

Satkosia Tiger Reserve



Satkosia Tiger Reserve is the second tiger reserve of the state of Orissa, situated at its heart on either side of river Mahanadi including the gorge portion. The big mountains are standing both side of the river which nature created gorge. The gorge is narrow but very deep having strong under current of water. The length of this gorge is 7 kosa which is equivalent to 22 Kms. The name of the gorge is called as the Satkosia gorge. In the name of this gorge state Govt. declared its 795.52 Sq. Km. area as Satkosia gorge sanctuary in the year 1976. The Baisipalli sanctuary was also declared as sanctuary in the year 1983 the adjacent of the Satkosia southern part.



Satkosia as a biological refuge has got tremendous value and is considered as an important biogeography stepping stone in the link between forest species of central India & South India. Satkosia contains significant

wildlife resources of the Deccan Peninsular biogeographic Zone. This tiger Reserve is of ecological interest in that it is the wettest part of Deccan Zone and has a sizeable central India elephant population existing in deciduous forest situations.



This unique ecosystem has communities of considerable biodiversity interest including many known and unknown endemic species. The Tiger Reserve is also important for the natural habitat of two species of crocodilians viz. Gharial and Mugger and sizeable population of Royal Bengal Tiger, Leopard, Bison, Four horn antelope, Sambar Braking deer, Mouse deer, Giant squirrel, wild dog etc. Satkosia represents the endemic life forms of both the biotic provinces in its transitional zone.

Geologically speaking, the ghats formed the land bridge for faunal migrations between Holarctic, Indo-Chinese and Indo Malayan regions on one hands and Western Ghats on the other. Presently, this is supposed to bear a relict and much impoverished life-from of much wider distribution and richness of the past. Satkosia forms important catchments of lower Mahanadi basin.



The positive role these catchments of forests play in prevention of the gorge siltation and maintenance of a specific desirable depth of water can hardly be over emphasized, particularly the endangered gharial and spawning sites for commercially important carps and prawns. The avifauna of Satkosia is rich & varied with resident birds viz Emerald Dove, Malabar pied hornbill, Shaheen falcon, yellow legged button quail, Malabar trogon, Hill myna, Great stone plover and brown winged stork billed kingfisher. The migratory birds like Brahmany ducks, Bar-headed geese, jungle fowl, Titer, Peacock, paradise fly catcher and pintails are sighted in this Tiger Reserve. IBCN already had been declared Satkosia as the Important Bird Area (IBA).

The Tiger Reserve is managed by two wildlife divisions, south part by Mahanadi Wildlife Division at Nayagarh and north part by Satkosia Wildlife Division at Angul. Both Divisions area under coming Satkosia Gorge and Baisipalli sanctuary and 1038 Sq. Km. area of both were declared Mahanadi elephant reserves in 2002 by the State Government. Satkosia also enjoys the status of a Tiger Reserve after being the title in December 2007 after an approval of the Central Tiger Forest.

Under Wildlife protection Act (amendment 2006), now, request has been made to declare Satakosia as Bio-sphere reserve for its biodiversity and abundant natural resources. Now in the tiger reserve 18 Royal Bengal tiger, 32 leopards, 78 muggers, 03 gharial and 194 elephants are living. As

per the Forest Deptt., Working plan record reflected there are four Hundred plant species, 38 mammals, 27 reptiles, 04 amphibians, 164 birds and 181 fishes residing in the tiger reserve.



There are 135 villages inside the Tiger Reserve including 03 Forest Village and 10 Hamlets. In the buffer zone as many as 250 villages are located. Now the Department has initiated sustainable livelihood activities through participatory approach with the inhabitants. Local People and Forest department have joined hands and local people are cooperating for biodiversity conservation aspects. More then two hundred local youths working as a Tiger force and elephant trackers. Satkosia was a contiguous with protected areas of Khalasuni sanctuary, South Keonjhar, Chandaka, Kapilas and other Reserve Forest; these were natural corridor links to facilitate migration of elephant herbs.

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