



Wildlife Odisha-2025



WILDLIFE ORGANISATION
FOREST, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OCTOBER, 2025



Wildlife Odisha - 2025



WILDLIFE ORGANISATION

Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department

Government of Odisha

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LOKASEVA BHAVAN
BHUBANESWAR

SRI MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI
Chief Minister
Odisha

MESSAGE

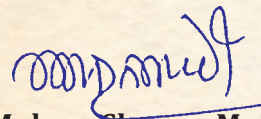
Wildlife Week is celebrated across the country from October 2nd to 8th every year, commemorating the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Odisha, with its unique geographical diversity, is blessed with rich biodiversity. From marine and coastal ecosystems to the hills of the Eastern Ghats, our state offers a wide range of habitats that support and incredible variety of plant and animal life.

To protect and conserve these valuable ecosystems, the State Government has established a strong network of Protected Areas. I sincerely appreciate the efforts of our forest officials, conservationists, and local communities who work tirelessly to safeguard our wildlife. Their dedication plays a vital role in preserving the natural heritage of Odisha.

This edition of the annual report, **Wildlife Odisha - 2025**, presents a detailed overview of the current status of wildlife in the state and the ongoing conservation efforts. It is heartening to note that the population of many species is on the rise. However, the increase in Human-Wildlife Conflict is a growing concern.

It is now more important than ever to move from conflict to coexistence. Achieving this goal requires collective action. The involvement of all stakeholders, especially local communities, is crucial.

With the continued support and cooperation of everyone, I am confident that we, the people of Odisha, can build a future where both humans and wildlife thrive together.


(Mohan Charan Majhi)



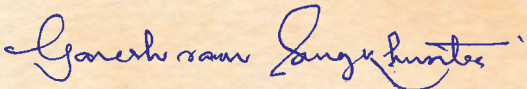
LOKASEVA BHAVAN
BHUBANESWAR

SRI GANESH RAM SINGKHUNTIA
Minister
Forest, Environment &
Climate Change Dept

MESSAGE

As we celebrate **Wildlife Week 2025**, I would like to emphasize the importance of conservation and protection of Odisha's rich wildlife heritage. Our state is home to diverse species, including majestic elephants, tigers, leopards, and Olive Ridley turtles, which not only contribute to the beauty of our ecosystem but also play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance.

I am pleased to see that the Wildlife Organisation continues to uphold its tradition of documenting and disseminating knowledge through this annual publication "**Wildlife Odisha-2025**" which is a comprehensive compilation of the wildlife management and conservation activities undertaken by the Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department and hope this publication will be useful for the students, researchers, nature lovers and public.


(Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia)



SHRI SATYABRATA SAHU, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary
Forest, Environment &
Climate Change Department,
Govt. of Odisha

MESSAGE

Despite our efforts, wildlife conservation in Odisha faces significant challenges. Human-wildlife conflict, poaching, habitat loss, and climate change are some of the major threats to our wildlife. For protection and conservation of wildlife and their habitats, the wildlife organization has been implementing various *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation measures.

Protecting wild animals and their habitats, rescue of wild animals, mitigation of human wildlife conflict, monitoring the status of wildlife, creating awareness among the people and promoting eco- tourism for providing alternate sources of livelihood near protected areas, are some of the major activities of wildlife wing of the department.

I am happy that Wildlife Organization is bringing out this annual publication titled "**Wildlife Odisha-2025**" which is a comprehensive compilation of the wildlife management and conservation activities undertaken by the Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department. I hope that this book will be very useful for the administrators, wildlife researchers, students and nature lovers in their endeavour for conservation of wildlife in Odisha.

(Satyabrata Sahu)



SHRI PREM KUMAR JHA, IFS
Principal CCF (WL) &
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FOREWORD

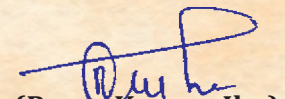
Odisha is a treasure house of biodiversity, showcasing a remarkable array of wildlife sustained by its diverse ecosystems. From the tropical moist deciduous forests of Similipal to the mangroves of Bhitarkanika and an extensive coastline, the state offers varied habitats supporting a vibrant faunal diversity.

Odisha's wildlife includes a broad spectrum of species: 102 species of mammals, 471 species of birds, 132 species of reptiles, 26 species of amphibians, more than 811 species of fish, and a vast invertebrate faunal diversity. The state is also an important habitat for numerous bird species, both resident and migratory, making it a paradise for birds and birdwatchers alike. In terms of reptiles, Odisha is the only state which is home to three species of crocodiles, along with various snake and frog species.

To safeguard this precious wildlife, the state has established 19 Wildlife Sanctuaries, two National Parks, two Conservation Reserves, two Tiger Reserves, three Elephant Reserves, one Biosphere Reserve, and six Ramsar Sites. The Odisha coast is globally well-known for the mass nesting of Olive Ridley sea turtles. The Rushikulya rookery in Ganjam district is one of the largest nesting sites in the world.

The Royal Bengal Tiger and Indian Elephant are among the most iconic endangered species found here. The forest department is intensifying its efforts by using modern technology like AI and Deep Learning to combat poaching, habitat destruction, human-wildlife conflict, and other wildlife crimes. It is a shared responsibility that each of us contributes to wildlife protection by promoting awareness, respecting wildlife, and supporting initiatives aimed at conservation.

This annual publication, '**Wildlife Odisha-2025**', will definitely serve as an important reference for forest staff, administrators, wildlife researchers, and nature enthusiasts. Let this wildlife week serve as a renewed call for the protection and conservation of our precious wildlife and their habitat.


(Prem Kumar Jha)



CHAPTER

I

INTRODUCTION

Odisha is located between the parallels of 17.47'N & 22.34'N latitudes and meridians of 81.22'E & 87.29'E longitudes. It is surrounded by the adjacent states of West Bengal to the north-east, Jharkhand to the north, Chhattisgarh to the west and north-west, Telangana to the south-west and Andhra Pradesh to the south. The State of Odisha has a geographical area of 1,55,707sq. km(4.74% of the total geographical area of the country). The forest cover is 52,433.56 sq. km. which is 33.67% of its geographical area as per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2023. The State has enhanced its forest cover by 151.89 sq.km w.r.t ISFR, 2021. And, as regards to mangrove forest, there is a total increase of 1.55 sq. km.mangrove cover in Odisha w.r.t ISFR, 2021. The total area in the State under Protected Area network is 8869 Sq.km. which is 5.69% of the total geographical area.

The state has 19 Wildlife Sanctuaries, two National Parks (Bhitarkanika&Similipal), two Conservation Reserves (Similipal - Hadagarh-Kuldiha and Brutang Conservation Reserve), two Tiger Reserves (Similipal and Satkosia), three Elephant Reserves (Mayurbhanj, Mahanadi and Sambalpur), one Biosphere Reserve (Similipal) for addressing in-situ conservation of wildlife. The State has 10 nos. of Zoos, out of which one is Large Zoo (Nandankanan), three are Small Zoos and six are Mini Zoos which have been established to take care of Ex-situ conservation of animals. All the zoos are operated as per the Zoo Management Plan approved by the Central Zoo Authority (CZA), Government of India. The State Botanical Garden which aims to conserve flora is also under the control of State Wildlife Headquarters and is managed by the Deputy Director, Nandankanan Zoological Park.

Odisha has a total coast line of 480 kilometres which is very rich and home to preferred habitats of marine and estuarine flora and fauna. The State has the singular distinction of having three stretches of mass nesting beaches of endangered Olive Ridley Sea turtles including the world's largest breeding ground of Olive Ridley Sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) at Gahirmatha, Rushikulya and Devi rookeries.

The state also attracts massive migratory bird populations which serves as their wintering grounds, prominent of which are Chilika (the largest wetland of Asia) and Bhitarkanika; both with "Ramsar Sites" Status.

Besides, there are 4 crocodilian research and conservation centres in the state, viz for Gharial in Tikarpada /Satkosia, Saltwater crocodile in Dangmal /Bhitarkanika, Mugger in Ramtirtha/ Similipal and captive breeding programme of all three Indian crocodilian species in Nandankanan Zoological Park respectively.



Further, so far 53 Ecotourism destinations have been developed with Eco-cottages and Tents for accommodating 1413 eco-tourists for night stay. The entire management is through community participation and the revenue generated is also ploughed back in full for further development of the sites besides supplementing the income of the community.

As of now, 539 nos. of EDC have been formed covering 43455.32 ha. of Protected Area and people's participation plays a major role in conservation of wildlife.

The Wildlife Diversity of Odisha

The wildlife diversity of the state comprising of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes and a large variety of invertebrates, play a very important part in maintaining the balance of the eco-system. Each species has its own place and play its own role in the complex interaction of food-chains & food-webs. Intact forests with thriving wildlife are needed for smooth functioning of biogeochemical cycles, prevention of floods and soil erosion as well as for efficient functioning of the water cycle.

There are 26 species of Amphibians, 132 species of Reptiles including 3 Crocodilians species, 471 species of Birds and 102 species of Mammals in the state. The state has wildlife wealth of various animal life and iconic species of wild animals such as Elephant, Tiger, Leopard, Melanistic Tiger, Black Panther, Dolphin, Hyena, Wolf, Fishing Cat, Leopard Cat, Jungle Cat, Gaur, Sambar, Blackbuck, Spotted Deer, Wild boar, Giant squirrel, Pea Fowl, Hill Myna, Salt water Crocodile, Mugger Crocodile, Gharial, King Cobra, Sea turtle and Monitor lizard etc.

TAXA	NUMBER OF SPECIES			PERCENTAGE OF ODISHA TO INDIA
	WORLD	INDIA	ODISHA	
Mammals	6,500	455	102	22%
Birds	11,188	1358	471	35%
Reptiles	12,134	778	132	17%
Amphibian	8,617	454	26	06%
Fishes	36,640	3523	811	23%

(ZSI Report - 2024)





Forest Cover in Odisha

The forest and tree cover of the State is being assessed and published in every two years by the Forest Survey of India, Government of India since 1997. The forest cover of the State in ten assessment years is given below:

(Area in Sq. Km.)

Year	Geographical Area of Odisha	Very Dense Forest	Moderately Dense Forest	Open Forest	Total	Scrub	Tree Cover	Mangrove Cover
2023	155707	7224.42	21065.55	24143.59	52433.56	4632.68	6163.45	259.06
2021	155707	7213	20995	23948	52156	4924	5004	257.51
2019	155707	6970	21552	23097	51619	4327	4648	251
2017	155707	6967	21370	23008	51345	4306	3993	243
2015	155707	6985	21470	22005	50460	4499	3986	231
2013	155707	7042	21298	22007	50347	4424	4013	213
2011	155707	7060	21366	20477	48903	4734	4301	222
2009	155707	7073	21394	20388	48855	4852	4435	221
2005	155707	538	27656	20180	48374	4743	4589	203
2003	155707	288	27882	20196	48366	-	-	207

ISFR: 2003 to 2023

THE STATE ICONS OF ODISHA

State Tree:

Kadamba (*Neolamarckia cadamba*)

State Flower:

Ashoka (*Saraca asoca*)

State Animal:

Sambar (*Rusa unicolor*)

State Bird:

Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*)



National Heritage Animal : In October, 2010, Indian Government declared the Elephant as National Heritage Animal.

National Animal : Till 1973, the National Animal was Lion. With launch of Project Tiger, a National Tiger Protection Programme in 1973, the Tiger has since been accorded the status of National Animal.

National Aquatic Animal : Gangetic Dolphin was declared as the national aquatic animal in October 2010.



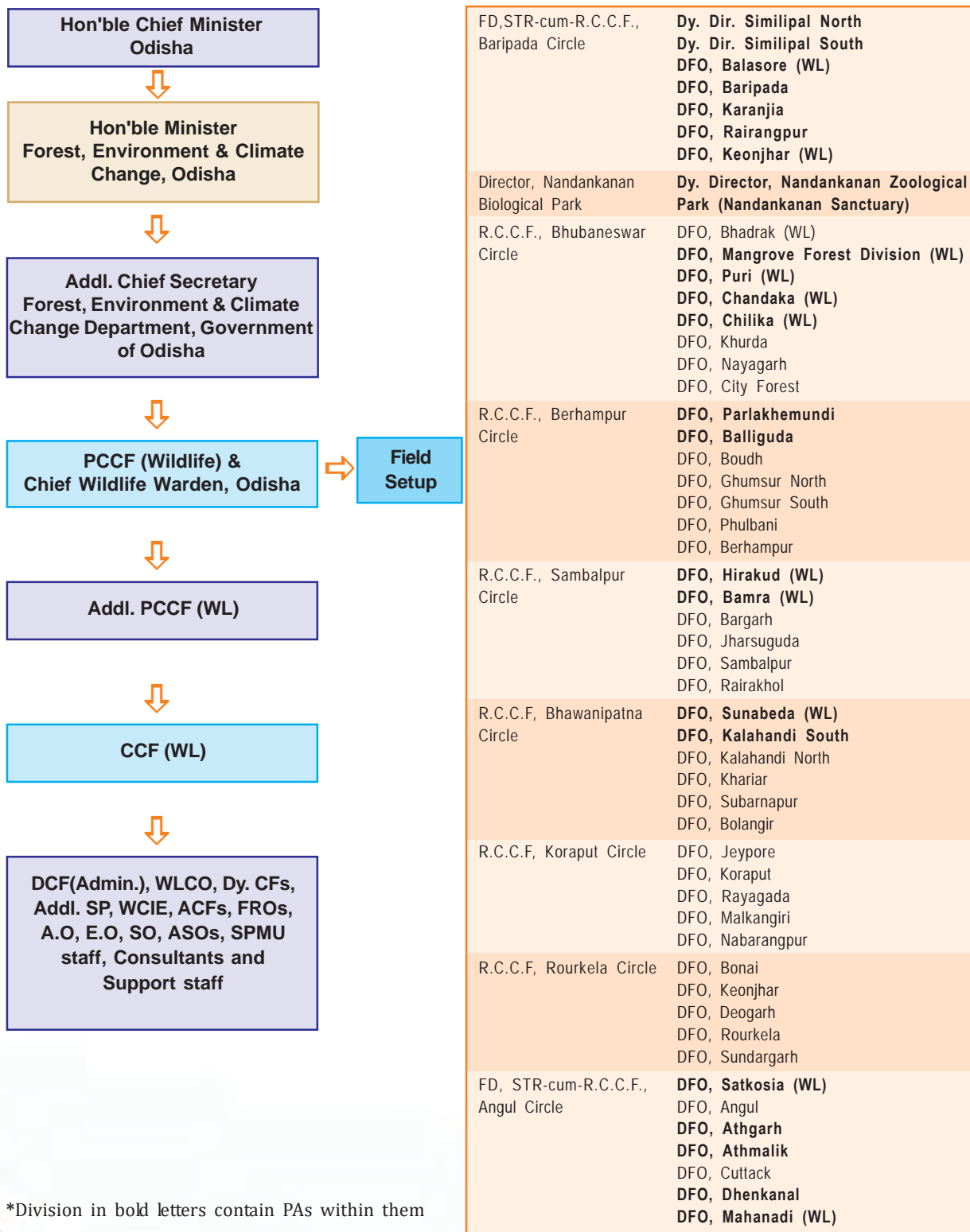
CHAPTER



II

WILDLIFE WING

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



*Division in bold letters contain PAs within them





STATE WILDLIFE HEADQUARTERS

The State Wildlife Headquarters is functioning at Prakruti Bhawan located on Plot No. 1459, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar. The building has among others, a 50 seater Conference Hall, a 10 seater Mini Conference Hall with video conferencing facility, a library with more than 3000 books on flora, fauna, law, management plans and other wildlife publications & journals. A 24x 7 Control Room also functions in this building to get the update on almost real time basis to address the wildlife related issues. A GIS cell is set-up with Web-GIS technology for monitoring the elephant movement through the Mobile App and other networks. The Eco-tourism cell with city booking centre for different Ecotourism destinations of entire State is also housed in the ground floor. Further, the Project Management Unit (PMU) is functioning at Wildlife Headquarters for scientific monitoring and evaluation with engagement of various domain experts on outsourcing basis.

The State Wildlife Organization was formed on 14th August 1974, after adoption of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and promulgation of the Wildlife (Protection) (Odisha) Rules, 1974. The State Wildlife Organisation is headed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha. Presently, as per the sanctioned strength; the PCCF (WL.) & CWLW is supported by two nos. of Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), four Deputy Conservator of Forests, one Wildlife Conservation Officer, four ACFs, one Additional SP (Retd.) and staff of Joint Task Force (JTF) comprising the Police and Forest personnel at Headquarters.

Director, Nandankanan Biological Park, Field Director, Similipal Tiger Reserve-cum-RCCF, Baripada Circle, Field Director, Satkosia Tiger Reserve-cum- RCCF, Angul Circle, eight Regional Chief Conservator of Forests including two Field Directors (Similipal Tiger Reserve and Satkosia Tiger Reserve), three Dy. Directors and Divisional Forest Officers of 15 wildlife Divisions are working under State Wildlife Wing administration.

Divisional Forest Officers of 37 Territorial Divisions are designated as Wildlife Wardens for their respective Divisions to look after the wildlife related matters under the control of Chief Wildlife Warden.



CHAPTER

III



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT IN ODISHA

Wildlife management is the practice of protecting and managing the wildlife including flora and fauna in their natural habitat. It has become an increasingly important practice in order to mitigate the negative impact of human activity in their habitat. The strategies for wildlife conservation and management include both in-situ and ex-situ (captive) conservation, of which the major following objectives are

1. Maintenance of essential ecological processes and life support systems.
2. Preservation of genetic diversity i.e. flora and fauna.
3. Maintaining sustainable levels of species and ecosystems.

IN-SITU CONSERVATION

In-Situ conservation is on-site conservation or the conservation of genetic resources of natural population of plant or animal species in their habitat as well as to ensure the ongoing process of evolution and adaptation within their environment.

In the State of Odisha, the in-situ conservation is achieved in the following forms:

- a) Through the Protected Areas like National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Tiger Reserves and Conservation Reserves as per the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- b) Through other Protected landscapes like Elephant Reserves, Biosphere Reserves and Ramsar Sites.

The biodiversity rich areas of the state have been declared as Protected Areas (PAs) as per prevalent laws. At present Odisha has two National Parks, Nineteen Sanctuaries, Two Tiger Reserves, one Biosphere Reserve, two Conservation Reserves and three Elephant Reserves. Proposals for declaring two Tiger Reserves (Debrigarh and Sunabeda Tiger Reserve), three Sanctuaries (Northern RF, Berbera RF, Gandhamardan PRF) and one Biosphere Reserve (Mahendragiri) which are under active consideration.





The Protected Areas are situated in 2 Bio-geographic zones and 3 provinces in the state, the details of which is given below:

Zone	Province	Sub-Division	Sanctuary located in this region
Deccan Peninsula	Eastern Plateau	Eastern-Ghat	Baisipalli, Chandaka, Karlapat, Kotagarh, Lakhari, Nandankanan
		Chhatisgarh-Dandakaranya	Debrigarh, Sunabeda
	Chhota-Nagpur	Garhjat Hills	Badrama, Hadgarh, Khalasuni, Kuldiha, Satkosia Gorge, Similipal, Kapilash
Coasts	Eastern Coast		Balukhand, Bhitarkanika, Gahirmatha, Nalabana

PROTECTED AREAS (PAs) NETWORK OF ODISHA

A. NATIONAL PARKS

Name of National Park	Administrative control	Situated in the district	Notification No. & date	Area in Sq.km.
Bhitarkanika National Park	DFO Mangrove Forest Division (WL), Rajnagar/ RCCF, Bhubaneswar	Kendrapara	19686 dt.16.09.1998 (Final)	145.00
Similipal National Park	Field Director, Similipal Tiger Reserve -Cum- RCCF, Baripada	Mayurbhanj	9500 dt.24.04.2025	845.70

B. WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES

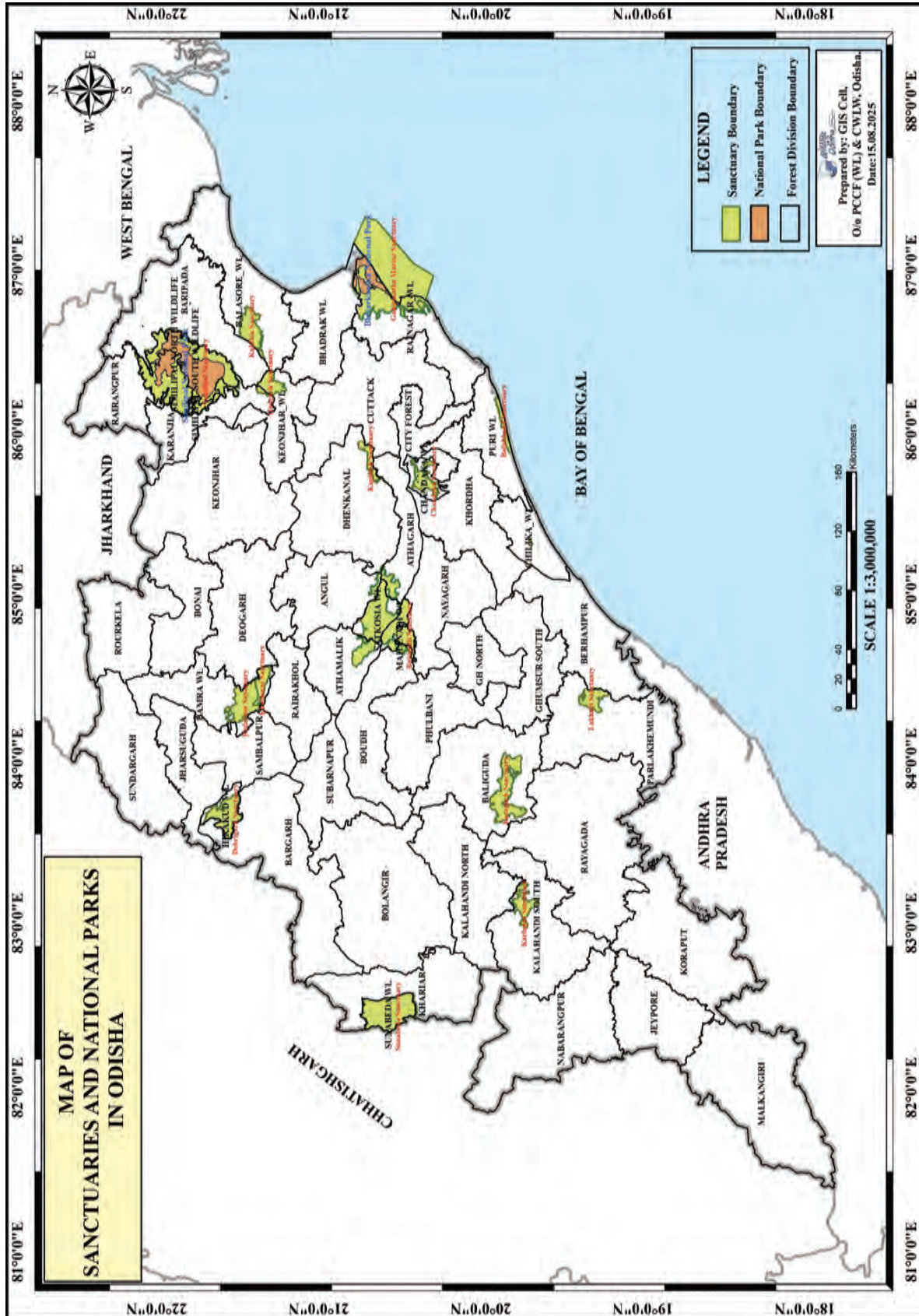
Sl No.	Name of Sanctuary	Administrative control	Situated in the district	Notification No. & date	Area in Sq.km.
1	Bhitarkanika	DFO, Mangrove Forest Division (WL), Rajnagar/ RCCF, Bhubaneswar.	Kendrapara	2289 Dt.01.02.2020	673
2	Balukhand-Konark	DFO, Puri (WL) Division /RCCF, Bhubaneswar.	Puri	15216 Dt.01.09. 1987	70.40
3	Baisipalli	DFO, Mahanadi (WL) Division/RCCF, Angul	Nayagarh	25335 Dt.06.05. 1981	168.35
4	Badrama	DFO, Bamra (WL) Division/ RCCF Sambalpur	Sambalpur	23393 Dt.17.12. 1987	304.03
5	Chilika (Nalban)	DFO, Chilika WL. Division, Balugaon/ RCCF, Bhubaneswar	Puri	23403 Dt.17.12. 1987	15.53
6	Chandaka-Damapara	DFO, Chandaka(WL) Division / RCCF, Bhubaneswar	Khurdha, Cuttack	13482 Dt.10.06. 1988	193.39



7	Debrigarh	DFO, Hirakud WL. Division / RCCF, Sambalpur	Sambalpur	2409 Dt.08.02. 1985	346.90
8	Gahirmatha (Marine)	DFO, Mangrove Forest Division (WL),Rajnagar / RCCF, Bhubaneswar	Kendrapara & Bhadrak	18805 Dt.27.09. 1997	1435.00
9	Hadgarh	DFO, Keonjhar (WL) Division/RCCF, Baripada	Keonjhar	34113 Dt.06.12. 1978	191.06
10	Khalasuni	DFO, Bamara (WL) Division / RCCF, Sambalpur	Sambalpur	584 Dt.07.01. 1982	116.00
11	Kuldiha	DFO, Balasore (WL) Division/RCCF, Baripada	Balasore	243 Dt.04.01.1984	272.75
12	Nandankanan	Dy. Director, Nandankanan/ Director, Nandankanan, Bhubaneswar	Khurdha	20682 dt.03.08. 1979	4.37
13	Similipal	Dy. Director, Similipal (North & South) /RCCF, Baripada	Mayurbhanj	30467 Dt.03.12. 1979	2306.61
14	Satkosia Gorge	DFO, Satkosia (WL) Division & Mahanadi (WL) Division / RCCF, Angul	Angul, Boudh	26865 Dt.14.12.2018	968.35
15	Sunabeda	DFO, Sunabeda (WL) Division/ RCCF, Bhwanipatna	Nuapada	10772 Dt.10.05. 1988	600.00
16	Karlapat	DFO, Kalahandi (South) Division /RCCF, Bhwanipatna	Kalahandi	5958 Dt.01.05.2023	193.998
17	Lakheri-valley	DFO, Parlakhemundi Division / RCCF, Berhampur	Ganjam, Gajapati	2333 Dt.08.02. 1985	185.87
18	Kotgarh	DFO, Baliguda Division / RCCF, Berhampur	Kandhamal	30253 Dt.03.12.1981	399.05
19	Kapilash	DFO, Dhenkanal Division /RCCF, Angul	Dhenkanal	5937 Dt.02.04.2011	125.50

Proposed Sanctuary

Sl No	Name of Reserve Forest	Name of Division	Name of District	Present Status	Area in Sq. Km.
1	Northern RF	DFO, Athmallik	Angul	Under examination for appropriate action	192.32 Sq. km.
2	Berbera RF	DFO, Khordha	Khordha		358.10 Sq. km.
3	Gandhamardan PRF	DFO, Bargarh DFO, Balangir	Bargarh, Bolangir		191.01 Sq. km.



Map of Sanctuaries, National Parks, Ramsar Sites and Forest Division Boundary in Odisha



C. ELEPHANT RESERVE (ERs) NETWORK

The State Government has notified three Elephant Reserves (ERs) in the state for better management of wild elephants. These are Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve, Mahanadi Elephant Reserve and Sambalpur Elephant Reserve. Details of area, Notification No. & Date, Division and covered District are given below. Within the three notified Elephant Reserves, an estimated population of 584 elephants reside. About 28% of Odisha elephants have a secured habitat in the ERs, with total area of 8509 sq. km. There are seven Wildlife Sanctuaries located within these three ERs (including Similipal National Park). Out of total geographical area of 8509 sq. km of ERs, 4327.15 sqkm (i.e 51%) area is under Protected Area network as Sanctuary and Tiger Reserve.

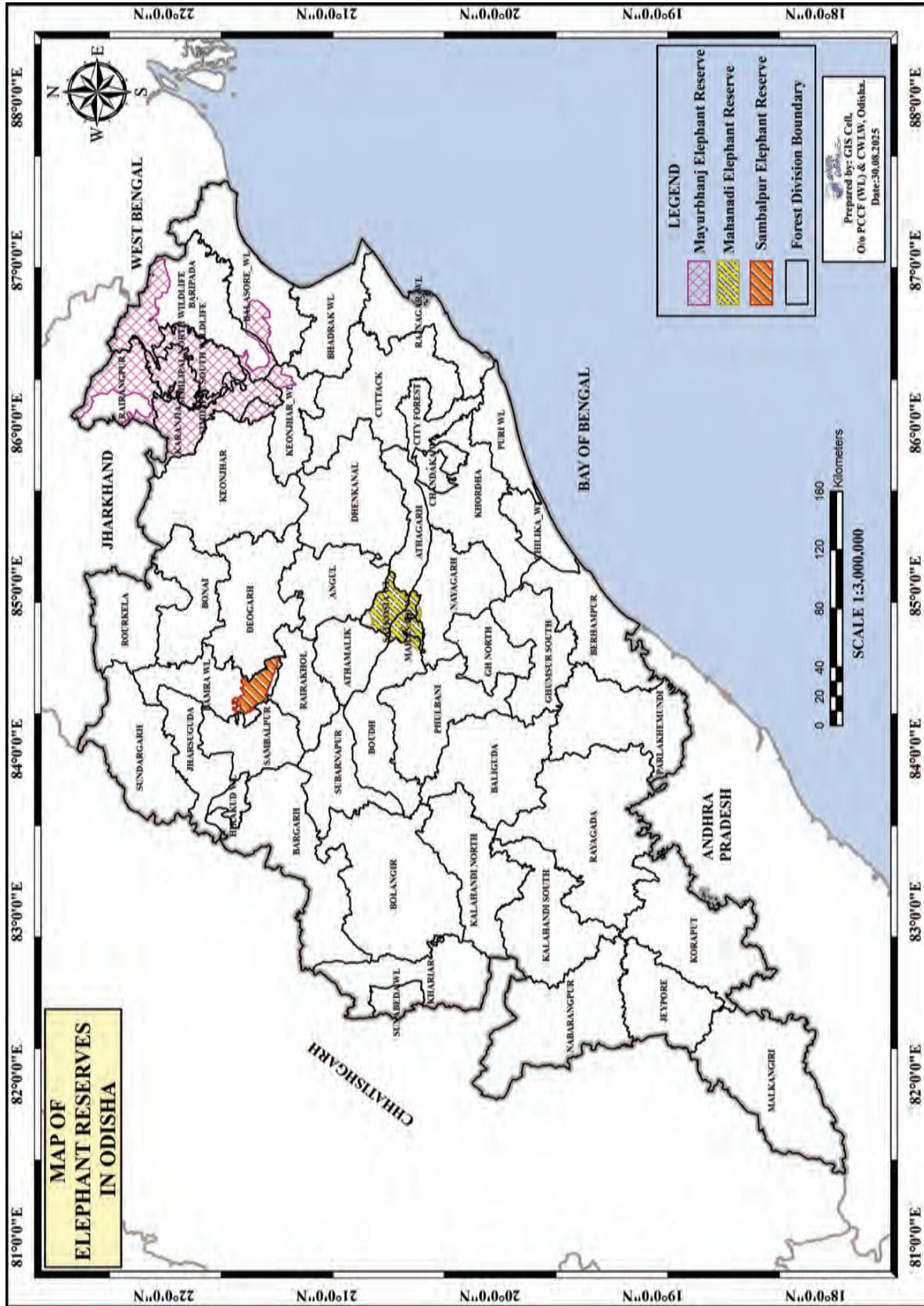
List of Elephant Reserves

Sl. No.	Name of the Elephant Reserves	Area Sq. Km.	Notification No. and Date	District	Division	Protected Area Network
1	Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve	7043.74 sq.km	Notification No. 8F(W) 42/2001 /15806 Dated 29.09.2001	Portion of Mayurbhanj, Balasore & Keonjhar	Similipal North, Similipal South, Karanjia, Baripada, Rairangpur, Balasore WL, Keonjhar WL	Hadgarh, Kuldiha and Similipal WL Sanctuary, Similipal NP and Similipal TR
2	Mahanadi Elephant Reserve	1038.30 sq.km	Notification No. 8F(W) 17/2002 /10162 Dated 19.06.2002	Portion of Angul, Boudh, Cuttack Nayagarh	SatkosiaWL, Mahanadi WL, Boudh, Athagarh, Nayagarh	Satkosia and Baisipalli WL Sanctuary
3	Sambalpur Elephant Reserve	426.91 sq.km	Notification No. 8F(WL) 10/2002 /5840 Dated 27.03.2002	Sambalpur	Bamra WL	Badrama and Khalasuni WL Sanctuary

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ELEPHANT RESERVES

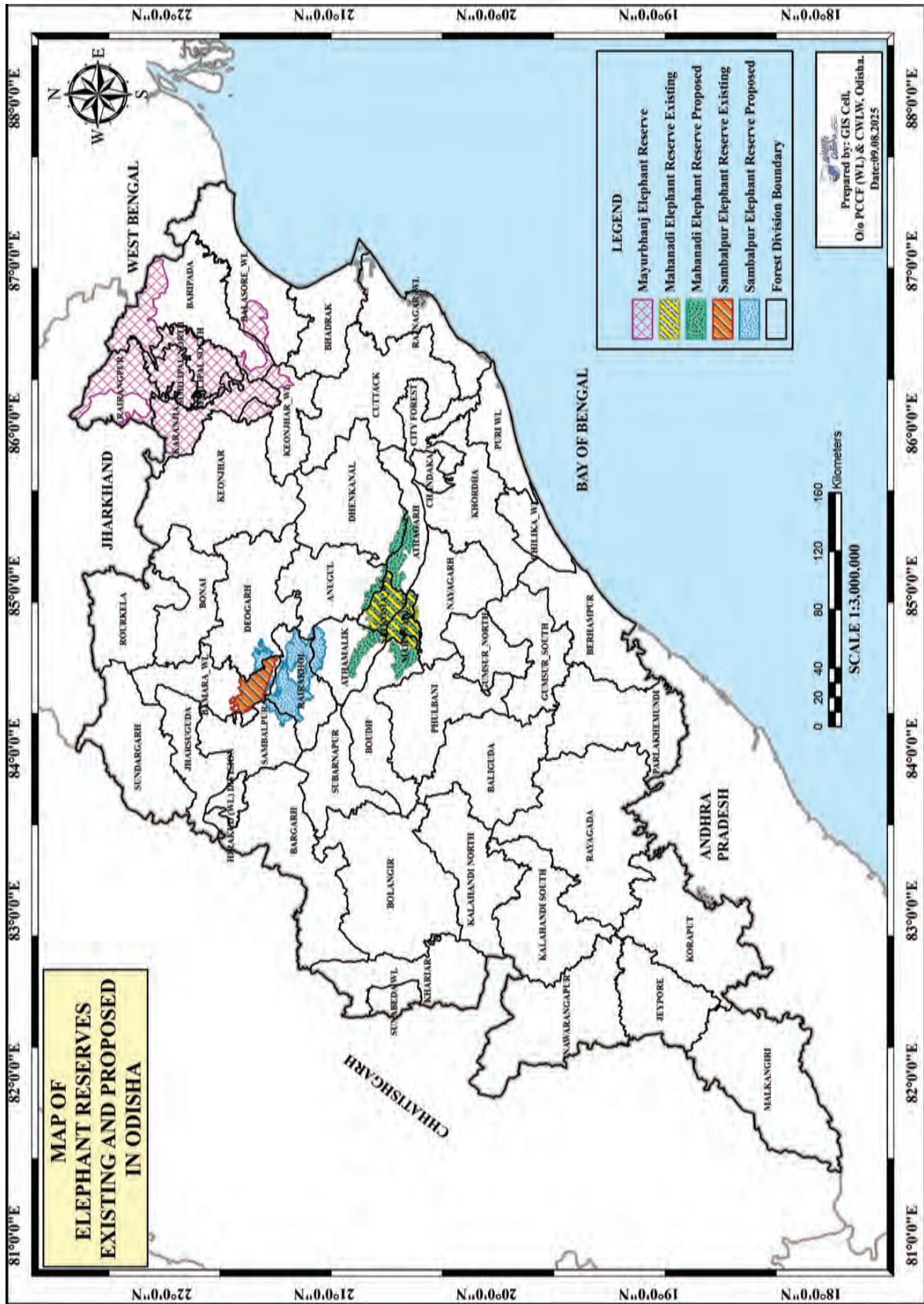
The expansion of are of elephant reserve as indicated below is also under examination for appropriate action.

Sl. No.	Name of the Elephant Reserves	Existing Area (in Sq. Km.)	Proposed Land Type (Area in Sq Km)			Total Proposed Area (in Sq Km)	Total Area after proposed Expansion (in Sq. Km.)
			Reserve Forest	Other Forest	Non Forest		
1.	Mahanadi Elephant Reserve	1038.30	971.751	114.235	57.235	1143.222	2181.522
2.	Sambalpur Elephant Reserve	426.91	1221.584	89.55	59.004	1370.138	1797.048



Map of Elephant Reserves in Odisha





Map of Elephant Reserves Existing and Proposed in Odisha





D. TIGER RESERVES

Tiger Reserves are visualized as breeding nuclei from which surplus tiger population would migrate to adjacent forests. Conceived under the Project Tiger launched in 1973, these aim to conserve the habitat for ensuring a viable population of Royal Bengal Tigers along with their prey base in their habitat.

List of Tiger Reserves

Sl. No.	Protected Area	Area in Sq.Km.	Notification No. and Date	District
1	Similipal Tiger Reserve	2750.00 sq.km.	Notification No.8F(T)-9/2007/20801/F&E Dated 31.12.2007	Mayurbhanj
2	Satkosia Tiger Reserve	1136.70 sq.km.	Notification No.8F(WL) 15/2018-26865 Dated 14.12.2018	Angul, Nayagarh and Boudh

List of proposed Tiger reserve

Sl. No.	Protected Area	Proposed Area Sq. Km.	Present status	District
1	Sunabeda TR	1083.09 sq. km.	The recommendations of NTCA is under examination for appropriate decision	Nuapada
2	Debrigarh TR	457.01 sq. km.		Sambalpur

E. BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Biosphere Reserve is intended to preserve genetic diversity in representative ecosystems and provide opportunities for research on ecosystem processes in nature. Criteria for selection of Biospheres include representativeness, naturalness, biological diversity etc. as effective conservation unit.

List of Biosphere Reserve

Sl.No.	Protected Area	Area Sq. Km.	Notification No. and Date	District
1	Similipal Biosphere Reserve	5569 sq.km	Notification No.8/96/11319 & Dated 20.05.1996	Mayurbhanj

Proposed Biosphere Reserve

Sl. No.	Protected Area	Area Sq. Km.	Proposal status	District
1	Mahendra Giri	Core: 42.54 Buffer: 1570.31 Transitional area: 3145.01 Total: 4757.86	Under examination for appropriate consideration	Gajapati





Similipal Biosphere Reserve

A	Area of Biosphere Reserve:	5569 sq.km.
B	Zonation:	
	(i) Core area	845 sq.km.
	(ii) Buffer area	2129 sq.km.
	(iii) Transition area	2595 sq.km.
C	Villages:	
	(i) No. of Villages in the Core area	1
	(ii) No. of villages in the Buffer area	64
	(iii) No. of villages in the Transition area	1200
D	Population:	3.5 lakh
	(i) Tribal population	73.44%
	(ii) SC population	5.21%
	(iii) Other population	21.35%
E	Common Tribes: Bhumija, Bathudi, Kolha, Ganda, Santhal, Khadia, Mankadia	

Similipal Biosphere Reserve is located in the district of Mayurbhanj in Odisha State. Similipal and its adjoining area comprising of 5569 sq. km was declared as a Biosphere Reserve on 22nd June, 1994, with the objectives of -

- Conservation of the area as a representative ecosystem of the "Mahanadian Biogeographic Region".
- Provision of long term in-situ conservation of genetic diversity
- Promotion of basic and applied research and monitoring; and
- Dissemination of experience for education and training.

The vegetation in the Biosphere Reserve is a mix of different forest types and habitats, with Northern tropical moist deciduous Forest type dominating some semi-evergreen patches. Sal is the dominant tree species here. Similipal also has extensive grasslands that are grazing grounds for many of the herbivores. These forests boast many plants that have medicinal and aromatic properties. An outstanding 1078 species of plants including 94 species of orchids find their home in the forest. Similipal is known for wide variety of fauna like the tiger, elephant, leopard, gaur etc. along with rich avifauna. It holds the highest tiger population in the state of Odisha. 55 species of mammals, 361 species of birds, 62 species of reptiles, 21 species of amphibians, 38 species of fish and 164 species of butterflies have been recorded there.

Similipal Protected Landscape (BR, TR, ER, NP, Sanctuary)

Similipal Tiger Reserve originated as a hunting ground for the surrounding royalty. It was formally designated as tiger reserve under Project Tiger in April 1973. The Government of Odisha declared Similipal as a wildlife sanctuary in 1979 with an area of 2750 sq. km. Finally, it is declared as Similipal National Park on 24th April, 2025. The Government of India declared it as a Biosphere Reserve in 1994. UNESCO added this Sanctuary and neighbouring



area to its list of Biosphere Reserves in May 2009. This tiger reserve also comes under Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve that includes the adjacent Hadgarh and Kuldiha Wildlife sanctuary. The landscape has some beautiful waterfalls like Joranda and Barehipani surrounded by high plateaus and hills, the high peaks being the twin peaks of Khairiburu and Meghashini (1515m above mean sea level). At least twelve rivers cut across the plain area, all of which drain into the Bay of Bengal. The prominent among them are Budhabhalanga, Palpala, Bhandan, Salandi, Khairi and Deo.

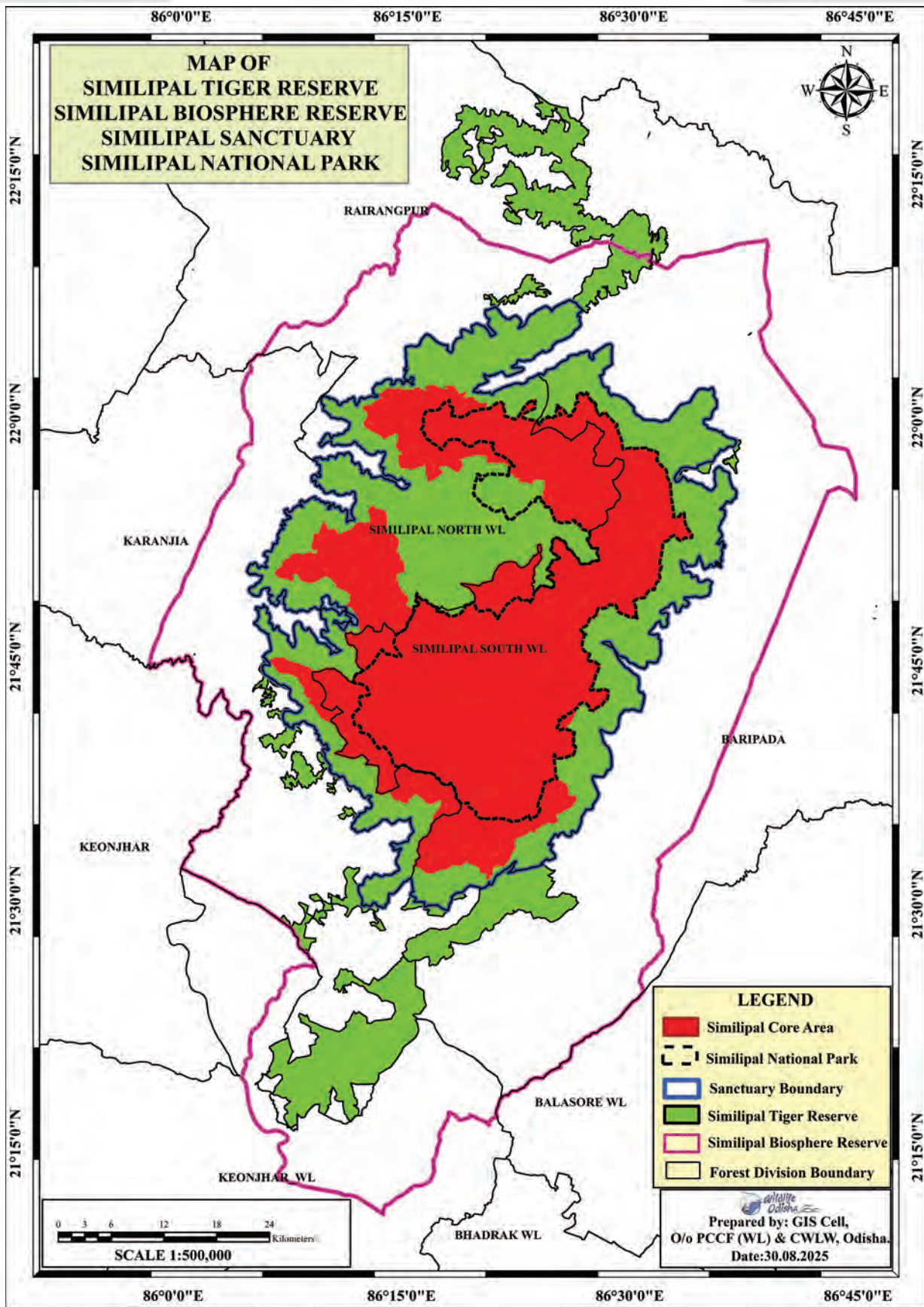


Scenic meadow landscape of Similipal Biosphere Reserve, Mayurbhanj District



Elephant Herd at Saltlick, Devasthali of Similipal National Park, Mayurbhanj District





Map of Similipal Tiger Reserve-2025



F. RAMSAR SITES

The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands, recognizing the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific and recreational value. The following are Ramsar wetland sites in the State.

SLNo	Name of sites	Name of Division	Name of District	Date of Declaration	Area in Sq.Km
1	Chillika Lake	Chillika Wildlife Division, Balugaon	Khordha, Puri, Ganjam	Date: 01.10.1981	1,165
2.	Bhitarkanika Mangrove	Mangrove Forest Division (WL), Rajnagar	Kendrapara	Date:19.08.2002	650
3.	Satkosia Gorge	Satkosia WL. and Mahanadi WL.	Angul, Boudh, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Nayagarh	Date: 10.12.2021	981.97
4.	Ansupa Lake	Athgarh Forest Division	Cuttack	Date: 13.08.2022	2.31
5.	Hirakud Reservoir	Hiraud Wildlife Division	Sambalpur	Date: 13.08.2022	654.00
6.	Tampara Lake	Berhampur Forest Division	Ganjam	Date: 13.08.2022	3.00

(Source: Envis Centre on Wildlife & Protected Areas, MoEF&CC, Govt. of India)

G. CONSERVATION RESERVES

Similipal -Hadgarh- Kudiha Conservation Reserve

Conservation Reserve is constituted comprising of Government lands adjacent to a Protected Area and those land which link one protected area with another for protecting landscapes, seascapes, flora, fauna and their habitat under Section 36A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act. The Conservation Reserve is managed by a Conservation Reserve Management Committee constituted for the purpose.

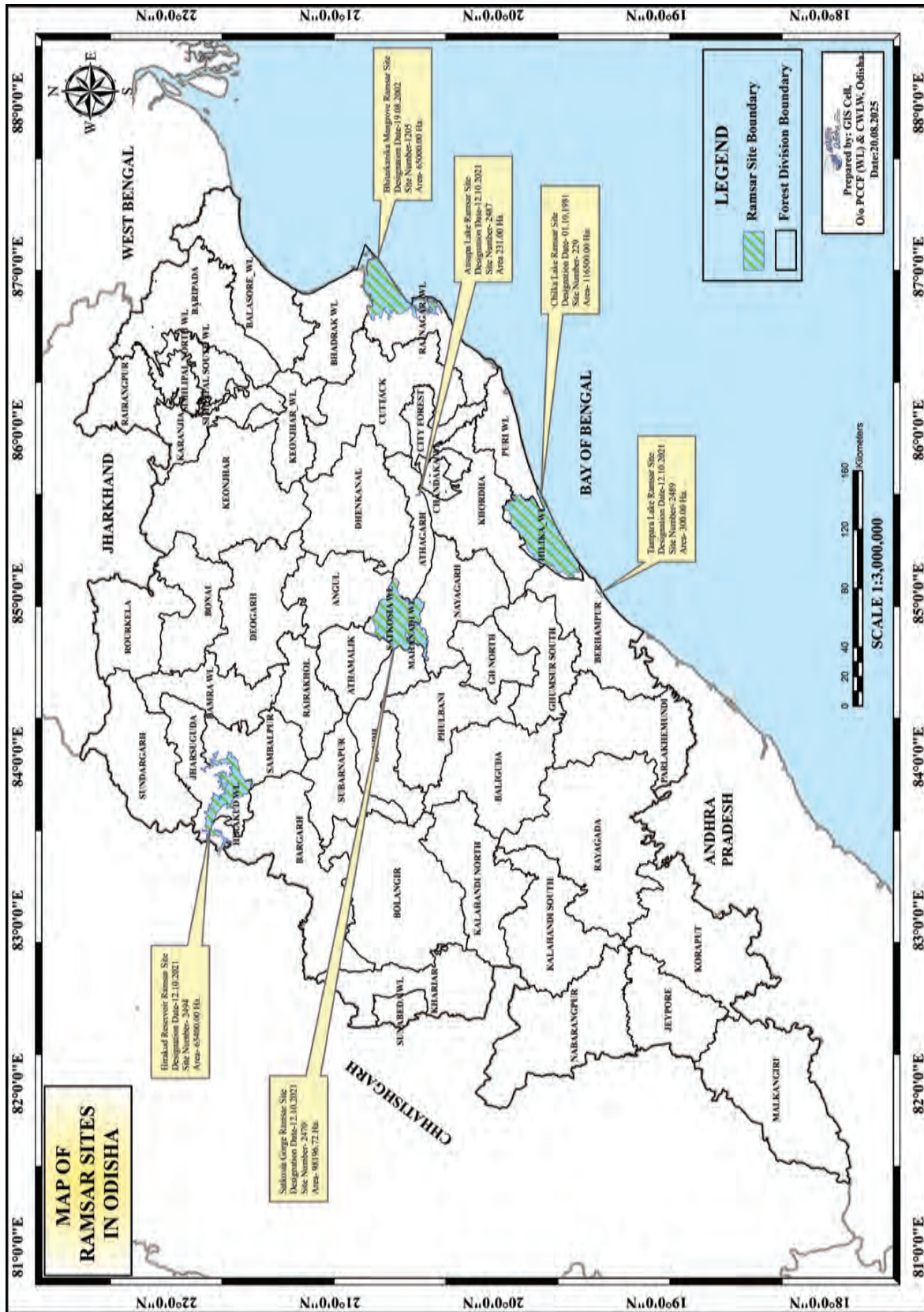
First Conservation Reserve of the State is Similipal-Hadgarh-Kudiha Conservation Reserve constituted vide Govt. Notification No. 1166 dated 20.01.2023 over an area of 29.41 sq. km spread over the Districts of Balasore and Mayurbhanj.

The area of Conservation Reserve is 2941.363 ha.

Brutanga Conservation Reserve

Brutanga Conservation Reserve; the second in the state has been notified vide Govt. Notification No.19320 dated 12.09.2023 over an area of 269.49 sq.kms and entirely existing in Nayagarh District. It is adjacent to the southern boundary of the Baisipalli Wildlife Sanctuary between Takara in the east and Banigochha in the west, covering Central Reserved Forest, Chandhpalli Reserved Forest, Nasagarh Reserved Forest and the entire proposed Brutanga water reservoir.





Map of Ramsar Sites in Odisha



EX-SITU CONSERVATION

ZOOS IN ODISHA

Zoos play an important vital role in ex-situ conservation of wildlife. It provides eco-system awareness, nature interpretation and environmental education. It also facilitates research on wild animals maintained in captivity and help in maintaining the gene pool of the critically endangered species. They serve as rescue centres for straying wild animals rescued from nearby human habitations. Zoos in India are regulated by Central Zoo Authority, Govt. of India under the provisions of Section-38H of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and are guided by the National Zoo Policy, 1998. The Government of India have formulated "Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009" and fixed standards and norms for management of Zoos in the country. Central Zoo Authority (CZA), which is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India oversees the functioning of Zoos in the country and provides technical guidance and assistance as assigned under Section 38C of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The CZA also regulates minimum standards and norms for upkeep and health care of animals in Indian Zoos and controls mushrooming of unplanned and ill-conceived Zoos which used to crop up in the country as adjuncts to public parks, industrial complexes and waysides. State Wildlife Organization with technical support from the Central Zoo Authority, endeavours to maintain standards and quality of the Zoos, so that the very purpose of operating Zoos is achieved.

Presently, 10 Zoos (6 mini, 3 small and one large zoo) have been established in the state to take care of ex-situ conservation of animals. All the zoos are operated as per the Zoo Management Plan approved by the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) and managed scientifically.

Sl No.	Name of the Zoo & Deer Parks	Location (Revenue District)	Name & Present status/ Notification	Managed by
1	2	3	4	5
1	Nandankanan Zoological Park	Khordha	Large Zoo/ CZA Office Memorandum Date 25.08.2020	Director, Nandankanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar
2	Kapilash Deer Park	Dhenkanal	Small Zoo/ CZA Office Memorandum Date 25.08.2020	DFO, Dhenkanal Forest Division
3	Sambalpur Zoo and Conservation Center, Motijharan, Sambalpur	Sambalpur	Small Zoo/ CZA Office Memorandum Date 25.08.2020	DFO, Hiraakud Wildlife Division
4	Harishankar Deer Park	Bolangir	Mini Zoo/ CZA Office Memorandum Date 25.08.2020	DFO, Bolangir Forest Division
5	Taptapani Deer Park	Ganjam	Mini Zoo/ CZA Office Memorandum Date 25.08.2020	DFO, Parlakhemundi Forest Division
6	Kuanria Deer Park	Nayagarh	Mini Zoo/ CZA Office Memorandum Date 25.08.2020	DFO, Mahanadi Wildlife Division



7	Papadahandi Deer Park	Nabarangpur	Mini Zoo/ CZA Office Memorandum Date 25.08.2020	DFO, Nabarangpur Forest Division
8	Gharial Research and Conservation Unit (GRACU), Tikerpada	Angul	Mini Zoo/ CZA Office Memorandum Date 25.08.2020	DFO, Satkosia Wildlife Division
9	HAL, Sunabeda Deer Park	Koraput	Mini Zoo/Notification No. F.No. 19-42/93-CZA(209) (M)/3063 Date: 24.06.2013	HAL, Sunabeda
10	Indira Gandhi Park zoo and Deer Park	Rourkela	Small Zoo/Notification No. F.No. 19-155/93-CZA(199) (Vol.III)(M)/4096 Date: 07.01.2014	SAIL, Rourkela

NANDANKANAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK

Nandankanan Zoological Park, the only large zoo in the state and one of India's premier zoological institutions, is situated on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, encompassing a vast area of 362.1 sq. km of scenic natural landscape. Dedicated to the public on 29th December 1960, the park is nestled amidst undulating terrain, lush moist deciduous forests, tranquil water bodies, and captivating surroundings-offering a naturalistic and enriching habitat for its diverse animal collection. Committed to achieving excellence in conservation, education, research, and visitor experience, Nandankanan aims to foster a deep connection between people and biodiversity. With a vision to reach global standards in zoo management within the next decade, the park continuously adopts best practices in animal welfare, enclosure design, visitor amenities, outreach, and scientific initiatives, positioning itself as a national leader in ex-situ conservation and a beacon for sustainable wildlife stewardship.

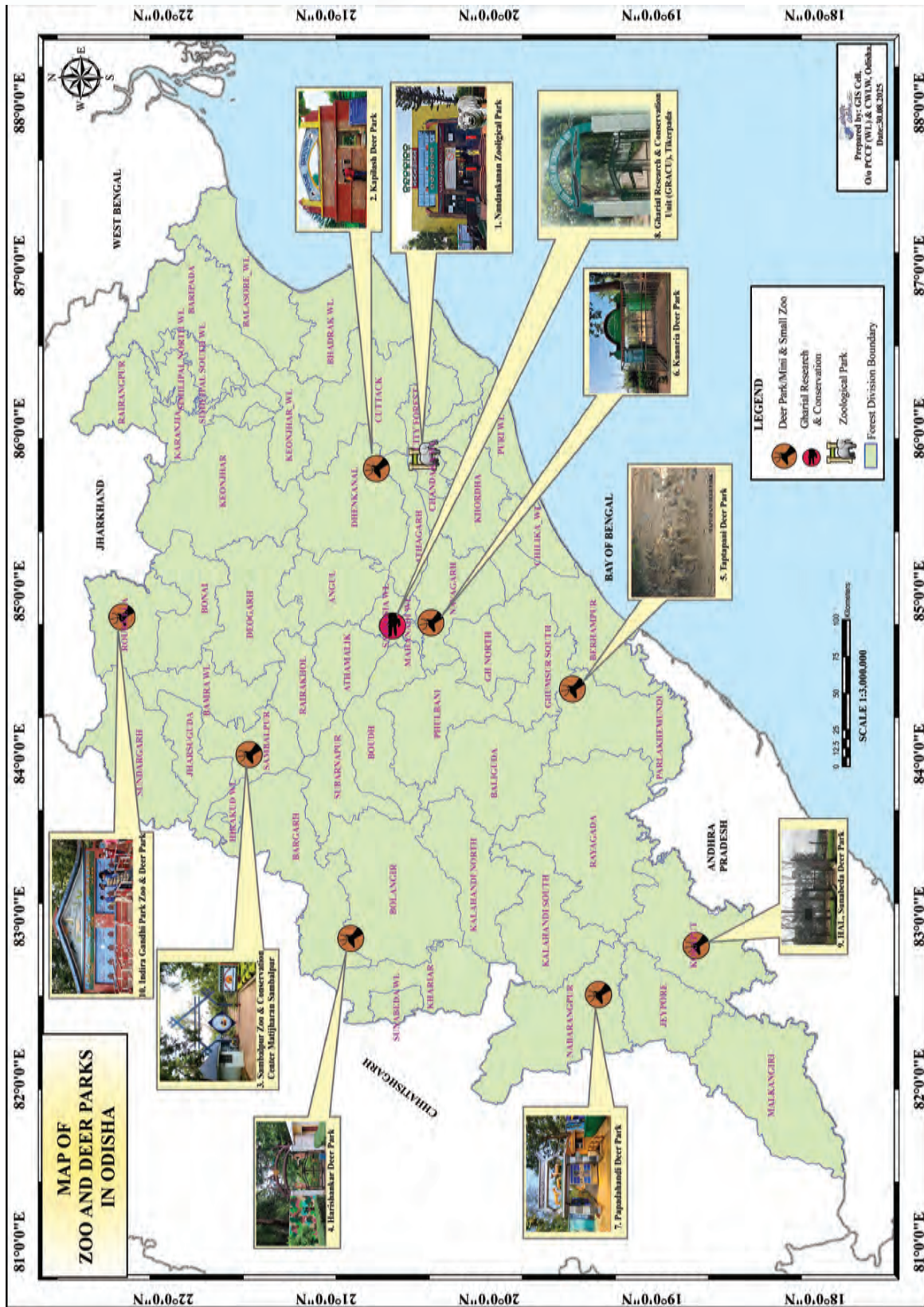
I. Visitors Footfall & Revenue:

In the financial year 2024-25 (from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025), Nandankanan Zoological Park witnessed a record footfall of 39,35,618 visitors, which is highest in Nandankanan history. Correspondingly, the park also achieved its highest-ever revenue generation of Rs. 25,54,79,282.96 through entry tickets and other facilities, marking a significant milestone in public engagement and financial sustainability.

II. Exotic Primate Complex:

The Exotic Primate Complex, themed "World of Primates," was inaugurated on 10.11.2024 at Nandankanan Zoological Park, showcasing seven exotic primate species, including four new additions- Cotton Top Tamarin, Siamang, Common Marmoset, and Geoffrey Marmoset. Developed under the "Nandankanan's Patron" programme with support from S.N. Mohanty Group, Barbil, the complex spans 13,665.20 sq. ft and features seven glass fronted display areas, 18 feeding chambers and 10 back kraals to stimulate a natural habitat.





Map of Zoo and Deer Parks in Odisha



III. Bird Quarantine

A new Bird Quarantine Facility has been established, covering an area of 5,630 square feet. The facility comprises 11 individual units equipped with CCTV surveillance and is designed to cater to species-specific needs. Its primary objective is to quarantine newly arrived avian species and conduct thorough health screenings to detect potential infections before their integration into the main zoo enclosures, thereby ensuring the health and safety of both existing and incoming bird populations.



IV. Upgraded Himalayan Black Bear Enclosure

The Himalayan Black Bear enclosure has been upgraded with nature-integrated landscaping, hidden feeding platforms, undulating terrain, and a waterfall to simulate the species' natural habitat. Sprinklers and rock-concealed foggers create a cooler, refreshing environment that encourages natural behaviours and supports the bears' overall well-being. Naturalistic visitor areas offer an immersive experience, providing closer insight into the bears' lifestyle in the wild.





V. CCRT (Centre for Conservation Research and Training)

The Centre for Conservation Research and Training (CCRT) at Nandankanan Zoological Park has been developed as a state-of-the-art facility comprising five specialized laboratories- Molecular Biology, Microbiology, Histology, Bio-banking, and Endocrinology. The centre focuses on critical areas such as disease monitoring, genetic diversity analysis, reproductive health, and the preservation of genetic resources. With advanced diagnostic and preservation technologies and a competent multidisciplinary team, CCRT significantly contributes to ex-situ conservation, species recovery initiatives, and the welfare of zoo animals, establishing Nandankanan as a frontrunner in scientific zoo management and wildlife research.



VI. Zoo Library and Digital Hub

The upgraded Zoo Library & Digital Hub at Nandankanan, spread over 2,840 sq.ft., houses a rich collection of over 5,000 books and journals on wildlife biology, biodiversity conservation, forestry, and veterinary sciences. The facility features a thematic façade, modern interiors, improved flooring, digital interfaces for visitors, and an entry ramp for Divyangs-ensuring accessibility and inclusivity. This modernized hub underscores Nandankanan's commitment to conservation education, research support, and public awareness through both traditional resources and interactive digital engagement.



VII. Residential Complex for Zoo Security officials

The residential complex for zoo security personnel, spanning 2,940.44 sq.m., is now fully operational, providing accommodation for 44 OISF officials. It includes separate barracks for 24 male and 12 female staff, living quarters for officers, a dedicated security cabin, and a well-equipped kitchen with a dining area. This modern facility enhances the comfort and efficiency of the security team, thereby strengthening the overall safety and security of Nandankanan Zoological Park.



VIII. Kanjia Wetland Discovery Trail

The Kanjia Wetland Discovery Trail, developed along a 1 km stretch of the scenic Kanjia Lake, features 30 informative signages that highlight the ecological significance of wetlands and the rich biodiversity of the area, including native flora and fauna. As part of this initiative, an immersive educational walk will be organized weekly, where a nature guide will lead participants through the trail, sharing insights about wetland-dependent birds, insects, animals, and plants. This trail serves as Nandankanan's new flagship nature education programme, aimed at fostering awareness and appreciation for wetland ecosystems.





IX. Upgradation of Arboretum at State Botanical Garden

The arboretum at the State Botanical Garden has been renovated with the introduction of new plant species, enhancing its botanical diversity. QR code signages have also been installed to provide visitors with easy access to detailed information about each species, enriching the educational experience.



X. Strengthening of Zoo Veterinary Hospital

The expansion and enhancement of veterinary facilities at the zoo hospital mark a significant advancement in providing top-quality medical care for the zoo animals. The addition of advanced equipment including Vet cardio Holter ECG system, Vet BP machine with Doppler technology, vet Defibrillator, Vet ICU advanced machine, Vet LASER therapy, Vet oxygen concentrator, Vet OT table for large animal (hydraulic) etc., underscores the zoo's commitment to improving healthcare standards for its residents.



XI. Introduction of Zoo Ambassador Programme

The Nandankanan Zoo Ambassador Program is a unique educational initiative aimed at engaging students of classes VII to IX from schools across Odisha in wildlife conservation. A total of 71 ambassadors were selected through a screening test and introduced to the fascinating world of wildlife. Orientation camps were conducted at Nandankanan, where the ambassadors were assigned tasks to promote nature conservation awareness in their respective schools through various activities. Their efforts were regularly monitored, and outstanding contributions were recognized through awards. The program fostered a deep love for nature, offered recognition through certificates and benefits, and inspired participants to explore potential careers in wildlife conservation.



XII. Enhanced animal collection

Animal acquisition/exchange programs conducted during 2024-25 added, eight new species to Nandankanan's animal collection. Additionally, nine species were brought for pairing, and ten species were introduced for infusion of new bloodlines.

Particulars	Species name	Number of species
New species acquisition	Eurasian spoonbill, Fishing cat, Northern giraffe, Grey Jungle fowl, Siamang gibbon, White tufted marmoset, Geoffroy's marmoset, Cotton top tamarin	08
Animal acquisition for blood line exchange	Royal Bengal tiger, Striped hyena, Water monitor lizard, Reticulated Python, Common Palm Civet, Hog Deer, Indian Spotted Chevrotain, Bonnet Macaque, Red Sand Boa, Common Sand Boa	10
Animal acquisition for pairing of single animal	Indian porcupine, Nilgai, Green Iguana, Wild Dog, Brahminy Kite, Large Egret, Sarus Crane, Barbary Dove, Russell's Viper	09



A. Implementation of animal exchange programmes during 2024-25

Name of Zoo with Date of disposal and acquisition	Animal acquisition	Number	Animal disposed	Number
Bhagwan Birsa Biological Park, Ranchi Date of disposal: 08.07.2024 Date of acquisition: 11.07.2024	Melanistic tiger	0:1:0	White tiger	0:1:0
	Royal Bengal tiger	0:1:0	Mouse deer	2:2:0
	Striped hyena	3:1:0	Common palm civet	2:2:0
	Indian porcupine	5:5:0	Indian fox	1:1:0
	Nilgai	2:0:	Yellow Anaconda	1:1:0
			Grey pelican	1:1:0
			Night heron	10:10:0
			Black headed ibis	10:10:0
Painted stork	2:2:0			
Zoological Garden, Alipore, Kolkata Date of disposal: 27.08.2024 and 08.09.2024 in two phases Date of acquisition: 27.08.2024 and 31.08.2024 in 2 phases	Eurasian spoonbill	1:1:0	Asiatic lion	1:1:0
	Green Iguana	4:4:0	Royal Bengal tiger	0:1:0
	Water monitor lizard	2:4:0	Hippopotamus	1:1:0
	Fishing cat	1:1:0	Himalayan black bear	0:2:0
	Northern giraffe	1:1:0	Swamp deer	1:1:0
			Mouse deer	2:2:0
			Four horned antelope	1:1:0
			Hog deer	2:3:0
Pilikulla Biological Park, Mangaluru Date of disposal: 01.11.2024 Date of acquisition: 10.11.2024	Reticulated Python	2:2:0	Gharial	1:1:0
	Wild Dog	2:2:0	Indian Grey Wolf	1:0:0
	Brahminy Kite	1:1:0	Asiatic Lion	1:0:0
	Common Palm Civet	1:2:0	Golden Pheasant	1:1:0
	Large Egret	0:2:0	Silver Pheasant	1:1:0
Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, Telangana Date of disposal: 25.11.2024 Date of acquisition: 26.11.2024	Hog Deer	1:1:0	Siamese Crocodile	1:2:0
	Indian Spotted Chevrotain	2:2:0	Golden Pheasant	2:2:0
	Bonnet Macaque	2:0:0	Lady Amherst's Pheasant	1:1:0
	Sarus Crane	1:1:0	Hog Deer	2:2:0
	Eurasian Spoonbill	1:1:0	Mouse Deer	1:1:0
	Grey Jungle fowl	1:1:0		
	Barbary Dove	2:2:0		
	Green Iguana	0:2:0		
	Red Sand Boa	1:1:0		
	Common Sand Boa	1:1:0		
Russell's Viper	1:1:0			



B. Acquisition of exotic animals during 2024-25

Sl. No.	Animal	Acquisition date	Number
1.	Siamang Gibbon	10-10-2024	1:1:0
2	White tufted marmoset	14-08-2024	3:2:0
3	Geoffroy's marmoset	21-10-2024	1:3:0
4	Cotton top tamarin	13-10-2024	1:1:0
5	Cotton top tamarin	20-10-2024	1:1:0

Species Recovery of Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) in river Mahanadi

Odisha is the only Indian state home to all three crocodylian species: Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*), Mugger (*Crocodylus palustris*) and Saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*). The Mahanadi River marks the southernmost range of the Gharial. To restore its population, the Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Odisha launched the "Species Recovery of Gharial in River Mahanadi" project in 2019. As part of the project, 19 captive-bred Gharials (7 males and 12 females, aged 5-16 years, measuring 1.5-3.85 meters) from Nandankanan Zoological Park were released in phases. Suitable release sites were chosen based on river conditions and human activity. Each Gharial was tagged, 13 with radio transmitters and 6 with satellite transmitters for monitoring. Three postgraduate researchers tracked their movement, behaviour, and threats.

Key conservation measures included declaring a 10-km 'No Fishing Zone' in Satkosia Gorge, involving 14 forest divisions, raising community awareness, compensating for damaged nets and offering Rs. 1,000 for safely retrieving entangled Gharials. One female Gharial, after traveling 120 km downstream, was rescued from a nylon net together with joint efforts of forest staff, fishermen and the Nandankanan team. Currently, five adults are actively tracked. However, nine Gharials have died, caused by blasting (2), net entanglement (5), Mugger attack (1) and infection (1). Seven others lost signal. These incidents highlight serious threats from fishing practices, habitat disruption, and interspecies conflict.

The first phase of the "Species Recovery of Gharial in River Mahanadi" project, which ended on June 30, 2023, achieved significant milestones. Notably, after a 40-year gap, natural breeding of Gharials resumed in Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary, with 28 hatchlings in May 2021, 32 in 2022, and 35 each in 2023 and 2024. Community engagement proved effective with seven hatchlings/yearlings safely handed over by fishermen after being caught in nets.

The second phase of the project was approved on August 8, 2023. The key activities undertaken during the second phase of the "Species Recovery of Gharial in River Mahanadi" project focused on strengthening scientific research, community engagement and field observations. Extensive habitat re-assessment surveys were conducted along the river Mahanadi, Tel and Churasimal region to evaluate current conditions, identify potential release sites and assess human-induced threats. Monitoring efforts continued for both released and wild gharials, focusing on movement patterns, habitat use and breeding behaviour.



Awareness and outreach efforts were expanded to villages on both sides of the river in key gharial habitats. Community discussions were held to promote understanding and support for conservation goals. In addition, awareness competitions were organized in five local schools with awards given to top performers in order to encourage youth participation. The project also engaged local fishermen communities known as 'Kumbhira Bandhu' to assist with fieldwork and act as conservation ambassadors.



CHAPTER

IV

WILDLIFE CENSUS / POPULATION ESTIMATION

To monitor the present status and trends of wildlife populations and their habitats, State Wildlife Wing conducts census by direct counting or by indirect counting methods for Herbivores, Carnivores, Birds and fresh water animals throughout the state. The goal of wildlife conservation is to ensure the survival of these species, and to educate people on living sustainably with other species. As a practice, regular census of Tiger, Leopard, Elephant and Blackbuck in the terrestrial (forest) habitat; the Estuarine Crocodile, the Waterfowl, Dolphins in saline water and the nesting turtles in the sea coast habitat; the Gharial, Mugger and mid-winter waterfowl/water birds in the freshwater water bodies all over Odisha conducted by all Divisional Forest Officers of Odisha under supervision of Odisha State Wildlife Organisation.

The wild animal census report of last five years i.e. from 2020-21 to 2024-25 is given below.



Organization of Bird Census with volunteers from MSCBDU, Mayurbhanj under Similipal (South) Wildlife Division.





Ruddy Shelduck (*Anas ferruginea*)

Sighting of Ruddy Shelduck in Chilika Lagoon under Chilika Wildlife Division



Black Tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)

Sighting of migratory birds Black Tailed Godwit roosting in Chilika Lake



WILDLIFE CENSUS RESULTS
(2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25)

Sl.No.	Species	Census area / site	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1	Saltwater crocodile (Baula)	Bhitarakanika and its adjoining area	1830	1819	1831	1850	1881
2	Mugger crocodile (Magar/Gomunha)	(i) Satkoshia / Mahanadi river (ii) River systems of Similipal Tiger Reserve (iii) Ghodahada Reservoir, Digapahandi, Ganjam	95 80 72	72 77 76	83 80 81	97 76 84	59 75 87
3	Gharial (Ghadial)	Mahanadi river system	11	7	7	14	16
4	Olive Ridley sea turtle	Gahirmatha	3.50 lakhs	5.01 lakhs	5.12 lakhs	3.01 lakhs	6.07 lakh
		Rushikulya river mouth	No Mass nesting	5.50 lakhs	6.37 lakhs	No Mass nesting	9.04 lakh
		Total	3.50 lakhs	10.51 lakhs	11.49 lakhs	3.01 lakhs	15.11 lakh
5	Irrawaddy Dolphins	Chilika lagoon	162	151	154	155	159
	Bottle nose	Chilika lagoon	26	16	19	0	0
	Dolphins (7 species)	Entire coastal Odisha including Chilika lagoon	544 Irrawaddy-209 Bottle Nose-54 Humpback-281	726 Irrawaddy -208 Bottle Nose-155 Humpback-332 Striped-13 Finless porpoise-3 Spinner-15	733 Irrawaddy-169 Bottle Nose-72 Humpback-489 Spinner-3	743 Irrawaddy-181 Bottle Nose-27 Humpback-534 Finless porpoise-1	710 Irrawaddy-188 Bottlenose-16 Humpback-498 Spinner-8
6	Blackbuck	Balukhand-Konark Wildlife Sanctuary	Census not done	Census not done	Census not done	Census not done	8789
		Blackbuck habitat area of Ganjam District	7358	Census not done	7743	Census not done	-
7	Elephant *	Entire State	-	-	-	2098 (All Odisha)	2103 All Odisha

								Elephant Census-2024 (Summer)	Elephant Census-2024 (Winter)
8	Tiger**	Entire State	-	-	20 (NTCA & WII Report, 2022)	Adult-30 with Cub-8 (All Odisha Tiger Estimation 2023-24)	-	-	-
9	Leopard***	Entire State	-	-	568(NTCA & WII Report, 2022)	696	-	-	-
10	Migratory Birds	(i) Chilika lagoon	12.04 lakhs 111 Species	10.74 lakhs 107 species	10.93 lakhs 105 species	10.99 lakhs 108 species	10.87 lakhs 109 species		
		(ii) Bhitarkanika Mangrove Wetland	1.36 lakhs 121 species	1.38 lakhs 144 species	1.40 lakhs 140 species	1.51 lakhs 121 species	1.52 lakhs 118 species		
		(iii) Hirakud reservoir	1.03 lakhs 41 species	2.08 lakhs 104 species	3.16 lakhs 108 species	3.42 lakhs 113 species	3.78 lakhs 122 species		

Source: *All Odisha Elephant Estimation Report-2024; **All Odisha Tiger Estimation Report-2023-24*** Status of Leopard in India-2022, NTCA & WII, Govt of India



Indian Skimmer, Satkosia Gorge Satkosia W.L. Division





STATUS OF ASIAN ELEPHANT

The Asian Elephant is a keystone species whose presence is essential for the proper structure and functioning of the forest ecosystem. It is our national heritage animal having deep ties to our mythology, traditions and cultural heritage. Wild elephants are presently distributed over an area of about 125,000 km² across 22 states of the country. Presently, elephants are distributed across four major elephant-bearing regions of India, of which the East Central region encompasses Odisha and its neighbouring States. This region supports the third-largest elephant population of about 3200 elephants, which constitutes one-tenth of the country's wild elephant population. As per the figures of the 2017 All-India synchronized elephant census, around 1976 elephants occur in the state of Odisha.

ODISHA: DIVISION WISE ELEPHANT CENSUS RESULT-2024

All Odisha Elephant Census-2024 (summer)

All Odisha Elephant Census-2024 (summer) exercise has been carried out in the entire state in the areas having elephant movement. The three days census exercise was undertaken from 22nd May to 24th May, 2024 in 48 Divisions across 28 Districts of the State. The objectives of the elephant census was to have the minimum no. of elephants in the state and to establish the trend of the elephant population over the years and to have the structure and composition of the population.

The three days census exercise has followed traditional method of count by direct sighting. A total no. of 1214 machans were constructed in 1905 no. of census units across the state. More than 5700 persons were engaged in the census exercise. Besides, wildlife enthusiasts, NGOs, Research Scholars, Academicians etc. also participated in the census in addition to regular field staff and squad members.

Capacity building training was conducted at State, Circle, Division and Range level prior to the All Odisha Elephant Census-2024 field exercise. Assistant Conservator of Forests at Division and Circle levels were appointed as Nodal officers for the overall supervision, field execution and data compilation of All Odisha Elephant Census, 2024. After analysing the census data and considering all the inter-state, inter-division and inter-circle elephant movements and excluding the overlapping elephant data, the final data for All Odisha Elephant Census, 2024 has been prepared.

Total 2098 numbers of elephants were counted in 38 Forest Divisions. This include 313 adult tuskers, 13 adult makhnas, 748 adult female, 148 subadult male, 282 sub-adult female, 209 juvenile and 385 calf. There was presence of no elephants in 13 Divisions.



The division wise census figure along with elephant distribution map is given below-

SL. No.	Circle	Name of Division	Adult Bulls (>240cm height at shoulder)		Adult Cows (>210 cm height at shoulder)	Sub-Adult Bulls (151-240 cm height at shoulder)		Sub-Adult Cows (151-210 cm height at shoulder)	Juvenile (121-150 cm height at shoulder)	Calf (< 121 cm height at shoulder)	Grand Total	Circle Total
			Tusker	Makhna		Tusker	Makhna					
1	Angul	Angul	31	1	32	8	0	21	2	24	119	779
2		Athagarh	22	1	62	14	0	30	12	37	178	
3		Athamallik	11	1	23	4	0	0	2	8	49	
4		Cuttack	7	0	5	1	0	6	0	5	24	
5		Dhenkanal	39	1	74	18	0	42	24	41	239	
6		Mahanadi WL	3	0	9	5	0	6	7	2	32	
7		Satkosia WL	14	0	47	12	0	14	31	20	138	
8	Baripada	Balasore WL	9	1	24	1	0	10	15	8	68	431
9		Baripada	18	0	44	7	0	5	1	30	105	
10		Karanjia	3	0	4	5	0	2	2	2	18	
11		Keonjhar WL	10	0	11	0	0	2	4	6	33	
12		Rairangpur	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	
13		Similipal North	6	3	48	4	0	12	10	20	103	
14		Similipal South	5	0	54	1	0	13	6	22	101	
15	Berhampur	Balliguda	7	0	18	3	0	10	3	11	52	177
16		Berhampur	2	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	10	
17		Boudh	4	1	7	3	0	6	4	5	30	
18		Ghumsur North	5	0	17	2	0	5	5	5	39	
19		Ghumsur South	1	0	6	0	0	2	0	5	14	
20		Paralakhemundi	1	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	7	
21		Phulbani	3	0	9	3	0	4	0	6	25	
22	Bhawanipatna	Bolangir	3	0	5	0	0	2	1	4	15	70
23		Kalahandi North	3	0	18	0	0	5	0	12	38	
24		Kalahandi South	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	
25		Khariar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
26		Subarnapur	4	0	6	0	0	0	0	4	14	
27		Sunabeda WL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
28	Bhubaneswar	Bhadrak WL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	140
29		Chandaka WL	6	2	10	4	2	7	7	7	45	
30		Chilika WL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
31		City Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	



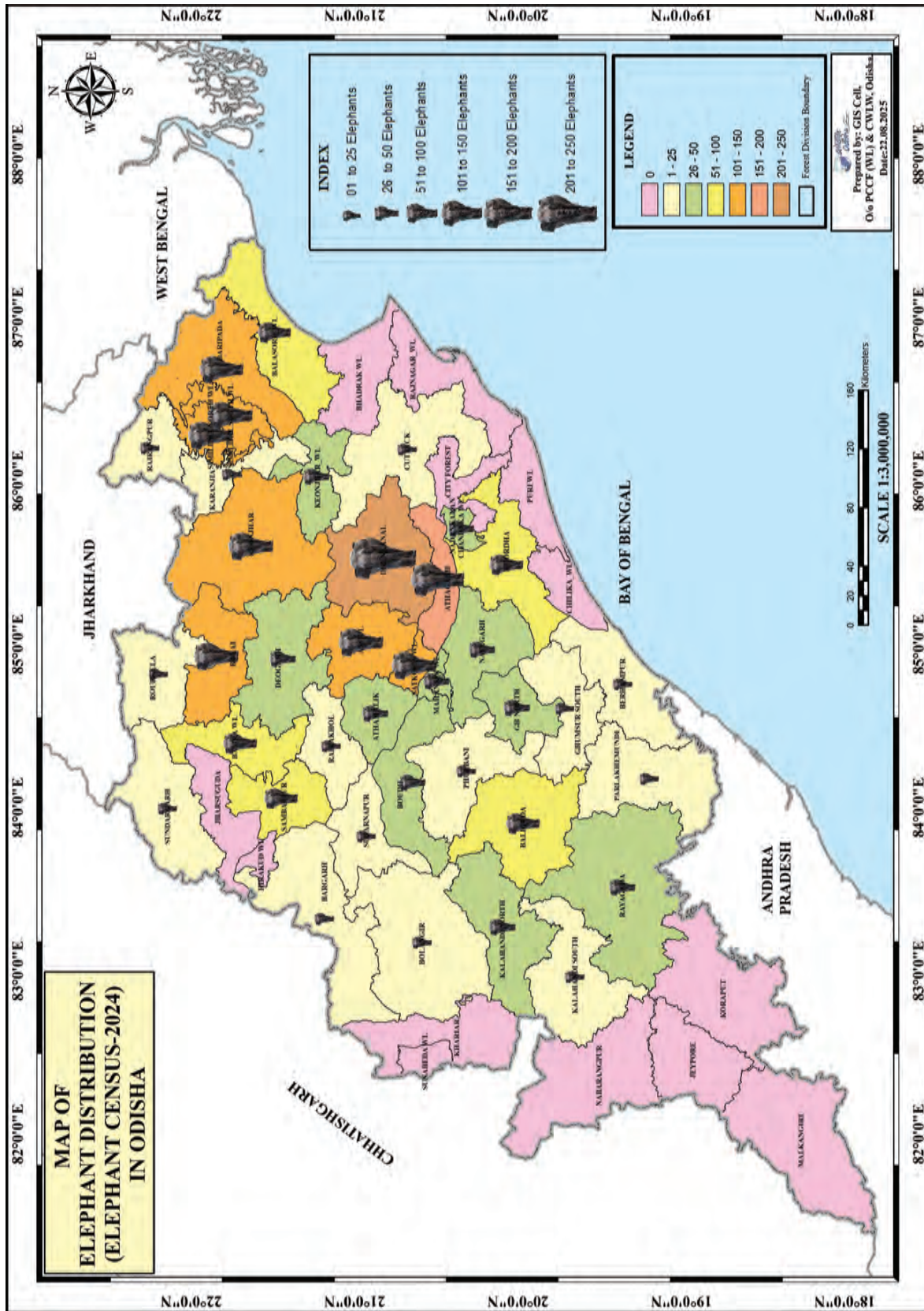
32	Bhubaneswar	Khordha	13	0	23	0	0	2	5	20	63	
33		Nayagarh	8	0	10	0	0	5	6	3	32	
34		Puri WL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
35		Rajnagar WL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
36	Koraput	Jeypore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33
37		Koraput	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
38		Malkangiri	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
39		Nabarangpur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
40		Rayagada	5	0	18	0	0	3	6	1	33	
41	Rourkela	Bonai	17	0	33	8	0	22	18	23	121	311
42		Deogarh	3	0	9	7	0	2	4	3	28	
43		Keonjhar	13	0	43	15	2	15	19	28	135	
44		Rourkela	4	0	8	1	0	0	4	4	21	
45		Sundargarh	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	6	
46	Sambalpur	Bamra WL	13	0	33	8	0	17	7	13	91	157
47		Bargarh	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	4	
48		Hirakud WL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
49		Jharsuguda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
50		Rairakhol	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	8	
51		Sambalpur	13	1	18	5	0	10	3	4	54	
		Total	313	13	748	142	6	282	209	385	2098	2098

- There is marginal increase in elephant numbers in the State. But significant increase in the number is noticed in few Divisions, importantly in Angul, Athgarh, Dhenkanal, Baripada, Chandaka, Khordha, Bonai and Keonjhar etc. whereas decrease in number noticed in Similipal North, Similipal South, Balasore WL, Rairangpur, Bolangir, Parlakhemundi and few other Divisions.
- Total 584 numbers of elephants were counted in three Elephant Reserves which is about 28% of total elephant population of the State.
- Odisha now have a large, well established elephant population with a stable age distribution with a growth rate of around 3%.
- It is estimated that 2100-2200 elephants use the Odisha Forest during a year, as there is interstate migration from Jharkhand, Chhatisgarh and West Bengal.

Ratio among Male, Female and Young elephant during summer and winter- 2024

Year	Male	Female	Young (Juvenile +Calf)	Total
Summer, May- 2024	474	1030	594	2098
Winter, November-2024	536	983	584	2103





Map of Elephant distribution (elephant census-2024) in Odisha.



Elephant Population trend in Odisha from 1979 to 2024

The Census of elephants in Odisha was conducted in the years 1979, 1999 and 2002, 2007, 2010, 2012 2015, 2017 and 2024. The technique for census of Elephant has been developed and refined with every successive census operation. The traditional method involves fixed point counts from salt-licks, water bodies, watch towers, etc. combined with perambulations during the day time.

Sl. No.	Name of Divisions	May-79	May-99	May-02	May-07	Apr-10	Jun-12	May-15	May-17	May-24	Nov-24
1	Angul	173	162	24	76	40	56	40	45	119	117
2	Athamallik	0	29	37	23	15	28	56	59	49	84
3	Athgarh	75	154	156	139	133	131	114	115	178	124
4	Balasore WL	0	41	56	67	81	93	89	97	68	54
5	Balliguda	54	17	32	35	41	36	46	30	52	32
6	Bamra WL	179	183	201	194	152	176	102	94	91	42
7	Bargarh	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	4	3
8	Baripada	0	0	0	48	48	52	68	70	105	112
9	Berhampur	0	0	0	9	37	35	20	11	10	32
10	Bhadrak WL	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Bolangir	0	0	0	0	10	22	28	32	15	42
12	Bonai	25	53	82	69	45	42	65	59	121	78
13	Boudh	0	15	0	16	8	4	08	15	30	16
14	Chandaka WL	0	83	62	67	23	24	08	1	45	40
15	Chilika WL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	City Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Cuttack	0	0	0	8	14	22	35	37	24	8
18	Deogarh	7	21	9	27	58	49	42	27	28	123
19	Dhenkanal	92	94	81	132	157	162	164	169	239	291
20	Ghumsur (N)	5	24	9	17	13	17	21	17	39	61
21	Ghumsur (S)	8	5	6	0	0	32	42	25	14	0
22	Hirakud WL	0	0	0	0	0	16	20	19	0	0
23	Jeypore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Kalahandi (N)	0	0	0	26	34	34	19	17	38	67
25	Kalahandi (S)	60	24	61	27	30	0	7	2	3	28
26	Karanja	0	28	44	40	32	23	56	43	18	23
27	Keonjhar	90	75	112	33	41	73	47	40	135	160
28	Keonjhar WL	0	0	0	27	35	40	51	49	33	35
29	Khariar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Khurdha	57	0	0	8	6	14	31	33	63	43
31	Koraput	0	0	0	0	14	8	0	0	0	0
32	Mahanadi WL	0	0	25	1	7	5	88	93	32	19
33	Malkangiri	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	Mangrove WL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	Nabarangpur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



36	Nayagarh	51	0	0	6	12	5	17	14	32	37
37	Parlakhemundi	217	86	42	44	21	19	21	27	7	9
38	Phulbani	121	3	6	14	1	6	8	23	25	22
39	Puri WL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
40	Rairakhol	51	170	165	11	16	6	9	16	8	21
41	Rairangapur	0	0	0	48	48	47	48	46	3	8
42	Rayagada	102	10	0	24	12	4	9	16	33	1
43	Rourkela	0	0	0	0	11	11	39	35	21	97
44	Jharsuguda	0	0	0	1	4	0	1	0	0	1
45	Sambalpur	7	54	64	91	77	16	5	53	54	77
46	Satkosia WL	0	0	155	194	224	229	146	147	138	37
47	Similipal North	670	496	412	298	331	334	337	330	103	49
48	Similipal South									101	103
49	Subarnapur	0	0	0	23	30	31	37	44	14	3
50	Sunabeda WL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
51	Sundargarh	0	0	0	17	25	13	10	26	6	4
	GRAND TOTAL	2044	1827	1841	1862	1886	1930	1954	1976	2098	2103



Elephants are known to enjoy bathing at Athmallik Forest Division



ALL ODISHA TIGER AND LEOPARD ESTIMATION

Tiger Estimation through pugmark Methods

Earlier Tiger Estimation was carried out by pugmark technique, 192 tigers were estimated during the year 2004 and 40 tigers were in 2016 in the State of Odisha.

Tiger Estimation through Camera Trap Methods

The tiger abundance has increased in Odisha from the previous estimate of AITE, 2022. Similipal Tiger Reserve, which currently harbours 27 unique adult individuals, has also witnessed an increase from 16 tigers captured through Camera Traps in 2021-2022. This growth has resulted from strict management actions and scientific conservation practices. The images of eight unique tiger cubs during AOTE, 2023, indicate a recovering population in Similipal landscape. Similipal is the only place on earth to have the pseudo-melanistic tigers.

The presence of three unique adult male tigers camera-trapped in Hirakud Wildlife Division, Paralakhemundi Territorial Division, Keonjhar Territorial and Keonjhar Wildlife Division looks promising and provides hope for a better future for tigers in these habitats. Apart from these regions, there is excellent potential for tiger recovery in Satkosia Tiger Reserve and Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary.

The findings of the 1st All Odisha Tiger Estimation (location wise breakup) are enclosed below.

All Odisha Tiger Estimation: 2023-24

Sl. No.	Tiger Reserve/ Division	No. of Usual morph Tigers	No. of pseudo-melanistic Tigers	Total unique adults	Tiger Cubs
1	Similipal Tiger Reserve	7 Females 4 Males	7 Females 6 Males	24	8
2	Keonjhar Territorial & Keonjhar Wildlife	1 Male	-	1	-
3	Paralakhemundi Territorial	1 Male	-	1	-
4	Hirakud Wildlife	1 Male	-	1	-
Odisha State Total (Minimum Camera Trapped)		14 (7 females + 7males)	13 (7 females + 6 males)	27 (14 females + 13 males)	8

All India Tiger Estimation - 2022

All India Tiger Estimation (AITE) is conducted in every 4 years by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) in collaboration with the State Forest Departments and NGOs coordinated by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) since 2006.



Summary of AITE-2006 to 2022 in Odisha

- Out of 51 Divisions, Tiger Estimation conducted in 47 Divisions in the State of Odisha.
- Estimation not conducted in 4 Divisions i.e. City Forest Division, Bhadrak Wildlife, Mangrove Forest Division (Wildlife), Rajnagar and Chilika Wildlife Division.

DATA SHOWING ALL INDIA TIGER ESTIMATION BY CAMERA TRAP METHODS BY NTCA*

SLNo.	Name of the Tiger Reserve	Year 2006	Year 2010	Year 2014	Year 2018	Year 2022
1	Similipal Tiger Reserve	20(17-23)	23(12-34)	Whole State	Whole State	Whole State
2	Satkosia Tiger Reserve	6	8(7-9)			
3	Sunabeda Tiger Reserve	9	Census not done			
4	Sporadic Occurrence	6				
ODISHA TOTAL		45 (37-53)	32 (20-44)	28(24-32)*	28 (26-30)	20

(Source: All India Tiger Estimation Reports from 2008 to 2022, NTCA & WII, Govt of India)

* This is only CAMERA TRAP estimation conducted by NTCA & WII, which is different from earlier process of sampling through pugmark survey. Hence, they are not comparable.

All Odisha Leopard Estimation 2024

The leopard (*Panthera pardus*) is one of the most widespread members of the family Felidae, but it is still considered vulnerable according to the IUCN Red List. In India, after tigers and lions, leopards occupy the subsequent trophic level in the food chain alongside dholes. In areas devoid of other charismatic large carnivores, leopards can act as an umbrella species for biodiversity conservation. Compared to other large carnivores, leopards are highly adaptable to various habitats and food sources. They can be found in agricultural areas, plantations, and even near human settlements, including both rural and urban environments. This behavioural plasticity also results in conflicts with humans and is a conservation challenge in its distributional range.

The state has potential to harbour multiple viable leopard populations and thus keeping a close track of the population trend is vital to develop suitable conservation strategies.

Therefore, the All Odisha Leopard Estimation-2024 was conducted, which spanned across 47 Forest Divisions, aimed at much more intensive statelevel leopard monitoring. A statewide field survey was conducted to identify leopard presence through various signs, including pugmarks, scrapes, scats, rakes, urine spray, vocalizations, and livestock depredation. Sites with confirmed direct or indirect evidence of leopard were monitored using camera traps to estimate the minimum number of unique adult leopards based on their distinctive rosette patterns. Camera trap identification of leopard is a scientifically recognized method and is used in national level leopard population assessments.



ODISHA LEOPARD ESTIMATIONS: 2004 & 2016

Sl. No	Year	Unique Leopards Photographed	Leopard Population Estimate	Estimation Exercise Conducted by
1	2018	63	760 (727-793)	WII-NTCA
2	2022	162	568 (533-603)	WII-NTCA
3	2024	284	696 (668-724)	Forest Department, Odisha



A Training programme under the All India Tiger Estimation (AITE) exercise was successfully conducted at Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur, as part of the nationwide initiative coordinated by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and Wildlife Institute of India (WII).



CHAPTER V

IN-SITU AND EX-SITU MEASURES FOR PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE

The National Heritage Animal of India is the Indian elephant (*Elephas maximus indicus*). It was officially declared as National Heritage Animal in 2010 by the Indian Government. The declaration of its heritage status provides a major boost for conservation initiatives, like Project Elephant, which focuses on protecting elephants and their habitats. Odisha holds by far the largest number of wild Asian Elephants, estimated at about 2103 as per all Odisha Elephant Census Report, 2024 (Winter). The Elephant is placed under Schedule I and Part I of the Indian Wild Life (Protection) Act (1972), which confers it the highest level of protection. The elephant is one of the most conflict-prone wildlife species in Odisha, which is causing loss of human lives and property. However, Elephants and humans are now often in conflict in our state because of varied reasons. Due to fragmentation of wildlife habitats for development project, increasing human population and biotic pressure thereof the wild animals enter into human landscape for which human animal conflict arises.

For conservation of a flagship species of elephant Govt. of Odisha has declared following three elephant reserves (ERs) and the proposal for expansion of Mahanadi Elephant Reserve and Sambalpur Elephant Reserve is under examination for appropriate action.

1. Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve (7043.74 sq. km):

Notification No.8F (W) 42/2001/15806 Dated 29.09.2001

2. Mahanadi Elephant Reserve (1038.30 sq. km):

Notification No.8F (W) 17/2002/10162 Dated 19.06.2002

3. Sambalpur Elephant Reserve (426.91 sq. km):

Notification No.8F (WL) 10/2002/5840 Dated 27.03.2002

IDENTIFIED ELEPHANT CORRIDORS IN ODISHA

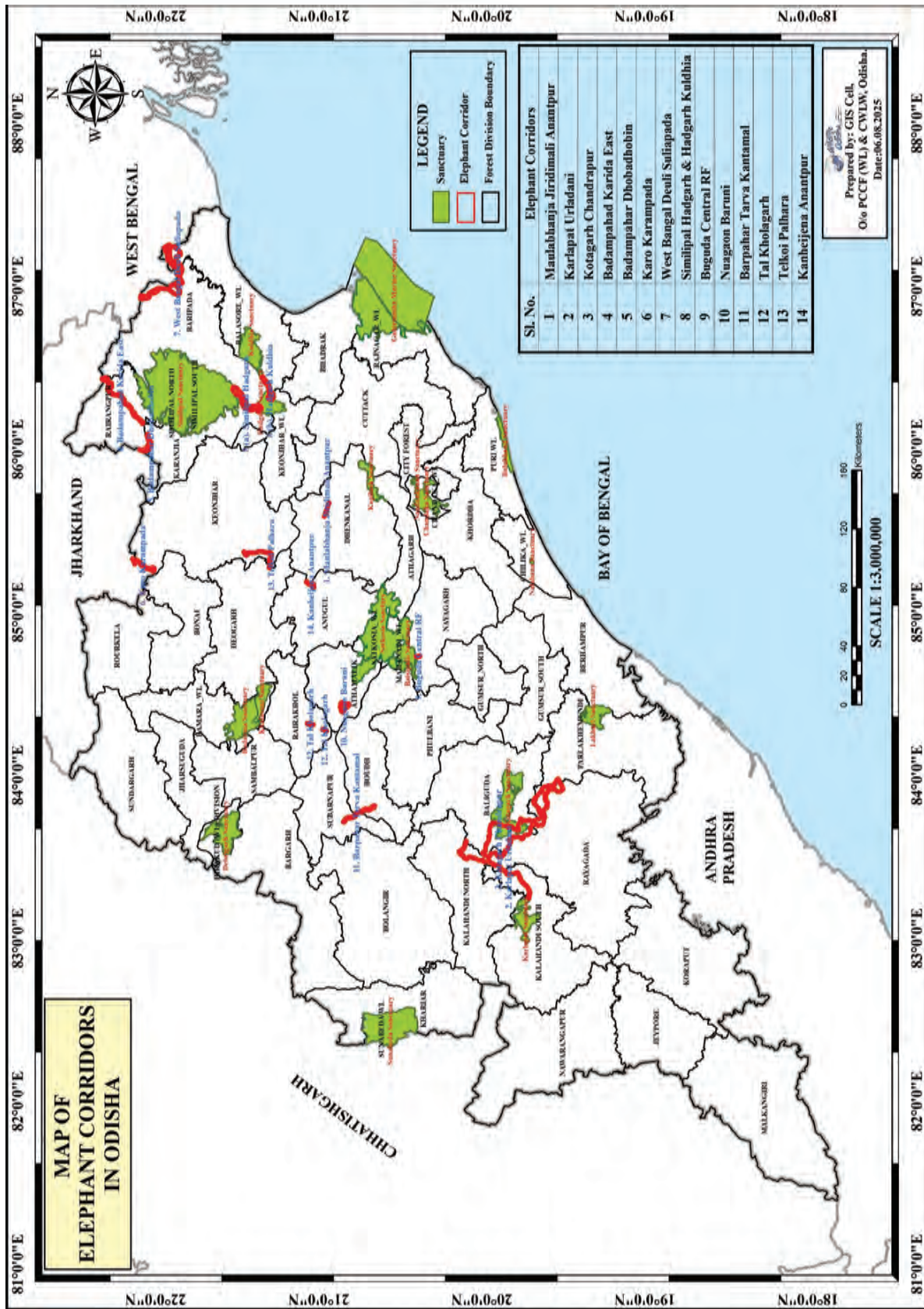
Elephant corridors are relatively narrow strips of land connecting two or more viable habitats or providing passage for genetic connectivity between two or more viable elephant population, for ensuring their long term survival. In the scenario of fast-growing developmental projects, fragmented forests need linking through management of corridors. The state had identified 14 (fourteen) corridors in 2011, which were presumably used by elephants to move between different habitats.



These corridors are given below:

Sl No.	Name of the Corridor	Extends over District	Name of the Division	Length of the corridor in km	Width of the corridor in km	Total area Sq.km.
1	Badampahar (Mayurbhanj)-Dhobadhobin (Jharkhand) INTERSTATE	Mayurbhanj	Karanja, Rairangapur	16	0.5-1.5	24.3
2	Badampahar (Mayurbhanj)-Karida (Jharkhand) INTERSTATE	Mayurbhanj	Rairangapur	43	0.2-2.6	26.09
3	W. Bengal-Deuli-Suliapada (Passage) INTERSTATE	Mayurbhanj, Balasore; (West Bengal)	Baripada	72	0.1-0.7	39.5
4	Similipal-Hadagarh-Kuldiha INTER-DISTRICT	Mayurbhanj; Keonjhar; Balasore	Baripada, Balasore WL, Keonjhar WL	41.7	0.7-3.5	91.39
5	Telkoi-Pallahara INTER-DISTRICT	Keonjhar; Angul	Keonjhar, Deogarh	30.4	0.2-0.6	13.24
6	Karo (Keonjhar)-Karampada (Saranda, Jharkhand) INTERSTATE	Keonjhar; (Jharkhand)	Keonjhar	15	0.3-2.3	17.3
7	Maulabhanja- Jiridamali-Anantapur INTRA-DISTRICT	Dhenkanal	Dhenkanal	6.5	0.25-0.28	1.55
8	Kahnejena-Anantapur INTER-DISTRICT	Angul; Dhenkanal	Angul Dhenkanal	6.6	0.4-1.1	5.22
9	Buguda-Central RF INTRA-DISTRICT	Nayagarh	Nayagarh	2.6	0.8-0.6	0.76
10	Nuagaon-Baruni INTRA-DISTRICT	Angul	Athmallik	4.5	0.4-4.6	20.7
11	Tal-Kholgarh INTRA-DISTRICT	Sambalpur	Rairakhhol	6.3	0.5-0.08	4.56
12	Barpahad-Tarava-Kantamal INTER-DISTRICT	Subarnapur, Boudh	Subarnapur, Boudh	24.2	0.38-1.5	21.7
13	Kotagarh-Chandrapur INTER-DISTRICT	Kandhamal; Rayagada	Balliguda, Rayagada	77	2.0-22.4	575.4
14	Karlapat-Urladani INTER-DISTRICT	Kalahandi; Rayagada	Kalahandi(S), Kalahandi(N) Rayagada	75	0.2-0.5	28.9
Total				421		870.6

However, many of these corridors have become non-functional and hence further exercise for verification is required to ascertain their viability. The Govt. of India has already been requested to deliberate with all the elephant range states in the country to decide on the criteria for their identification and provisioning for legal protection. Pending this, the State is already undertaking many measures for protection of their habitats and movement paths.



Map of Elephant Corridors in Odisha



HABITAT ENRICHMENT/ IMPROVEMENT/PROTECTION

Generally, habitat can be described as all of the food, water, and cover resources that wildlife require to survive. These three resources must be available in sufficient amounts to maintain a healthy wildlife population. Habitat requirements are different for each species of wildlife, although some species have very similar habitat requirements. So, habitat development/improvement is the most important activity in Wildlife Management. Various developmental processes, biotic interferences and incidences of fire in forest areas are the main cause of degradation of wildlife habitat. In order to mitigate the degradation following activities are being undertaken for improvement and protection of Wildlife habitats under CAMPA and other budgetary heads.

Habitat Improvement and Habitat Protection during 2024-25 and proposed for 2025-26

Sl. No.	Activities	Achievement (Total In No./Ha./Km.) 2024-25	Proposal during 2025-26 (Total In No./Ha./Km.)
1	Protection Squad / Anti-depredation Squad	531 nos.	538 nos.
2	Elephant Squad	91 nos.	92 nos.
3	Rapid Response Squad	-	-
4	Fire-fighting Squad	108 nos.	117 nos.
5	Creation of water body	59 nos.	72 nos.
6	Renovation of Water body	102 nos.	119 nos.
7	Water harvesting structure	09 nos.	10 nos.
8	Meadow development	463 Ha	576 Ha
9	Weed eradication	629 Ha	1618 Ha
10	Digging of Elephant proof Trench	38 Km	8 Km
11	Bamboo seed ball plantation	254000 nos.	368000 nos.
12	Fodder Plantation	-	-
13	Fruit bearing and Fodder Species	-	-
14	Signages	17 nos.	200nos.
15	Creation and maintenance salt lick	23 nos.	47 nos.
16	Creation and maintenance fire line	10516 Km	10070Km
17	Maintenance of forest road	690.88 Km	1111.5 Km
18	Fire blower	-	147 nos.
19	Construction of Watch Tower	11 nos.	12 nos.
20	Construction of Anti-poaching Camp shed	10 nos.	8 nos.
21	Solar Street light	300nos.	250 nos.
22	Relocation of villages	1no.	
23	Availability of Trap Camera & Drone	544 nos.	150 nos.
24	Solar Fencing	6km	25km
25	Preventive Vaccination	135nos.	10 nos.
26	Training of Veterinarians	200 nos.	200 nos.
27	Ficus Plantation	-	20ha



Latitude: 19.815977
Longitude: 85.898129
Elevation: 19.2±18.1 m
Accuracy: 6.906 m
Time: 08-16-2025 16:05

Powered by NoteCam

The construction of Cement Concrete Road inside Boula R.F on Sajanapal to Dalki Forest Road at-Bhuduruduma Ghati(N21.309870, E86.247644) over 100mtr and at-Paniamba (N21.271286, E86.231586) over 50mtr inside Hadagarh (WL) Sanctuary under Corpus Fund of the Society Scheme.



More than 6 ha of Podu cultivation land developed as successful meadow, Keonjhar Wildlife Division.



After successful eviction of illegal encroachment at Hatikhunti of Bramhanipal Wildlife Range it has been developed into a meadow.



Latitude: 21.236066
Longitude: 85.729399
Elevation: 263.719m
Accuracy: 4.8 m
GPSTime: 19.02.2025 10:20 am



Latitude: 21.038745
Longitude: 86.079716
Elevation: 59.9543 m
Accuracy: 3.8 m
Time: 03-26-2025 13:29

The Saltlick has been created inside Hadagarh Wildlife Sanctuary of Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur to meet the salt requirement of the wild animals. The main objective is to enhance the animal health, prevent the death due to mineral deficiency and increasing encounter rate of Herbivores.





The construction of Cement Concrete Road inside Boula R.F on Sajanapal to Dalki Forest Road at-Bhuduruduma Ghati(N21.309870, E86.247644) over 100mtr and at-Paniamba (N21.271286, E86.231586) over 50mtr inside Hadagarh (WL) Sanctuary under Corpus Fund of the Society Scheme.

RESCUE AND REHABILITATION

To reduce the Human-Wildlife Conflict as well as considering the negative impact on habitats, it is considered to establish the Rescue / Rehabilitation Centre for the problematic, injured and sick animals. Therefore, at Kapilash under Dhenkanal Forest Division and Kumarkhunti under Chandaka Wildlife Division Rescue/ Rehabilitation Centre has been established in our state in order to take care of health needs of capture elephants and other wildlife. To mitigate the conflict and to provide safe passage, there was a dire need to have trained manpower with necessary skills and equipment to do this job of rescue in a professional manner. In the above light Rapid Response Team (RRT) in each circle have been constituted. A total of 19 numbers of RRT have been deployed at strategic locations all over Odisha namely at Chandaka, Nandankanan, Bhanjanagar, Bhawanipatna, Nawarangpur, Rayagada, Angul, Dhenkanal, Sambalpur, Keonjhar, Rourkela, Sundergarh, Baripada, Karanjia, Paralakhemundi, Bargarh, Bolangir, Malkangiri and Khariar. Capacity building training for team members of RRT has already been imparted in collaboration with Wildlife Trust of India (WTI). In the 1st phase, on 07th March 2024, 11 numbers of customized, all weather, multi role 4WD Vehicles equipped with required facilities were flagged off.

The RRTs are functioning as per Standard Operating Procedure for effective and timely operations as well as regular mock drills and other exercises for improving the skill of members.



Mugger crocodile basking in the Sun at Ghodahada, Berhampur Forest Division





WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA ACTIVITIES ON MOBILE VETERINARY SERVICE (MVS)

Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), a non-profit conservation organization, committed to urgent action that works towards the protection of India's wildlife. Its mission is to conserve nature, especially endangered species and threatened habitats, in partnership with communities and governments. Established in November 1998, in response to the rapidly deteriorating condition of the country's wildlife, with only three staff members, WTI now has a team of over 100 full-time professionals and consultants, in addition to volunteers from all walks of life. The core team includes scientists, field biologists, conservation managers, veterinarians, lawyers, finance, business management and communication specialists, who operate diverse conservation projects across India. Stepping into its 26th year, WTI has grown to be one of India's premier wildlife NGOs. The principal concerns of WTI include crisis management and provision of quick, efficient aid to individuals, species or habitats that require it the most.

Current running projects in Odisha

1. The Mobile Veterinary Service (MVS) project, one of the flagship projects of WTI, envisages the placement of trained wildlife veterinarians in prominent National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries of India to ensure that 24-hour quality veterinary service is made available to the threatened wildlife of that region in times of emergency caused by both natural disasters and man-made activities. In Odisha, the project is being implemented at two locations:

- i. Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR), in Mayurbhanj district and
- ii. Keonjhar Forest Division of Keonjhar District

2. Human wildlife conflict mitigation training (Formation of 16 RRT)

The current project endeavours to develop the capacity of frontline forest department staff in the state of Odisha, in a systematic and comprehensive manner, and thus facilitate their development into a trained and equipped force, that can proactively mitigate and manage human-wildlife conflict situations across the state.

A total of 19 Rapid Response Teams (RRT's) were formed and equipped under the 8 forest circles of Odisha. Each RRT is given uniform Training, Rescue equipment, a Rescue ready customized vehicle and a repository to store and maintain the equipment provided. The forest department is further planning to provide the RRT with special incentives and insurance considering the risk involved during service.

3. Gaj Yatra (National Heritage Animal Campaign)- The Gaj Yatra campaign aims to address these challenges through collaboration between the government, non-governmental organizations, and local communities. By preserving elephant habitats and promoting sustainable practices, the campaign seeks to ensure a harmonious co-existence between humans and elephants in Odisha.
4. Preparation of Comprehensive Regional prospective Elephant Management Plan- The State proposes to prepare a comprehensive Regional Prospective Elephant Management Plan for elephant in six forest divisions i.e. Keonjhar, Bonai, Rourkela & Deogarh which



are under Rourkela Forest Circle, Karanjia Forest Division which is under Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve and Bamra Wildlife Division which is under the Sambalpur Elephant Reserve.

Upcoming Projects of WTI in Odisha

- Establishment of Centre for species survival: Odisha FD is planning to establish a centre for Asian Elephants at Godibari, Chandakain collaboration with IUCN, SSC Asian Elephant Specialist Group, Wildlife Trust of India and Columbus Zoo and Aquarium.
- Establishment of Chilika Wildlife Health & Rehabilitation Centre (CWHRC) at Chilika - This will include a Chilika Mobile Veterinary Service (CMVS) unit for avian and aquatic wildlife of Chilika.

Objective-Health monitoring, Rehabilitation of diseased & displaced animals, Marine megafauna conservation campaign, capacity building & training.



Conflict mitigation Training of Forest officials, Odisha



Rapid Response Teams (RRT's) training of Forest officials, Odisha



Gaj Yatra Campaign between the government, non-governmental organizations and local communities, Odisha.

Rescue and Release of Wild Animals from 01.04.2023 to 31.07.2025

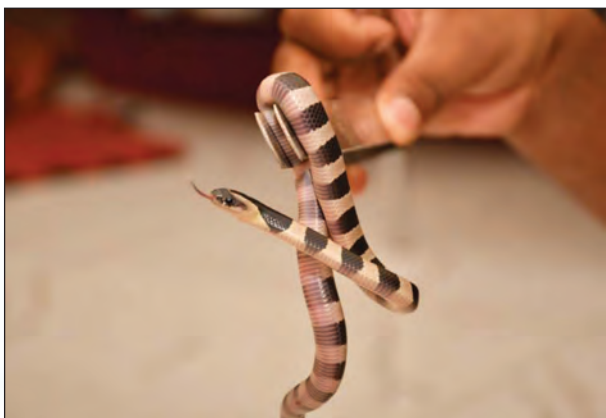
Sl No	Name of the Division	Name of Rescued animal	No. of Rescued animal & Date
1	Khordha Forest Division	Male Barking Deer	1 No. dated 14.04.2023
2.	Khariar Forest Division	Leopard	1 No. dated 16.04.2023
3.	Khordha Forest Division	Hill myna	3 Nos. dated 29.04.2023
4.	City Forest Division, Bhubaneswar	Gharial hatchling	1 No. dated 19.08.2023
5.	Mangrove Forest Division (WL), Rajnagar	Salt water crocodile	1 No. dated 25.08.2023
6.	Berhampur Forest Division	Male Black Buck	1 No. dated 25.08.2023
7.	Sundargarh Forest Division	Four Horned Antelope (Chowsingha)	1 No. dated 29.01.2023
8.	Sundargarh Forest Division	Barking Deer	1 No. dated 06.02.2023
9.	Angul Forest Division	Male Barn Owl	1 No. dated 15.10.2023
10.	Khariar Forest Division	Pangolin	1 No. dated 31.10.2023
11.	Rayagada Forest Division	Male Pangolin	1 No. dated 09.12.2023
12.	Angul Forest Division	Male Pangolin	1 No. dated 10.12.2023
13.	Khordha Forest Division	Indian Grey Horn Bill	3 Nos. dated 13.01.2024
14.	Balasore (WL) Division	Ganges river dolphin	1 No. dated 18.01.2024
15.	Khariar Forest Division	Pangolin	1 No. dated 19.01.2024
16.	Phulbani Forest Division	Indian Vulture	1 No. dated 27.01.2024
17.	Kalahandi (South) Forest Division	Female Nilgai	1 No. dated 14.01.2024
18.	Jharsuguda Forest Division	Baby Four Horned Antelope	1 No. dated 17.02.2024
19.	Khordha Forest Division	Plum headed parakeet	15Nos. dated 23.02.2024
20.	Rayagada Forest Division	Female Sloth Bear Cub	1 No. dated 20.02.2024
21.	Mahanadi (WL) Division	Injured Leopard	1 No. dated 23.03.2024
22.	Bargarh Forest Division	Male spotted Deer	1 No. dated 09.04.2024
23.	Balasore (WL) Division	Injured Lesser adjutant	1 No. dated 12.04.2024
24.	Khordha Forest Division	Male Spotted Deer	1 No. dated 07.05.2024



25.	Parlakhemundi Forest Division	Indian Male Pangolin	1 No. dated 23.05.2024
26.	Jharsuguda Forest Division	Wild Jackal Cub	1 No. dated 18.05.2024
27.	Khordha Forest Division	Barn Owl	1 No. dated 23.05.2024
28.	Khordha Forest Division	Male Monkey	1 No. dated 26.05.2024
29.	Mangrove Forest Division, Rajnagar	Male Salt Water Crocodile	1 No. dated 29.05.2024
30.	Balasure (WL) Division	Leopard	1 No. dtd 08.06.2024
31.	Kalahandi (South) Division	Female Sloth Bear	1 No. dtd. 02.08.2024
32.	Sundargarh Forest Division	Four horned antelope (Chousingha)	1 No. dtd. 22.08.2024
33.	M.F. Division (WL) Rajnagar	Male King Cobra	1 No. dtd. 25.08.2024
34.	Kalahandi (North) Division	Male Pangolin	1 No. dtd. 12.09.2024
35.	Balasure (WL) Division	Salt water Crocodile	1 No. dtd. 11.11.2024
36.	Kalahandi (North) Division	Female Barking Deer	1 No. dtd. 05.11.2024
37.	Khariar Forest Division	Female Sambar Deer	1 No. dtd. 14.10.2024
38.	Jeypore Forest Division	Male Sloth Bear	1 No. dtd. 18.12.2024
39.	Khordha Forest Division	Indian python	1 No. dtd. 07.01.2025
40.	Kalahandi (South) Division	Female Sloth Bear	1 No. dtd. 20.01.2025
41.	City Forest Division	Male Pangolin	1 No. dtd. 06.02.2025
42.	Cuttack Forest Division	Monkey	1 No. dtd. 02.05.2025



Rescue of A. King Cobra B. Python Snake under Keonjhar Wildlife Division



Rescue of A. Banded krait B. Ornate Flying snake rescued, Berhampur Forest Division





24X7 ELEPHANT MONITORING CONTROL ROOM

In the wake of rising number of incidents of man-animal conflicts, and elephant deaths in the State, the Department has issued a set of guidelines for monitoring the Elephant movement in the state to reduce man-elephant conflict.

Elephant Monitoring Mechanism

Every Beat Forest Guard and Section Forester has the responsibility to communicate to Range Officer regarding the presence/absence of elephants in their respective jurisdiction every day. During their movement, staff and squad members shall take photos of elephants or their fresh signs or their movement area (like water sources, salt lick etc. The data is uploaded in the Odisha Wildlife App or can be communicated either over phone or through wireless network immediately and photos may be taken on apps like NoteCam etc. which give location details of the photos and these photos is submitted to Range Officer at earliest. Range is the basic/key unit for monitoring of elephant movements and Range Officer concerned is responsible for monitoring the movement of elephants in his/her range. Range Officer also co-ordinate with Division Control Room and neighbouring Ranges regarding the information on

movement of elephant and staff position in the field and also address personally in the field during the driving of elephants in order to prevent any mishap. Division level is the focal point/point of convergence for monitoring the movements of the elephants. Division control room communicate to the field staffs in the neighboring area for giving alerts to villagers and for organizing, monitoring and tracking of elephants. Important information like presence/ sighting of elephants near Train Line,



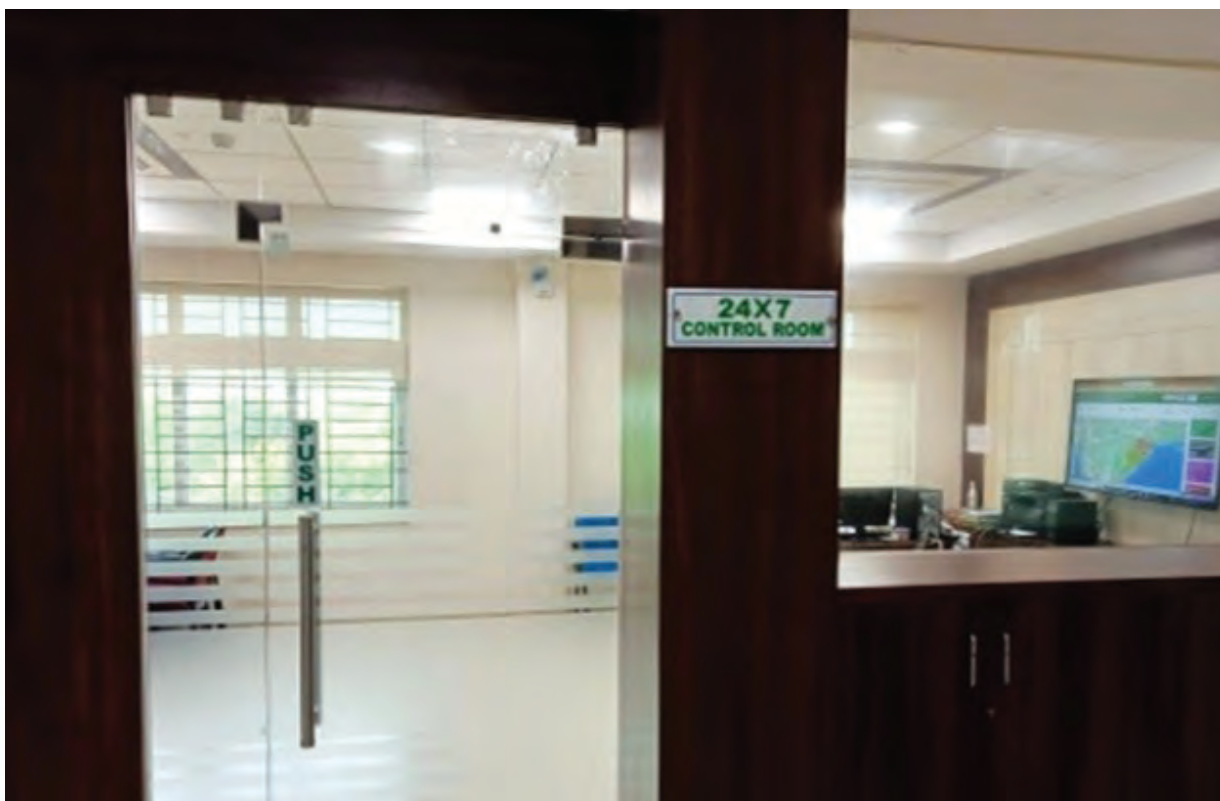
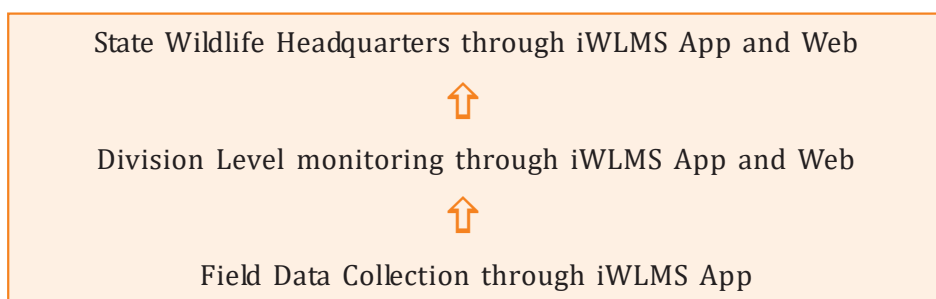
Unrectified Electrical points, National/State Highways, human kill/injury, elephant death/injury and crossing over to other division are immediately passed by division control room to concerned field units through the ACF of the division to the DFO and Circle & Head Office Control Room. Circle Control Room also functions 24×7 for elephant movement monitoring. RCCF concerned supervises the functioning of control room and co-ordinate for inter division and inter circle movements and relevant information on wildlife is immediately passed on to the field staff. Important/urgent information are conveyed to Dy. C.F/ACF in charge of control room (who in turn inform the RCCF) by the control room immediately for necessary action. Also, it is transmitted to PCCF (WL) office control room immediately.

In the **Office of PCCF Wildlife Headquarters** there is a 24×7 control room headed by a DCF, supported by Range Officer, Forester, Forest Guard and support staff to work in three shifts. The staffs are being assigned to perform their duty in the control room. The information



on Elephant movement is collected in two ways i.e. information from the Control Room and App Based. There is a control room mobile number through which the field units communicate to the Control Room about relevant information on wildlife i.e. human kill/injury, elephant death/injury and crossing over to other divisions of elephants etc. The data/information are also collected through the whatsapp from the field units and the control room scrutinizes the data. If any important information are received then these are immediately communicated to the higher Authority for resolving the matter.

An Online App- integrated Wildlife Management System (iWLMS) has been launched with technical support from ORSAC. The Wildlife HQ control room monitors and scrutinizes all data uploaded (Hourly basis) in the iWLMS App received from field units. State Wildlife HQ is monitoring the elephant movement regularly through WEB GIS.





Railway Control Room

In addition to above, there is functioning of Railway Control Room for taking steps to prevent accidents of elephant due to train hit. There are three control rooms as follows:

Sl no	Name of Circle	Name of Division
Khordha Road Control Room		
1	Angul	Angul
2		Athagarh
3		Athamalik
4		Cuttack
5		Dhenkanal
6	Bhubaneswar	Bhadrak
7		Chilika
8		City Forest
9		Khordha
10		Nayagarh
11		Puri
12	Berhampur	Berhampur
13	Baripada	Keonjhar (WL)
Bandhamunda Control Room		
14	Rourkela	Bonai
15		Keonjhar
16		Rourkela
17		Sundargarh
Sambalpur Control Room		
18	Bhawanipatna	Bolangir
19		Kalahandi(South)
20		Khariar
21		Subarnapur
22	Koraput	Rayagada
23	Sambalpur	Bamra(WL)
24		Bargarh
25		Jharsuguda
26		Redhakhol
27		Sambalpur





APPROACHES TO MITIGATE HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Population explosion and degrading habitat have brought wildlife and humans together which further generates these conflicts resulting in human kill, human injury, house damage, crop damage and livestock depredation. Fragmentation of wildlife habitats for development project, increasing human population and biotic pressure pushes the wild animals to enter into human landscape for which human animal conflict arises. Prevention and mitigation are two basic approaches for managing the impact of human-wildlife conflicts on human livelihood.

"JANA SURAKHYA GAJA RAKHYA" —ERECTION OF SOLAR FENCING AROUND THE CROP FIELD IN PPP MODE— A SCHEME TO MINIMIZE HUMAN ANIMAL CONFLICT BY LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

To overcome man-animal conflict it is desired to secure active role of communities in this endeavor to ensure its effective implementation for this purpose. The scheme is as below.

OBJECTIVES

1. To protect crops and infrastructure from damage by wild elephant.
2. To make communities partner in addressing Man-Elephant Conflict.

MODALITIES OF IMPLEMENTATION

This scheme will be implemented as below:

A) For Communities

1. In elephant conflict areas the solar fencing shall be erected along the forest boundary / village / hamlet / boundary to prevent the entry of elephants in to human habitations.
2. Villages interested to have solar fencing in their area shall conduct a meeting of Gram Sabha and pass a resolution with majority who have solar fencing in their area.
3. This resolution will be forwarded to concerned DFO through local Ward Member.
4. On receipt of such resolution the DFO concerned shall get a feasibility study done from an officer not below the rank of ACF. Findings of such study shall be discussed with the Gram Sabha and exact stretch and length to be covered shall be decided jointly by Forest Department and Gram Sabha.
5. Care should be taken that erection of solar fence should not adversely affect the neighbouring villages. Also, the natural movement path of elephants should not be blocked.
6. On finalization of the stretch and length of the solar fence, villagers of the concerned village shall deposit 10% of the total cost of solar fence with the concerned DFO. Rest amount shall be contributed by the Government.



7. An MoU shall be signed between DFO and the Villagers defining roles and responsibilities of both sides.
8. On receipt of share of the villagers DFO will execute the works in the field. At least 5 Years maintenance shall be incorporated in the agreement with the agency executing the work.
9. For this purpose, agencies shall be empanelled by the department to execute the work of solar fencing as per cost norm fixed.
10. After execution, the solar fence shall be handed over to the community for its maintenance and upkeep.

B) For Individuals

1. Orchards are used by elephants as hiding places during day time and lead to damage of orchards and many accidental deaths of human beings. Solar fencing for individuals shall be limited to orchards only.
2. Individual Orchard owner who is interested to have solar fence around his / her orchard shall apply to concerned DFO.
3. On receipt of request from Orchard owner, DFO shall get the same physically verified in the field by Range Officer / ACF. Inspecting Officer shall submit feasibility report (indicating length etc. to DFO giving details.
4. On receipt of report from field, if solar fence is to be taken up then the individual orchard owner shall be informed in writing about the same. He should be asked to get the solar fence installed from an empanelled agency of the department.
5. On installation of solar fence by the orchard owner, DFO shall get the solar fence verified and if satisfied with quality and quantity then 50% share of the total cost shall be reimbursed by the DFO to the orchard owner.
6. For this purpose, agencies shall be empanelled by the department to execute the work of solar fencing as per cost norm fixed. At least 5 Years maintenance shall be incorporated in the agreement with the agency executing the work.
7. After execution, the solar fence shall be handed over to the orchard owner for its maintenance and upkeep. An MoU shall be signed between DFO and Orchard owner defining roles and responsibilities.



Solar fencing under “Jana Surakhya Gaja Rakhya” Scheme

Year	Division Name	Funds allotted	Extent in Km done
2022-23	Baripada	32.83	0
	Bonai	38.80	13
	Dhenkanal	76.20	0
	Jharsuguda	11.40	0
	Karanjia	60.03	6.5
	Keonjhar	94.60	31
	Khordha	50.73	0
	Rourkela	24.47	9
	Total	389.05	59.5
2023-24	Angul	67.15	22.50
	Athamalik	17.94	6.01
	Deogarh	70.13	23.50
	Dhenkanal	76.20	25.00
	Keonjhar	59.68	20.00
	Khordha	60.84	20.725
	Rourkela	73.68	27.10
	Satkosia WL	72.81	24.40
	Sundargarh	21.75	8.00
	Total	520.17	177.24
2024-25	-	-	-
Grand total		909.22	236.74



Solar Fencing work at Hatibari under Satkosia Wildlife Division

GAJA SATHI

It is felt that more involvement of communities is required to handle Human Elephant Conflict. Project Elephant Division of MoEFCC has issued draft Suggesting Operating Procedure for Dealing with Emergency Situations of Human-Elephant Conflict. Under item 10.8 Role of village volunteers / Hathi-mitra Dal in conflict situations is prescribed. It states as below:

A volunteer group of villagers from villages/Rapid Response Teams/ Elephant Drive Teams may be formed in villages acutely affected by Human-Elephant conflict. The Forest Department should identify motivated youth from the villages and train them in Human-Elephant conflict management. Their role during conflict situations includes-

- i. Communicate the details of elephant presence / movement to Forest Department. Such details may sometimes be opportunistically gathered by interacting with cattle grazers and villagers who may have seen elephants or their signs.
- ii. Assist Forest Department in monitoring conflict at the village level.
- iii. Assist various line agencies in safely moving people, especially women and children from the conflict affected areas.

Gaja Sathi scheme during 2022-23 & 2024-25

The following Divisions have been identified under Gaja Sathi Scheme during 2022-23, 2023-24 & 2024-25.

SL No.	Name of Division	No. of villages covered in 2022-23	Total No. of villages covered in 2023-24	Total No. of villages covered in 2024-25
1	Angul	125	175	175
2	Athgarh	105	160	160
3	Athmallik	25	74	74
4	Balasore WL	25	50	50
5	Baripada	105	105	105
6	Berhampur	10	10	10
7	Bolangir	25	75	75
8	Bonai	15	65	65
9	Cuttack	10	20	20
10	Deogarh	93	153	153
11	Dhenkanal	150	190	190
12	Ghumsur North	25	50	50
13	Ghumsur South	10	20	20
14	Kalahandi North	25	40	40
15	Kalahandi South	10	25	25
16	Karanja	30	50	50
17	Keonjhar WL	10	15	15
18	Keonjhar (T)	160	210	210
19	Khordha	45	70	70



20	Nayagarh	10	20	20
21	Rairakhol	54	80	80
22	Rairangpur	10	20	20
23	Rourkela	20	50	50
24	Sambalpur	50	50	50
25	Subarnpur	10	20	20
26	Sundargarh	20	49	63
27	Nabarangpur	0	7	7
28	Parlakhemundi	0	5	5
29	Rayagada	0	30	30
30	Satkosia WL	0	50	50
31	Similipal North	0	50	50
32	Khariar	0	10	10
33	Sunabeda WL	0	10	10
34	Jharsuguda	0	25	25
35	Bargarh	0	10	10
36	Chandaka WL	0	10	10
37	Boudh	0	25	25
38	Phulbani	0	5	5
39	City	0	10	10
40	Mahanadi WL	0	10	10
41	Bamra	0	25	25
Total		1177	2128	2142

Implementation of "Gaja Sathi" scheme during 2024-25.

DFOs have been requested to complete the process of selection of "Gaja Sathi" in consultation with the village committees as per the guidelines and complete the training of the selected volunteers by the end of August, 2025. The training cost @Rs.2500/- per village is being released to concerned Division. The training cost and incentive amount and cost of other logistics shall be released in due course. The "Gaja Sathi" volunteers shall be engaged from 1st October, 2025 for a period of 5 months.



Training of Gaja Sathi under Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur



Human-Wildlife Conflict and provisioning of compassionate payment for wildlife depredation.

Rate of Compassionate grant due to depredation by specified wild animals under provisions of Wildlife (Protection) (Odisha) Rules, 1974 in respect of State of Odisha.

Sl. No	Type of Depredation	Wildlife (Protection) (Odisha) Rule, 1974	Rate of Compassionate grant with effect from 03.05.2023 & 09.06.2025.
1	Human kill	45-AA	Rs.10.0 lakhs
2	Permanent injury	45-BB	a. Rs.1.5 lakh in case of disability less than 60% b. Rs.2.5 lakh in case of disability more than 60%
3	Temporary injury	45-BB	a. Rs.10,000/- + free treatment in Government hospital, if the hospitalisation is more than 1 week. b. Rs.5,000/- + free treatment in Government hospital, if the hospitalisation is less than 1 week.
4	Bullock / Cow / Buffalo	45-CC	a. Rs.37,500/- for cow & Buffalo b. Rs.32,000/- for Bullock
5	Calf	45-CC	Rs.5,000/-
6	Sheep / Goat	45-CC	Rs.4,000/-
7	Lamb	45-CC	Rs.1,500/-
8	Crop damage (Paddy & Cereals)	45-EE	Rs.20,000/- per Ac
9	Crop damage (Cash crop)	45-EE	Rs.25,000/- per Ac
10	House damage (Part)	45-FF	(a) Rs.10,000/- for part house Damage; (b) Rs.3,000/- for damage with reference to kitchen, paddy godown, cattle shed, goat shelter, etc; and (c) Rs.5,000/- per running meter limited to a maximum of Rs.25,000/- for damage to pucca boundary or compound wall.
11	House damage (Full)	45-FF	A house under "Antodaya Gruha Yojana" or equivalent financial benefit.



(A) Crop Damage due to Wildlife Depredation

**Crop Damage: Table showing year wise depredation trend over last ten years in the state of Odisha
Loss of human life and property due to wild animal depredation from 2015- 16 to 2024-25.**

SL No.	Year	Human Kill		Human Injury		Cattle Kill			House Damage			Crop Damage (in Acres)											
		Due to Elephant	Due to Others	Total	Due to Elephant	Due to Others	Total	Part	Full	Total	Due to Elephant Victim / Area	Due to Others Victim / Area	Total Victim / Area										
1	2015-16	89	18	107	65	244	309	6	50	-	56	521	144	665	34260	11643	2459	977	36719	12621	.14		
2	2016-17	66	30	96	29	219	248	20	35	-	55	536	185	721	35342	9619	2031	555	37373	10174	.37		
3	2017-18	105	27	132	51	232	283	30	82	178	10	300	814	464	1278	40585	10390	3527	856	44112	11246	.85	
4	2018-19	85	27	112	63	174	237	50	77	30	0	157	847	683	1530	37782	10513	3528	937	41310	11450	.42	
5	2019-20	117	23	140	67	277	344	16	69	38		123	1337	1269	2606	49605	15264	7048	1600	56653	16864	.79	
6	2020-21	139	19	158	86	241	327	9	60	14	0	83	1127	1047	2174	46831	14375	8742	1812	55573	16187	.28	
7	2021-22	113	15	128	125	217	342	26	52	-	-	78	938	633	1571	32367	19487	3885	1129	36252	20616	.45	
8	2022-23	146	28	174	102	306	408	26	240	-	-	266	1189	541	1730	33822	12148	9893	3127	43715	15275	.95	
9	2023-24	154	32	186	129	316	445	74	411			485	1929	249	2178	40700	12345	10846	2933	51546	15278	.78	
10	2024-25	143	19	162	197	341	538	73	634			707	2469	260	2729	53003	23004	15204	3630	68207	26635	.13	
Total		1157	238	1395	914	2567	3481	330	1710	260	10	2310	11707	5475	17182	404297	1387	67163	175	471460	156351	.17	

Compassionate Grant Paid: Table showing Compassionate Grant Payment due to wildlife depredation during Last 10 years in the State of Odisha

Compassionate amount paid in Odisha due to wild animal depredation from 2015-16 to 2024-25 (Rupees in lakhs)

Year	Human Kill			Human Injury			Cattle Kill			House Damage due to elephant			Crop Damage due to other animals						Total amount paid	
	Due to Elephant		due to other animals	Due to Elephant		due to other animals	Due to Elephant		due to other animals	Damage due to elephant		Due to Elephant		due to other animals		Amount paid				
	No. of victims paid	Amount paid	No. of victims	Amount paid	No. of victims	Amount paid	No. of victims	Amount paid	No. of victims	Amount paid	No. of victims	Amount paid	Area (in acres)	Victims	Amount paid	Area (in acres)	Victims	Amount paid		
2015-16	80	203.21	18	48.70	65	19.71	177	58.60	4	0.18	35	1.73	1136	47.10	38239	12496.76	3017	1548.53	65.09	1593.37
2016-17	88	251.33	18	54.00	43	17.77	175	58.73	4	0.20	17	0.68	955	36.94	43201	11273.61	2994	665.01	63.32	1686.04
2017-18	90	259.80	36	101.40	27	8.90	174	52.70	26	1.25	166	4.29	1557	94.85	43831	11545.08	3161	823.44	86.61	1786.08
2018-19	80	270.79	19	61.59	34	16.70	151	56.22	42	2.14	61	2.33	1557	86.54	33334	9176.99	2931	793.27	77.79	1529.09
2019-20	131	362.48	24	78.92	42	15.35	224	72.62	16	0.75	58	3.16	2161	127.26	46665	14410.90	5534	1484.77	123.45	2257.33
2020-21	177	637.16	28	94.72	101	23.40	300	61.66	20	1.01	67	2.72	2286	135.84	42108	13195.68	7353	1336.70	151.96	2373.13
2021-22	131	486.37	18	66.18	156	45.70	302	54.67	25	1.15	45	2.26	1666	73.96	38914	13630.09	5315	1571.20	133.54	2147.48
2022-23	160	581.10	25	76.80	123	31.75	287	48.30	27	1.21	136	7.87	1857	87.75	34652	12589.92	9857	3110.84	292.28	2361.72
2023-24	176	973.90	31	156.00	142	55.45	303	63.37	37	10.30	254	47.42	2179	210.00	39426	12067.61	11714	3066.83	573.47	4169.84
2024-25	153	736.80	18	116.20	171	53.15	332	40.75	72	14.63	635	85.34	2646	320.23	57982	23573.90	12337	2905.54	598.74	5182.02
Total	1266	4762.92	235	854.51	904	287.88	2425	567.61	273	32.81	1474	157.76	18000	1220.45	418352	133960.56	15035.88	17306.12	2166.24	25086.09

Note: The numbers of victims and amount paid during the years imply that the total number of victims received payment from the allotment made during that years. It includes the occurrences of the current year as well as back log of previous years.



Death of Elephant: Table showing elephant death due to various reasons in Odisha during last ten years.

Death of Elephants for various Reasons in Odisha from 2015-16 to 2024-25

Sl No	Year	Poaching	Poisoning	Electrocution		Accident			Disease			Natural	Reason unknown	Retaliatory killing	Total
				Accidental	Deliberate	Train	Road	Other Accident (Infighting, falling from hill etc.)	Anthrax	Herpes	Other				
1	2015-16	2	0	5	9	1	1	12	12	17	11	16			86
2	2016-17	2	0	3	3	0	0	15	14	25	7	7			76
3	2017-18	2	1	5	4	2	0	24	2	24	6	8			78
4	2018-19	2	0	15	9	7	0	19	4	28	4	5			93
5	2019-20	2	0	0	7	1	4	20	9	24	12	1			82
6	2020-21	2	0	1	7	4	0	8	5	23	13	10			77
7	2021-22	2	0	5	8	3	0	9	4	32	7	12			86
8	2022-23	9	0	5	21	3	0	14	0	27	3	5	4		92
9	2023-24	3	0	2	13	5	1	9	1	11	3	9			66
10	2024-25	3	0	3	30	3	0	3	0	20	21	17	4		106
	Total	29	1	44	111	29	6	133	51	14	87	90	16		842

* Other accident (Infighting, stampade, falling from hill top, falling in well, muddy tank & nala, lightning, heart stroke etc.)

Division wise Average Victims

Average number of victims of human kill and injury, Crop damage, cattle kill and House damage due to wild animal depredation received compassionate grant from 2015-16 to 2024-25

Sl No	Division	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total	Average for 10 years
1	Angul	2492	7572	5674	7432	10339	9324	6248	8219	10229	13775	81304	8130
2	Athagarh	1295	3784	2628	1384	2499	2347	744	2097	2556	2613	21947	2195
3	Athamalik	1618	1869	4508	2010	1683	1406	1082	1673	1880	1782	19511	1951
4	Balasore WL	1236	177	1049	211	1294	336	1467	802	916	2096	9584	958
5	Baliguda	195	33	0	3	22	133	137	64	154	137	878	88
6	Bamra WL	253	189	222	229	379	869	916	1530	1656	1791	8034	803
7	Bargarh	3482	3568	1201	1608	1311	1176	417	779	910	1354	15806	1581
8	Baripada	2190	857	2215	2223	2116	2002	2792	1741	1537	2753	20426	2043
9	Berhampur	956	599	524	692	515	1062	340	235	170	330	5423	542
10	Bhadrak WL	2	1	3	2	1	4	0	3	5	7	28	3
11	Bolangir	7	8	861	426	492	429	811	657	530	1385	5606	561
12	Bonai	694	1111	763	790	781	440	1636	1561	1594	2024	11394	1139
13	Boudh	4	86	69	178	156	517	82	240	410	150	1892	189
14	Chandaka WL	253	69	223	157	160	85	91	59	86	187	1370	137
15	Chilika WL	54	18	62	63	39	58	32	55	38	77	496	50
16	City forest	3	0	137	0	0	2	3	27	24	24	220	22
17	Cuttack	1166	721	662	249	634	342	337	309	242	53	4715	472
18	Deogarh	630	1268	2509	1253	4326	4131	3448	3259	2686	3564	27074	2707
19	Dhenkanal	6165	6242	6164	4305	5737	7599	2531	2869	4383	9091	55086	5509
20	Ghumsur (N)	2042	1720	1143	380	616	1833	1226	2104	1837	2461	15362	1536



Sl No	Division	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total	Average for 10 years
21	Ghumsur (S)	628	539	810	118	637	340	287	383	667	626	5035	504
22	Hirakud (WL)	0	0	0	0	33	17	24	40	66	110	290	29
23	Jeypore	78	11	34	7	40	14	10	11	9	18	232	23
24	Jharsuguda	616	516	180	577	428	217	193	172	119	139	3157	316
25	Kalahandi (N)	287	74	96	223	298	240	1853	1787	2292	3376	10526	1053
26	Kalahandi (S)	18	61	185	199	385	296	356	353	425	409	2687	269
27	Karanjia	1331	1365	917	474	2389	2057	3311	4081	3051	3260	22236	2224
28	Keonjhar	3981	4121	3450	3155	2919	3714	4011	3027	3670	4426	36474	3647
29	Keonjhar WL	11	80	116	192	466	656	333	408	592	509	3363	336
30	Khariar	38	39	114	56	407	38	195	176	199	384	1646	165
31	Khurda	2573	4069	2535	2325	3705	1806	3205	2320	3323	6062	31923	3192
32	Koraput	170	6	9	9	6	3	9	14	5	0	231	23
33	Mahanadi WL	93	185	183	484	361	477	86	117	375	479	2840	284
34	Malkangiri	14	10	4	8	12	10	11	6	11	11	97	10
35	Mangrove	229	52	72	86	98	70	45	31	37	12	732	73
36	Nawarangapur	6	9	11	5	20	7	47	16	27	21	169	17
37	Nayagarh	348	0	226	105	702	494	1223	837	980	1376	6291	629
38	Pikhemundi	2	0	834	311	84	105	0	39	33	119	1527	153
39	Phulabani	31	8	7	4	15	0	37	29	62	168	361	36
40	Puri (WL)	1	4	4	4	5	5	0	36	95	106	260	26
41	Rairakhol	426	781	2345	2208	2784	1853	2379	1370	1627	1577	17350	1735
42	Rairangpur	1127	847	618	523	325	393	321	318	290	392	5154	515
43	Rayagada	1082	382	58	145	169	104	58	256	120	265	2639	264
44	Rourkela	1575	1366	1022	1186	1029	1694	905	777	1046	1133	11733	1173

Sl No	Division	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total	Average for 10 years
45	Sambalpur	531	207	86	805	615	1071	941	661	1367	1486	7770	777
46	Satakosia WL	561	713	658	395	889	709	583	609	911	950	6978	698
47	Subarnapur	605	777	721	63	1661	323	1293	642	583	552	7220	722
48	Sunabeda WL	7	25	44	12	33	42	4	2	7	11	187	19
49	Sundargarh	1665	1356	3112	935	1237	1551	474	257	278	339	11204	1120
50	Similipal North						28	9	49	117	268	471	47
51	Similipal South					3	11	29	17	35	112	207	21
	Total	42771	47495	49068	38209	54855	52440	46572	47124	54262	74350	506468	50647



Death of Wild animals from 2015-16 to 2024-25 (last 10 years)

Details of wild animals death reported from 2015-16 onwards

Sl No.	Name of Animal	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
1	Barking Deer	35	62	46	42	43	74	48	55	58	48	511
2	Bison /Gaur	3	7	13	6	13	9	9	14	8	27	109
3	Black buck	21	18	40	38	30	21	20	16	14	18	236
4	Chowsinga	4	2	5	1	1	0	2	2		2	19
5	Civet cat		2	4	1	5	0	5	10	4	4	35
6	Common Langur	6	22	25	7	17	8	27	26	32	50	220
7	Crocodile	4	8	1	4	7	3	7	6	3	6	49
8	Dolphin	8	6	5	10	8	5	21	9	11	13	96
9	Elephant	86	76	78	93	82	77	86	92	66	106	842
10	Fishing Cat	2	3	2	2	4		2	2	4	6	27
11	Flying squirrel		1					2				3
12	Flying fox										3	3
13	GSS Turtle	1		2								3
14	Giant Squirrel	6	4	2	2		2	2	3		1	22
15	Hyena	5	9	7	4	6	6	3	5		9	54
16	Jackal	2		2		3	3	2	7	5	6	30
17	Jungle cat	1	4	4		2	4	4	5		4	28
18	Jungle fowl			3				2				5
19	King Cobra		1	3		1	2		1		2	10
20	Leopard	3	4	2	6	3	6	7	9	5	11	56
21	Monitor Lizard	2	1	1				6		3	4	17
22	Mouse Deer	4	6	7	1	2	5	5	9	4	3	46
23	Mongoose								1			1
24	Nilgai	1		1								2
25	Otter							1				1
26	Pangolin	2	5	1	1	5		2	2	3		21
27	Peacock	31	4	2	4		4	3	5	6		59
28	Porcupine	1	7	5	4	3	8	3	8	7	8	54
29	Purpoise			2	1							3
30	Python	4	5	2	2	2	1	7	4	5	2	34
31	Rabbit/Hare	4	4	9		2	2	2		1	1	25
32	Ratel / Honey bugger		1	4	5	4	3	2	4	3	4	30
33	Sambar	25	27	23	31	20	33	28	33	23	18	261
34	Shark			1	26							27
35	Sloth Bear	38	34	39	33	22	30	27	29	17	17	286
36	Spotted Deer	78	70	103	79	86	77	82	96	124	119	914



37	Tiger		1	1	2				1	2	1	8
38	Whale	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	1		1	13
39	Wild Boar	64	81	96	104	100	161	112	129	133	99	1079
40	Wild dog							1				1
41	Wolf	2	4	4		3						13
Total		445	481	546	511	475	545	532	584	541	593	5253

Eco Development Committee

Local communities in wildlife management around PA form EDC.

List of EDC involved in Wildlife Conservation

SLNo.	Name of the Division	Name of the District	No. of EDC
1	Satkosia WL	Angul	37
2	Mahanadi WL	Nayagarh	17
3	Balasore WL	Balasore	3
4	STR, Baripada	Mayurbhanj	180
5	Puri WL	Puri	29
6	Chandaka WL	Khurda	27
7	Rajnagar WL	Kendrapara	48
8	Bhadrak WL	Bhadrak	20
9	Kalahandi South	Kalahandi	14
10	Sunabeda WL	Nuapada	4
11	Keonjhar WL	Keonjhar	5
12	Bamra WL	Sambalpur	25
13	Hirakud WL	Sambalpur	23
14	Balliguda	Kandhamal	80
15	Parlakhemundi	Gajapati	4
16	Dhenkanal	Dhenkanal	23
Total:			539



Voluntary Village Relocation

Village relocation from inside Protected Areas is done with the consent of the villagers being relocated as per the relocation policy and guidelines issued by NTCA in the year 2008. The State Government in 2016 have issued an additional set of guidelines which extends the financial assistance and other incentives/ benefits available for villages of core villages located inside the tiger reserve as per NTCA guidelines and villages situated in Protected Areas other than the core areas of the tiger reserves. The state guidelines have a wide scale applicability and extends to all villages in National Parks and Sanctuaries not covered by NTCA guidelines.

As per Government of Odisha Notification F.No.FE-WL-WLF-0021-2016/12390/F7E.,Dated 19.07.2021 for voluntary relocation of a single individual family without rehabilitation package, incentive of Rs.5.00 lakhs per family will be paid in addition to lump sum amount of Rs. 15.00 lakhs.

This revised financial assistance/ support will also be applicable to the families willing to be relocated from the inaccessible forest areas including areas connecting wildlife habitats.

The revised guidelines was applicable from the year 2021-22 FY onwards. In accordance with the above guidelines, 74 families of Gopalpur village &132 families of Tikarpada village coming under Satkosia Tiger Reserve have been successfully relocated during the year 2024-25. There is proposal for voluntary relocation of 1417 families from the villages located under Satkosia Tiger Reserve, Kapilash Wildlife Sanctuary, Hadagarh Wildlife Sanctuary and Chandaka-Dampada Wildlife Sanctuary areas during the year 2025-26.



Grey mongoose in meadows of Similipal Biosphere Reserve Landscape





Details of relocation carried out from 1994-95 to 2024-25.

Sl. No.	Village	Name of Tiger Reserve/Sanctuary	Family	Year
1	Jamunagarh	Similipal TR,Core	46	1994 2015
2	Jenabil	Similipal TR,Core	84	1998 2010
3	Kabatghai	Similipal TR,Core	85	1994 2003 2016
4	Barakamuda	Similipal TR,Core	22	2013
5	Bahaghara	Similipal TR,Core	10	2013
6	Raigoda	Satkosia TR	78	2017
7	Kiajahari	Similipal TR, Buffer	79	2016
8	Debrigarh	Debrigarh (WL) Sanctuary	8	2017
9	Jhagada Behera	Debrigarh (WL) Sanctuary	66	2018
10	Sanbarakamuda (Matakocho)	Similipal TR, Buffer	42	2018
11	Ramjodi	Similipal TR, Buffer	73	2017
12	Malipadar	Khalasuni (WL) Sanctuary	3	2019
13	Khejuri	Similipal TR, Buffer	110	2020
14	Pitanau West Hamlet	Hadagarh (WL) Buffer	95	2020
15	Asanbahal	Similipal Tiger Reserve	88	2021
16	Lambipali	Debrigarh (WL) Sanctuary	42	2021
17	Baliamba	Khalasuni (WL) Sanctuary	3	2021
18	Bhutuli, Rengali, Kurumkel	Debrigarh (WL) Sanctuary	359	2022
19	Pitanau West Hamlet	Hadagarh (WL) Core	75	2022
20	Jamunagarh	Similipal Tiger Reserve	13	2022
21	Katrang	Satkosia Tiger Reserve	120	2022
22	Tuluka	Satkosia Tiger Reserve	261	2023
23	Bhrukundi	Satkosia Tiger Reserve	122	2024
24	Gopalpur	Satkosia Tiger Reserve	74	2025
25	Tikarpada	Satkosia Tiger Reserve	132	2025
Total Village: 27			2090	

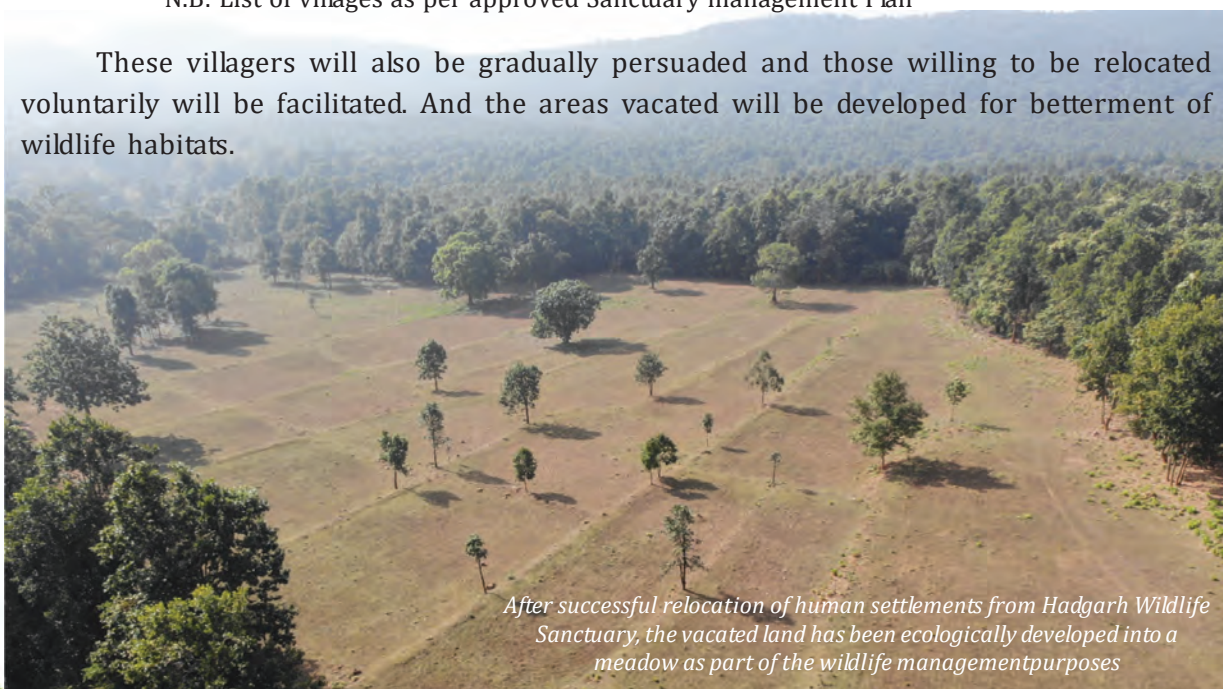


List of Villages located inside Protected Areas

SLNo.	Name of the Sanctuary	Total village inside the Sanctuary
1	Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary	3
2	Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary	26
3	Badrama Wildlife Sanctuary	27
4	Khalasuni Wildlife Sanctuary	01
5	Lakhari Valley Wildlife Sanctuary	06
6	Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary	5
7	Kotgarh Wildlife Sanctuary	65
8	Similipal Wildlife Sanctuary	56
9	Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary	125
10	Hadgarh Wildlife Sanctuary	2
11	Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary	19
12	Baisipalli Wildlife Sanctuary	62
13	Puri Wildlife Sanctuary	0
14	Kapilash Wildlife Sanctuary	01
15	Chilika Wildlife Sanctuary	0
16	Bhitarakanika Wildlife Sanctuary	358
17	Gahiramatha Wildlife Sanctuary	0
18	Nandankanan Wildlife Sanctuary	0
19	Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary	0
TOTAL		756

N.B: List of villages as per approved Sanctuary management Plan

These villagers will also be gradually persuaded and those willing to be relocated voluntarily will be facilitated. And the areas vacated will be developed for betterment of wildlife habitats.



After successful relocation of human settlements from Hadgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, the vacated land has been ecologically developed into a meadow as part of the wildlife management purposes



Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plans

Finding a balance between development and conserving wildlife wealth of the State Odisha, endowed with abundant biodiversity and rich mineral reserves, faces the dual challenge of promoting development while conserving its unique wildlife heritage. Recognizing the potential adverse impacts of mining and other developmental activities on wildlife and their habitats, the government mandates the preparation of a Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) wherever necessary. These plans are formulated in accordance with the conditions stipulated during Forest Clearance, Wildlife Clearance, and the Terms of Reference (ToR) for Environmental Clearance.

It is prepared and implemented as per conditions stipulated by government during consideration of Forest Clearance / Wildlife Clearance and ToR (Terms of Reference) for Environmental Clearance. The objective of these plans are to examine and assess possible adverse impacts of the project of flora and fauna of the mining areas as well as in the Zone of Impact, spreading over 10 Km. of radius around the Project Area. The Zone of Impact (ZoI) can be extended when felt necessary by government.

The plan is prepared by adhering to the latest guidelines issued by State Government and it is implemented in the concerned division(s) after getting due verification and approval by PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW, Odisha. The financial outlay of the plan is based on the standard approved norms of the State Government and it is deposited by the User Agencies in the State CAMPA fund. Generally, the Project Proponent implements the approved activities in the Core Zone of the project, i.e. in activities in the Project Area and the interventions approved for the Zone of Impact are implemented by the concerned DFOs. The duration of these plans, initially five years, has now been extended to ten years, ensuring long-term, sustained conservation efforts. Beyond biodiversity protection, the implementation of SSWLCPs has also proven effective in reducing human-wildlife conflict by supporting infrastructure development, habitat restoration, and community engagement in affected areas.

ECO-SENSITIVE ZONES OF ODISHA

Odisha, as a land of rich biodiversity, is home to several Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) that act as protective buffers around its treasured wildlife sanctuaries and national parks. These zones regulate human activity to safeguard critical ecosystems, from mangrove forests and tiger habitats to coastal turtle nesting grounds.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, notifies the Eco-Sensitive Zones based on established guidelines and inputs from various stakeholders, striking a balance between regulated developmental activities and safeguarding important wildlife habitats. Currently, Odisha has ten notified Eco-Sensitive Zones which protect its important wildlife habitats by community involvement and promotion of eco-tourism.



Translocation/ Release of various Wildlife Species from Sanctuary/Zoo/ other Habitat to Protected Areas/ Tiger Reserve/ Reserve Forest in Odisha

Conservation is the protection, preservation, management, or restoration of wildlife and natural resources such as forests and water. Through the conservation of biodiversity and the survival of many species and habitats which are threatened due to human activities can be ensured. There is an urgent need, not only to manage and conserve the biotic wealth, but also restore the degraded ecosystems. Protected Areas are therefore crucial for biodiversity as they provide refuge and ensure key ecological processes. Hence, wildlife translocations/ release of various wildlife from one site to another site have been used in conjunction as a conservation tool as wild populations become increasingly fragmented and endangered. There is an urgent need to restore the degraded ecosystems and ensure key ecological processes.

The rescued wild animals have been released into wildlife habitat phase-by-phase manner, which is given table:



Tigress Zeenat was released inside the enclosure under the Tiger Supplementation Programme in Similipal



Establishment of Enclosure for soft release of tigers under the Tiger Supplementation Programme in Similipal Landscape



Status Report on Translocation /Release of Various WL Species from Sanctuary/ Zoo to Protected Areas/TR/RF

Sl No.	Species	No. of Species to be Translocated/released			From Sanctuary/Zoo		To Sanctuary/Zoo	Remarks/ Status
		Male	Female	Unknown	Total			
1	Gaur	05(Bulls)	15 (adult cows)	0	20	Debrigarh (WL) Sanctuary	Chandaka (WL) Sanctuary	In process
2	Spotted Deer	56	46	13	115	Sambalpur Zoo & Conservation Centre, Sambalpur	Debrigarh (WL) Sanctuary	Completed
3	Spotted Deer	15	25	0	40	Taptapani Deer Park	Lakhari Vally (WL) Sanctuary	completed
4	Sambar	18	14	0	32	Taptapani Deer Park	Chandaka (WL) Sanctuary	completed
5	Spotted Deer	22	35	0	55	Deer Park, Nalconagar, Angul	Kandhara RF, Dhenkanal	Completed
6	Black Buck	2	6	0	8	Bhetnoi area of Ganjam Dist.	Balukhanda- Konark (WL) Sanctuary	In process
7	Barking Deer	8	17	0	25	Nandankanan Zoological Park	Chandaka - Dampada (WL) Sanctuary	Completed
8	Spotted Deer	50	50	0	100	Nandankanan Zoological Park		
9	Common Palm Civet	3	2	0	5	Nandankanan Zoological Park	Chandaka- Dampada (WL) Sanctuary	Completed
10	Spotted Deer	50	50	0	100	Nandankanan Zoological Park	Kandhara RF, Dhenkanal	Completed
11		75	125	0	200	Nandankanan Zoological Park	Satkosia TR in relocation sites having low prey population	Completed
12		75	125	0	200	Nandankanan Zoological Park	Kuldiha WL Sanctuary	Completed
13	Mugger	10	20	0	30	Nandankanan Zoological Park	Similipal TR river system	
14	Salt water Crocodile	10	10	0	20	Nandankanan Zoological Park	To be Kept at Nandankanan Zoo without further breeding	-
15	Tiger	1	2	0	3	Madhya Pradesh & Maharashtra	Debrigarh (WL) Sanctuary	In process
16	Tiger	0	2	0	2	Central Indian Landscape preferable from Madhya Pradesh or Maharashtra	Similipal Tiger Reserve	Completed
17	Black Buck	4	6	0	10	Nandankanan Zoological Park	Puri WL Divn.	Completed



CHAPTER VI



WILDLIFE HEALTH MANAGEMENT

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF DISEASES IN WILD ANIMALS

It is observed that, contagious diseases of domestic animals reared in forest fringe areas are transmissible to wild animals necessitating adoption of proactive preventive measures particularly in Protected Areas (PAs) and Zoo areas. Therefore, early detection of contagious disease in animals and its timely control and containment can ameliorate further spread of the disease to wild animals in endemic areas. The health of animals, wild animals and human being are interdependent, which has been established over the years experiencing the past occurrences of multiple Infectious Emerging Disease (IED) across the world having zoonotic importance. In this background, the value of wildlife health carries much importance from the point of view of One Health Programme (OHP) requiring focused attention.

The steps/ actions taken so far by this organisation on prevention and control of contagious disease of wild animals in our state are listed below.

- 1. Preventive vaccination:** Many contagious diseases of domestic animals such as Haemorrhagic septicaemia, Black Quarter, Anthrax, Brucella and Foot and Mouth diseases are found to be transmissible to wild animals. To avert unprecedented occurrence of such diseases in wild animals, vaccination of all susceptible domesticated animals reared in forest fringe areas coming under 3 kms radius areas of sanctuaries and zoos are conducted regularly as per the vaccination schedule.
- 2. Surveillance:** The surveillance report received from Animal Disease Research Institute, Cuttack on monthly basis are now being shared immediately to concerned Divisional Forest Officers of Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department to make them know about the occurrence of disease outbreak in domestic animals within their jurisdiction to take suitable remedial measures such as preventive vaccination of susceptible domestic animals maintained adjacent to forest area in consultation with the staff of Animal Husbandry Department.
- 3. Strengthening of Centre for Wildlife Health (CWH):** This Laboratory is now equipped with modern diagnostic instruments, adopted modern technologies and engaged skilled personnel to perform Molecular, Haemato-biological, Micro-biological, Histo-pathological and Toxicological studies.

The strengthening of CWH has enabled us to carry out molecular diagnostic works such as DNA Profiling of Wild & Captive elephants and captive leopards, assessment of Cortisol





levels of wild elephants and study of Microbial spectrum through Metagenomic analysis of faecal samples.

The Forensic works like determination of species and sex of wild animals from various biological samples including Bone are now possible in this Laboratory, which will further support the investigation work for detection of wildlife crimes.

4. Mobile Veterinary Unit: During the year 2023-24, Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs) started on pilot basis at prioritized places such as Angul and Rourkela Forest Divisions along with Nandankanan Zoo for rendering wildlife health care and disease control services. The main objective of induction of MVUs encompasses the function viz; providing health care services to sick and injured wild animals, attending Post Mortem Examination (PME), conducting disease surveillance and monitoring, attending unprecedented disease outbreaks, natural calamities and public emergency, organizing health camps in forest fringe areas ensuring preventive vaccination of domesticated animals, providing some diagnostic services on the spot, creating awareness among locals to reduce human animal conflict, rescuing and rehabilitating wild animals, imparting training to field forest staff and educating locals on Bio-security inter alia performing different departmental activities as and when required. To perform all such activities described above and to achieve the desired purpose, the MVUs will run 25 days in a month. In exigencies, the MVUs can also be deployed in other nearby Forest Division depending upon the requirement.

5. Disinfection of Water bodies: The main purpose of disinfection of available water bodies at 6 months interval within Forest areas is to reduce the incidence of water borne diseases in wild animals specifically after rainy season.

6. Examination of Faecal samples of wild elephants: The faecal samples of wild elephants are randomly collected and examined at nearest Veterinary Dispensary to find out the parasites and its load.

It has been observed that there is major prevalence of Strongyloides species in the faecal samples of wild elephants in the state.

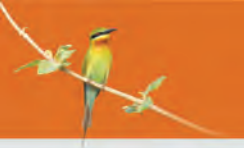
7. Training: During the FY 2024-25, as many as 200 Veterinarians have been trained on Wildlife Health and Disease Control with special emphasis on Wild Elephant Treatment through successful organisation. Often batches of Training organised at Veterinary Officer's Training Institute, Laxmisagar, Bhubaneswar.

The objective behind such training programme is to familiarise the participants regarding health care, control of diseases and treatment of sick and injured wild elephants.

A training manual has been prepared and distributed among all concerned for its wide use as reference material at times of need.

8. Organisation of Awareness-cum- Animal Health Camps: Awareness-cum- Animal Health Camps were organised during the FY 2024-25 in the entire state under the financial assistance from CAMPA fund.





During this year, a total of 127 numbers of Awareness cum Animal Health camps were organised across the state.

In these camps, the domestic animals reared in the vicinity of Forest areas were vaccinated, dewormed and treated for various diseases. Through these camps the local farmers were sensitised about the benefits of preventive vaccination of their livestock wealth at regular interval as per the schedule against all vaccine preventable diseases in order to control the unprecedented occurrences of contagious diseases in the respective forest areas.

9. Treatment of sick /injured Wild animals: The wild animals found sick/injured are treated by local Veterinarians, Forest Department Veterinarians and Experts from College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry after proper tranquilisation /sedation as the case may be.

10. Examination of Post mortem report: Sincere attempt was made to examine thoroughly each and every PM report of dead wild animals received from the field during the FY 2023-24. Simultaneously, the findings of PM reports were corroborated to the findings of laboratory to assess the actual cause of death.

11. Issue of Advisories: Two advisories were issued vide Memo No.5208 dated 25.05.2021 and Memo No.5440 dated 17.06.2022 for prevention and control of Haemorrhagic septicaemia and Clostridium hemolyticum infections respectively in wild elephants.

12. Publication of Book: One Handbook on Diseases of Animals and Birds was published and distributed among all field staff for creating awareness and knowledge regarding various aspects of commonly occurring diseases of domesticated animals and birds, which are communicable to wild animals and wild birds.

CENTRE FOR WILDLIFE HEALTH (CWH), ODISHA

1. Background and Establishment

The Centre for Wildlife Health (CWH) has been notified as a Government Expert under Section 329 of the BharatiyaNagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. Established in 2002 as the Regional Centre for Wildlife Health (RCWH) through a tripartite agreement between the Central Zoo Authority (CZA), the Faculty of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry, Orissa University of Agriculture & Technology (OUAT), Bhubaneswar, and the Forest Department, Government of Odisha, the Centre has played a pivotal role in advancing wildlife conservation and health surveillance in the state. In 2007, it was renamed as the Centre for Wildlife Health (CWH) under a bipartite MoU, thereby expanding its mandate to provide specialized support in wildlife disease diagnostics, health management, and forensic science across Odisha.

Over two decades, the Centre has evolved into a multidisciplinary hub providing expertise in diagnostics, molecular biology, wildlife forensics, and training. It has contributed significantly to addressing challenges of emerging wildlife diseases, mortality events, and wildlife crime investigations, while also building capacity among veterinarians, forest officers, and enforcement agencies.



2. Facilities and Applications

The CWH is equipped with modern laboratories and instruments that make it one of the most comprehensive wildlife diagnostic centers in the country. These facilities allow the Centre to address a wide spectrum of needs-from disease detection to forensic investigations.

Highlights of Facilities and Applications:

- The Sanger Sequencer facilitates DNA sequencing and species genotyping, playing a crucial role in identifying tigers, leopards, elephants, pangolins, and other wild species aiding in wildlife crime investigation as well as in achieving the broad objective of wildlife conservation.
- FTIR-AR allows rapid molecular fingerprinting of biological materials such as tissues, hairs, or bones, even when samples are degraded, making it highly valuable in wildlife forensic investigations.
- The Histopathology Laboratory provides tissue-level analysis of bacterial, viral, and toxicological diseases, supporting cause-of-death examinations in wildlife.
- Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) platform - enables high-throughput genomic sequencing for wildlife disease discovery, population genetics, and forensic investigations. This technology supports identification of emerging pathogens, biodiversity monitoring, and advanced genetic profiling of endangered species.
- PCR and qPCR platforms are widely used to confirm infectious diseases like Tuberculosis, Anthrax, and EEHV, ensuring timely response to outbreaks.
- The Centre is outsourcing toxicological analysis targeting pesticides to the National Rice Research Institute (NRRI), Cuttack.
- Bioinformatics resources enable advanced data analysis, particularly in conservation genetics and disease epidemiology.
- Clinical diagnostic equipment such as hematology analyzers, biochemical analyzers, urine analyzers, and ELISA platforms support non-invasive monitoring of wildlife health.
- Secure sample storage units maintain the chain of custody, preserving integrity of forensic evidence submitted to courts.

These facilities are not only used for routine health investigations but also for research, forensic casework, and long-term conservation monitoring.

3. Pathogen Screening and Disease Diagnosis

The Centre conducts disease surveillance for a broad range of pathogens, covering bacterial, viral, and parasitic infections. This includes some of the most threatening diseases to both wildlife and public health, aligning with the One Health approach.

Key diseases screened:

- Bacterial diseases: Tuberculosis, Haemorrhagic Septicaemia, Anthrax, Clostridial infections, Salmonellosis.



- Viral diseases: Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpes Virus (EEHV), Parvovirus, Newcastle Disease Virus, Canine Distemper Virus, Infectious Canine Hepatitis (ICH), African Swine Fever (ASF).
- Parasitic and protozoal infections: Ehrlichia canis, Babesia sp., Mycoplasma sp., Theileria sp., Trypanosoma sp., Cytauxzoon sp., Hepatozoon sp.

By enabling early detection of these pathogens, the Centre safeguards endangered species such as elephants and big cats while also protecting livestock and human populations from zoonotic threats.

4. Wildlife Forensic Capabilities

Wildlife forensics is a core mandate of the CWH, providing scientific evidence that strengthens enforcement of wildlife laws. With advanced molecular tools and validated methods, the Centre handles a wide range of forensic tasks.

Services include:

- Species identification from bones, hair, skin, or degraded biological materials.
- Sex determination in elephants, tigers, leopards, and other mammals.
- Genotyping of tigers, leopards, and pangolins for individual identification.
- Anatomical examinations to establish cause of death in suspicious cases.
- Cortisol estimation to assess stress in rehabilitated or confiscated wildlife.

Since 2019, the Centre has delivered forensic reports for over 600 wildlife crime cases and assisted in more than 150 judicial court cases across Odisha. These reports have been decisive in successful prosecutions, proving the Centre's vital role in supporting the judiciary and law enforcement agencies.

5. Optimization and Research Under Process

The Centre continues to refine its protocols to keep pace with scientific advancements. Currently, optimization is underway in areas such as tiger genotyping, leopard genotyping and pangolin genotyping. These efforts will enhance its forensic capabilities and strengthen conservation genetics research.

6. Achievements and Recognition

The CWH has consistently contributed to education, training, and frontline conservation initiatives. Its efforts range from training veterinarians and frontline staff of the Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, as well as veterinarians from the Fisheries and Animal Husbandry Department, to developing protocols for sample submission and creating model sample collection kit-boxes, which have been supplied to field units.

In recognition of its expertise, the Centre's Project Coordinator, Co-Project Coordinator, Project Scientist, and Senior Project Associate have been declared as Government Scientific Experts under Section 329 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. The Centre has also been recognized as meeting Biosafety Level 2+ (BSL-2+) standards and is further pursuing





NABL accreditation to ensure compliance with national and international laboratory norms, thereby strengthening its credibility in both legal and scientific domains.

7. Pattern of Funding

For functioning, the CWH receives full financial support from the Wildlife Organisation of the Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Government of Odisha apart from the Salary component of the Project- Coordinator and Co-Project Coordinator, which are met by the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology.

8. Future Plans

Looking ahead, the CWH has an ambitious roadmap to strengthen its infrastructure and services. Its future plans include:

- Establishing complete in-house diagnostic and forensic testing with strict maintenance of chain of custody and 24x7 security.
- Setting up a dedicated in-house toxicological unit to independently analyse poisoning, pesticide, and heavy metal cases affecting wildlife.
- Expanding laboratory infrastructure with additional space, a demonstration museum, and a training facility for capacity building.
- Conducting regular training programs for forest officers, veterinarians, and enforcement agencies to strengthen wildlife protection capacity.
- Capacity building of Project coordinators, project scientists and associates at recognized laboratories having highest scientific credibility.
- Integrating into the One Health framework by linking wildlife, livestock, and human health surveillance for better preparedness against emerging zoonotic threats.

These initiatives will consolidate the CWH's position as a national leader in wildlife health and forensic sciences, ensuring Odisha continues to set benchmarks in scientific conservation.



Centre for Wildlife Health, College of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry, OUAT, Bhubaneswar





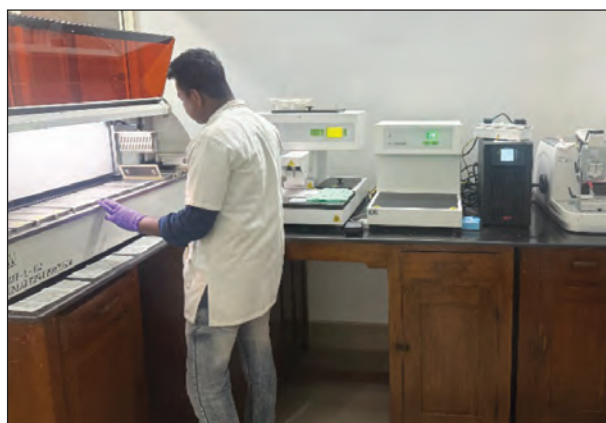
Processing of bio-samples inside Biosafety Laboratory (BSL2+)



Screening of pathogens using Real-Time PCR.



Species identification and elephant genotyping using Applied Biosystems Seq Studio Flex Series genetic analyzer.



Histopathological examination of bio-samples using automated tissue processor, embedding, sectioning and staining unit.






STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP) FOR CONDUCTING POST MORTEM EXAMINATION OF WILD ANIMALS INCLUDING WILD ELEPHANTS

1. In case of detection of death of wild animals, the field staff shall intimate to the immediate higher officials including Forester and Range Officer of that area, who in turn will be intimating to the concerned Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) and Regional Conservator of Forests. The DFO will immediately intimate to the CCF (WL) & PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha.
2. The Range Officer will make written request to the Chief District Veterinary Officer/ Sub-divisional Veterinary Officer/Block Veterinary Officer for conducting post mortem examination.
3. There should not be any unnecessary delay in conducting post mortem examination & it should be done preferably during day light to avail better visibility for proper examination of the carcass.
4. For careful and judicious examination of the carcass of wild elephants at least three Veterinarians shall be attending the post mortem examination.
5. The premises of post mortem examination shall be covered with cloth materials to restrict / avoid unnecessary entry of unauthorized persons to the site of PM examination.
6. The Honorary Wildlife Warden or Former Wildlife Warden of the division along with Wildlife Activist / Representative of an NGO working for wildlife conservation to be selected by the RCCF / DFO may attend the PM examination for transparency.
7. The Veterinarians while attending the PME should cross check and tally the particulars/ identification marks on the carcass as stated by the forest officials in their requisition letter for confirmation.
8. If required, additional particulars for identification of carcass may be noted in the post mortem report.
9. The handbook "**Techniques and Procedures for post mortem of elephants**" by Dr. Jacob V. Cheeran and Dr. N. Diwakaran Nair was issued in 2003 should be referred by Veterinarians for conducting PM examination of elephants.
10. The time of actual death of wild animal is to be assessed by observing the presence or absence of rigor mortis. If the carcass is completely putrefied emitting obnoxious smell, the death may have occurred more than 30 Hours earlier from the time of necropsy.
11. The carcass should be examined thoroughly for presence of any injuries, cut marks, burn injuries along with secretion & excretion. In case of bleeding from natural orifices and there is detection of un-clotted blood in the discharge, peripheral blood may be collected from the ear vein and should be examined by PCR test to rule out the possibility of anthrax before opening the carcass. After receiving the laboratory report necessary action as deemed fit may be taken by the Veterinarians. If anthrax as cause of death is confirmed, in such cases the carcass should not be opened and disposed of by burning following the guidelines of Govt. of India in this regard.



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12. In case of soiling/mud cover on the carcass, it should be properly cleaned by water to have proper visibility to examine the injuries on the body of the carcass.
 13. The post mortem changes such as bloat, discoloration, softening of tissue or organs, ruptures of the organs and displacement of organs, which usually occurs due to bacterial decomposition, may not be confused as lesions or changes in the internal organs of the carcass.
 14. Use of Metal detector in each case of PME of wild animals is highly essential for detection of any metallic projectile/foreign body inside the body of carcass and such screening should be done before, during and after opening of the carcass. Upon finding any metallic projectile/sharp objects should be examined in forensic laboratory for its confirmation.
 15. Both anti-mortem and post mortem samples for forensic examination shall be referred immediately (within 24 hours) to any referral laboratory including Centre for Wildlife Health.
 16. Appropriate morbid materials shall be scientifically collected in sterile containers, preserved in suitable preservatives and dispatched under cold chain to the referral laboratories for investigation of the disease. The samples should reach along with a preliminary report on findings of PME within 24 Hours of collection to the laboratory without any deviation.
 17. In case of putrefied/decomposed carcass where there is least possibility of collection of morbid samples, in such cases samples from bone marrow and brain can be collected for examination in the laboratory to assess any microbial infection as cause of death.
 18. Post mortem examination should be thorough and completed with still and videographic documentation starting from the beginning till the completion of the PME.
 19. The PM report should be written in prescribed format describing the details about the lesions/findings in different parts/organs of the carcass with a clear mention about the cause of death.
 20. The PM report should be submitted to the DFO within 24 to 48 Hours of PME without waiting for the laboratory finding report. After receipt of the laboratory examination report necessary vetting will be made by comparing to that of PM lesions and tentative cause of death as mentioned in the PM report by experts at Wildlife Headquarter.
 21. Before disposal of the carcass, the recumbent portion of the body may be turned up by JCB machine for final examination after proper cleaning the body surface for detection of any external injuries such as cut marks, gunshot and arrow hit wound.
 22. The final report on death of any schedule wild animal shall be submitted to the office of the PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW, Odisha within one month of case detection to avoid pendency of cases at division level without any conclusion.



CHAPTER VII

DIRECT FROM FIELD

CREATION OF NEW GRASSLAND AND MEADOW AFTER SUCCESSFUL VOLUNTARY RELOCATION OF 170 FAMILIES IN HADGARH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Hadgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, spread across Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts of Odisha, is a biodiversity-rich landscape characterized by miscellaneous vegetation, undulating hills having Salandi Reservoir at its core. Ecologically, the sanctuary plays a crucial role as a connecting corridor between Similipal and Satkosia Tiger Reserves, providing a safe haven for dispersing wildlife populations, including tigers from Similipal.

However, the presence of human settlements within the sanctuary posed significant challenges to habitat integrity, wildlife movement, and natural forest regeneration. In response, the Forest Department facilitated the voluntary relocation of 170 families residing within the sanctuary to Jhanajhana and Dhenka villages outside its boundary.

To ensure sustainable resettlement, the relocated families were provided with livelihood support systems, including:

- Automatic puffed rice-making machines.
- Automatic paper cup-making units.
- Skill development and operational training.

This comprehensive rehabilitation initiative not only secured the welfare of the relocated families but also enabled ecological restoration in the vacated areas.

Post-Relocation:

- Large tracts of encroached and degraded land have now been transformed into open grasslands and meadows, critical for the foraging needs of elephants, deer, wild boar and other ungulate species.
- Native grass species were allowed to regenerate naturally, complemented by controlled planting and exclusion of livestock grazing.
- Demarcation of relocated land, frequent patrolling and monitoring by forest squads helped prevent re-encroachment and allowed uninterrupted habitat succession.





The newly established meadows now function as ecological corridors, enhancing wildlife connectivity and movement across the landscape.

This initiative has significantly improved the quality of wildlife habitat, increased sightings of wild animals, and furthered the goals of long-term biodiversity conservation in the region.



Habitat Development under Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur





SIGHTING OF A CRITICALLY ENDANGERED FROG SPECIES IN KARLAPAT WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, KALAHANDI SOUTH DIVISION

During a recent biodiversity survey, Field Biologist of this division and forest officials documented the presence of the Sacred Grove Bush Frog (*Raorchestes sanctisilvaticus*), a critically endangered and highly range-restricted amphibian in the moist deciduous forests of the sanctuary.

This rare sighting not only reaffirms the sanctuary's status as a vital refuge for endangered species but also adds valuable data to the ongoing conservation efforts for this elusive frog, previously known only from a handful of locations in the Eastern Ghats of Odisha.

The Sacred Grove Bush Frog is a tiny, arboreal frog species, notable for its direct development (bypassing the tadpole stage) and its strict dependence on undisturbed forest microhabitats. It is typically found in low vegetation near streams or moist forest patches, particularly after spells of evening rainfall. The individuals observed in Karlapat were documented around a shaded forest stream within a dense patch of Sal and bamboo-dominated forest, just after dusk.

This sighting was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary staff of the Kalahandi South Division, and field Biologist monitoring amphibian diversity in the area. The documentation of *Raorchestes sanctisilvaticus* in Karlapat is significant because it expands the known distribution of the species and confirms its continued survival in previously unreported areas of the Eastern Ghats.

Originally described from Similipal and later rediscovered in a few isolated forest patches, *R. sanctisilvaticus* has been facing growing threats due to habitat degradation, unregulated tourism, forest fires, and shifting cultivation practices. Its dependence on pristine forest cover makes it extremely vulnerable to even minor disturbances in its habitat.

Recognizing the critical conservation status of this species, the Kalahandi South Division intends to initiate focused surveys in adjoining forest areas of Karlapatwls to assess the extent of its distribution and population size. Measures will also be taken to sensitize frontline staff and local communities about the importance of conserving microhabitats that are crucial for this frog's survival.

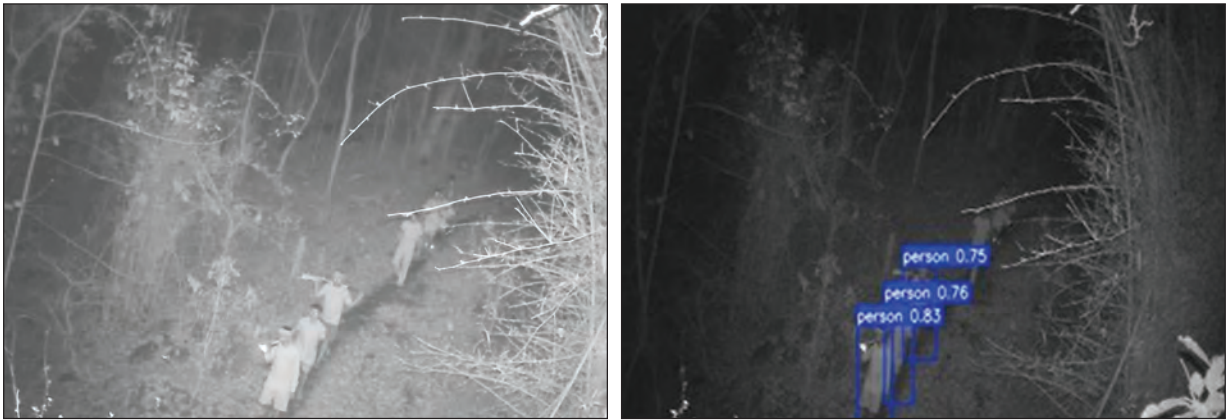
The sighting of the Sacred Grove Bush Frog in Karlapat stands as a powerful reminder of the hidden biodiversity within our protected areas and the importance of sustained monitoring and habitat protection. The Kalahandi South Division remains committed to safeguarding such threatened species through science-based conservation planning and inclusive ecosystem stewardship.



DEPLOYMENT OF AI-BASED CAMERA TRAP LEADS TO DETECTION OF ILLEGAL ENTRY IN KARLAPAT WILDLIFE SANCTUARY.

To strengthen wildlife protection measures and curb illegal activities such as poaching, ten AI-based camera traps have been strategically deployed within the Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary of Kalahandi South Division. These AI-enabled systems are part of a broader initiative aimed at preventing poaching, monitoring wildlife movements and detecting intrusions or other criminal activities within the sanctuary.

On 30th April 2025, at approximately 9:34 PM, a Trailguard AI camera installed inside Nehela Reserve Forest (RF) a part of Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary captured six individuals unlawfully entering the protected area. The suspects were seen carrying two country-made Topidar guns along with a torchlight, indicating possible intent to engage in illegal hunting activities.



Based on AI camera footage, two accused individuals were identified. A house raid operation was subsequently conducted by the Range staff, resulting in the seizure of one Topidar gun and two Sambar horns. A case was booked vide OR No. 31 of 2025-26 of Karlapat Sanctuary Range under provision of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. The identified accused were apprehended and sent to judicial custody, while four other individuals remain absconding.

This incident highlights the critical role of **AI-powered surveillance technology** in real-time monitoring and enforcement within forested and protected areas.





SIGHTING OF *SEPSOPHIS PUNCTATUS* IN KARLAPAT WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, KALAHANDI SOUTH DIVISION

During a recent biodiversity survey in the Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary, a team of field researchers of this division documented the presence of *Sepsophis punctatus*, a little-known and enigmatic species of limbless skink, in the dense Sal-bamboo forests of the region.

This elusive reptile, commonly known as the spotted eastern ghats skink, is rarely encountered in the wild and is poorly represented in both scientific literature and museum collections. The current sighting is significant as it represents a rare record from the Eastern Ghats landscape of Odisha and contributes valuable information to the known distribution of this secretive species.

The observation was made by field biologists working in the Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary as part of an ongoing initiative to document lesser-known flora and fauna in the sanctuary. The individual was found under moist leaf litter in a semi-evergreen forest patch, an environment consistent with the species' preference for well-shaded, undisturbed microhabitats.

Sepsophis punctatus is characterized by its slender, elongated body, absence of limbs, and distinctive dotted pattern along its dorsal surface. Due to its fossorial (burrowing) nature, this species is seldom seen, making every sighting crucial for improving our understanding of its ecology and conservation needs.

This discovery is particularly important given the species' data-deficient status and the increasing anthropogenic pressures on its potential habitats. Although it is not currently recognized as endangered, the limited information about its distribution and natural



history necessitates focused conservation attention. Habitat disturbances such as shifting cultivation, firewood extraction, and forest fires pose potential threats to its microhabitat in Karlapat.

The Kalahandi South Division aims to carry out targeted surveys in Karlapat and other forested areas of Kalahandi to assess the species' population status and distribution range. These efforts will aid in developing appropriate conservation measures and long-term monitoring protocols for *Sepsophis punctatus* and other underrepresented reptilian fauna.

The division remains committed to exploring and documenting the sanctuary's rich natural heritage and ensuring its protection for future generations.





BISON CONSERVATION IN GHUMSUR NORTH FOREST DIVISION

Malati Reserve Forest in the Ghumsur North Division of Ganjam district has emerged as a new safe abode for the endangered Indian Bison (Gaur). The bison population is estimated to be around 80 to 90 individuals, with a noticeable increasing trend, although no scientific census has yet been conducted. Camera trap pictures and drone surveillance picture confirm the forest as a thriving habitat for this species, highlighting successful conservation efforts.

1. Protection activities:

Regular patrolling is being carried in both day and night throughout the division. Intensive patrolling paired with reliable intelligence in sensitive areas are also done with Inter-beat, Inter-range, Inter-Divisional coordination. Combing operation with proper planning and strategies are carried out. Patrolling with the help of Police staff has also been taken up in vulnerable areas. Bike patrolling, Vehicle patrolling and Foot patrolling in every footpath and vulnerable areas is being ensured. Camera traps are also installed in strategic location to see, identify and track down the intruders along with wildlife monitoring. Adequate VHF base stations and PP sets are being provided to the frontline staff along with torches, raincoats, shoes, leech guards, lathis, Arms etc. for effective patrolling and easy passing of message. Cases have been booked under the provisions of Wildlife Protection Act and final PRs are ensured to be submitted within time. STPF with squad are strategically located in vulnerable areas and possible poaching routes are being guarded by regular staff. Intelligence collection is being strengthened and S-WIN (Similipal Wildlife Intelligence Network) is working good for collection of vital information from public.





Key Conservation Measures:

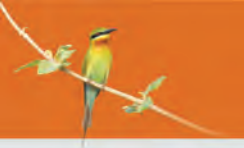
Creation of one new water body and renovation of another has been completed with an investment of about Rs. 7.5 lakh and Rs. 2 lakh respectively. These water bodies ensure steady water availability crucial for the bison and other wildlife.

Meadow development programs have been implemented under the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH) scheme. These programs enhance food availability, water resources, and provide safety for the bison population in the reserve.



Community awareness initiatives have been undertaken to foster local support for bison conservation. Involvement and protection by local communities have been instrumental in the population rise. Vaccination of domestic animals around wildlife habitats were undertaken to avoid any communal and infectious diseases, reduces cross-species transmission and ensures both animal and human health through effective disease prevention.





Quick payment of crop damage compensation is ensured to farmers affected by bison through the effective implementation of ANUKAMPA WL Odisha, an online portal facilitating timely and hassle-free compassionate payments for wildlife-induced crop damage. This reduces human-wildlife conflict and encourages peaceful co-existence.

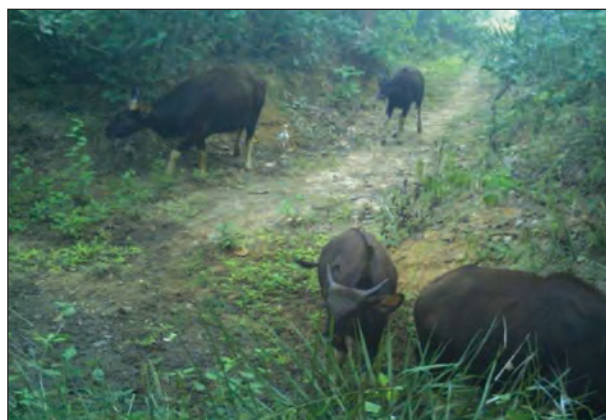
Results and Impact:

The combined efforts in habitat enhancement, community engagement, and compensation have led to an increasing population of bison in Malati Reserve Forest. The forest officials report that despite the bison damaging crops occasionally, farmers do not harm them due to timely compensation, demonstrating a successful model of human-wildlife conflict mitigation.



In summary, Malati Reserve Forest serves as a crucial habitat for Indian bison conservation, supported by habitat management, community cooperation, and administrative measures like ANUKAMPA WL Odisha for crop damage compensation. These ongoing efforts have made Malati a safe and thriving zone for the Indian bison population in the Ghumsur North Division.





DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES ON HABITAT CONSERVATION UNDER BALLIGUDA FOREST DIVISION

Water Body at Sikajada

Name of work: Renovation of water body at Sikajada/ Kotagarh Range/ Balliguda Forest Division

Scheme : CAMPA APO- 2024-25

Forest Block : Haripur RF, Compartment No-2

Geo coordinates: 19.843261, 83.705201

The water body at Haripur RF has been renovated under the CAMPA 2024–25 programme to restore its original capacity and improve water retention. This renovation ensures a sustained water source for wildlife, especially during summer months. It will help in maintaining the ecological balance by supporting both aquatic and terrestrial species. The improved water body also aids in groundwater recharge, benefiting the surrounding vegetation. Such initiatives contribute to long-term conservation goals and enhance the resilience of the local ecosystem.



Water body at Badipanga

Name of work: Creation of water body at Badipanga/ Kotagarh Range/ Balliguda Forest Division

Scheme : CAMPA APO- 2024-25

Forest Block : Lassery RF, Compartment No- 8

Geo coordinates: 19°45'28", 83°39'27"

A new water body has been constructed at Badipanga under CAMPA 2024–25 to address water scarcity in the region. This structure will serve as a crucial water source for local wildlife throughout the year. It is expected to improve the habitat conditions and reduce animal movement towards human settlements in search of water. The construction also enhances the groundwater table, which benefits surrounding flora. Overall, this initiative contributes to ecological restoration and sustainable forest management



Check Dam at Sikajada

Name of work: Construction of water harvesting structure at Sikajada/ Kotagarh Range/ Balliguda Forest Division

Scheme : CAMPA APO- 2024-25

Forest Block : Haripur RF, Compartment No- 3

Geo coordinates: 19.846269, 83.706260

A check dam has been constructed at Sikajada to facilitate water harvesting and storage. This structure helps in controlling soil erosion and enhances groundwater recharge. By maintaining a steady water supply, it supports both forest vegetation and wildlife habitats. The dam also prevents excessive surface runoff during heavy rains, protecting the forest floor. This project is an important step towards improving watershed management in the Haripur RF region.





Meadow at Badipanga

Name of work: Creation of Meadow at Badipanga/ Kotagarh Range/ Balliguda Forest Division

Scheme : CAMPA APO- 2024-25

Forest Block : Lassery RF, Compartment No- 5

Geo coordinates: 19.758333, 83.655833

A meadow has been developed at Badipanga under the CAMPA 2024–25 programme to create an open grassland habitat. This meadow will provide a sustainable food source for herbivores and improve the biodiversity of the area. It reduces the chances of soil degradation by promoting native grass growth. The creation of the meadow also supports predator-prey balance by attracting grazing species. Such initiatives play a key role in habitat diversification within the Lassery RF.



Open Well Before Barricading



Barricading of open well

Name of work: Barricading of open well at Nuagaon/ Kotagarh Range/ Balliguda Forest Division

Scheme : CAMPA APO- 2024-25

Forest Block : Lassery RF

The open well has been successfully barricaded under CAMPA 2024–25 to prevent accidents and protect wildlife. This barricade acts as a safety measure while maintaining the well’s utility for groundwater access. It ensures that animals do not accidentally fall into the



well, especially during night-time movements. The structure also prevents contamination by restricting direct entry. This small yet crucial intervention enhances both human and animal safety in the Lassery RF.

NOTE ON DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES UNDER KHARIAR FOREST DIVISION



A symbol of wetland health – Asian Openbill Storks grace Khariar Forest division.



Leopard captured Mid-Hunt under Khariar Forest Division



"Nature Unveiled: Caught in the Act" on Trap Camera under Khariar Forest Division



The Wild Revealed on Trap camera

VOLUNTARY RELOCATION OF VILLAGES FROM SATKOSIA TIGER RESERVE A SUCCESS STORY

Satkosia Tiger Reserve was initially notified in the year 2007 consisting of 2 Wildlife Sanctuaries i.e. 1) Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary & 2) Baisipally Wildlife Sanctuary, over an area of 963.87 Sq KM (795.52 Sq km & 168.35 Sqkm respectively). Out of this total area of 963.87 Sq KM, an area of 523.61 Sqkm from Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary was been declared as core and rest part of Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary & entire area of Baisipally Wildlife Sanctuary is under buffer zone.

In the year 2018 Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary has been rationalized after excluding areas of village clusters and including adjoining Reserve Forests into it. By virtue of the rationalization, the area of Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary has been increased from 795.52 Sqkm to 968.35 Sqkm vis-à-vis the area of the Satkosia Tiger Reserve increased from 963.87 Sqkm to 1136.70 Sqkm.

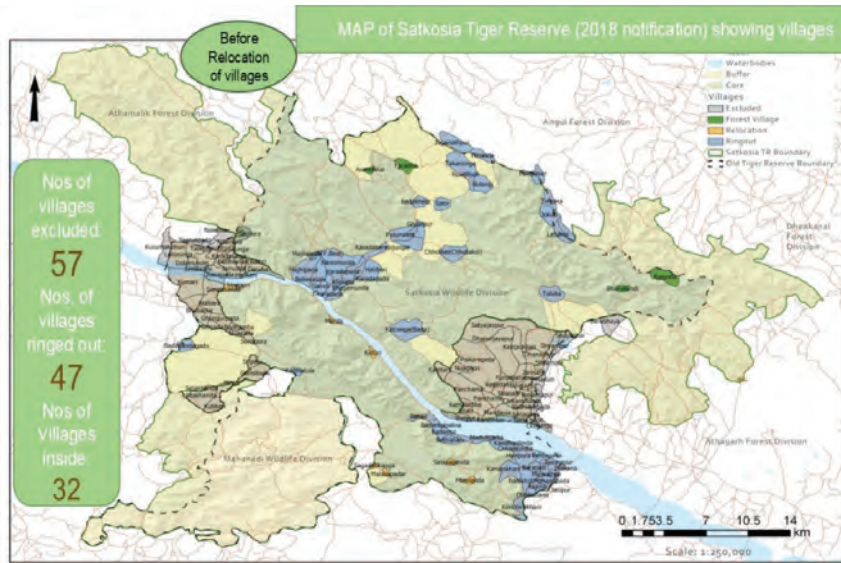




Within Satkosia Tiger Reserve there were 136 nos. of villages before 2017 i.e. the year of initiation of relocation process as detailed below:

Name of the Sanctuary	Satkosia Wildlife Division			Mahanadi Wildlife Division			G. Total
	Buffer	Core	Total	Buffer	Core	Total	
Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary	73	1	74	40	4	44	118
Baisipally Wildlife Sanctuary	-	-	-	18	-	18	18
Total Satkosia Tiger Reserve	73	1	74	58	4	62	136

One village namely Raigoda was voluntarily relocated during 2017 before rationalization of boundary of Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary as well as Satkosia Tiger Reserve during the year 2018.

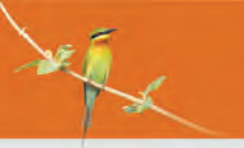


Rationalization of boundary of Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary and Tiger Reserve

Due to Presence of large number of villages inside the Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary, it was not possible to provide basic facilities to the local villagers because of various restrictions of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972. As per the proposal of the concerned District Collectors and recommendation of the NBWL committee, 104 Nos. villages having an area of 186.96 sq km were excluded and 359.7998 sq km of contiguous forested area from the adjoining Forest Divisions were included. After rationalization, the total area of the Tiger Reserve became 1136.70 sq km and only 31 villages were there within Satkosia Tiger Reserve as detailed below.

Name of the Sanctuary	Satkosia Wildlife Division			Mahanadi Wildlife Division			G. Total
	Buffer	Core	Total	Buffer	Core	Total	
Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary	3	-	3	6	4	10	13
Baisipally Wildlife Sanctuary	-	-	-	18	-	18	18
Total Satkosia Tiger Reserve	3	-	3	24	4	28	31





Although the villages were ringed out and the areas were excluded from the area of Tiger Reserve but,geographically they were present within the wildlife habitat. The high degree of anthropogenic pressure & affecting the habitat of Wildlife in Satkosia Tiger Reserve due to presence of these mushrooming of villages with thickly human population could practically not be avoided. Similarly, the human-animal conflict and loss of their property by wildlife cannot be ignored.

Hence relocation of villages from these areas is the only alternative for betterment of human being as well as the wildlife and their habitats. Accordingly, the voluntary relocation of these villages was initiated during the year 2017.

Principle of Voluntary relocation of Villages and the Guidelines

The basic principle of voluntary relocation is to reduce human-animal conflict and minimize the loss of their property as well as creation of inviolate space for wildlife.

Guidelines

Initially the National Tiger Conservation Authority issued the guideline for relocation of village from core / critical tiger habitat with compensation amount of Rs.10.00 Lakhs per family in the year 2010.

Later, the State Government issued a guideline for relocation of villages from the Sanctuaries / National Parks /Tiger Reserves with compensation amount of Rs.10.00 Lakhs per family and additional benefits through convergence in the year 2016.

Further in the year 2021, National Tiger Conservation Authority enhanced the package of compensation from 10.00 Laksha to 15.00 Lakhs per family. Accordingly, the State Government also issued another guideline in the year 2021 for relocation of families from the villages situated within Sanctuaries/ National Parks/ Tiger Reserves/ Inaccessible Forest Areas Including Areas connecting Wildlife Habitats and enhanced the package money in two options i.e.1) 15.00 Laksh per family with subsidiary benefits 2) Rs. 20.00 Lakhs per family without any subsidiary benefits.

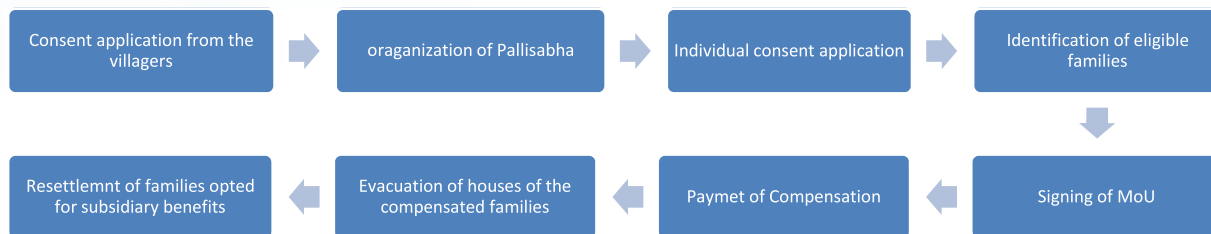
Process of Relocation

To achieve the principle of voluntary relocation basing on the guidelines issued by different forums,the process of voluntary relocation of villages from Satkosia Tiger Reserve was first initiated during the year 2017.

As relocation of village is completely voluntary in nature, the process of relocation is initiated only after receiving of consent applications from the willing families of the village. After receiving of consent applications Pallisabha is organized by the Panchayati Raj Department and after completion of the meeting they are submitting their individual consent applications which are sent to Revenue Department for identification of eligible beneficiary. After finalization of the eligible beneficiary list MoU signed in between the head of family and the Forest Department. The copy of the signed MoU along with the other documents are submitted to the Field Director / RCCF of the concerned Tiger Reserve / Circle and the Collector & District Magistrate of the concerned District with recommendation of the Deputy



Director / DFO of the concerned Division / Tiger Reserve for payment of compensation as per their choice of options.



Relocation of villages

After following the due procedure of voluntary relocation of villages as per the guideline issued at different time by the above said authorities in this matter, 927 families of 7 different villages i.e. Raigoda, Katranga, Asanbahal, Tulka, Bhrukundi, Tikarpada & Gopalpur situated within Satkosia Tiger Reserve/ area connecting to wildlife habitat have been successfully relocated starting from the year 2017 to till now. Out of total 7 relocated villages, 5 villages have completely been relocated and 2 villages are under progress.

Before relocation of the villages the people were badly suffering in their normal life, and deprived of minimum facilities for their better living as well as their development was stagnated due to imposition of restriction as per provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and the Rules thereof as follows:

- i. Restriction on grazing in adjoining core areas of the reserve.
- ii. Loss of life and property due to human-wildlife conflict.
- iii. Better Health facility was a dream for them.
- iv. No Better educational facility for their children.
- v. No road communication and non-accessibility of mobile or internet facility at technologically advanced stage of the country.
- vi. No basic facility like electricity, drinking water, sanitation etc. available.

The families who opted for cash with subsidiary benefits are resettled in the selected places outside the Protected Area with all facilities like :

- i. Providing Temporary sheds with toilets facilities till completion of the allotted Pucca Ghar under Awas Yojana and fooding facilities for 1 month
- ii. 10 decimals of homestead land to each family
- iii. Construction of Pucca houses under Awas Yojana is different schemes
- iv. Drinking water facilities like digging of borewell, dug well, connection of supply water pipelines from overhead tank
- v. Electricity supply to individual household as well as to the common utilities.
- vi. Construction of Anganwadi centre



- vii. Development of road connectivity to the resettlement site
- viii. Development of Play ground
- ix. Development of Cremation ground
- x. Ponds, worship places for the deities

Further different training and capacity building programmes are conducted for upliftment of their knowledge in different livelihood support activities like, bee keeping, mason, tailoring training etc. apart from this they are also provided with financial support for goat farming and other subsidise schemes like pisciculture, poultry farming etc. Besides these, JINDAL Foundation is providing dry ration food packets to each relocated families in every month.

After relocation of villages, they have not only overcome all hindrances of availing all Government facilities with the basic requirements, but also got the opportunity of living a better life in a socially, economically, educationally and technologically advanced society.

1. Raigoda

Raigoda village was situated in the core area of Satkosia Tiger Reserve before relocation. During the year 2017 all the 78 families of this village were voluntary relocated and resettled at a place called named "New Raiogda" outside the protected area. They were paid with compensation amount of Rs. 10.00 Lakhs per family with all basic facilities including housing from convergence. After relocation of this village an area of 82.40 Ha. has been included in the core and now developed as good wildlife habitat and developed as a best grass land which provides fodder for the herbivores.



Resettlement of Raigoda villagers at New Raigoda



Development of vacated area into Wildlife habitat

2. Katrang

Katrang village was situated in the areas connecting wildlife habitat adjacent to core area of Satkosia Tiger Reserve before relocation. During the year 2022 all the 121 families of this village were voluntary relocated and resettled at different places of their own choice as opted for cash only option. They were paid with compensation amount of Rs. 20.00 Lakhs per family. After relocation of this village an area of 444.89 Ha. has been included in the core and now developed as good wildlife habitat and developed as a best grass land which provides fodder for the herbivores.





Resettlement of Katrang villagers at 'Lakshyanagar'



Development of Relocated area into Meadow

3. Tulka

Tulka village was situated in the areas connecting wildlife habitat adjacent to core area of Satkosia Tiger Reserve before relocation. During the year 2023 all the 262 families of this village were voluntary relocated out of which 43 families are resettled at Dhauragoth resettlement site with payment of compensation amount of Rs. 15.00 Lakhs per family with all basic facilities including housing from convergence as opted for cash with subsidiary benefits and 219 families were resettled at different places of their own choice as opted for cash only option and compensation amount of Rs.20.00 Lakhs per family were paid. After relocation of this village an area of 146.00 Ha. has been included in the core and now developed as good wildlife habitat and developed as a best grass land which provides fodder for the herbivores.



Resettlement of Asanbahl & Tulka at Dhauragoth



Development of relocated area into meadow

4. Asanbahal

Asanbahal (Forest) village was situated in the buffer area of Satkosia Tiger Reserve adjacent to core area of Satkosia Tiger Reserve before relocation. During the year 2023 all the 88 families of this village were voluntary relocated out of which 66 families are resettled at Dhauragoth resettlement site with payment of compensation amount of Rs. 15.00 Lakhs per family with all basic facilities including housing from convergence as opted for cash with subsidiary benefits and 22 families were resettled at different places of their own choice as



opted for cash only option and compensation amount of Rs.20.00 Lakhs per family were paid. After relocation of this village an area of 32.40 Ha. has been included in the core and now a good wildlife habitat and developed as a best grass land which provides fodder for the herbivores.



Land development for creation of meadow



Wild animal in the developed meadow

5. Bhrukundi

Bhrukundi (Forest) village was situated in the buffer area of Satkosia Tiger Reserve adjacent to core area of Satkosia Tiger Reserve before relocation. During the year 2024 all the 125 families of this village were voluntary relocated and resettled at different places of their own choice as opted for cash only option. They were paid with compensation amount of Rs. 20.00 Lakhs per family. After relocation of this village an area of 111.30 Ha. has been included in the core and now a good wildlife habitat and developed as a best grass land which provides fodder for the herbivores.



Resettlement of Bhrukundi villagers at Ransinghpur



Development of relocated area into meadow Bhrukundi

6. Gopalpur

Gopalpur village was situated in the areas connecting wildlife habitat adjacent to core area of Satkosia Tiger Reserve before relocation. Voluntary relocation of this village was taken up during the year 2025 which is under progress. Out of 134 Nos. of eligible beneficiaries identified by the Tahsildar, 130 families have already been relocated and resettled at different





places of their own choice as opted for cash only option. They were paid with compensation amount of Rs. 20.00 Lakhs per family.

7. Tikarpada

Tikarpada village was situated in the areas connecting wildlife habitat adjacent to core area of Satkosia Tiger Reserve before relocation. Voluntary relocation of this village was taken up during the year 2025 which is under progress. Out of 152 Nos. of eligible beneficiaries identified by the Tahsildar, 132 families have already been relocated and resettled at different places of their own choice as opted for cash only option. They were paid with compensation amount of Rs. 20.00 Lakhs per family.

Abstract

Name of village	No. of families identified	No. of families relocated Cash only option	No. of families relocated Cash with subsidiary benefits	Total No. of families relocated	Area of the vacated village area in Ha.	Remarks
Raigoda	78	0	78	78	82.40	Relocated
Katrang	121	121	0	121	444.89	Relocated
Tulka	262	219	43	262	146.00	Relocated
Asanbahal	88	22	66	88	32.40	Relocated
Bhrukundi	125	125	0	125	111.30	Relocated
Gopalpur	134	121	0	121		Under progress
Tikarpada	152	132	0	132		
Total	960	740	187	927	816.99	

Effect of relocation of villages in Wildlife and their habitat:

Relocation of villages from the wildlife habitat of Satkosia Tiger Reserve brought a remarkable change in the population of wildlife and improvement of their habitat by adding large areas of inviolate space.

- i. Due to relocation of the above said villages an area of 816 Ha. has been added to the wildlife habitat and the cultivated lands have been developed to good grass land.
- ii. Anthropogenic pressure and human-wildlife interference have been reduced to almost nil in these areas and inviolate wildlife habitats have been created in these areas.
- iii. The pressure of thickly populated and mostly forest dependent domestic cattle on forest and habitat will be reduced to zero which resulted in increase of fodder for the wild herbivores and reduction in risk of spread of diseases from domestic cattle to wild animals.
- iv. Relocation of villages enhances the hope of successful reintroduction of tiger in Satkosia Tiger Reserve by reinstating the suspended project tiger.



Future strategy for relocation of Villages:

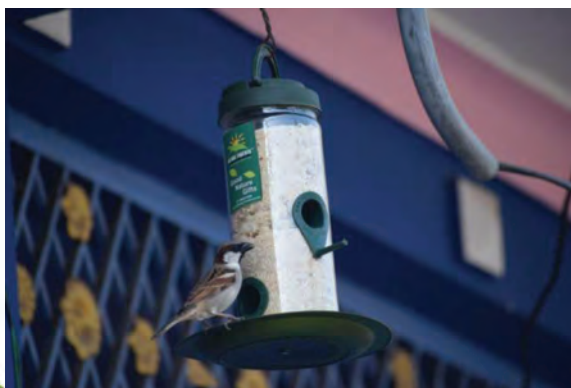
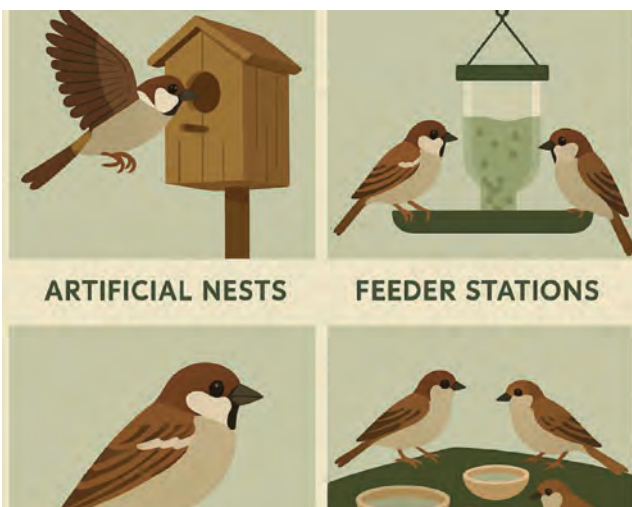
After realizing the benefits of relocation of villages from the wildlife habitat areas another more than 1000 families of 4 nos. of adjoining villages have come forward for voluntary relocation and submitted their consents which are under process as details below:

Name of the village	No. of family (Approx.)
Purunakote	400
Chhotkei	250
Salor	150
Majhipada	200
Total	1000

Human demands developed society and wildlife demands wilderness. Relocation of villages is the only alternative to fulfil both the demands.

SUCCESS STORY OF GUNTHABANDHA VILLAGE UNDER BERHAMPUR FOREST DIVISION. A MODEL FOR SPARROW CONSERVATION

Gunthabandha, a village under the jurisdiction of the Berhampur Forest Division, has emerged as a model for community-driven sparrow conservation. This transformation is the result of 12 years of consistent efforts led by the NGO "Anchalika Bikash Parishad (ABP)", With technical guidance and encouragement from the Forest Department, ABP mobilized local communities and implemented a simple yet effective conservation model. They distributed artificial nest boxes lined with straw, along with bird feeders and water bowls, to every household in the village completely free of cost. These materials created a safe and welcoming habitat for house sparrows,



which were once rapidly declining in the region. In a compassionate move, the village banned abrasive 'manja' threads for kite flying to protect birds from harm. This was an environmentally conscious shift that inspired neighboring communities as well. Through these combined efforts, Gunthabandha was officially recognized



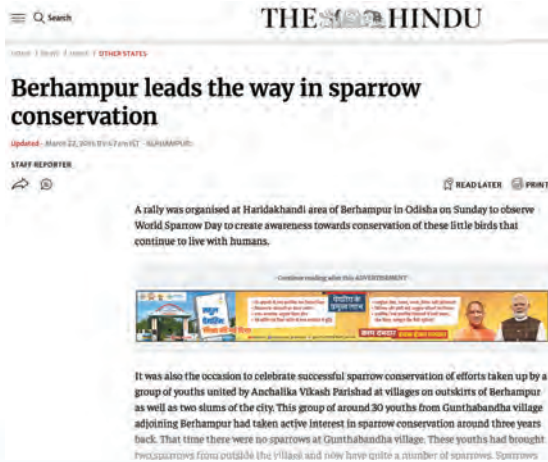
as “Gharachatia (Sparrow) Prabasi Grama”—a title denoting its status as a successful sparrow-friendly village

Over time, Gunthabandha witnessed a significant increase in its sparrow population, with the chirping of sparrows returning to courtyards, rooftops, and village lanes. The Berhampur Forest Division played a crucial role in supporting awareness activities, encouraging eco-friendly practices, and monitoring progress in coordination with ABP.

The initiative’s influence didn’t go unnoticed—ABP founder Rabindranath Sahu was honored by the Nature Forever Society in 2015 for his outstanding conservation work.



Sparrow conservation in the News



CHAPTER VIII



TECHNOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS FOR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Technology in Wildlife Conservation

Wildlife conservation in Odisha has entered a transformative era, where technology is not merely a supporting tool but a decisive force shaping the future of ecological protection. Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a catalyst for this transformation, revolutionizing the way we monitor forests, safeguard endangered species, and prevent ecological threats. From detecting wildfires in their earliest stages to preventing elephant-train collisions, AI-enabled camera systems are redefining the contours of conservation practice in the state.

Artificial Intelligence in Conservation Management

The adoption of AI has allowed the Forest & Wildlife Department of Odisha to transcend the limitations of traditional patrolling and manual surveillance. AI-enabled systems are specifically designed to:

1. Predict potential threats from poaching and illegal intrusions.
2. Detect and track forest fires well before they escalate.
3. Provide real-time alerts to mitigate human-wildlife conflict, particularly elephant-train collisions.

At the heart of this innovation are AI Camera Towers-integrated platforms combining thermal sensors, high-resolution imaging, deep learning algorithms, and communication networks. These towers function as round-the-clock guardians of the forest, capable of operating efficiently in conditions of dense canopy, low light, fog, and rain.

Multifunctional Role of AI Camera Towers

AI towers serve as multipurpose surveillance systems, with the following critical capabilities:

1. Early Fire Detection - AI systems can interpret heat signatures and smoke plumes, detecting fire incidents hours before they become visible to the human eye.
2. Intrusion Detection - Acting as an electronic sentinel, the towers detect elephants or unauthorized human presence, triggering alarms and automated responses.
3. Real-Time Alerting - Once a threat is detected, sirens are activated at both the tower and the control room, while alerts are simultaneously transmitted through SMS, WhatsApp, and email to Forest, Railway, and Local Administration authorities.





DEPLOYMENT OF AI CAMERA SYSTEMS IN ODISHA

1. Similipal Tiger Reserve

Five AI towers have been strategically installed to provide comprehensive coverage of vulnerable zones:

- i. Meghasani Watch Tower (UBK Range) – Southern Similipal.
- ii. Kulipadi (Jenabil Range) – Southeastern Similipal.
- iii. Guruguria (Ramjodi Pahar, Guruguria Range) – Southwestern Similipal.
- iv. Chahala (Chahala Range) – Northern Similipal.
- v. Kumbhni (Nawana North Range) – Central-Northern Similipal.

In addition, a network of 100 AI cameras and 100 infrared cameras have been deployed across sensitive locations within the reserve, creating an unparalleled surveillance grid.

2. Rourkela Division

Recognizing the vulnerability of elephants at railway crossings, four AI towers have been erected near critical elephant movement corridors:

- i. Dalakudhar (Panposh Range)
- ii. Kucheita (Banki Range)
- iii. Mahipani (Bisra Range)
- iv. Sonakhan (Rajgangpur Range)

Future expansion is planned in Satkosia Landscape and Debrigarh Sanctuary, enabling Odisha to create a state-wide AI surveillance ecosystem.

Advantages of AI-Enabled Conservation

The technological intervention offers numerous advantages, each contributing to more resilient and responsive conservation:

1. **Proactive Fire Management:** AI-driven fire detection allows swift suppression of fire outbreaks before they escalate into large-scale disasters.
2. **Conflict Mitigation:** Elephants can be detected in real time—even in dense forest, darkness, or adverse weather—greatly reducing the risk of accidents.
3. **Poaching Prevention:** Unauthorized movements, including poachers carrying weapons or traps, are identified and reported instantly.
4. **Seamless Coordination:** Automated alerts to forest and railway personnel ensure synchronized responses, preventing tragedies.



Impact of AI Cameras

Similipal Tiger Reserve

- In March 2025, six forest fire points were detected by AI towers and extinguished promptly, preventing major damage.
- Between 2024 and 2025, over 100 poaching-related alerts were generated. Based on AI evidence, more than 40 poachers were arrested in December 2024, many tracked down directly to their villages.

Rourkela Division

- On December 6, 2024, a herd of 28 elephants was monitored within Sonaparbat Reserved Forest. Five elephants, including a calf, strayed toward the Bondamunda–Barsuan railway track.
- The Dalakudhar tower instantly detected the movement and triggered alerts to the Unified Command and Control Centre.
- The Railway Department halted an oncoming train, allowing the elephants to cross safely.

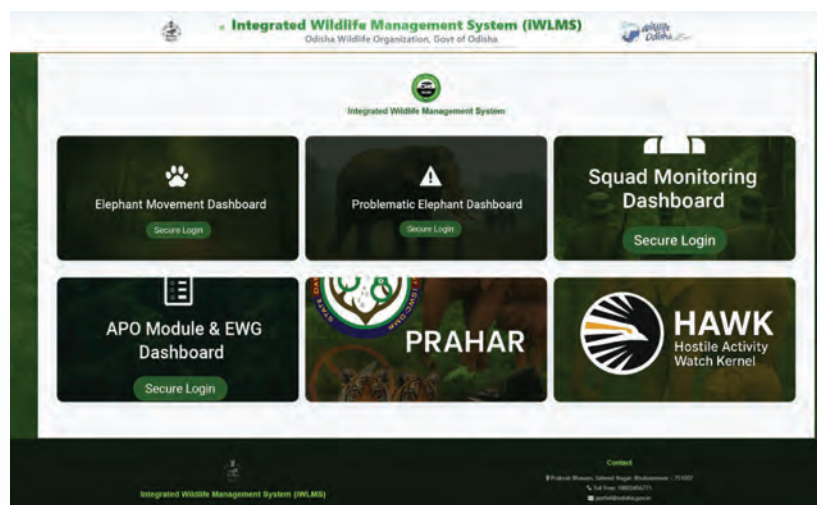
This single incident is emblematic of how AI not only safeguards wildlife but also facilitates inter-departmental synergy, demonstrating technology’s power to save lives on both sides of the human–wildlife divide.

Digital Pathways for Strengthening Conservation

While AI-enabled cameras and towers provide frontline surveillance, Odisha has also been steadily developing a comprehensive digital ecosystem to support decision-making, strengthen accountability, and streamline wildlife governance. These initiatives ensure that technology is embedded not only in protection but also in planning, monitoring, reporting, and enforcement.

1. Integrated Wildlife Management System (iWLMS)

The iWLMS portal is at the heart of Odisha's conservation digitization efforts. It brings together multiple functions under one unified digital platform:





- **Annual Plan of Operations (APO) Module**

All APO formats—across CAMPA, Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), and State Sector Schemes (SSS)—are compiled digitally. This ensures uniformity, transparency, and faster approval cycles.

- **Asset Management & GIS Integration**

The system houses an MIS (Management Information System) to record both movable and immovable assets created through wildlife schemes. It allows storage and retrieval of associated documents such as DPRs, technical sanctions, administrative approvals, completion certificates, and photographs.

Advanced GIS compatibility enables uploading polygons (KML files) of assets, giving spatial visibility of investments and infrastructure over time. This geo-tagging ensures accountability and provides a scientific basis for future planning.

- **Knowledge Repository:**

By storing before, during and after photographs, project plans, and sanction details, iWLMS becomes a digital memory bank of Odisha's conservation efforts.

2. Squad Reporting & Monitoring Module

Protecting wildlife requires constant vigilance on the ground. To digitize this process, Odisha has rolled out a specialized Squad Reporting & Monitoring System, seamlessly linked with the Wildlife Odisha Mobile App.

- **Squad Registration:** All squad leaders and their units are digitally registered under designated jurisdictions, ensuring traceability.
- **Field-Level Reporting:** Squad leaders use the mobile app both online and offline to submit observations on:
 1. Elephant sightings.
 2. Presence of other key species.
 3. Detection of traps or snares.
 4. Suspicious human activity or illegal entry.
- **Two-Level Monitoring:** Reports are directly visible at both Division and State Headquarters, enabling real-time oversight and quicker response.

This system ensures **evidence-based patrolling** and reduces the dependence on manual, paper-based records.

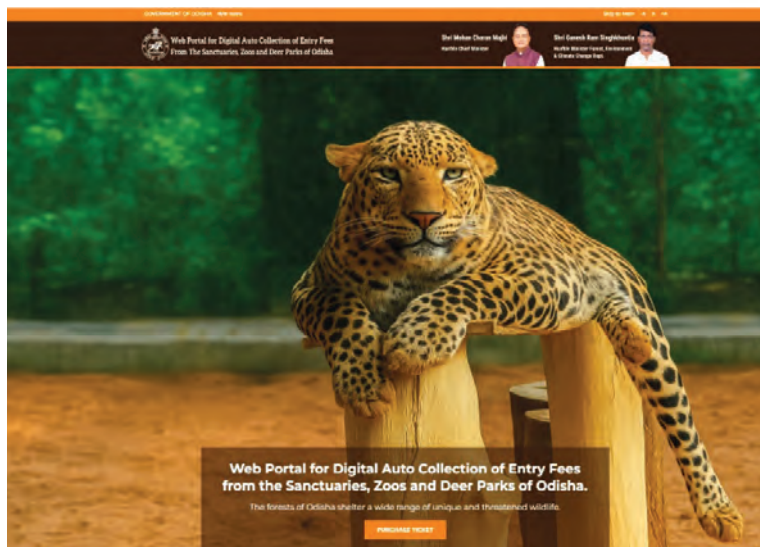
3. Automated Entry Ticketing Portal

Visitor management in Zoos, Sanctuaries, and National Parks has been modernized through a dedicated entry ticket portal.

- i. Supports online payments and instant e-ticket generation, making the process seamless for visitors.



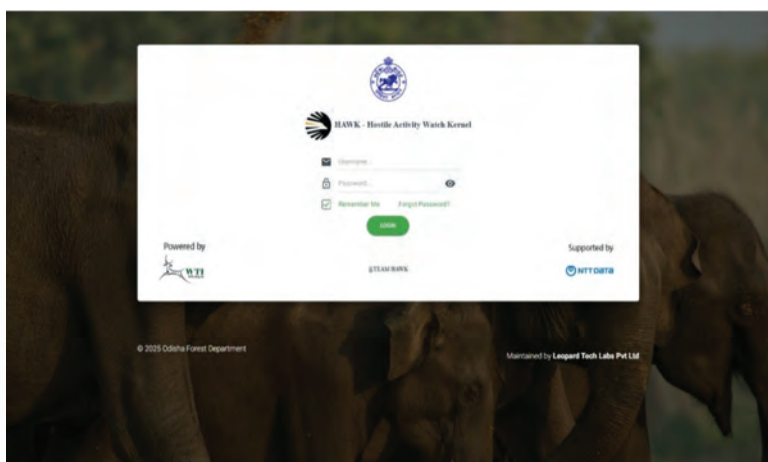
- ii. Reduces cash handling, curbs leakages, and ensures transparent revenue generation.
- iii. Provides a database of visitor profiles and footfall trends, which helps in planning eco-tourism strategies and visitor safety protocols.



4. HAWK (Hostile Activity Watch Kernel)

HAWK represents a game-changing innovation in wildlife law enforcement. Originally developed in Kerala, Odisha is now adopting and customizing this cloud-based, real-time crime monitoring platform.

- i. Comprehensive Case Tracking: Wildlife offence cases from poaching to illegal timber trade are digitally registered and tracked.
- ii. Crime Network Mapping: The system enables analysis of repeat offenders, their associates, and cross-district crime patterns, effectively unmasking organized poaching syndicates.
- iii. Real-Time Intelligence: Field officers gain access to live updates, ensuring quicker interdiction and follow-up action.
- iv. From Manual to Dynamic: HAWK replaces static registers with a data-driven, intelligence-led enforcement framework, marking a major leap in wildlife crime management.





5. PRAHAR

PRAHAR is a digital module for consolidating Monthly Progress Reports (MPRs) across the wildlife sector.

- i. Seamless Integration: PRAHAR will pull data automatically through APIs from ANUKAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund portal), HAWK, and iWLMS.
- ii. Eliminates Duplication: Earlier, divisions had to prepare multiple MPRs for different schemes. PRAHAR will unify them into a single, streamlined reporting process.
- iii. Data Analytics: It will provide dashboards to analyze trends in conservation activities, budget utilization, and field performance at Headquarter Level.



Anukampa 2.0 – Technology for Timely Compassionate Payment

Building on the foundation of timely and transparent relief for losses arising out of Huma-Wildlife Conflict, Anukampa 2.0 was launched on 25 June, 2025 as an upgraded version of Anukampa with enhanced features and improved accessibility. The platform is now available both as a web portal and mobile app, providing citizens of Odisha with a user-friendly interface for faster claim submission, verification, and direct benefit transfer to affected families.



Anukampa 2.0 portal is fully integrated with the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) to ensure that sanctioned compassionate grants are credited directly to the beneficiaries’ bank accounts by eliminating delays and minimizing errors.

Conclusion

The integration of AI and digital platforms represents a paradigm shift in Odisha’s conservation strategy. By marrying advanced technology with on-ground expertise, the state has developed a model that is both innovative and replicable.

From detecting forest fires in Similipal to preventing elephant-train collisions in Rourkela, Odisha has demonstrated that technology is not merely an accessory but a critical ally in conservation. With planned expansions into Satkosia and Debrigarh, the journey ahead is clear: to build a landscape where humans and wildlife coexist in safety, guided by the intelligence of technology and the commitment of people.



CHAPTER IX



PREVENTION OF WILDLIFE CRIME AND FUNCTIONING OF JOINT TASK FORCE

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF JOINT TASK FORCE (JTF)

The East-Central elephant landscape has experienced a steady increase in Human-Elephant Negative Interface over the past three decades, a situation that is reflected in Odisha as well. This growing interface has emerged as a serious concern in the State, resulting in significant loss of property and posing risks to both human lives and elephants every year. The intensification of this issue has also generated widespread public concern and resentment, leading to the filing of several Public Interest Litigations (PILs). In response, the Joint Task Force (JTF), comprising personnel from both the Forest and Police, was constituted on 13.09.2022 vide No. FE-WL-CASE-0009-2022/16368/FE & CC, pursuant to the Orders dated 08.08.2022 and 25.08.2022 of the Hon'ble High Court of Orissa in W.P.(C) PIL No. 14706 of 2022 (Gita Rout vs. State of Odisha and Others).

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF JTF PCCF (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha

Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife),
O/o PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha, Chairman JTF

Members

- One Dy. CF
- One SP/Addl. SP.
- Two ACFs
- Three Range Officers
- Two Inspectors of Police
- Three Sub- Inspectors of Police

Co-opted Members

- Prof. Raman Sukumar
(Asian Nature Conservation Foundation)
{Wildlife Expert}
- Sri Jitasatru Mohanty, IFS (Retd.),
(Save Elephant Foundation Trust)
{Wildlife Expert}
- Dr. Prajna Panda
(National Coordinator, Elephant Cell,
Project Elephant, MoEF&CC) {Wildlife Expert}
- Sri Aditya Chandra Panda
(Honorary Wildlife Warden, Angul District)
{Engaged voluntarily on wildlife issues}
- Sri Lalit Mohan Sahu
(Honorary Wildlife Warden, Deogarh District)
{Engaged voluntarily on wildlife issues}



Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP)

As per the directions of the Hon'ble High Court, Orissacommunicated vide order dated 25.08.2022, and reiterated through order dated 15.11.2022, a Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) was prepared. During the formulation of this plan, several key reference documents were considered in compliance with the Court's directions. These included the report on Elephant Carrying Capacity of Odisha's Forests submitted to the Odisha Forest Department by the Asian Nature Conservation Foundation in 2018, the draft Strategic Action Plan for Conservation of Elephants in the East Central Region with Special Emphasis on Mitigation of Human-Elephant Conflict prepared by the Drafting Committee for the Project Elephant Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change in 2021, and the Report of the Karnataka Elephant Task Force submitted to the High Court of Karnataka in September 2012. Additionally, the presentation made by Dr. Raman Sukumar, Hon. Professor, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Member of the National Board of Wildlife, and Member of the Joint Task Force, Government of Odisha, which was taken on record by the Hon'ble Court, also served as an important guiding document in the drafting of the CAP.

The CAP outlines 193 action points based on a 10-pillar strategy that includes: conflict mitigation, inter-departmental coordination, enforcement & prosecution, connectivity, people's participation, habitat management, wildlife health management, research, and monitoring. The plan adopts a zone-based approach, identifying four broad zones, namely: Elephant Conservation Zone, Elephant-Human Co-Existence Zone, Conflict Mitigation Zone, and Elephant Removal (Exclusion) Zone. It also incorporates a dedicated chapter on preventing both accidental and deliberate electrocution of elephants. While several action points under the CAP are already in progress, they require renewed focus, strengthening, expansion, and, most importantly, regular monitoring to ensure effective implementation.

The Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) was approved in its entirety by the High Power Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary, Odisha, and the approval was formally communicated through Letter No. FE-WL-CASE-0009-2022/3220/FE & CC dated 21.02.2023 of the Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department. Following this approval, an inception workshop on the implementation of the CAP for elephant conservation and mitigation of Human-Elephant Conflict in Odisha was organized on 09.03.2023 under the Chairmanship of the PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha, in virtual mode, with participation from all RCCFs and DFOs of the Territorial and Wildlife Divisions.

A state level monitoring Committee on Human-Wildlife conflict under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary has been constituted vide notification No. FE-WL-CASE-0009-2022-7824/FE&CC dated 17.04.2023. The first meeting of the above committee was held on 06-07-2023 in hybrid mode under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary. Further, District Level Human-Wildlife Mitigation Committees under the Chairmanship of District Collector has been constituted in all 30 districts of the state. Meeting of the said committee in different districts have already been conducted and minutes of the meetings are circulated to all quarters. In each Division; One Core Committee is formed to enhance people's participation in wildlife conservation consisting of the Honorary Wildlife Warden, NGOs, PRI Members, EDC & VSS members, Local influential people, Local MLAs & MPs.





As per the Terms of reference, the Joint Task Force is actively functioning and carrying out the following tasks.

a. To prevent, investigate and prosecute different cases of unnatural deaths of elephants including cases of poaching of tigers, leopards and illegal trade of pangolins.

1. The Division wise elephant movement data is being monitored by the team J.T.F. on daily basis through iWLMS and Whatsapp group data. Both the data (iWLMS & Whatsapp) and data from Control Room register are compared with each other and any discrepancy/ mismatch of report found, is being reported by J.T.F.
2. OSDMA is also requested to facilitate dissemination of alert/ warning messages regarding movement of elephant in vulnerable areas through Common Alerting Protocol (CAP). Accordingly, OSDMA developed one SOP for dissemination of alert/ warning messages on movement of elephant & other wild animals through Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) platform and shared the same for implementation.
3. Sources are being planted by JTF for obtaining intelligence across the state and in the last consecutive years 09 no. of cases involving trade of different animals are instituted.
4. Meetings with DISCOMs were conducted regarding formulation of an Action Plan for elephant protection and preventing electrocution deaths as per the Order dated 09-05-2023 of the Hon'ble High Court in WP (C) PIL No. 14706 of 2022 and strengthening of electrical infrastructure in elephant movement areas to prevent electrocution death of elephants.
5. Regular co-ordination with railway control rooms situated at Khordha and Sambalpur is done by JTF.
6. The State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) has been requested to involve PRIs in creating awareness as mitigation measures of Human-Wildlife Conflict and to include some of the mitigation measures in GPDG prepared by the GPs, JTF shared awareness material in vernacular language to SIRD. Accordingly, SIRD directed all the CDO-cum-EO-Zilla Parishad of all the Districts to include the training material in training program of Sarpanches.
7. A data base of mahouts engaged for captive elephants in different Division is created by JTF and included in the CAP.
8. Also, a database of interstate migrating elephants from 2015 is prepared by JTF.
9. Regular Co-ordination meetings are being conducted with DISCOMs, WCCB, Railway authorities, NHA and other authorities.
10. Likewise, the meeting with STF being held to have co-ordination between JTF and STF in sharing of intelligence, Joint Enforcement Activities, Mutual sharing of dossiers of habitual offenders, liaising with WCCB to trace forward linkage in Wildlife crimes.
11. Inter-state co-ordination meetings with bordering states is being conducted along with WCCB for sharing of intelligence and to track crimes of criminals having interstate ramifications.





12. A Wildlife Offence Database and a crime dossier of all persons arrested / forwarded during last 20 years have been prepared with the available data from different divisions for all the wildlife offences. These are being up to date on regular basis.
13. At least one member of JTF remains present at the time of postmortem of unnatural death of elephants, tigers, leopards and pangolins for ensuring proper investigation to its reason of death. Since inception 180 numbers of cases have been attended.
14. JTF is ensuring that proper and uniform procedure of investigation is followed in each cases as per the existing provisions of law.
15. Forenriching the case records submitted before the honorable courts and for enhancing the rate of conviction, vetting of case records is being carried out by the JTF. Till date 46 number of records were called for inspection out of which 42 were vetted for final submission.
16. Joint operations are being conducted with WCCB, DRI and other agencies.
17. Enforcement Directorate is being involved for investigation of financial matter i.e. proceeds of crime.

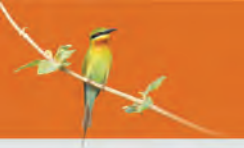
b. To monitor the trials of wildlife cases in the courts of law.

1. JTF is monitoring trial in all cases involving elephants, tigers, leopards and pangolins. In 339 number of cases trial monitoring was carried out.

c. To provide handholding to the field officials on prevention, control and investigation of the wildlife related offences.

1. Training is being conducted for all DFOs and one IOs from each division on intelligence gathering, Crime investigation and other related matters.
2. Training programs are conducted by JTF members at training institutes like Odisha Forest Rangers College, Angul, Forester Training schools for the induction trainees and the in service trainees
3. Sensitization trainings are being conducted at Division levels and Circle levels for the officers of our department on Wildlife Crime investigation and prosecution.
4. JTF is providing CDR, TDR, Live tracking details in timely manner.
5. JTF is monitoring on weekly basis all the wildlife cases relating to elephants, tigers, leopards and pangolins for taking cognizance and stating of trial.
6. The offence cases involving wildlife are being reviewed by the PCCF (WL) & CWLW on monthly basis.
7. JTF is monitoring the receipt of essential report like Necropsy report, lab reports, report from authorities for ensuring proper investigation and timely submission of Prosecution Report.
8. JTF is liaising with the State Forensic Science laboratory, Centre for Wildlife Health, OUAT, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, CCMB, Hyderabad, WII, Dehradun for sending





of samples for analysis followed by report on ballistic opinion, Physical and Chemical analysis, Conductivity tests, Species identification, DNA profiling, histopathology and other analysis as per requirement.

9. As per recommendation of JTF One Retired SP is appointed as Wildlife Crime Investigation Expert in the O/o PCCF (WL) for providing handholding support to the IOs and monitoring of cases.
10. JTF is monitoring the electrocution death cases closely and ensuring presence of Electrical Inspector or Deputy Electrical inspector for independent enquiry in presence of DISCOM staff and ensures submission of report of concerned Electrical Inspector.
11. JTF is monitoring all the wildlife cases involving elephants, tigers, leopards and pangolins from time of detection to trial in court with handholding support in detection, evidence collection, leading to discovery, crime scene recreation, chain of custody and all other aspects. Since inception, the JTF has given hand holding support in 231 Wildlife offence cases in different divisions across the state.
12. A list of guidelines, advisories, SOPs, Sample Prosecution Reports, prescribed formats have been issued by JTF to the Divisions to be followed during course of enquiry, investigation and prosecution from time to time.
13. JTF is developing one handbook for crime investigation, which will be a guide book for the Investigating officers and supervisory officers.

d. To identify the preventive and remedial measures and prepare the Comprehensive Action Plan for checking the wildlife crimes including poaching and man-animal conflict for implementation by the State

1. One Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) has been prepared by JTF, approved by the Government and being implemented across the state.
2. Affidavits have been filed by Chairman, JTF and Additional S.P, member, JTF in the Hon'ble High Court related to W.P. (C) PIL No. 14706 of 2022 (Gita Rout vrs. State of Odisha and Others) and the JTF members also attended the hearings of the said PIL virtually as per the orders of Hon'ble High Court

e. To advise on wildlife related issues.

1. JTF moved file to Government for appointment of special Public Prosecutor for conducting the prosecution on behalf of state for dealing the cases under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and the same is under consideration.
2. JTF moved file to Government for designating the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate or Addl. CJM for the cases under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The same was approved and notified in the Gazette of Odisha on 21st October 2024
3. JTF moved file to Government for state amendment in Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for stringent bail provisions.



4. The Joint Task Force initiated the file for declaration of Centre for Wildlife Health as scientific expert. The Centre's Project Coordinator, Co-Project Coordinator, Project Scientist, and Senior Project Associate have been declared as Government Scientific Experts under Section 329 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.
5. JTF moved file to Government for amendment in Wildlife Protection Odisha Rules 1974, with standardized forms and the same was approved as Wildlife Protection Odisha Rules 2025 and new forms inserted as Form No 26 to 35.
6. One HAWK portal in place for updating case records to maintain the chain of custody plans and is underway for integrating the scientific experts with the HAWK portal. In future the same may be linked with e-courts.



Field Enquiry of JTF members in Athagarh Forest Division



Interaction of JTF members with Gajasathi members



Capacity building training of field staff at Angul





Capacity building training of field staff at Angul





WILDLIFE OFFENCE CASES BOOKED AND ACCUSED ARRESTED

Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 is the umbrella legislation for wildlife conservation, protection and enforcement in the country. The prime responsibility of its implementation is with the States.

The details of the wildlife offence cases booked and accused arrested in the State of Odisha are as follows:

No of wildlife Offence Cases booked and Accused Arrested from 2015-16 to 2024-25 (10 Years)

Year	Animal	No of O R cases booked	No of Accused Arrested & Forwarded to Court
2015-16	Elephant	8	56
	Other animal	230	649
	Total	238	705
2016-17	Elephant	7	14
	Other animal	262	523
	Total	269	537
2017-18	Elephant	8	11
	Other animal	248	463
	Total	256	474
2018-19	Elephant	17	38
	Other animal	310	1236
	Total	327	1274
2019-20	Elephant	11	30
	Other animal	152	324
	Total	163	354
2020-21	Elephant	26	42
	Other animal	270	567
	Total	296	609
2021-22	Elephant	16	50
	Others	313	600
	Total	329	622
2022-23	Elephant	56	120
	Others	347	665
	Total	403	785
2023-24	Elephant	31	94
	Others	370	1088
	Total	401	1182
2024-25	Elephant	47	116
	Other animal	407	1056
	Total	454	1172
Grand Total		3136	7742



WILDLIFE CRIME CONTROL

In Similipal South WL Division, Baripada, stringent measures are in place to combat wildlife crime. Regular patrolling, intelligence gathering, and swift enforcement actions have led to the arrest of accused individuals involved in illegal activities such as poaching and timber smuggling. Seized items include weapons, animal parts, illegal timber, and other contraband materials. The establishment of a dedicated Crime Investigation Cell has further strengthened case tracking and prosecution. These efforts play a crucial role in deterring wildlife offenses and ensuring the protection of biodiversity within the Similipal Tiger Reserve.



Arrest of the accused whose photos were captured in the camera while committing the wildlife crime



156 Protection Activity, Similipal area



157 Arrest of the accused whose photos were captured in the camera while committing the wildlife crime, Similipal area



158 Arrest of the accused whose photos were captured in the camera while committing the wildlife crime, Similipal area



Poachers Captured on AI Camera, Similipal area



Arms Training for Forest personnel of Angul Forest Division



CHAPTER X

ECOTOURISM

INTRODUCTION

Odisha's diverse ecosystems host rich biodiversity, including unique flora and fauna across multiple bio-geographic zones. The state safeguards its wildlife through two National Parks, two Tiger Reserves, three Elephant Reserves, one Biosphere Reserve and 19 Wildlife Sanctuaries, while Chilika, Bhitarkanika, Hirakud, Ansupa, Satkosia and Tampara wetlands are recognized as Ramsar Sites of international importance. Eco-tourism showcases this natural and cultural wealth while supporting local livelihoods. Public participation is vital to protect wildlife, sustain ecosystems and respect local traditions, ensuring both conservation and economic growth.



Panoramic view of Mahendragiri



Background

The Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department (Wildlife Organization) is the Nodal Agency for Ecotourism in Odisha. To involve forest-dependent communities in conservation, the Department introduced Community-Based Ecotourism in 2011-12, which gained momentum from 2016-17 onwards. Forest dependent Communities are made stakeholders, receiving the major share of Ecotourism revenue. The scheme provides sustainable livelihood to rural households around forests and wildlife areas through responsible tourism. Online booking for night stay, safari and boating is available at www.ecotourodisha.com.



Nrusinghnath Nature Camp, Bargarh



Chittrakonda Nature Camp, Malkangiri



Sidhamula Nature Camp, Nayagarh



Daringbadi Nature Camp, Balliguda





Dangamal Nature Camp, Bhitarkanika



Deomali nature camp, Koraput





New Ecotourism Destinations

1. Jakam Nature Camp at Kalahandi District

Nestled within the serene Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary under the Kalahandi South Forest Division, Jakam Nature Camp offers an immersive eco-tourism experience. Situated close to Bhawanipatna, the district headquarters, the camp is easily accessible via State Highway 44. With six double-bedded eco-cottages and a dining hall, the camp provides a comfortable retreat amidst nature. Entirely powered by solar energy, the cottages are equipped with air coolers instead of air-conditioning, ensuring sustainability while meeting essential visitor needs.

The camp is conveniently connected through Bhawanipatna Railway Station and Utkela Airport, making it an accessible destination for travellers. Visitors can also explore a range of nearby attractions, including the scenic Phulijharan and Ravandhara Waterfalls, the revered Manikeswari Temple, the historic Asurgarh Fort at Narla, the tranquil Bhatra Dam at Junagarh, the ancient Belkhandi Shiv Temple and the picturesque viewpoint at Thuamul Rampur (Hello Point).



Jakam Nature Camp



2. Mahendragiri at Paralakhemundi of Gajapati District

Mahendragiri Hill, the second-highest peak of Odisha at 4,925 feet, stands as a majestic landmark in Gajapati district. Steeped in mythology, it is believed to have sheltered the meditations of Lord Parashurama and the Pandavas during their exile. The hill is dotted with ancient temples dedicated to Lord Shiva, Parashurama and Yudhisthira, making it a spiritual as well as natural retreat. The hill's forests are rich in biodiversity, home to rare species such as the Golden Gecko and a wide range of medicinal plants. Its rugged trails lead to breathtaking views of sunrise, sunset, and the distant coastline, offering unique opportunities for trekking, nature walks, yoga, and stargazing.

To facilitate eco-tourism, 07 beautifully designed wooden cottages and 03 dormitories provide comfortable accommodation, each equipped with attached Western-style bathrooms and modern amenities. The eco-resort also features a restaurant serving authentic local vegetarian cuisine, landscaped lawns, a children's park, and a well-equipped conference hall for workshops, seminars, and guided awareness programmes on biodiversity and medicinal plants.

Visitors can enjoy a variety of activities, including cycling, trekking with trained eco-guides, bonfires, indoor and outdoor games, and cultural evenings. The site is particularly appealing to wildlife photographers, bird watchers, researchers, writers, and nature enthusiasts. Nearby attractions such as Gandahati Waterfall, Chandragiri Monastery, Taptapani Hot Spring, Ghodahada Dam, Paralakhemundi Palace, and Jiranga Monastery further enrich the travel experience, making Mahendragiri an ideal destination blending spirituality, adventure, and ecological learning.



Mahendragiri Nature Camp





3. Talabandha Nature Camp – A New Gem in Similipal

Located in Chakidi village, Mayurbhanj, Talabandha Nature Camp is an emerging eco-destination set amidst Similipal’s hill ranges and lush paddy fields. The camp features 10 Maharaja Luxury Tents, a children’s park, dining hall, reception area and modern bathrooms—all offering comfort with unique style.

Famed for its Talabandha Mango Orchard within the park, the camp invites eco-tourists to enjoy a lavish night stay surrounded by nature’s splendor. It is easily accessible via the Bangriposhi route, about 50–60 km away.



Talabandha Nature Camp, Similipal(N)



Ecotourism Destinations (with accommodation facility for night stay)

District	Forest Division	Nature Camps	Destination
Mayurbhanj	Similipal North (WL)	Similipal Nature Camps	Gurguria
			Jamuani
			Kumari
			Ramatirtha
			Barehipani
Nayagarh	Mahandi (WL)	Satkosia Sand Resorts	Satkosia Sand Resort (Badmul)
	Nayagarh (T)	Sidhamula Nature Camp	Sidhamula
Kendrapada	Rajnagar (WL)	Bhitarkanika Nature Camps	Dangmal
			Gupti
			Habalikhati
Angul	Satkosia (WL)	Satkosia Nature Camps	Baghamunda
			Chhotkei
			Purunakote
			Tarava
			Tikarpada
Bargarh	Hirakud (WL)	Debrigarh Nature Camp	Debrigarh
	Bargarh (T)	Nrusinghnath Nature Camp	Nrusinghnath
Kandhamal	Baliguda (T)	Daringbadi Nature Camp	Daringbadi
	Phulbani (T)	Phulbani Nature Camp	Phulbani
			Mandasaru Valley
Puri	Puri (WL)	Nuanai Nature Camp	Nuanai
		Mangrove Retreat Nature Camp	Mangrove Retreat
	Chilika (WL)	Chilika Nature Camps	Rajhans
			Berhampura
			Mangalajodi
Khordha	Chandaka (WL)	Chandaka Nature Camps	Deras
	Khordha (T)	Barbera Nature Camp	Berbera
Balasore	Balasore (WL)	Bichitrapur Nature Camp	Bichitrapur
		Chandipur Nature Camp	Chandipur
		Rissia Nature Camp	Rissia
Sundergarh	Bonai (T)	Khandadhar Nature Camp	Khandadhar
		Tensa Nature Camp	Tensa
	Sundergarh (T)	Sarafgarh Nature Camp	Sarafgarh
Keonjhar	Keonjhar (T)	Sanghagra Nature Camp	Sanghagara

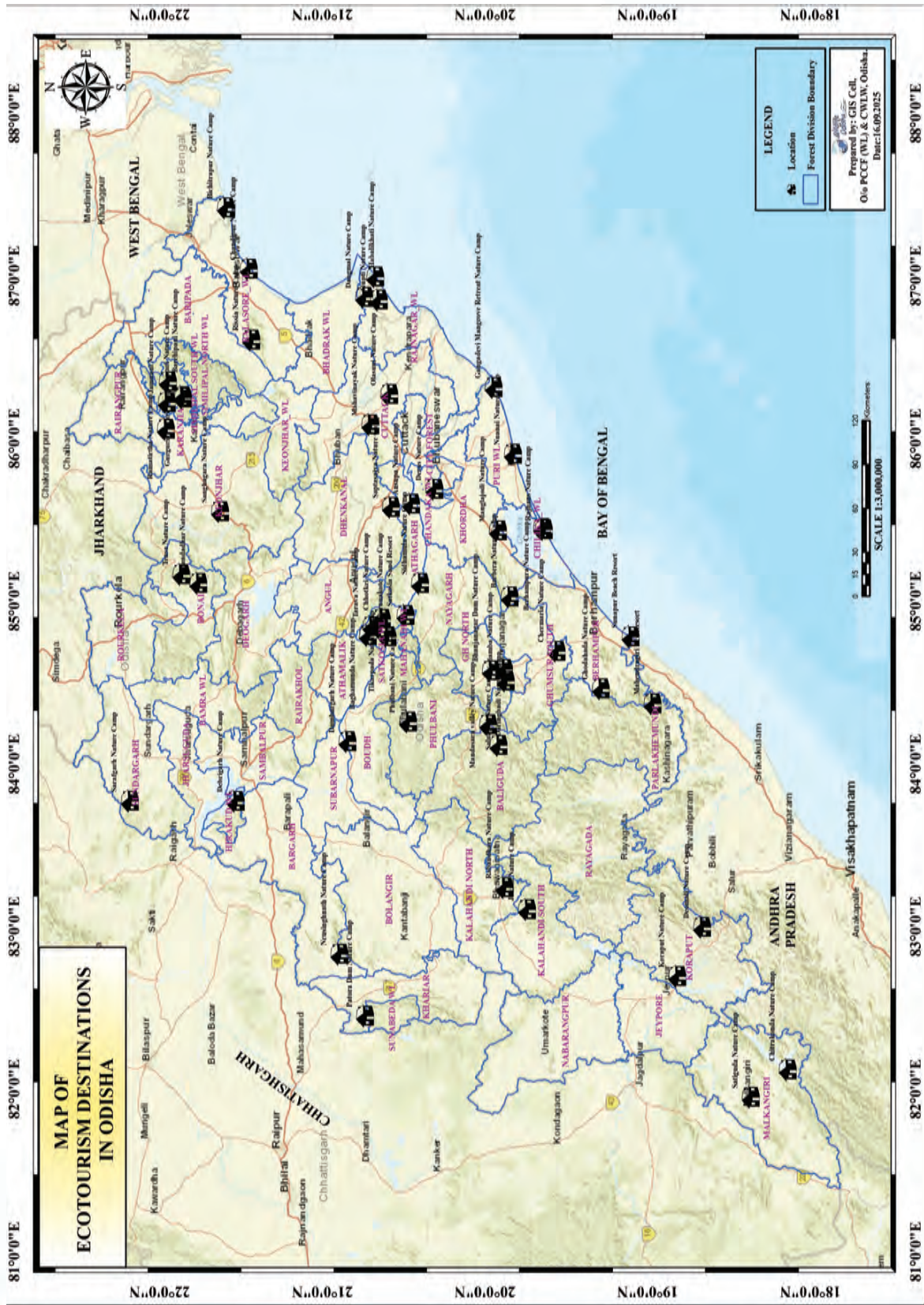


Ganjam	Ghumsur North (T)	Giant Squirrel Nature Camp	Kaliamba
		Blackbuck Nature Camps	Saluapali
	Ghumsur South (T)		Bhanjanagar Dam
			Chermaria
Berhampur (T)		Ghodahada Nature Camp	Ghodahada
		Sonapur Beach Resort	Sonapur Beach Resort
Cuttack	Athgarh (T)	Ansupa Nature Camp	Ansupa
	Cuttack (T)	Mahavinayak Nature Camp	Mahavinayak
Jajpur		Olasuni Nature Camp	Olasuni
Dhenkanal	Dhenkanal (T)	Saptasajya Nature Camp	Saptasajya
Malkangiri	Malkangiri (T)	Chitrakonda Nature Camp	Chitrakonda
		Satiguda Nature Camp	Satiguda
Nuapada	Khariar (T)	Patora Dam Nature Camp	Patora Dam
Kalahandi	Kalahandi North	Rabandhara Nature Camp	Rabandhara
Boudh	Boudh (T)	Dambargarh Nature Camp	Dambargarh
Kalahandi	Kalahandi(S)	Jakam Nature Camp	Jakam
Gajapati	Paralekhemundi	Mahendragiri Nature Camp	Mahendragiri
Koraput	Koraput(T)	Koraput Nature Camp	Pine Forest
		Deomali Nature Camp	Deomali

New Ongoing Ecotourism Destinations

Forest Division	District	Destination
Similipal (N)	Mayurbhanj	Nawana
		Talabandha
Satkosia (WL)	Angul	Baliput
Karanjia	Mayurbhanj	Deo Reservoir





Map of Ecotourism Destinations

Strengthening Community participation and Capacity building of local community i.e. EDC/ VSS / ETG members for management of Ecotourism

Ecotourism in the State is managed through a community-based approach, with primary emphasis on training village communities for effective management of Nature Camps. Training programmes are being organized by the Institute of Hotel Management (IHM), Bhubaneswar for members of EDC/ VSS/ ETG. These programmes focus on capacity building, skill development and exposure visits covering areas such as hospitality, housekeeping, sanitation, cleanliness, communication skills, food preparation, check-in and check-out protocols, eco-guiding, and related aspects to ensure better management of Ecotourism in the State.

Training programme through Institute of Hotel Management, Bhubaneswar



Capacity Building Training at Mangrove Retreat Nature Camp





Ecotourism Cell & City Booking Centre

The Ecotourism Cell is functioning in the Ground Floor of PrakrutiBhawan, Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, Bhubaneswar. The Professional Consultants such as Sales & Marketing Executive, Hospitality & Project Manager from Odisha Forest Development Corporation Ltd. are working for monitoring online booking, maintenance and hand holding support for management of ecotourism destinations in the State. For better facility and easy access by the tourists, installation of POS machine and QR Code for Cashless transactions have been provided at Ecotourism Cell.

Email: contact@ecotourodisha.com, support@ecotourodisha.com

Phone Numbers: 0674-2549553/2549558 (10 AM to 6 PM on Working Days)

08249640359/09861806741 (10 am - 10 pm except Sunday)

Contact Numbers of Individual Ecotourism destinations with Site Managers, support staff, and ETG have been displayed in www.ecotourodisha.com





Activities

Activities like Cycling, Canopy Walk, Birding, Trekking, Boating, Kayaking, Burma Bridge, Selfie Points, Children Play Area Commando Tower and Jungle Safari are managed by local communities in eco-tourism destinations. Eco-guide service (person acquainted with local trees, herbs, birds, animals etc. from the community) is available in all Nature Camps. Display of wildlife movies, Souvenir Shops, Observation Points for sighting wild animals are functioning in different Eco-tour sites.



Cycling at Sanaghagra, Keonjhar



Luxury Cruising at Hirakud



Boating at Satiguda, Malkangiri Division



Jungle Safari at Debrigarh Nature Camp





Boating Jetty at Debrigarh



Kayaking, Hirakud (WL) Division



Skywalk at Dangamal Nature Camp, Bhitarkanika Mangrove (WL) Division





Income and Visitor footfall from 2016-17 to 2025-26 (till 6th Sept, 25)

Year	Income (In lakhs)	Visitors		
		Indian	Non-Indian	Total
2016-17	156.12	11463	36	11,499
2017-18	340.14	17108	40	17148
2018-19	556.74	24666	106	24,772
2019-20	658.16	30685	99	30,784
2020-21	832.27	56951	11	56,962
2021-22	1051.43	70205	11	70,216
2022-23	1379.12	131969	84	1,32,053
2023-24	1517.05	151413	104	1,51,517
2024-25	1911.89	170289	76	1,70,365
2025-26 (upto 6th Sept, 25)	515.53	45005	23	45,028

Income Sharing Mechanism:

Components	% Share	Purpose
ETG Wage Salary	35 %	Shared by Management Committee of the Community towards wages
Recurring Expenses	25 %	For day to day expenses & management of Nature Camps. (Fooding of visitors, fuel, electricity, sanitation, etc.)
Infrastructure Development	10 %	Maintenance, Improvement in infrastructures etc.
EDC Share	10 %	For developmental works in local villages
Corpus Fund	20%	Salary of Hospitality Experts engaged in different Ecotourism Destinations & for promotions of Ecotourism and Major Maintenance work
Total	100 %	

Community members working in different Ecotourism destinations:

Above 700 local community members are now managing 53 Ecotourism destinations all over the State & earning their livelihood, majority of them are rural women and tribals. All the community members have been trained on hospitality & other need based capacity building training for proper management of the destinations. They play different roles in management of Nature Camps i.e., housekeeping, food & beverage service, accounting, store, reception, cooking, cleaning, hygiene and eco-guide etc.





Community Members training Camp at Mangrove Retreat, Gangadevi Astaranga



Happy Tourists - Safari ride at Debrigarh Nature Camp





Publicity

For promotion of Ecotourism at Odisha Travel Bazar, workshops were organized at Swosti Premium, Bhubaneswar in coordination with the Tourism Department, and an Ecotour Exhibition was held at UtkalMandap, Bhubaneswar. Publicity initiatives also include regular social media campaigns through platforms such as Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. In addition, short videos on Wildlife and Ecotourism are being displayed on LED screens at prominent locations across the capital city.



ETG Community Members at Sarafgarh Nature Camp



ETG Community Members at Tarava Nature Camp



Evening View of Sunset at Forest



CHAPTER XI



ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS & AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL SCRUTINIZED BY RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC) DURING 2024-2025.

The Research Advisory Committee (RAC) has been constituted vide this Office Order No.4623 Dt. 04.06.2015 in the State Wildlife Organisation office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) is the Chairman of this Committee. The committee review wildlife research activities, identify priority areas for wildlife research works, scrutinize and recommend the research proposals in the wildlife sector. During 2024-25, the RAC scrutinized and recommended the following research proposals:

Sl No	Title of the Project	Date of Approval	Status
1	Strengthening Ecological monitoring and management for mangroves in Bhitarkanika mangrove, Odisha	30.05.2024	Recommended by RAC
2	Study on diversity of Lichens in Similipal Biosphere Reserve and Evaluation of their antimicrobial and antioxidant activity for pharmaceutical application	30.05.2024	Recommended by RAC
3	Flora and Ethnobotany of Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Bargarh District, Odisha	30.05.2024	Recommended by RAC
4	Diversity and Ecology of Moths (Lepidoptera: Insecta) of Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary, India	30.05.2024	Recommended by RAC
5	Study on floral diversity of Mahanadi river areas in Cuttack, Angul and Nayagarh Districts, Odisha	30.05.2024	Recommended by RAC
6	Conservation and propagation of Diospyros species in Odisha	20.08.2024	Recommended by RAC
7	Study on the status, diversity and population structure of Ichthyofauna in Similipal Tiger Reserve, Odisha	20.08.2024	Recommended by RAC
8	Survey for the documentation of faunal diversity of Balukhand-Konark Wildlife Sanctuary, Odisha	20.08.2024	Recommended by RAC





MAJOR RESEARCH INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN BY THE WILDLIFE ORGANIZATION OF ODISHA FOREST DEPARTMENT

1. Re-initiation of Satellite Telemetry programme on Olive Ridley Sea turtles in Odisha coast

- After a gap of 15-years, the Odisha Forest Department and Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun (WII) have resumed satellite-tagging Olive Ridley turtles at Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary.
- This initiative aims to track their post-nesting migration and near shore habitat use, providing crucial data to strengthen long-term conservation management for the Threatened species in the East Coast.
- Mou has been signed in between Wildlife Organisation, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and Dhamra Port for conducting satellite telemetry study on Olive Ridley Sea turtles in Odisha coast with the funding support of Dhamra Port Company Limited under CSR programme.

2. Satellite Telemetry of Flamingoes of Chilika

- Being a flagship species of Chilika lagoon, two Greater flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) are fitted with lightweight satellite transmitters (solar-powered GSM-GPS transmitters) on 7th and 8th January 2025 to study their migration, habitat utilization pattern.
- This research, led by the Forest Department and Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, tracks their long-distance flight paths, breeding grounds and stopover sites after they left Chilika, providing crucial data for their conservation along the Central Asian Flyway.



Greater flamingos fitted with lightweight satellite transmitters at Chilika under Chilika Wildlife Division.

3. Long term research and conservation interventions in and around Tiger Reserves of Odisha.

The Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun was submitted a proposal for conducting research study under the Project “Long term research and conservation interventions in and around Tiger Reserves of Odisha” with budget layout of Rs.4,99,65,784/



- for five years. An amount of Rs.99,36,960/- was released in favour of the Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun for the conducting the 1st year study and the interim report of the above study is awaited.

4. Creation of ICUN species survival Centre for Asian Elephants being created at Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary.

A species survival centre for Asian Elephant is going to be established at Godibari, Chandaka Wildlife Division in collaboration with IUCN Species Survival Commission, Wildlife Wing and the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI).

AWARENESS PROGRAMME

Sweet Memories of observation of different days in Photographs

A. Chilika Bird Festival (08.01.2025)



B. World Wetland Day (02.02.2025)





C. World Pangolin Day (15.02.2025)



D. World Wildlife Day (03.03.2025)



E. World Veterinary Day (26.04.2025)



F. World Environment Day (05.06.2025)



G. World Crocodile Day 2025 : One day workshop on "Conservation of Crocodiles" (20.06.2025)



H. Van Mahotsav (01.07.2025-07.07.2025)





I. International Tiger Day (29.07.2025)



J. World Lion Day (10.08.2024)



K. World Elephant Day (12.08.2024)



L. 70th Wildlife Week (02.10.2024-08.10.2024)



M. 65th Foundation Day (07.01.2025)





OTHER ACTIVITIES OF NANDANKANAN

Keepers Talk



Great Backyard Bird Count 2025



Sunday Bird Walks



Health Checkup Camps



Nandankanan Sports Meet



Internship Programme at Nandankanan





Zoo Outreach Programme at Schools



One Day at Nandankanan



Swachhata Hi Seva-Cleanliness Drive



Awareness Activities under Keonjhar (Wildlife) Division



Flagging off the Forest fire awareness vehicle by the Hon'ble MLA, Anandapur in Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur



To ensure socio-economic stability and ecological harmony, a comprehensive Sustainable Livelihood Support Program has been launched for the relocated families at Dhenka of Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur.



Forest Fire Awareness Meeting in Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur



TRAINING OF GAJA SATHI



Latitude: 21.20768
Longitude: 85.921287
Elevation: 122.76±100 m
Accuracy: 8.1 m
Time: 02-12-2025 12:42

Training Programme of Gaja Sathi in Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur

CATTLE IMMUNIZATION



21.517748
86.021589
339.25±37.5 m
13.46 m
01-2025 07:37



89715
1.954955
5.08±100 m
m
024 08:11



Latitude: 21.253817
Longitude: 86.221402
Elevation: 142.97±14 m
Accuracy: 1.8 m
Time: 04-02-2025 07:13
Note: kathakata village.

Vaccination programs in different forest fringe Villages of Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur



SANITIZATION OF WATER BODY



Dis-infection of water bodies under Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur as a pre-emptive measure for spreading of communicable diseases to wild animals

CELEBRATION OF WILDLIFE WEEK



Sit & Draw Competition in Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur

PROTECTION DUTY



Anti-Poaching Barrack at Badajhad under Brahmanipal Wildlife Range of Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur



Protection Duties by Staff of Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur



PROVIDING ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD OPTION TO THE RELOCATED VILLAGERS AT DHENKA UNDER KEONJHAR WILDLIFE DIVISION, ANANDAPUR

AWARENESS PROGRAMMES UNDER SIMILIPAL SOUTH WILDLIFE DIVISION

Multiple targeted awareness initiatives are implemented in Similipal South WL Division, Baripada to promote community engagement and conservation awareness. The UNMADANA programme serves as a cultural platform to connect people with nature. Health camps and vaccination drives, including malaria screening for forest staff, promote well-being among frontline workers. Cleanliness drives with active community involvement reinforce the importance of hygiene and environmental responsibility.

Environmental Education Programmes (EEP) are regularly conducted in schools and villages to raise ecological awareness. Special outreach efforts such as cattle grazers' meetings and gun surrender drives encourage sustainable coexistence with wildlife and reduce human-wildlife conflict. Celebrations of key environmental events-like 50 years of Project Crocodile, World Environment Day, Global Tiger Day, and Wildlife Week-feature school-level competitions including quizzes, essays, and drawing contests. Additionally, the death anniversary of Shahid Mathy Hansdah is observed with reverence, honoring local sacrifice and inspiring collective responsibility for conservation.





Different Awareness Programme



Gun Surrender



Gun Surrender





Distribution of Umbrellas to Cattle Graziers by Hon'ble MLA Bangriposi, Miss Sanjali Murmu at Balidiha



Cattle Graziers and PRI Memebrs at the Gai Charali Sabha, Balidiha.



Cattle Graziers receiving umbrellas from the Deputy Director, Similipal South WL Division at Podadiha.



Cattle graziers and PRI members at the Gai Charali Sabha, Balidiha.



Cattle graziers receiving umbrellas from Range Officer, Podadiha WL Range, at the Gai Charali Sabha, Kirkichpal (Daleisahi)



Cattle graziers and PRI members at the Gai Charali Sabha, Kirkichpal (Daleisahi)



Exposure Visits and awareness programs for children from fringe village schools under the UNMADANA Programme



Health Camp & Malaria Screening in the core



Cleanliness drive-Eco-Tourism/Eco-Development Activities by community



Awareness Programme



Awareness & Exposure visit of children from schools of fringe villages under UNMADANA PROGRAMME



Awareness & Exposure visit





UNMADANA PROGRAMME



Residential Awareness & Exposure visit of children from schools of fringe villages under the Environment Education Programme of CES



Residential Awareness & Exposure visit of children from schools of fringe villages under the Environment Education Programme of CES



Celebration of 50 Years of Project Crocodiles



Celebration of World Environment Day



Celebration of Global Tiger Day-School level competition



Celebration of Wildlife Week-School level competition



Celebration of Global Tiger Day- Competition



Celebration of 50Years of Project Crocodiles

Death anniversary of Saheed Mathy



IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES TAKEN UP UNDER CHILIKA WILDLIFE DIVISION

Biodiversity Conservation

Complete protection is provided to the Chilika Lagoon Ecosystem to conserve the ecological integrity and tranquility of the area for future scientific and ecological studies. It also aims to promote scope of Nesting, Breeding, Shelter and Food supply to Birds in the Sanctuary and preventing biotic disturbance.

Proper monitoring of the Migratory Birds is being done on a day-to-day basis and an extensive basic data collection is being done for initiating and conducting management oriented research, giving special emphasis to the endangered species.



Awareness Camps, Training Camps and Health Camps are organized by the division around the Chilika Lagoon.





Films and Documentaries

A number of Documentaries have been shot inside the Sanctuary prior to its declaration as a Sanctuary. The Sanctuary has also been covered well by the Electronic Media. Now the shooting / documentaries are carried throughout the lagoon excluding the Sanctuary portion. During the year 2003-04 documentaries on the nesting of “Olive Ridley Sea Turtles” and “Birds on Chilika” have been made. Chilika Development Authority has made a documentary video titled “Chilika, Jewel of Odisha” and others have documented the Biodiversity of Sanctuary during 2012-13 commissioned by the Tourism Department.



Latitude: 19.689693
Longitude: 85.294895
Altitude: -37.3±19 m
Accuracy: 7.4 m
Time: 19-11-2024 09:42

Deweeding of Salicornia densemat in Chilika WL



Latitude: 19.939584
Longitude: 85.535528
Elevation: -12.44±11 m

Awareness programme on Protection of Migratory Birds in Chilika



DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES UNDER PURI WILDLIFE DIVISION



Latitude: 19°49'55"



Latitude: 19°49'40"
Longitude: 85°51'59"
Elevation: 19.4194 m

Installation of Sign Board





Creation of Saucer Pit inside Balighai PRF



Cattle Immunization Camp



Renovation of water body inside Balukhanda-Konark WL Sanctuary





Installation of Signages



Maintenance of Meadow

Maintenance of Salt Lick



Awareness Programme 2025 about Olive Ridley Sea Turtle and Marine Mammals Odisha Coast





Awareness activity on Olive Ridley Sea Turtles and Marine Mammals (Dolphin) during March, 2025

BERHAMPUR FOREST DIVISION



Mass hatchlings of Olive Ridley Turtles, Podampetta Beach 2025 all set for a new journey inside the Ocean at Berhampur Forest Division



Arribada of female Olive Ridley Turtles, Podampetta Beach 2025, Berhampur Forest Division



Blackbuck in cohabitation with Humans, Berhampur Forest Division



CHAPTER XII



ACHIEVERS IN THE FIELD OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

STATE LEVEL CHIEF MINISTER AWARD FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

- The State Government have taken several initiatives for the conservation of Wildlife in the state for the promotion of awareness of the issues involved and for nurturing supportive studies and research vide Resolution No.16468 (1) FE-PLANT-0026-2023-F&E dtd 04.07.2025 of Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Odisha. In order to encourage vital contribution in this regard, the **Chief Minister Award for Wildlife Conservation** will be given every year both at State Level and Sub-Divisional Level during the celebration of Wildlife Week.
- The State level "**Chief Minister Award for Wildlife Conservation**" shall consist of a certificate with cash award of Rs. 4,00,000 (Rupees Four lakhs) only to be given at a State level function and the Sub-Division level "Chief Minister Award for Wildlife Conservation" shall consist of a certificate with cash award of Rs. 25,000 (Rupees Twenty-Five Thousands) only to be given in each Sub-Division at a District level function to mark the observance of Wildlife Week.
- **2025 : Dr. Sarat Chandra Misra** - who has devoted his life for conservation of biodiversity in general and orchids in particular. His work has made Similipal famous for its rare and endemic orchids.

STATE LEVEL AWARDEES OF PREVIOUS YEARS ARE AS FOLLOWS

- **2024:** Award jointly given to Dr. Sidharth Pati (for his sustained contribution for Protection and Conservation of Horseshoe Crab in Odisha) and Sri Sailendra Narayan Satpathy (for his active involvement in protection and conservation of wildlife in general and rescue of snakes).
- **2023:** Award jointly given to Sri Ashwini Kumar Das (for his sustained contribution Protection and Conservation of migratory elephants in Odisha, West Bengal and Jharkhand State) and Sri Bipin Bihari Pradhan (for his actively involved in protection and conservation of wildlife in general and motivation in mitigation of man-elephant conflict).
- **2022:** Award jointly given to Sri Rabindranath Sahu (for his sustained contribution Protection and Conservation of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles & Dolphins) and Sri Bikiji Nag (for his sustained contribution towards protection and conservation of wild animals in general and venomous snakes in particular).





- **2021:** Shri Nandakishore Bhujabal - for his life time sustained contribution towards conservation and protection of wildlife in the state of Odisha.
- **2020:** Save Elephant Foundation Trust - focuses its massive awareness campaign, in-situ conflict resolution, zero causality of human & elephant, constitution of "Hathisathi Vahini", celebration of eco-days & Tiger/ Elephant corridor study etc. in Odisha.
- **2019:** Shri Bichitrananda Biswal - for his sustained contribution for protection and conservation of coastal biodiversity in Puri District, especially Olive Ridley Sea turtles, Dolphins, Deer, House Sparrow, Snake and Mangroves.
- **2018:** Prof. Sushil Kumar Dutta - for his sustained contribution for protection and conservation of reptiles and amphibians of the state in Odisha.
- **2017:** Shri Chakradhara Hembram - for his sustained contribution for protection and conservation of wildlife. He has played a vital role in village relocation in around Similipal Tiger Reserve, Mayurbhanj.
- **2016:** Dr. Gauranga Charan Rout - for his sustained efforts for protection and conservation of Wildlife in Odisha.
- **2015:** Shri Satrugna Rout- for his sustained contribution for protection and conservation of wildlife. He played a vital role in providing valuable information for detection of wildlife offence cases and effecting seizure and recovery of ivory, skins of tiger and leopard around Similipal Tiger Reserve.
- **2014:** Prof. Priyambada Mohanty - Hejmadi for her life time sustained contribution towards Conservation of Wildlife, especially Olive Ridley Sea turtles & Estuarine Crocodile in the State.
- **2013:** Dr. Lala Aswini Kumar Singh and Swaraj Kumar Kanhar - for their life time contribution for wildlife conservation in Odisha.
- **2012:** Shri Shyama Om Prasad Mishra-for House Sparrows for his sustained contribution for conservation of House Sparrows with own initiatives at local level to build up its dwindling population in the State.
- **2011:** Dr. Lakshmi Narayan Acharjyo and Sri Prasanna Kumar Behera for their life time contribution for wildlife conservation and protection in Odisha.
- **2010:** Sri Amarendra Lal Bose - for sustained campaigning in the print media over last forty years for conservation of wildlife, emphasizing flora and fauna of Similipal.

Sri Saroj Kumar Patnaik-who made a mark nationally as a wildlife expert and a professional in the field of ex-situ management.

- **2009:** Dr. Udaya Narayan Dev-for his sustained lifetime contributions in wildlife, particularly the birds of Odisha.

Dr. Sundara Narayana Patro - for sustained life-time contributions and campaign for the cause of conservation of wildlife and biodiversity of Odisha.



- **2008:** Prof. Basanta Kumar Behura -for sustained work for over sixty years on all faculties of wildlife science, i.e. Education, Research and Conservation.
- **2007:** Sri Mahabir Pakshi Surakshya Samiti of Mangalajodi - for taking exemplary initiatives for bird conservation in and around Chilika lagoon.
- **2006 :** The Peacock Protection Committee, Ganjam- for collective effort of villagers that have made the peafowl sustain and thrive in the Pakidi hill area.
- **2005:** Blackbuck Management Committee, Ganjam - for outstanding contribution to the cause of protection of blackbucks, and for the larger cause of spreading the wildlife conservation ethos.



State Level Biju Patnaik Award for Wildlife Conservation, 2024



**THE ELEGIBLE LIST OF NOMINATIONS FOR SUB-DIVISIONAL LEVEL
"CHIEF MINISTER AWARD FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION, 2025"**

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Name of District	Name of Forest Division	Name of Sub-Division	Name of selected candidate	
1.	Angul	Angul	Angul	Angul	Sri Dullabha Sahu, President, Jereng Dehury Sahi VSS, Jarapada, At/Po- Jarapada, Dist-Angul	
2.			Angul	Talcher	Sri Iswar Sahu, S/o-Kabi Sahu, At-Kendubianasahi, Hatatota, Mobile No-6372750041	
3.			Athmallik	Athmallik	Sri Suresh Munda, At- Luhasinga, Block- Athmalik Dist- Angul-759125 Mob No-7894039186	
4.			Dhenkanal	Dhenkanal	Kamakhyanager	Sri Ranjan Kumar Nayak, At/Po- Aluajharan, Via/Block- Kamkahyanagr Dist- Dhenkanal-759026 Mob-9178813337
5.			Dhenkanal	Hindol		SNEHA NGO
1.	Baripada	Mayurbhanj	Baripada	Baripada	Shri Shribatsa Behera, At-Sungadia, Baripada Sadar, Pin-757001 Mob No.7978651105	
2.			Similipal South WL	Karanjia	Shri Ladu Badara, S/o-Bikram Badara, At-Dangadiha, PO-Patrapada, PS- Mahudihia, Dist- Mayurbhanj	
3.			Keonjhar	Keonjhar WL	Anandapur	Shri Trilochan Sahoo, At/Po- Fakirpur, PS-Anandapur, Dist-Keonjhar, Mob No.9853992165
4.			Balasore	Balasore WL	Baleshwar	Shri Bhabani Shankar Behera, S/o- Trilochan Behera, At-Uthuli, Po-Bahala, PS-Khantapada, PIN-756060, Dist- Balasore
5.			Balasore WL	Nilgiri		Shir Manoranjan Das
1.	Berhampur	Ganjam	Berhampur	Berhampur	Sri Swadhina Kumar Sahu, S/o Surendra Sahu, At- Ganapati Nagar 5th Lane, Berhampur	
2.				Chatrapur	Dr. Ashis Kumar Das, At- Kshetriyabarpur, Via- Gangapur	
3.			Ghumsur North	Bhanjanagar	Sri Anupam Banerjee, Retd. Forest Ranger, Landei Sahi, Bhanjanagar	
4.			Gajapati	Paralakhemundi	Paralakhemundi	Sri Prasanta Gamango, Forest Protection Squad, Vill- Guarikhola, PO- T. Govindapur, PS- Pattapur
5.			Kandhamal	Phulbani	Phulbani	Sri Manash Pradhan, S/o Sri Susila Pradhan, Vill- Lambadikia, PO- Sugadabadi, PS-Raikia



Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Name of District	Name of Forest Division	Name of Sub-Division	Name of selected candidate
6.		Kandhamal	Baliguda	Baliguda	Shyama Sundar Sahoo, Head Master, Govt. UG Nodal School Budagada, Daringbadi
1.	Bhawanipatna	Kalahandi	Kalahandi (North)	Bhawanipatna	Sri Shrabhan Pujhari, At/PO- Narla, Dist- Kalahandi, Mobile No.- 9692262427
2.			Kalahandi (South)	Dharamgarh	Sri Swadhin Kumar Dandasena, At/PO- Koksara, Dist- Kalahandi, PIN-766019
3.		Bolangir	Bolangir	Bolangir	Sri Avilash Bag, At/PO-Dharua pada, PS- Tusra, Dist-Bolangir, PIN-767030
4.			Bolangir	Patnagarh	Dr. Abhaya Chandra Tripathy, At- Budhibahal, PO-Odiapali, Via-Khaprakhol, Dist- Bolangir-767028, Mob-6370412395
5.			Bolangir	Titagarh	Sri Mohan Sahu, At/PO-Saintala, Dist- Bolangir-767032, Mob- 9938827636
6.		Subarnapur	Subarnapur	Sonepur	Sri Gourav Ku. Padhee, At/PO-Binka, Dist-Subarnapur-767019 Mob-9861915575
7.				Birmaharajpur	Smt. Sangita Patra, At-Khajuriapali, Po- Kotsamali, PS-BMPur, Dist-Subarnapur, PIN-767018, Mob-9692927462
8.	Nuapada	Khariar	Nuapada	Dr. Sangram Behera,Block Veterinary Officer, Khariar	
1.	Bhubaneswar	Puri	Puri (WL)	Puri	Sri Bauribandhu Behera, At-Mathasahi, PO-Rench, PS-Nimapara, Dist-Puri, Pin- 7512114, Mob No.9778894836
2.		Khordha	Chilika (WL)	Khordha	Mr. Dhaneswar Bidhar, S/o Laxman Bidhar, At-Konark Nagar, Palla, P.O- Pallahata, Dist- Khordha, Mob-9438112353, 8249663791
3.		Jagatsinghpur	Mangrove Forest Division (WL) Rajnagar	Jagatsinghpur	Er. Amresh Naresh Samanta, At-Biswali, PO- Bhutamundai, Via-Kujang, Dist- Jagatsinghpur-754141, Mob-9937332317
4.		Kendrapara		Kendrapara	Satya Narayan Parida, At-Ghagara, PO- Ghagara, Dist-Kendrapara
5.		Khordha	Chandaka (WL)	Bhubaneswar	Dr. Jaya Krushna Panigrahi, Working President, Orissa Environment al Society, 41A, Prachi Enclave, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar- 751016, Mob No.9437076100
1.	Koraput	Koraput	Jeypore	Jeypore	Sri Chandan Bhimidi, S/o- Sri Narayan Bhimidi, At/Po- Jabakanadi, Via- Dangarchhinchi, Dist- Koraput, PIN- 764003, Mob - 8847811776
2.			Koraput	Koraput	Sri M. Santosh Rao, S/o- Late M. Sankri, Gopanagar, Koraput



Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Name of District	Name of Forest Division	Name of Sub-Division	Name of selected candidate
3.		Malkangiri	Malkangiri	Malkangiri	Sri Murlidhar Anugulia, Forester, S/o- Jatia Das, At/Po- Motu, Dist- Malkangiri
4.		Nabarangpur	Nabarangpur	Nabarangpur	Sri Biswanatha Majhi, Zoo Keeper, Deer park, Papadahandi
5.		Rayagada	Rayagada	Rayagada	Sri Tapas Kumar Dalai, At/Po- Sikarpai, PS-K. Singpur, Dist- Rayagada
6.			Rayagada	Gunupur	Sri Gouranga Charan Rout, At-Sitarampur, Po- Bijabandabali, PS-Muniguda, Dist- Rayagada
1.	Rourkela	Sundargarh	Bonai	Bonai	Sri Lulu Rohidas
2.			Rourkela	Panposh	Dr. Abhijit Paul
3.			Sundargarh	Sundargarh	Sri Satya Dwibedy
4.		Deogarh	Deogarh	Deogarh	Sri Arnab Panda
5.		Angul	Deogarh	Pallahara	Sri Arjun Kala
6.		Keonjhar	Keonjhar	Keonjhar	MD Suleman
7.			Keonjhar	Champua	Sri Birendra Kumar Mahanta
1.	Sambalpur	Bargarh	Bargarh	Bargarh	Sri Ashish Kumar Pradhan, S/o- Surandra Mohan Pradhan, Ambabhona, Bargarh
2.		Sambalpur	Bamara(WL)	Kuchinda	Sri Subash Chandra Nayak
3.			Rairakhol	Rairakhol	Sri Dillip Mahakud

Panoramic view of Revena Reserve Forest under Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur



CHAPTER XIII



PROJECT & SCHEMES UNDER STATE WILDLIFE ORGANISATION

The State Wildlife Headquarters, Odisha utilizes the funds from different schemes available under administrative and programme expenditure.

A. Administrative Expenditure: These expenditures are largely committed expenditure that are placed by the Administrative Department on obtaining approval of the State Budget by the OLA. Such expenditure broadly takes care of establishment, operation & maintenance cost of the Wildlife Organization, feeding & medicine expenses for zoo animals, various maintenance activities and payment of compassionate grant to victims affected by wildlife depredation. During FY-2024-25, expenditure to the tune of Rs.14777.41 lakh was incurred under the Administrative Expenditure and the Budget Provision for FY-2025-26 is projected at Rs.17448.72 lakh.

B. Programme Expenditure: This expenditure relates to various Wildlife Management and Conservation related activities that are placed by the Administrative Department after due concurrence by the Planning & Convergence Department on obtaining approval of the State Budget by the OLA.

- 1. State Sector Schemes (SSS):** 100% funds under this scheme are borne by the State Government for such schemes viz. Development of Ecotourism, Development and Beautification of Nandankanan Zoo, Wildlife Protection & Conservation Measures and Management of Elephant & Corridors which are being implemented by the State Wildlife Organization. Expenditure under these Schemes is monitored through iFMS Platform being handled by the Directorate of Treasuries and Inspection, Odisha.
- 2. Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS):** 60% of funds under this scheme are sponsored by the Centre whereas corresponding balance 40% matching funds are provided by the State Govt. except for Project Tiger. Funding pattern under non-recurring item between GoI & State Govt. share is 60:40 whereas under recurring expenditure both share equally. Under these schemes Annual Plan of Operation (APO) are being submitted by the State Govt. to the respective Scheme Implementing Divisions of Govt. of India. On obtaining the approval of the APO, funds are being released in installments by GoI. All these schemes are being monitored by the Wildlife Organization.





PROJECTS AND SCHEMES.....

State Wildlife Headquarters, Odisha have various schemes towards Wildlife Management being funded through State Budget Grants.

Table-1: Budget Grants for FY-2024-25 and Budget Estimate for FY 2025-26.

Sl. No.	Code No.	Scheme	Budget Grants FY 2024-25	Exp. Incurred FY 2024-25	Budget Estimate for FY 2025-26	Broad Activities
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1		Administrative Expenditure (EOM)	15078.23	14787.74	17448.72	Cost of Establishment, Operation & Maintenance, Feeding and Medicine for Zoo animals, Maintenance activities, payment of Compassionate Grant etc.
Programme Expenditure						
State Sponsored Scheme						
1	0708	Information, Education & Communication	10.00	10.00	30.00	Printing of Booklets on Wildlife, Imparting various training on Wildlife activities, Payment of Advertisement Bills of different News Agencies etc.
2	2316	Development of Eco-Tourism	4000.00	4000.00	2100.00	Development of Eco-tourism facilities like construction of Eco-tourism cottages, Landscaping, Gardening at eco-tour sites, providing livelihood support to local people dependant on Protected Areas etc.
3	3128	Wildlife protection and conservation measure	7000.00	7000.00	7500.00	Conservation and protection of wildlife and their habitats within / outside Protected Areas, Protection and Conservation of Olive Ridley Sea Turtle, Anti-poaching activities, Deployment of Protection Squads, Celebration of Wildlife Week and provision for Award for outstanding work for Conservation of Wildlife, Development and upkeep of Deer Parks, Creation and Renovation of Water bodies etc.
4	3173	Management of Elephant and Corridor	2600.00	2600.00	2500.00	Protection and Management of Elephant and their habitats, Engagement of Elephant Squads, Construction of Watch Towers, Permanent Protection Camp, Firefighting Squads, Engagement of Gaja Saathi etc.



Sl. No.	Code No.	Scheme	Budget Grants FY 2024-25	Exp. Incurred FY 2024-25	Budget Estimate for FY 2025-26	Broad Activities
5	3931	Ama Similipal Yojana	0	0	5000.00	To support and improve the livelihood of villages in the fringe areas of Similipal
6	2216	Development and Beautification of Nandankanan Zoo	5000.00	5000.00	4000.00	Development And beautification of Nandankanan Zoo
7	2327	Construction and Renovation of Forest Buildings	100.00	100.00	200.00	Construction and Renovation of Forest Buildings
Total State Sector			18710.00	18710.00	21330.00	
Centrally Sponsored Schemes						
Project Tiger and Elephant						
1	3590	Project Tiger				
	a)	Satkosia Tiger Reserve		420.73		Protection and Conservation of Tigers and their habitat in Satkosia and Similipal Tiger Reserve, Deployment of squads, Salaries to STPE,
	b)	Similipal Tiger Reserve		1011.16		
		Total -3590 Project Tiger	2420.06	1431.89	5999.95	
2	0361	Elephant Management Project	652.00	288.12	1000.00	Protection and Conservation of Elephant and their habitats, Engagement of Elephant Squads, Firefighting Squads, provision of Solar lights in forest fringe villages, Creation and renovation of water bodies
3	2313	Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats	3013.00	1876.14	6000.00	Protection of Wildlife and their habitat in PAs, Outside PAs i.e. Protection and Conservation of Blackbuck, Olive Ridley Sea Turtle, Dolphins, Crocodiles, Creation and Renovation of Water bodies, Deployment of Firefighting Squad, Maintenance of Forest Road, Veterinary Care, Health Camp, Creation and maintenance of Saltlick, SMC activities, Meadow development
4	3414	Development of Zoo	121.00	0	0.03	No fund sanctioned by GoI during FY 2024-25





Sl. No.	Code No.	Scheme	Budget Grants FY 2024-25	Exp. Incurred FY 2024-25	Budget Estimate for FY 2025-26	Broad Activities
5	1282	Similipal Biosphere Reserve	0.02	0	0.03	No fund sanctioned by GoI during FY 2024-25
Total CSS			6206.08	3596.15	13000.01	
Central Sector Scheme (CSS)						
6	0175	Conservation and management of Mangroves	0.02	0	0.03	No fund sanctioned by GoI during FY 2024-25
Total Programme Expenditure			24916.10	22306.15	34330.04	

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES UNDER CAMPA APO: 2024-25

A financial target of Rs. 33496.88 lakh has been proposed in CAMPA APO during 2024-25 for implementation of different activities to be undertaken for Wildlife Management as per the details shown below in Table-I.

TABLE-I

(Rs. In lakh)

Activities	Approved financial outlay	Financial Achievement
A-Wildlife Management (80 % NPV)		
Protection and Anti-Depredation Activities	537.50	531.86
Forest Fire Prevention and Control operations	657.32	637.81
Wildlife Habitat Restoration and Improvement	4114.00	3971.00
Management of biological diversity and biological resources.	1916.15	1916.15
Voluntary Relocation of Villages from Protected Areas and Tiger Reserve	2500.00	2410.25
Total (80% of NPV)	9724.97	9467.07
Wildlife Management (20% NPV)		
Strengthening of Communication facilities for Protection of Wildlife	169.69	169.69
Construction & Maintenance of Infrastructure for Protection of Wildlife	530.31	511.05
Publicity & Awareness Programmes	5.00	0.00
Total (20% of NPV)	705.00	680.74
B- Implementation of Regional Wildlife Management Plan (RWLMP) for the State	7530.39	7215.68
C- Implementation of Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan	15536.52	13293.68
Grand Total {A(80%+20%)+B (RWLMP+C (SSWLCP))}	33496.88	30657.17



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES UNDER CAMPA APO: 2025-26

A financial target for Rs.31050.44 lakh has been proposed in CAMPA APO: 2025-26 for implementation of different activities to be undertaken for Wildlife Management as per the details shown below in Table-II.

TABLE-II

(Rs. in lakhs)

Activities	Approved financial outlay
A- Wildlife Management (80% NPV)	
Protection and Anti-Depredation Activities	354.00
Forest Fire Prevention and Control operations	777.44
Wildlife Habitat Restoration and Improvement	3975.00
Voluntary Relocation of Villages from Protected Areas and Tiger Reserve	3000.00
Total (80% of NPV)	8106.44
Wildlife Management (20% NPV)	
Strengthening of Communication facilities for Protection of Wildlife.	390.00
Construction & Maintenance of Infrastructure for Protection of Wildlife.	501.00
Total (20% of NPV)	891.00
B- Implementation of Regional Wildlife Management Plan (RWLMP) for the State	7700.00
C- Implementation of Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan.	14353.00
Grand Total {A(80%+20%)+B (RWLMP)+C (SSWLCP)}	31050.44



Gaur at Saltlick in Similipal



CHAPTER XIV

MAJOR EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION DURING 2024-25

WEEK-LONG CHILIKA BIRD FESTIVAL 2025 CELEBRATES WILDLIFE AND NATURE CONSERVATION

Bhubaneswar, January 8, 2025: The 5th National Chilika Bird Festival 2025 was celebrated across Odisha with a series of engaging activities highlighting wildlife conservation and the importance of protecting migratory birds. The week-long festival, from January 6-12, 2025, has been designed to raise awareness about the delicate ecological balance of Chilika Lake, Asia's largest brackish water lagoon, and its rich avian diversity.

Linking Conservation with Global Outreach

This year's festival coincided with the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2025 in Bhubaneswar. To mark the occasion, the Forest Department had curated exclusive experiences for visiting Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), including guided boat rides in Chilika and visits to Nalabana Sanctuary, Satapada and Mangalajodi, offering them a glimpse of Odisha's unique biodiversity. This initiative underscores the State's effort to project Chilika as a global eco-tourism and conservation destination.

Key Activities During the Festival

- Bird Walks: Daily bird walks have been organized across Bhubaneswar parks and nature zones, starting with Forest Park, to promote community awareness about keeping the environment clean and bird-friendly.
- Exhibitions and Films: The Regional Museum of Natural History (RMNH) hosted guided walks, wildlife-themed exhibitions, and screenings of conservation films until January 12.
- Special Events:
 - o January 9: Bird Walk at MPKC, Patrapada.
 - o January 10: Bird Walk at Anand Van, Patrapada.
 - o January 11: Odisha Birders' Conclave at Barkul.
 - o January 12: Exclusive Bird Walk for registered participants at Nandankanan.

By blending science, community participation, and global outreach, the Chilika Bird Festival continued to reinforce Odisha's leadership in bird conservation. The festival showcased Chilika Lake as a living heritage of biodiversity, inspiring citizens and visitors alike to work for a greener and safer future for birds.





50 YEARS OF PROJECT CROCODILE: ODISHA LEADS THE WAY IN CONSERVATION

In June 2025, Odisha celebrated a proud milestone '50 years of Project Crocodile', a programme that has helped bring back the State's crocodiles from the brink of extinction. The two-day celebration in Bhubaneswar was organised by the Wildlife Wing of the Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Odisha. It highlighted both the success of the past and the plans for the future.

On 17 June, a state-level event was held at the Golden Jubilee Hall, OUAT, to mark the occasion. Shri Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia, Hon'ble Minister for Forest, Environment & Climate Change, said: "Odisha is home to all three species of Indian crocodiles - the Saltwater Crocodile, Mugger, and the Gharial. This is a matter of pride for all of us. Over the past fifty years, we have revived their populations. Our focus now is on recovering the endangered Gharial in the Mahanadi River and reducing human-crocodile conflicts for peaceful coexistence."

At the event, a documentary film, a book on Gharials, and a special report on crocodile conservation were released. The State also honoured experts like Dr. L. A. K. Singh, Dr. Sudhakar Kar, and Dr. Sudarshan Maharana for their lifelong work. Shri Prem Kumar Jha, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), spoke about the State's efforts, including financial support to people affected by crocodile incidents and various measures to prevent conflict.

On 18 June, a National Seminar was organised at LYFE Hotel, Bhubaneswar. Scientists, forest officials, NGOs, and professors from across India came together to discuss the "Learnings and Way Ahead". They spoke about protecting saltwater crocodiles in Bhitarkanika, saving gharials in Satkosia, and conserving muggers in dams and rivers. Experts also shared how modern tools like AI technology, better eco-tourism practices, and local community participation can help in the years to come.

Speakers from West Bengal, Gujarat, Assam, and Uttar Pradesh praised Odisha's achievements. Prof. Binod Chandra Choudhury, a well-known conservationist, reminded everyone that crocodiles are indicators of a healthy wetland, and protecting them means protecting our rivers and ecosystems.

The two-day celebration showed how Odisha has become a leader in crocodile conservation. From just a handful of crocodiles in the 1970s to thriving populations today, the





State has proven that with science, dedication, and community support, even the most endangered species can be saved. As Odisha looks ahead, the message is clear protecting wildlife is also about protecting people, water, and the natural balance we all depend on.



*The State of Odisha has honoured experts like **Dr. L. A. K. Singh**, **Dr. Sudhakar Kar**, and **Dr. Sudarshan Maharana** for their lifelong work on Crocodile Conservation Programme.*

FORGING A ROADMAP FOR HUMAN-ELEPHANT COEXISTENCE IN ODISHA

On **21st and 22nd August 2025**, Odisha hosted an important two-day **International Workshop on Human–Elephant Coexistence** in Bhubaneswar. The event brought together experts, forest officers, scientists, NGOs, and policymakers from India and several Asian countries to discuss one of the biggest challenges in wildlife management today and how people and elephants can live together in harmony.

The workshop was inaugurated by **Hon’ble Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Mohan Charan Majhi**, in the presence of **Hon’ble Forest Minister Shri Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia**. The Chief Minister underlined Odisha’s commitment to protecting elephants while also safeguarding people’s lives and livelihoods.

The event was organised jointly by the **Government of Odisha**, the **IUCN Asian Elephant Specialist Group**, and the **Wildlife Trust of India**, with participation from institutions like the **Wildlife Institute of India**, **WWF India**, **NCF**, **Aaranyak**, and even international experts from the USA, Malaysia, Thailand, Bhutan and Sri Lanka.

Speakers highlighted the urgent need to protect elephant habitats and corridors. **Dr. Bivash Pandav** from the Wildlife Institute of India stressed the importance of maintaining large landscapes so elephants can move freely. **Dr. Sandeep Kumar Tiwari** of WTI emphasized the “Right of Passage” for elephants, while forest officers from different states shared practical examples of mapping corridors and involving communities.

Community participation was a central theme. From **Rapid Response Teams** in Jharkhand to ‘**Gaj Mitras**’ in villages, experts shared how local people can play a big role in reducing conflict. **Dr. Bibhuti Lahkar** of Aaranyak shared success stories from Assam, and **Shri Rangku Sangma** from Meghalaya spoke about community-led protection of elephant habitats.



The workshop also showcased the use of **technology**. From **AI-powered apps like Haathi Alert**, to **thermal cameras**, and even **wildlife detection dogs**, new tools are being tried to prevent accidents and save lives.

On the second day, experts focused on threats from roads, railways, and power lines. Railway and power sector officials explained the steps being taken to reduce elephant deaths. **Dr. Manoj V. Nair, IFS**, presented Odisha's **Comprehensive Action Plan** to deal with Human–Elephant Conflict in a scientific and structured way, with clear strategies for prevention and quick response.

Closing the workshop, **Shri P.K. Jha, IFS, PCCF (Wildlife)** said: *“This workshop has been instrumental in consolidating knowledge and fostering the multi-agency collaboration that is essential to turn conflict into coexistence.”*

The event ended with cultural performances and a field visit to **Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary**, leaving participants with a clear message protecting elephants is not just about saving wildlife, but also about ensuring safer communities and a healthier environment for all.



International Workshop on Human–Elephant Coexistence in Bhubaneswar The workshop was inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, in the presence of Hon'ble Forest Minister Shri Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia.

DOLPHIN & TURTLE MARINE FAUNA AWARENESS MONTH – MARCH 2025

Odisha's coastline is home to some of the world's most unique marine wildlife. The Irrawaddy dolphins of Chilika, Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins along the coast, and the famous Olive Ridley turtles that nest at Gahirmatha, Devi, and Rushikulya beaches make the state globally important for marine conservation. But these species face many threats like fishing bycatch, habitat loss, marine litter, cyclones, and coastal erosion.

To address these challenges, the Wildlife Wing of the Odisha Forest Department observed **March 2025 as Dolphin & Turtle Marine Fauna Awareness Month**. The campaign was implemented across six coastal divisions – Balasore, Rajnagar, Bhadrak, Puri, Chilika, and Berhampur. It was carried out under the leadership of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, with close coordination by the Wildlife Headquarters team and divisional officers.





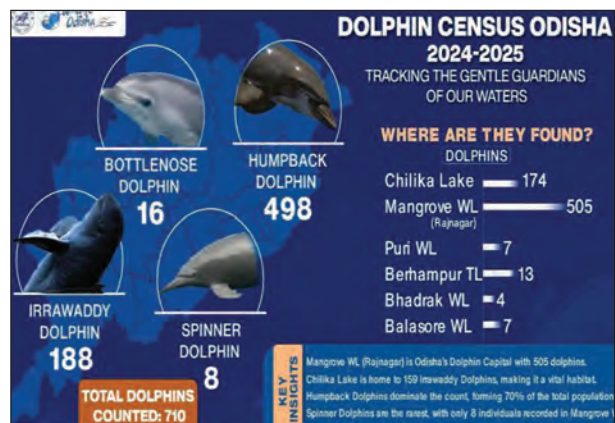
The programme was designed as a four-week campaign with different activities:

- **Week 1 – Awareness:** Social media outreach, poster campaigns, school debates, street plays, exhibitions, and awareness camps in fishing villages.
- **Week 2 – Capacity Building:** Workshops, documentary screenings, pledge campaigns, and group discussions involving students, NGOs, local youth, and PRI members.
- **Week 3 – Rallies and Clean-ups:** Beach rallies and coastal clean-up drives held at several key locations, highlighting messages like reducing plastic and protecting turtle nesting sites.
- **Week 4 – Fishermen Training:** Practical sessions with fisherfolk on bycatch reduction, dolphin- and turtle-friendly fishing practices, and safe rescue techniques.

Thousands of people participated in these events, including schoolchildren, college students, local communities, NGOs, and fisherfolk. Each division customized its programmes. For example, Balasore focused on turtle-friendly nets, Rajnagar highlighted mangrove-marine linkages, Puri combined rallies with sand art, Chilika worked with boat operators, and Berhampur involved fisherfolk near Rushikulya and Gopalpur.

The month-long effort achieved many important outcomes. Communities, especially fisherfolk, became more involved in conservation activities. Students and youth gained new knowledge and skills to protect marine animals. Awareness spread widely through social media, street campaigns, and schools. Partnerships between scientists, NGOs, and the forest department also grew stronger.

The **Dolphin & Turtle Marine Fauna Awareness Month – March 2025** marked an important step in Odisha’s conservation journey. By bringing together government officers, communities, experts, and NGOs, the Wildlife Wing created a strong model of collective action for protecting dolphins, turtles, and other marine life. This initiative not only raised awareness but also built a culture of shared responsibility for safeguarding Odisha’s rich marine ecosystems for the future.





*"Olive Ridley Sea Turtles and Marine Mammals (Dolphin) awareness outreach programme 2025"
Six coastal Divisions of Odisha.*



Creation of a Dedicated 1 company of Armed Police Constabulary for strengthening of Protection measures in Similipal Tiger Reserve, Mayurbhanj.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT

No. FE-WL-WLF-0017-2023/ 740 / FE & CC, Date. 03.01.25

From:

Shri Deben Kumar Pradhan, IAS,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To,

The PCCF & HoFF, Odisha,
The PCCF (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha,
The Field Director, Similipal Tiger Reserve-cum-Regional CCF, Baripada,
The Collector & District Magistrate, Mayurbhanj,
The Superintendent of Police, Mayurbhanj.

Sub: **Creation of a dedicated 1 Company of Armed Police Constabulary for strengthening of protection measures in Similipal Tiger Reserve, Mayurbhanj.**

Sir,

In inviting a reference to the subject cited above, I am directed to communicate the Home Department Letter No.47613 dated 18.12.2024 (**Copy enclosed as Annexure-I**), regarding sanction of Governor towards creation of a dedicated one (01) company of Armed Police Reserve (A.P.R.) Force with creation of 131 posts of different categories in Mayurbhanj district for constitution of Joint Task Force, already notified vide F E & CC Department Notification No.16064 / FE & CC, dated 01.08.2023 (**Copy enclosed as Annexure-II**) in order to strengthen the protection measures in Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR), Mayurbhanj.

Therefore, you are kindly requested to take necessary follow up action under intimation to this Department.

Yours faithfully,


Additional Secretary to Government

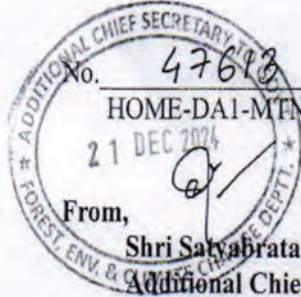
Memo No. 741 /FE & CC, Dated 03.01.25

Copy submitted to PS to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha for kind information of Hon'ble Chief Minister.


Additional Secretary to Government.



Government of Odisha
Home Department



No. 47613 /D&A, Bhubaneswar, dated 18.12.2024

HOME-DAI-MTNG-0001-2023

From,
Shri Satyabrata Sahu, IAS,
Additional Chief Secretary to Government

To,
The Accountant General (A&E), Odisha, Bhubaneswar /
The Accountant General (Audit), Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Sub : Creation of a dedicated 1 Company of Armed Police Constabulary for strengthening of protection measures in Similipal Tiger Reserve, Mayurbhanj

Ref: (i) Point 3 of the minutes of meeting held under Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Odisha on 22-06-2023 and circulated vide Forest, Environment & Climate Change (FE & CC) Department letter no. 13162 / FE & CC dated 23-06-2023

(ii) FE & CC Department Notification No. 16064 / FE & CC dated 01-08-2023

(iii) Proposal of State Police Headquarters furnished in their OSWAS file : DP-PLCY-CREAT-0018-2023

(iv) Point 2 of the minutes of meeting held under Chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Home on 14-11-2023 and circulated vide Home Department letter no. 46120/D&A dated 23-11-2023

(v) Further clarifications furnished by FE & CC Department in their OSWAS file : FE-WL-WLF-0017-2023

Sir,

I am directed to convey the sanction of Governor for creation of a dedicated one (01) company of Armed Police Reserve (A.P.R.) Force with creation of 131 posts of different categories in Mayurbhanj district for constitution of Joint Task Force already notified vide FE & CC Department correspondence apropos in order to strengthen the protection measures in Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR), Mayurbhanj.



The State Government do hereby specify that the area described in Schedules shall comprise within the National park and declare the said area as a National Park to be known as Similipal National Park with effect from the date of publication of this Notification in the Odisha Gazette No. FE-WL-0051-2024/9500/FE &CC, Dated 24.04.2025.

NOTIFICATION

Dated Bhubaneswar the ... 24.04.25

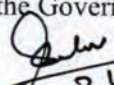
No. FE-WL-WLF-0051-2024/ 9500 /FE&CC., Whereas the Government, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 35 of wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (53 of 1972) declared its intention to constitute an area National Park published in the notification of the Government of Odisha, Forest Environment and Climate Change Department bearing No18703 Dated 06.08.1980 and 19525 Dated 11.06.1986.

And whereas, the proceedings under the provisions of sections 19 to 22 (both inclusive), except clause (c) of sub-section (2) of section (24) were undertaken as required under the said provisions.

And whereas all claims made in relation to any land in the said area have been disposed of by the State Government and all rights in respect of lands which shall come within the National Park have become vested in the State Government.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (4) of section 35 of the said Act, the State Government do hereby specify that the area described in Schedules shall comprise within the National Park and declare the said area as a National Park to be known as **Similipal National Park** with effect from the date of publication of notification in the Odisha Gazette.

By order of the Governor


24/4/20
(Satyabrata Sahu)

Additional Chief Secretary to Government

Memo No. 9501 /FE&CC

Dated. 24.04.25

Copy forwarded to the Director, Printing and Publication, Odisha, Cuttack with request to publish the Notification in the next issue of Odisha Gazette and will bear S.I. Number.

500 copies of the Gazette Notification may please be sent to this Department for reference and record.

Additional Secretary to Government

Memo No. 9502 /FE&CC

Dated. 24.04.25

Copy forwarded to PS to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha for kind information of Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Additional Secretary to Government

Memo No. 9503 /FE&CC

Dated. 24.04.25

Copy forwarded to PS to Hon'ble Minister, Forest, Environment & Climate Change for kind information of the Hon'ble Minister.

Additional Secretary to Government



Published Odisha Gazette Notification No. 09 Cuttack, Friday, May 9, 2025/ BAISAKHA 19, 1947 (FE& CC Department Notification Dt. 30.04.2025) of Govt. of Odisha as per Wildlife (Protection) (Odisha) Amendment Rules, 2025 (For investigation of offences under the Act, the Forms 26 to 35)


The Odisha Gazette
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No. 9 CUTTACK, FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025/BAISAKHA 19, 1947

SEPARATE PAGING IS GIVEN TO THIS PART IN ORDER THAT IT MAY BE FILED AS A SEPARATE COMPILATION

FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

The 30th April 2025

S.R.O. No. 295/2025—In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 64 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (Act 53 of 1972), the State Government do hereby make the following rules further to amend the Wildlife(Protection) (Odisha) Rules, 1974, namely :—

- (1) These rules may be called the Wildlife (Protection) (Odisha) Amendment Rules, 2025.
(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the *Odisha Gazette*.
- In the Wildlife (Protection) (Odisha) Rules, 1974 (hereinafter referred to as the said rules), after Rule 49-A, the following rule shall be inserted, namely :—
“49-B. For investigation of offences under the Act, the Forms 26 to 35 shall be used.”
- In the said rules, after Form 25, the following Forms shall be added, namely :—

"FORM No. 26

[see Rule 49-B]

COMMAND CERTIFICATE TO BE CARRIED BY FOREST OFFICERS ON DUTY

Forest Division/ Range	Details of Forest Personnel with name	Where proceeding	Description of duty and number of escort requisition	Date and hour of-			Date and hour of return to be noted etc.
				Departure	Arrival	Receiving permission to return with signature of officer giving permission	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)

NOTE—If any delay occurs, it will at once be detected from the entries in the last four columns, the delinquent brought to tasks and his explanation taken by the Enquiry Officer and recorded on the book of the certificate which should then be sent for orders to the Divisional Forest Officer.



FORM No. 27

[see Rule 49-B]

INSPECTION REPORT OF CARCASS

Ref.- OR/UD Case No /

Range of Division

1. Date and hour of inspection of carcass :
2. Species name and category of animal as perschedule provided under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. :
3. Place where the carcass is found :
4. Description and position of carcass :
5. Apparent injuries found on the carcass :
6. Manner in which and weapons (if any) by which injuries appear to have been inflicted. :
7. Circumstance if any which gives hints to suspicion of foul play. :
8. Accurate list of materials / weapons / other articles found near the carcass. :
9. Opinion of witnesses as to cause of death of animal. :
10. Opinion of Forest Officer / Detecting Officer / Police Officer as to cause of death of animal. :
11. Signature of witnesses and officers with date :



FORM No. 28
[see Rule 49-B]

SEIZURE LIST

1. Date and time of seizure :
2. Place of seizure:
3. Particular of the property seized:
4. Name and address of the accused person:
5. Signature of the accused person:
6. Name and address of the witness:
7. Signature of the witness:
8. Seizure mark:
9. Circumstances of seizure in brief:
10. Signature of the officer effecting the seizure :



FORM No. 29

[see Rule 49-B]

OFFENCE REPORT

[NOTE—This report is to be submitted within 24 hours of this detection]

_____ Division

Offence Report No. Date

1. Place of occurrence :
2. Date and hour of detection:
3. Name(s) parentage and residence of offenders:
4. Property seized, if any:
5. Custody of seized property:
6. Name of parentage and residence of witness(es), if any:
7. Nature of offence and facts of the case :



FORM No. 30
[see Rule 49-B]

WARRANT TO SEARCH SUSPECTED PLACE OF DEPOSIT

[Clause (a) of sub-section (8) of Section 50 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972]

Memo. No dated

To

(Name and designation of officer who is to execute the warrant)

Whereas information has been laid before me, and on due enquiry thereupon had, I have been led to believe that the house / cow shed / court yard / garden (or places) of Shri / Smt. _____

S/o _____ Vill. _____

P.S. _____ in the district of _____ in used as a place of the storing wild animal, meat, uncured trophy, cured trophy, specified plant, vehicle, animal articles, weapon. (describe the house or other place) is used as a place for the deposit (or safe) of stolen property (or if for either of the other purposes expressed in the section, state the purpose in the words of the section).

This is to authorize and require you to enter the said house /(or other place) with such assistance (if police help required) as shall be required, and to use, if necessary reasonable force for that purpose, and to search every part of the said house (or other place or if the search is to be confined to part specify the part clearly), and to seize and take possession of any such property or (add, when the case requires it) and any instruments and materials which you may reasonably believe to be kept in connection with such property and forthwith to bring before undersigned / Forest Range Office such of the said things as may be taken possession of, returning this warrant, with an endorsement certifying what you have done under it, immediately upon execution.

Dated _____ day of

Asst. Conservator of Forests

_____ Division



FORM No. 31
[see Rule 49-B]

REGISTER OF PROPERTY STOLEN AND OF ALL ARTICLES TAKEN CHARGE OF BY
THE.....

(Original to be sent to Court Officer, duplicate to be retained at office)

Year consecutive number of each item	Owner's name & address, if known, case No. & date, if any. Nature of property i.e. stolen & unclaimed, suspicious or exhibit	Description (including weight, where necessary)	Value	Where, when by whom & the circumstances under which found	Date of receipt at Range Office	Date & manner of disposal, number of receipt & if sold price, name & address of purchaser and number & date of receipt cheque	REMARKS
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)

FORM No. 32
[see Rule 49-B]

MAL CHALLAN

Ref. OR Case No.
Range Office MR :

CMR No.

Case Ref.	Description of mal items	To whom sent	Through whom sent	REMARK
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Signature of Receiving Officer

Signature of Forwarding Officer



FORM No. 33

[see Rule 49-B]

CRIME DETAILS FORM

1. Name of the Division Name of the Range

Year OR No. Date

2. Acts and Sections:

3. The place of occurrence shown by, name:

4. Motive of crime:

5. Date and time of visit to the place of occurrence:

Date Time

6. Description of the place of occurrence sketch or map, if any (attach separately with legend):

Place

Signature of the Investigating Officer with seal

Name

Designation



FORM No. 34
[see Rule 49-B]
CASE DIARY

ANNEXURE-

Forest Range Office

Division

WLOR No. OR Case No.

Case Diary No.

(Occurrence) Date, Time, Place

Species involved

Description of article seized

.....

Name and address of suspected/accused

.....

Sections of Law

Name and designation of Investigating Officer

.....

Date, time and place
visited for the
purpose of
investigation.

Record of
investigation.



FORM No. 35
[see Rule 49-B]

Complaint in a Wildlife Offence
under Section 55 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

1. Name of the Range Office /Division.
2. WLOR number and date
3. Place and date of offence
4. Sections of law

5. Details of property seized.

6. Whose custody the seized properties are laying, if submitted in the court, property index number.

Sl. No.	Property description including schedule of seized animal or meat or animal article involved along with serial number in the respective schedule of Wildlife (Protection) Act (Amendment) 2022	Range Office property register number	From whom or where recovered or seized	Disposal





- 7. Live specimens, if any, seized and subsequently rehabilitated in its natural habitat as per the court order.
- 8. Details of perishable or hazardous materials seized and subsequently destroyed as per the court order.
- 9. Details of fire arms, if any, seized and handed over to the Police for investigation and the Police FIR number.
- 10. Whether samples were sent to Wildlife Institute of India, Zoological Survey of India, Botanical Survey of India or any other scientific experts for opinion and the details of the opinion received.
- 11. Name, designation and office address of the officer who filed the Offence Report.
- 12. Name, designation and office address of the officer filing the Complaint.
- 13. Name and address of the accused against whom the Complaint is filed.
- 14. Date and hour of arrest

Name and age	Father's name	Place of Residence		
		┌───────────┐		
		Village	Thana	District



15. Date on which forwarded to Court.

16. Status of accused :

- (i) Accused in custody
- (ii) Date of release on bail
- (iii) Accused not arrested or absconding.
- (iv) Accused who are habitual or repeated offenders, details of previous cases.

17. Name and address of the witnesses and facts to be provide by the evidence of each witness.	Sl. No.	Name	Father's or Husband	Age	Occupation	Address	Mobile No.	Type of evidence be tendered
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18. List of documents, if any, submitted along with complaint.

19. Nature of offences and facts of the case or allegation made against each accused.

Prayer :



Memo No. _____ dated _____

Forwarded to the Magistrate with a request for issue of process against the accused and taking further action according to law.

Divisional Forest Division
..... Division

Memo No. _____ dated _____

Forwarded to the Conservator of Forests Circle, with a copy of seizure report for information.

Divisional Forest Division
..... Division"

[No. 9887—FE-WL-WLF-0037/2017-FE & CC]

By order of the Governor

[ILLEGIBLE]

Additional Chief Secretary to Government



In exercise of the powers conferred by Rule 45-KK of Wildlife (Protection) (Odisha) Rules, 1974 the State Government have enhanced the Compassionate payment with immediate effect vide Govt. Notification No. PT4-FE-WLF-0037-2017/14979/ FE &CC Dated 21.06.2025.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

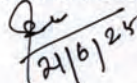
Bhubaneswar, Dated the **21 JUN 2025**

No.PT4-FE-WL-WLF-0037-2017 / 14979 / FE&CC, In exercise of the powers conferred by rule 45-KK of the Wildlife (Protection) (Odisha) Rules, 1974, the State Government do hereby make the following notification for revision of the compassionate payment as follows,—

Serial Number	Type of depredation	Provision under Wildlife (Protection) (Odisha) Rules, 1974	Compassionate payment
1	Human kill	45-AA	Rs. 10.00 lakh
2	House damage (part)	45-FF	(a) Rs.10000.00 for part house damage; (b) Rs. 3000.00 for damage with reference to kitchen, paddy godown, cattle shed, goat shelter, etc; and (c) Rs.5000.00 per running meter limited to a maximum of Rs. 25,000/- for damage to pucca boundary or compound wall.
3	House damage (full)	45-FF	A house under "Antodaya Gruha Yojana" or equivalent financial benefit

The rate of compassionate payment of other types of depredations shall remain unchanged.

By order of the Governor



Additional Chief Secretary to Government

The State Government have taken several initiatives for the conservation of Wildlife in the State for the promotion of awareness of the issues involved and for nurturing supportive studies and research vide their Resolution No.16468 (1) FE-PLANT-0026-2023-F&E dtd 04.07.2025. In order to encourage vital contribution in this regard, the Chief Minister Award for Wildlife Conservation will be given every year both at State Level and Sub-Divisional Level during the Celebration of Wildlife Week.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
FOREST, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT

NO. 16468(1) /FE-PLANT-PLANT-0026-2023

RESOLUTION

The 4th July 2025

SUBJECT- Scheme of Awards and Prizes for outstanding work in the field of Forest, Wildlife & Environment

Government of Odisha have instituted various annual prizes and awards which are distributed on different occasions. The purpose of giving awards is to recognize the good work done by individuals and institutions in the field of forest & environment conservation and to encourage people's participation in protection of forests and wildlife and conservation of environment. Meritorious work done by forest field staff is also rewarded through the State Forestry Awards. With a view to rationalize all the awards and to give more awards in each category at the District, Subdivision and Block levels, State Government have decided to institute/continue the following awards with effect from 2025-

4. Awards given during the Wildlife Week (October)

Chief Minister Award for Wildlife Conservation

(i) The State Government have taken several initiatives for the conservation of Wildlife in the State for the promotion of awareness of the issues involved and for nurturing supportive studies and research. In order to encourage vital contribution in this regard, the 'Chief Minister Award for Wildlife Conservation' will be given every year both at State Level and Subdivisional Level during the celebration of Wildlife Week.

FE-PLANT-PLANT-0026-2023/01/2025





(ii) Award

The State level award of "Chief Minister Award for Wildlife Conservation" shall consist of a certificate with cash award of Rs. 4,00,000 to be given at a State level function and the subdivision level award of Chief Minister Award for Wildlife Conservation shall consist of a certificate with cash award of Rs. 25,000 to be given in each subdivision at a District level function to mark the observance of Wildlife Week. No Award, however, will be declared if in any year, eligible candidates/institutions are not available.

(iii) Eligibility

Any individual or an institution operating in the State of Odisha and engaged in Wildlife and biodiversity conservation, research and education is eligible for the award In order to come under the purview of consideration for the award, an individual/institution should have created an appreciable and measurable impact in any of the following areas

- (a) Wildlife management and conservation including control of poaching, wildlife animal depredation and extension.
- (b) Biodiversity conservation
- (c) Eco development planning and implementation
- (d) Captive breeding as part of zoo management

State Level

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Odisha. | Chairman |
| 2. Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha | Convener |
| 3. To eminent persons/NGOs in the field of Wildlife Conservation, to be nominated by the State Government. | Member |

Subdivisional Level

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. R.C.C.F | Chairman |
| 2. D.F.O. (Territorial/Wildlife) | Member |
| 3. District Collector or his representative. | Member |
| 4. Two eminent persons/NGOs in the field of Wildlife conservation to be nominated by P.C.C.F. (WL) | Member |
| 5. <u>D.FO.</u> (Territorial/Wildlife in charge of Hors.) | Convener |

- (v) The final decision on the nomination for subdivision level will be taken by the

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Committee under the Chairmanship of R.C.C.F. The recipient of the State level award will be decided by the State Government on the recommendation of the Committee under the Chairmanship of PCCF (Wildlife), Odisha.

5. If suitable candidates/institutions are not available in any category, no Award may be declared for the specified category for the respective year. All cash awards will be given in the form of Bank Draft.

6. This resolution will come into force from the financial year 2025-26 or such other date as the Government may decide, and will be in supersession of resolutions / instructions issued earlier in this behalf.

By order of the Governor


(Satyabrata Sahu)

Additional Chief Secretary to Government

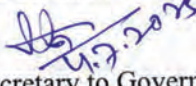
Memo No. 16468(2) /FE&CC Date 04.07.2025

Copy with soft copy (CD form) forwarded to the Director of Printing, Stationary & Publication, Odisha Cuttack for publication in an extra-ordinary issue of the Odisha Gazette & supply 200 copies of printed Resolution to FE&CC Department for record.


Additional Secretary to Government


Memo No. 16469 /FE&CC Date 04.07.2025

Copy submitted to PS to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha for kind information of Hon'ble Chief Minister.


Additional Secretary to Government

Memo No. 16470 /FE&CC Date 04.07.2025

Copy submitted to PS to Hon'ble Minister, FE & CC for kind information of Hon'ble Minister.


Additional Secretary to Government

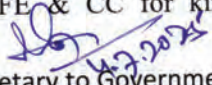
Memo No. 16471 /FE&CC Date 04.07.2025

Copy submitted to OSD to Chief Secretary, Odisha for kind information of Chief Secretary.


Additional Secretary to Government

Memo No. 16472 /FE&CC Date 04.07.2025

Copy submitted to PS to Additional Chief Secretary FE & CC for kind information of Additional Chief Secretary.


Additional Secretary to Government

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MODEL INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION (IEC) ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY VARIOUS DIVISIONS

MODEL IEC PLAN

An integrated Information, Education & Communication plan has been identified as one of those areas which has not been given due attention during plan formulation or execution of different Government schemes. As a result, many of the innovative activities, best practices and achievements made in different sectors of forest & wildlife administration fails to reach among the public and also does not get properly disseminated amongst the planners, field functionaries, administrators etc. inside the department.

This model IEC plan has been precisely designed with the purpose of providing a mainframe template to help RCCFs & DFOs to prepare the annual IEC plan for the divisions with the objectives of -

- a) Finalising different activities most suited to local conditions at the beginning of the financial year for achieving maximum dissemination of departmental activities amongst one and all.
- b) Allocation of funds made available to the division under various schemes to meet the due requirement for executing the finalised activities.

However, the plan given below is fairly indicative and any other activity as would be deemed fit can be incorporated in the plan and executed subject to acceptance of such proposal by the Office of the PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha.

In this regard three major group of activities each having such activities are provided below:

1. **Performing activities:** These activities would basically try to engage locally available human & material resources in social sensitisation programmes for creating awareness amongst the masses. The activities undertaken for this component are as follows:
 - (i) Mobile LED/Poster Van
 - (ii) Cycle-rickshaw/Cycle Emissary
 - (iii) Cycle/ Bicycle/Motorcycle Rally
 - (iv) Street Plays/ NukkadNatak
 - (v) Wall Paintings
2. **Institutional Activities:** This group of activities would target in involving and integrating all the educational and vocational institutions, community-based organisations (like VSS, EDCs, SHGs), private entrepreneurs, public and trade unions, various business &





commercial associations, journalists and media representatives etc. and taking their support in furthering the cause of wildlife conservation and protecting their habitats. Some of the activities under this component is suggested below:

- (i) Awareness Programmes in Educational/ Vocational Institutions
- (ii) Eco-club activities
- (iii) Marathon/ Half-marathon/ Walkathon
- (iv) Organising theme-based webinars
- (v) Developing online training modules & informative capsules
- (vi) Celebration of important wildlife conservation days
- (vii) Scroll based awareness messages in local TVs
- (viii) Media connect programmes
- (ix) Awareness and sensitisation programmes among Zilla Parishad/ Sarpanches/NAC etc.

3. Publication related activities:

- (i) Preparation of theme-based leaflets, fliers, posters, brochures, hoardings etc.
- (ii) Bringing out digital/hard copy magazine (half yearly/ yearly).
- (iii) Developing credible PPT/ digital content/documentary/ social post repository and its archival in divisional digital library

4. IEC with regards to intra & interstate line departments:

- (i) Coordination meetings
- (ii) Implementation of various programmes through scheme convergence
- (iii) Exposure visits
- (iv) Mobile and stationary stalls & kiosks in district level programmes
- (v) Training programmes for within and amongst department field functionaries

CONCLUSION

The suggested activities on creating a divisional level annual IEC plan is merely indicative and not exhaustive. RCCFs in this regard has been instructed to issue suitable directions to the DFOs for drawing up of an elaborate and well thought out annual IEC plan for all divisions along with the funds required (keeping in view the funds already placed in the unified APO for the financial year) and submit a circle consolidated annual IEC plan for organizing Street Plays/ Nukkad Natak/ Patha Pranta Natak within their tradition. The Contact Number of the General Secretary of the Seva Foundation, a registered Organization under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 has been circulated to all DFOs. Care should be taken to include as many items as possible and feasible to develop a robust and multipronged strategy while designing the annual IEC plan for targeting to achieve a significant change in the behaviour of the target groups for strengthening wildlife conservation in the area.









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