



## NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY / PROJECT TIGER

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

### SATPURA TIGER RESERVE

The Satpura Tiger reserve is a prime example of central Indian highlands eco-system. It is a unique area of diverse land resources and is endowed with a rich bio-diversity including rare and endemic bryophytes and pteridophytes like *Psilotum*, *Cythea*, *Osmunda*, *Lycopodium*. The habitat is also an important testimony to human evolution as it houses more than 50 rock shelters which are almost 1500 to 10,000 years old. Geological formations include Deccan trap series, Gondwanas and Meta morphic rocks. Based on its rich floral and faunal diversity, it was declared as the first Bio-sphere reserve of India in 1999. STR is a part of one of the largest Tiger habitats in the world extending over 10,000 sq.km. along with forest areas of Betul, Harda, Khandwa and Melghat forest divisions. Faunal diversity includes Tigers, Gaur, Sambhar, Flying squirrel, Indian giant squirrel and Leaf nosed bats to name a few. Avian fauna includes more than 280 species of birds.

#### Area of the Tiger Reserve

Core/critical tiger habitat	:	1339.26 sq.km.
Buffer/ peripheral area	:	794.04 sq.km.
<b>Total</b>	:	<b>2133.30 sq.km.</b>

#### Location

Latitude	:	22°19' to 22°45'
Longitude	:	77°53' to 78°34'

#### Habitat Attributes

##### Flora

Southern tropical moist deciduous forest, Southern tropical dry deciduous forest, Tropical riparian fringing forest, southern tropical thorn forest, central Indian sun tropical hill forest, Dry and moist grassland. In general the forest ranges from Sal forest on Pachmarhi plateau and mixed forest in most of the areas, with some patches of teak forest.

##### Fauna

Faunal diversity is tremendous and includes threatened and critically endangered species. Tiger is

the charismatic species along with other mammals like Gaur, Sambhar, Chital, besides co predators, birds, reptiles and fishes.

## **Tiger status**

As per the 2010 country level assessment using the refined methodology, the tiger estimate for the Satpura landscape is 42 with an increasing trend. Areas of west Chindwara division, Hoshangabad division and Rampur Bhatodi project division have been included as buffer in 2013, as per the advice of NTCA.

## **Core**

STR has successfully relocated 13 villages from the core areas as per the guidelines of Project Tiger. Weed eradication and Grassland development measures are being implemented in these vacated areas. Considerable progress in the number and distribution of herbivores has been noticed in these sites.

## **Buffer**

The buffer area has been brought under the administrative control of the tiger reserve management in the recent past and comprises of forests subjected to past working for timber exploitation, besides plantations. At present coupes are being worked under selection cum improvement working circle, However, the periphery of the buffer has many villages and human wildlife interface issues and conflicts are numerous and frequent. Such areas have heavily used public infrastructure in the form of roads, markets, electrical transmission lines and related development. Tourism is confined to view points in Pachmarhi and vehicle rides in Madhai and Churna.

## **Corridor**

Satpura Tiger Reserve is having corridor connectivity with Pench National Park.

## **Managerial Issues**

Since the Satpura Tiger Reserve has a source population of tigers, monitoring source populations in the tiger reserve and adjoining divisions is an important issue. The ongoing M-STRIPES and Phase-IV monitoring in STR is being mainstreamed in the adjoining divisions with creation of camera trap tiger ID data base with periodic tallying. Voluntary relocation of villages, identifying corridor connectivity regulation of Tourism, 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 co-ordination with adjoining division for keeping track of moving tigers are important.

## **Good practices**

Phase-IV monitoring and creation of camera trap ID database of Tigers and ongoing relocation of villages.