



Biodiversity and Eco-Tourism in Ranthambore National Park Sawai Madhopur

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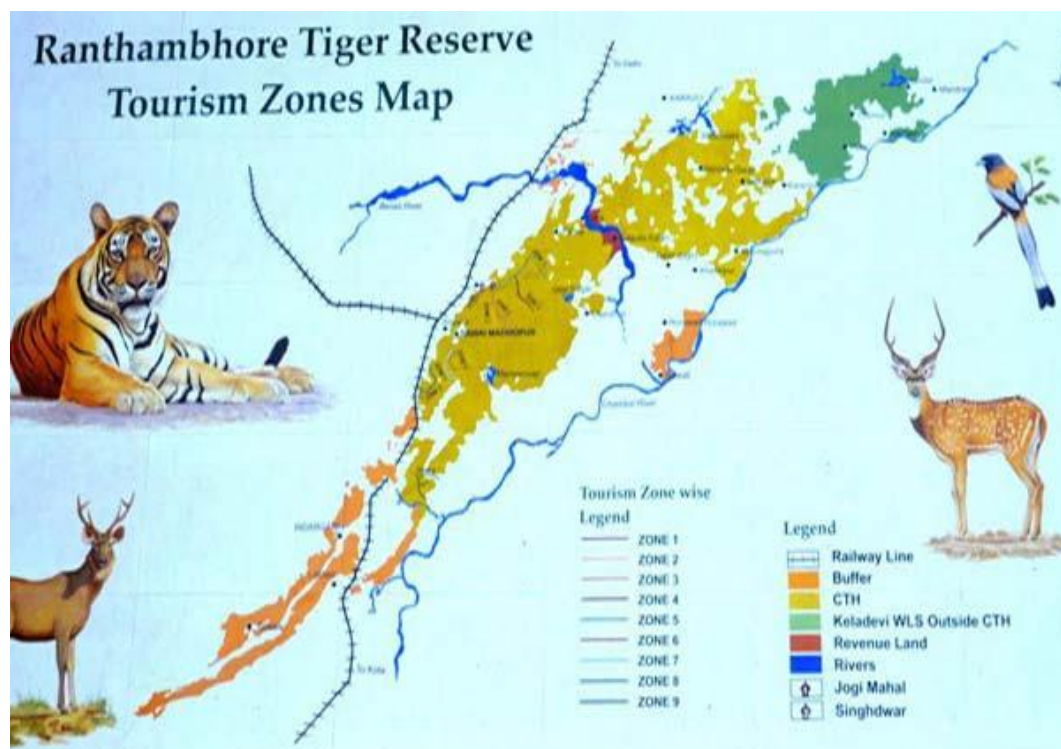
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Abstract: *Ecotourism is a sustainable path to tourism development and is being promoted as a means of giving nature a value and hence achieving sustainable tourism. The objective of ecotourism is to promote sustainable tourism, which involves overall development of the local community and to provide a better understanding and appreciation of natural and cultural features of the host population leading to international, inter-regional and inter-cultural understanding for sustainable development. The involvement of the local communities and other stakeholders is an important component to achieve the goals of ecotourism. The definition of ecotourism has changed significantly with the passage of time. Earlier ecotourism was defined as a descriptive concept in which there was no difference between ecotourism and nature tourism. But now, ecotourism seems to be explained as the desired state of a development to reach a balance between nature conservation, sustainable socio-economic development and nature tourism. Ecotourism in simple words means management of tourism and conservation of nature in a way so as to maintain a fine balance between the requirements of tourism and ecology on one hand and needs of the local communities on the other. Tourism and ecotourism must be placed within a country's overall development strategy, as well as within the context of a global economy.*

Keywords: *Ecotourism, National Park, Ranthambore.*

1. Introduction

Ranthambore National Park which is well connected by Jaipur, Bharatpur, Kota & major towns of Brij-Mewar-Circuit. The park is situated in between the junction of two main rivers i.e. Chambal and Banas. Its mountains, valleys and ponds are worth seeing. Moreover the Ranthambore Fort is another main attraction. It is a forest fort with unique location and history. Apart from it a variety of wild animals and plants make it a big natural zoo. On the basis of such a sound natural base the Ranthambore Park will always remain a source of attraction for both the foreign and domestic tourists.





2. Eco-tourism components in Ranthambore National Park

The eco-tourism component in Ranthambore National Park mainly includes the protected natural forest area, the forest park area, the natural plant park area, the natural animal park, the ecological area and artificial ecological system. These components are all based on flora and fauna of Ranthambore national park and wonderful scene of the national park etc.

They are all the subjects for tourist visiting in the park area.

3. Management Objectives and Problems

The following objectives have been expressed exactly and clearly around the set of values acknowledged and treated as most important course of action:

- 1) The eco-system of Ranthambore Tiger Reserve is much needed to be improved and protected.
- 2) To sustain feasibility, population of tigers for systematic, financial, artistic, cultural, and ecological values through the total environmental protection of the complete vegetation and wildlife.
- 3) To develop eco-tourism spots beyond the scaled central area.
- 4) Buffer zone should be preferred to develop the productivity grasses, fuel wood and other group of plantations to reduce pressure on core zone.
- 5) Through eco-development initiating the village people should be motivated through vice versa helping and taking reward thereof. Because of relocating of communities those are living near by the project tiger area.
- 6) To grow and continue existence corridor to encourage and proliferate the wild life.
- 7) To flourish social-economic research and ecological studies and achieve the above objectives.
- 8) To inspire the Mogiyas and other wandering tribe for alteration in their poaching behaviors and to relocate them.
- 9) To improve the efficiency of the staff through proper training programme and make strong infrastructure.

4. Strategies and Zonation

Forest officer of protected areas are applying some strategies, so that they can solve the problem of Zone area for that they formulate some objectives:

1. **Control Grazing:** Domestic animals including cattle, sheep, goat, and camel can't graze inside the buffer and forest areas surrounding the core. The problem began critical in the period from July to October because the domestic animals of nearby villages move in to park area. For this illegal grazing Ranthambore National Park (RNP) getting adverse impact.
 - a. The center area is getting ruined.
 - b. Spread of infectious diseases in the wild animals.
 - c. Illegal forest cutting is also an option by the side of illegal grazing.

Management of RNP is planning to control illegal grazing:

- a. A two divided approach of discussion with the villagers along with serious use of man power for protection from grazing inside the RNP should be continued.
- b. A grazing fee should be collected by forest management and the villagers to be issued permits. By issuing permits unofficial entries can be controlled.
- c. Thorough study of village wise community, financial situation of the graziers, domestic animal population and grazing lands should be carried out to establish the quantum of dependency on the park for detailed planning. Beside it so many problem which are faced by management of forests are as follows:

2. Poaching: It means to steal animals or to hunt without the landowner's permission. RNP is the most vulnerable area for poaching. The boundary of RNP is spongy. The area of national park is not compact. The big cat like Tiger move from the centre area to the NP. Population of Leopards is also high. Hunters are still illegally entered the NP area and going for poaching. Even local hunting tribes Mogiyas are easily lured into the offence.

Controlling plans by management are as follows:

- a. Improving Staffing Pattern
- b. **Mobility:** The park area is not in a position to compete with the criminals with the existing mobility. That is why management is providing facility for transference so that they can easily patrolling in hard terrain.
- c. To manage and control over use of fireman around the park area.
- d. To control over mining activities



3. **Encroachment and Mining Control:** It means to advance beyond proper limit, or to make gradual inroads. It is a major problem in RTR. Some villages like Hindwa, Talvada, Basso,

Bhuri Pahadi, Padra etc. are the places of encroachment cases. These villages are situated in the boundary of RTR.

Problems faced by RTR management are as follows:

- a. The boundary separation is not clear as most of the boundary pillars are missing.
- b. The field staffs are not well versed with the boundaries. They have very little awareness.
- c. Adequate survey staff is not available, for resolving the disputes.

There are so many problems facing by RTR department through mining and encroachment.

For controlling this trouble following steps should be taken to check it:

- a. Start patrolling on the boundaries of the park areas, and should be check regularly to know any break of the boundaries line.
- b. All the broken or removed pillars are to be replaced immediately.
- c. Records of every land and block should be maintained at range level.
- d. Mining and encroachment cases should be given priority.
- e. Protection walls need to be erected where ever required.
- f. Immediate action should be taken to control such troubles.
- g. Beside these the other problems faced by RTR zones are:
- h. Illicit movement of forest and wildlife products
- i. Problem with hunting tribe Mogiyas and other Nomadic hunters etc.

5. Eco-Tourism Methodology:

- a. Traveler is allowed in the park on motor vehicle only. Trekking / camping / adventure sightseeing is not in fashion in Ranthambore National Park.
- b. Arrangement of a separate booth like “Eco-Tourism booth” to contract with the park sightseeing and related activities effectively and also to relieve the existing park staff from the pressure of tourism is highly required.

Ranthambore National Park is having the blessing from lord Ganesha that’s why its having fullness of natural beauty, natural vegetation and is rich of wildlife accompanied with hot spot of religious, historical along with their archeological significance and the rich cultural and historical inheritance of the area. So with all above merits of the Ranthambore National Park draws attention of people from other states of India as well as from across the world. From some past decades Tourism has developed as a significant in the national park. The tourist circulation in the park has been growing over the last few years. So far tourism in Ranthambore National Park has been attraction for overseas tourists in many numbers watching the fascinating loveliness and magnificence of the attractive forest prosperity available in the surrounding sanctuaries and reserve forest areas. Ranthambore National Park is having much scope for starting many opportunities related to the eco-tourism.

The Park is attractive and is full of water the lakes and ponds and the park area have high density of the forest. Many sorts of birds, crocodiles, dense plantation of grass is available for the grazing of wild animals. It’s due to the awareness of the management and civic sense of the tourists and local people. It is giving a powerful look of ecotourism to the area. And the comparative business is also going up. Now this is a compact business of the area which has given employment to the local people. As a consequence, it shows that the prosperity is continuously going on. We cannot avoid the awareness of RTC and forest department who are giving the good results by performing their duties? The selection of intelligent guides and giving them good training to be well behaved and knowledgeable for their work. As well as the good condition of vehicles by which the tourists visit the park. It can happen by having the full attention of the management. One thing which is also seems an important, is that in 30 km. surroundings of Ranthambore National Park, there is Rameswar Ghat, the ancient temple of Chatarbhuji Nath on the bank of Chambal River where crocodile project also developed by the Government of Rajasthan, is now being developed, it 80 percent work has been over. It is also going to become a powerful and captivating tourist’s place where the maximum attention is being paid for the environment.

6. Recommendations

As mentioned above the identified eco-tourism sites lack basic facilities. These facilities should be provided as early as possible. If the area is to be developed for tourists, it will need basic amenities that ensure that people visit again and the tourist industry is kept going. An area without basic amenities is a disappointment for a tourist. Some local people are interested in tourism. They should be involved in the process as this will be help in conservation of National Park and also will improve their standard of living. Not only will these locals be offering their detailed knowledge of the river, but they will also be gaining a lot



through this. Tar road connectivity from observed tourism sites to towns can be made for better reach. The connectivity of a tourist spot to a nearby town is important for the tourists to reach the place easily. However, total connectivity will take away from the area its inaccessible advantage that also keeps vandals away at rest. Rapid development would be a hazard rather than an advantage.

7. Eco Tourism Strategy at Ranthambore National Park

- a. (i) Survey of potential sites for camping and trekking. Earmarking the camping sites to assess identification of trekking routes and to specify the number of tents/canopy that can be pitched at any one time on each site.
- (ii) Identifying historical properties inside the forest area, and listing out of information on villages inhabiting the area.
- (iii) Identification of Forest/Nazul properties with potential for developing as places of rest or overnight stay.
- b. (i) Operation of camping sites all trekking equipment required in the forest area to be identified and procured for hiring out.
- (ii) Money collected from tourists will be deposited at the end of the month with the forest department.
- (iii) Intensive training of guides to take the tourists on the trekking trips.
- c. (i) **Signage** : Proper signage to be put up inside the forest area to give details of the flora, fauna, historical sites details of medicinal plants, maps to show track path.
- (ii) Hoardings to be put up on the highways to publicize the camping/trekking facilities available in the area.
- (iii) Hoardings mentioning do's & Don'ts be up on each camping sited and commencement of the trekking routes.
- d. (i) **Publicity** : Survey of potential sites for camping and trekking.
- (ii) Colorful, informative brochures and folders to be brought out focusing on the Eco-tourism of each specific area. Maps and Do's & Don'ts to be put in also.
- (iii) Audio visual can be prepared when funds can be spared. Trees and shrubs can be labeled, painting of birds/animals can be put up in the protected areas where there is a chance to sight them.

ECO-CAMPING Site at Gilai Sagar: Gilai Sagar Complex is the most appropriate for developing it as Eco Camping site. Gilai Sagar dam with its back waters provide ideal place to watch water birds. It is very near to the khandar Fort. School children, Eco development members, students and tourists can be accommodated in this place.

Camping sites at Ranthambhore Fort and khandar Fort: Suitable camping sites should be developed at these forts. Khandar Fort has been handed over to the Forest Department by the State Government.

Facilities should be developed at these forts so the tourists can enjoy the natural beauty along with a comfortable stay.

8. Status of State Tourism and its Contribution to Eco-Tourism in RNP

Due to lack of Education and maximum area of village background pertaining to the Ranthambore National Park has been the hindrance to develop the eco awareness.

The Rajasthan State Government could not achieve the purpose of eco-awareness while the meaning of eco is also relating to nature, but the responsible authorities' employees and private organization have been unsuccessful to differentiate what is eco and nature, while both are the supplement of each other, so in reference of education it should be higher priority to give education maximum to the villagers regarding above lines.

Unless the government pays full attention towards the matter, we cannot develop eco tourism especially in the area of Ranthambore National Park. It is the matter of sad event that whole of Rajasthan is availing the opportunity of eco-tourism to be developed.

Main strategy for sustainable eco-development:

- Conduct participatory micro planning preservation and security of the protected park area.
- Offer finance for a Community Ecological Development Programs which identifies assessable events by restricted people to progress dedication.
- To perform unique programs to hold up supplementary joint jungle management in buffer zone in the instant actions in surrounding area of the park.

9. Conclusions

Eco-tourism is not classified to a small profile people or a special class people but it is for the all class or profile tourists they can be from all age group of any income group or any level of education people. Its significance area is becoming great and greatest. Here we will conclude eco-tourism with the help of same topics these are as below

New Development and Apply Ecological Resources: Increase the number of applicable eco-tourism products and make sure for their applications on the basing on bad resource. Educate to the people about the significance of caring ecological system.



Make changes of the feeling in the peoples that the terrible environment is stronger than in good one. Emerging better resources of eco-tourism.

Increase value of Inferior Ecological Structure Resource: The inferior ecological structure resource generally goes by ecology weakly environment which has strong poor quality, but it occurs reproducibility on the same time period. Protect and reconstruct the ecological system without damaging it:-The old-style eco-tourism items are not so good for defensive to the environment but they are damaging it. Currently most challenging job for sustainable development of eco-tourism is emerging new good ecological products. The methods of caring environment and reconstruction ecological system equilibrium are repairing the damaged part and minimizing the damaging part. In detail, increasing those activities which are washing-out the nonsense in the tourism places, more plantation the trees and look after of them by the them self-tourist, cleaning wastage and organized some conferences or awareness seminars on how to do the reconstruction environment better etc.

We must understand that environment is the priceless gift of nature. To protect our environment and maintain the ecological balance, we must bestow our immediate attention to it. The world will become Uninhabitable if pollution continues unabated. We should be ready to accept the price paid to set right the environmental degradation, or else adverse consequences will be faced by mankind.

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