling, poaching, grazing, fire etc.
2. Habitat improvement works like canopy opening in teak forests followed by fodder plantation, thinning of plantations, eradication



An elephant herd

of weeds from glades and wetlands, soil conservation, etc. are performed.

3. Developmental works including repairing of road, creation and maintenance of firelines, maintenance of glades, water holes and salt licks, provision of staff amenities etc. are done.

4. Selective and restricted eco-development activities are carried out in forest villages and F.D. holding hamlets.

5. Restricted tourism is allowed within the tourism zone without jeopardizing the interests of Wildlife.

6. Collection of NTFP is restricted in terms of the provisions of The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Govt. Orders for Eco-Development Committee.

7. Limited extraction of cyclone damaged timber and drift timber is done to remove blockades from streams, reduce fire hazards and discourage timber smugglers.

8. Removal of boulders and bed materials from middle one-thirds of river beds are allowed in some identified areas to maintain the course of river, keeping the river bank on both sides undisturbed.

Multiple Use Zone: All the remaining blocks not included under Wilderness Zone

and Multiple Use Zone, have been included in this zone. This zone extends over Bholka, South Rydak, Nimati, Pana, Hamiltongunj, East Damanpur, West Damanpur, East Rajabhatkhawa and West Rajabhatkhawa Ranges. The zone extends to 373.16 Sq. Kms.

Objectives of Management

1. To preserve the natural forest.
2. To meet the demand of people for fuel wood, fodder, NWFP and timber etc.
3. To provide adequate employment to forest villagers and members of the FPC and EDC through forestry works, NTFP collection and eco-development activities.
4. To create congenial habitat for wildlife by planting suitable fodder and fruit trees of indigenous origin and by protecting and maintaining wildlife corridors.

Strategies followed in this Zone

1. Final harvesting of matured plantations are carried out followed by replanting of the felled area during next year.
2. Cultural and Mechanical thinning of plantations are carried out as per thinning schedule.
3. Reforestation of degraded areas is undertaken.

4. Developmental works including road repairing, maintenance of fire lines, creation and maintenance of staff amenities etc. are carried out.

5. Eco-Developmental activities are carried out in forest villages, F.D. holding hamlets, FPCs and EDCs.

Tourism Zone: This zone comprises 11 Sq. Kms. of Rajabhatkhawa, Jainty, Buxaduar and Bhutanghat blocks overlapping with the Habitat Management Zone and the Multiple Use Zone.

Objectives of Management

1. To promote conservation awareness among the visitors and local people through nature education and interpretation.
2. To regulate tourism in a manner that ensures the visit of tourists enjoyable, educative and compatible with the goals of conservation.
3. To minimize the negative impact of tourism.
4. To provide economic benefits to the local communities through tourism activities.

Strategies followed in this Zone:

1. In the Reserve, 11 Sq Kms area has been identified for Tourism Zone, which covers SRVK-15 &16, NRVK-6, BTG-2, TBGN-4 and NRT-2 compartments.
2. Interpretation Centre at Rajabhatkhawa provides of sorts of information about the Reserve. In addition a museum is created at Buxaduar for demonstration and depiction of Historical events of Buxa along with its surroundings and cultures of local Dukpas.
3. Accommodation facilities are available at various locations for the Tourists.
4. Eco-Tourism guides are stationed at Jainty and Rajabhatkhawa, who are engaged for safari within the tourism zone.

Habitat Improvement Plan

Habitat improvement works in the Reserve is done especially in Habitat Management Zone, based on following considerations.

1. Preserving and increasing bio-diversity and interspersion of habitat.

2. Protection of habitat against all factors causing degradation.



Peacock

3. Making habitat conditions suitable for target species.

4. Raising local palatable and nutritive fodder grasses, shrubs and fruit trees to increase the quality of degraded habitats.

The following habitat improvement works are done.

(1) Canopy Opening in Teak Plantations followed by Habitat Improvement Plantation:

In Buxa Tiger Reserve, old congested teak plantation as seen in abundance in Habitat Management Zone, which is not favourable to wild animals as it does not allow bushy undergrowth and middle storey to provide adequate cover. Dense canopy allows very little light to the ground, thus inhibiting growth of light demanding species of browse value for ungulates. Consequently, congested teak plantations harbour relatively low density of herbivores. Thus opening of canopy in congested teak plantation is done.

The process of Canopy Opening is done by following certain procedures. At a time, 5-10 ha dense teak plantation is taken up. The plots are laid in staggered fashion to minimise disturbance to wild animals. Plots are located in plain terrain, at least 50 mts away from perennial streams/rivers. Around 100 trees/ha are retained. Marked trees are felled from September/October and completed within February. To discourage the growth of coppice shoots, the stump is battered. Opened up areas are planted in the following monsoon with indigenous fodder plants, shrubs, bamboos and fruit bearing trees viz. Amla, Bahera, Chalta, Kumbhi, Gujalahara, Arare kanta etc. grasses like Dhadda, Chepti, Malsa and bamboos like Bambusa arundinacea, Dendrocalamus hamiltoni etc. After plantation subsequent maintenance by weeding, cleaning and beating up of blank areas is done regularly as per schedule- 1st year-3 weeding/cleaning, 2nd and 3rd year- 2 weeding/cleaning and 4th Year-1 weeding/cleaning.

(2) Habitat improvement plantation in degraded areas: This operation is done in both in Habitat Management Zone and



Parrot

Multiple Use Zone. The areas, which are degraded due to intensive biotic pressure, are taken up for plantation. The choice of species to be planted is guided by Working Plan based on soil condition. The spacing maintained is 2mtx2mt fruit species does not exceed 10 per cent of the total stock and are not planted in pure lines. Bamboos are planted in grooves scattered uniformly over the plantation area.

(3) Canopy manipulation for creating congenial habitat for Wildlife: Canopy of younger plantations are manipulated regularly to create congenial habitat for wild animals, which is carried out in Habitat Management Zone only. It is needed for removal of congestion for easy movement of wild animals.

(4) Maintenance of grasslands and meadows: The operation is restricted to Habitat Management Zone only where grasslands exist. In Buxa Tiger Reserve, natural grasslands exists mostly in all along river banks of Bala, Jainty, Dima and Basra rivers. The grassland mainly consists of Saccharum sp., Imperata cylindrical and Desmodium bipinnata. The need of the maintenance is to cut woody encroachment on a 5-year cycle,

retaining 4-5 snags per ha. Fruit species especially Zizyphus and Ficus are retained. This management practice is not followed as prescribed due to biotic pressure and grazing.

(5) Maintenance of glades and salt licks: The operation is applicable in Habitat Management Zone and Eco-Tourism Zone. The maintenance of glades and salt licks are done by weeding of unwanted weeds (Lantana, Mikania etc.) twice a year in all glades. Fodder grasses like Dhadda, Malsa, Chepti, Banspati, and Purundi are planted in blank patches and maintained subsequently. Rock salts are provided on the mounds at regular interval.

(6) Maintenance of artificial and natural waterholes: A vast area in Buxa Tiger Reserve (north of 23rd mile) lies within bhabar tract, where water becomes scarce during the lean period (December to April). Most of the water holes within this tract are provided with water through pipeline from the stream. Some are filled-in with water manually. Domestic livestock is controlled from coming to these waterholes.

(7) Maintenance of Natural Wetlands: The natural water holes (at Narathali-2,

Tashigaon-2, Phaskhawa-3 and Santrabari-1) consist of water throughout the year. Tashigaon-2, Phaskhawa-3 and Santrabari-1 waterbodies are located in hill tracts where tortoise and turtles reside. Hence these are protected from being hunted.

The wetland at Narathali is important for water birds and other aquatic fauna. The portion (50%) of the beel (waterbody) is cleaned every year in a staggered manner by manual removal of pistia and water hyacinth. Adequate protection is provided against hunting, fishing and unauthorized cattle grazing.

(8) Maintenance of special habitats like snags, dens, caves and overhangs: This strategy is applicable in all management plan zones. Snags around 3-5 in a hectare above 5mt height and 20 cms DBH are retained for use by woodpeckers, barbets, hornbills and small mammals. 2-5 down woods (above 2mt and 20 cms diameter at the big end) should be retained per ha. for providing shelter to various life forms such as soil bacteria, fungi, mollusks, anthropoids, amphibians and small mammals. All the dens, caves and overhangs are protected and undisturbed as hare, mouse, pangoline, mongoose and other nocturnal animals stay there.

Habitat Restoration works

The restoration works are done by various means in order to protect the habitat from destruction by natural calamities and other means.

(1) Bank Protection and river training works: These works are done in the anticipated vulnerable portion of river banks and streams by means of sassuage works and construction of spur. This enables protection of the river and stream banks during flash floods in the rainy season.

(2) Removal of boulders and bed material from river beds: Though it was prohibited to collect boulders and bed materials from National Park and Sanctuaries as per Forest Conservation Act, 1980, special permission has been accorded from the Supreme Court



to collect boulders and bed materials from middle one-thirds of the river bed within the Reserve in some identified areas for de-siltation and increase the river depth. This can restrict the flood water to overflow and strike on the banks of river and streams.

Since February 2006, boulders and bed materials are permitted to collect by the various government departments and government undertakings for development purpose.

(3) Removal of drift timber from rivers/streams: At times, drift timber blocks the normal course of rivers/streams, which then change its course and breaks one side of the bank by its overflows. Hence, minimum quantity of drift timber from the Habitat Management Zone is extracted to remove the blockade from the river course.

Protection Measures

Above all, protection measures ought to be paramount to protect the forests and wildlife. Hence, following measures are taken.

(1) Patrolling: Extensive patrolling is done on foot, elephant back and vehicle to counter poaching activities and illegal felling. The river camps are maintained at Rydak, Gholani throughout the year to check passing of drift timber. In addition, patrolling is done by boat specifically during rainy season. Elephants are used for patrolling 'difficult to access' areas.

(2) Strengthening communication network: Communication between all stations is done by fixed RT sets. Moreover, handsets are used during patrolling to communicate between the patrolling parties and nearest Forest Station.

(3) Maintenance of forest roads and patrolling path: To combat poaching and illegal felling fast communication is necessary. Hence, forest roads and patrolling paths are cleaned for easy movement of vehicle and patrolling parties.

(4) Providing firearms: Firearms are essential to combat poachers and smugglers and for self-protection by the staffs. Each forest unit is equipped with firearms.



a rare species of reptile

(5) Organising raid programme: In Buxa Tiger Reserve frequent raid programmes are organised in villages, rivers and trains based on reliable information.

(6) Control on sawmills: It is very essential to regulate illegally running sawmills and furniture shops to protect forest assets. The respective inspectors sometimes suddenly verify the stock of sawmills to control the entrance of illegal timber.

(7) Establishment of intelligence network: Intelligence network is widely spread throughout Buxa Tiger Reserve for gathering information on illegal works related to Forests and Wildlife. The system of paying rewards to informers on the basis of guidelines provided by Government of India (vide its Circular no. 24-1/88-WL-1, dated 29.08.1888 to all CWLWs and Forest Secretaries) is followed.

(8) Creation of Tiger Protection Force: As per latest guideline by newly formed National Tiger Conservation Authority, formation of Tiger Protection Force in Buxa Tiger Reserve is under process. With the formation of this Force, protection measures will certainly gain impetus.

Rehabilitation Programme

A proposal has recently come up with a package for relocation/rehabilitation of villages coming under Critical Tiger Habitat of all Tiger Reserves in India. National Tiger Conservation Authority has come up with such proposal. The proposed package has two options:

Option I: Payment of entire package amount (Rs 10 lakh per family) to the in case the family opts so, without involving any rehabilitation/relocation process by forest department.

Option II: Carrying out relocation/rehabilitation of village from Critical Tiger Habitat by the forest department.

At present the process has been initiated in Adma, Raimatang, Gangutia, 28th Mile Basti, 29th Mile Basti, Newlands and Kumargram forest villages and Jainty FD Holding to bring under this package. This will certainly benefit the wild animals to move freely without any disturbances. The problem of grazing will be no more. Moreover, it will add to the serenity of the forests enabling a better habitat for the wild animals.

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