# TADOBA-ANDHARI TIGER RESERVE

Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve is in the Chandrapur district of Maharashtra.

The habitat has undulating topography in the North and is rich in biodiversity.

# **Area of Tiger Reserve**

Core/ Critical Tiger habitat : 625.40 sq.km. (including 14.93 sq.km. non-forest area)

Buffer/ peripheral area : 1101.77 sq.km. (including 401.49 sq.km. non-forest area)

Total : 1727.17 sq.km.

## Location

Latitude :  $19^0 59'27"$  to  $20^0 29'44"$ Longitude :  $79^0 11'50"$  to  $79^0 40'54"$ 

## **Habitat Attributes**

Biogeographically, the reserve falls in the Central plateau province of the Deccan peninsula, with tropical dry deciduous forests and a typical Central Indian faunal assemblage.

### **Flora**

The major tree species are: Teak, Ain, Bamboo, Bija, Dhaoda, Haldu, Salai, Semal and Tendu. Along the moist areas, species like Mango, Jamun and Arjun are found. Bamboo (Dendrocalamus strictus) is spread over 40% of the habitat.

There are 667 species of flowering plants.

### **Fauna**

The notable faunal species include: tiger, leopard, sloth bear, wild dog, gaur, chital and sambar. As many as, 280 species of birds are found, apart from reptiles (54 species), amphibians (11 species) and fishes (84 species).

# **Tiger Status**

The reserve and the adjoining forests (Central Chanda, Bramhapuri and Chandrapur forest divisions) have a good tiger status. During the 2010 country level assessment, the tiger population in the Tadoba-Andhari landscape (3241 sq.km.) was estimated to range between 66-74 tigers. This landscape connects the tiger population of Maharashtra with that of Indravati in Chhattisgarh

through forests of Chandrapur and Garhchiroli. It is also linked in the North Eastern side with Kanha through the forests of Nawegaon and Nagzira.

### Core

The core/critical tiger habitat consists of Tadoba National Park (116.55 sq.km.) and Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary (508.25 sq.km.). The managerial thrust areas include: stepped up protection through smart patrolling, 24X7 field surveillance using intelligent, infrared and thermal cameras, day to day tiger monitoring, limited habitat interventions vis-à-vis the carrying capacity of the habitat for tiger, securing inviolate space through voluntary relocation and regulated tourism.

### **Buffer**

The buffer is a multiple use area with an aggressive 'inclusive' agenda to benefit local people and tiger. The managerial actions include: providing livelihood options to local people through ecodevelopment, addressing human-wildlife interface, day to day monitoring of tiger, mainstreaming tiger concerns in forestry and other sectors, besides retrofitting safeguards for tiger and wild animals in heavily used public infrastructure.

### Corridor

The reserve has corridor linkages with Nagzira-Navegaon and Pench Tiger Reserves within the State. Besides, it is also linked to several tiger reserves in nearby States, viz. Kawal (Telangana) and Indravati (Chhattisgarh). The forest divisions adjoining Tadoba have resident tigers, which require active protection and monitoring with a recovery strategy as adopted for the buffer.

### **Good Practices**

Raising, arming and deploying the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF), Phase-IV monitoring and creation of camera trap photo database of tigers, voluntary village relocation and ecodevelopment in the fringes.