

Annual Activity Report for the year 2021-22 in respect of Wildlife Organization

The state has 19 wildlife sanctuaries, one National park, one proposed National Park, three elephant reserves, two tiger reserves, one proposed tiger reserve and 14 identified elephant corridors for addressing in-situ conservation of wildlife of the state in the natural environment of the animal. 11 zoos (out of which 7 mini, 3 small and one large zoo) have been established in the state to take care of ex-situ conservation of animals. 15 eco-sensitive zones around these protected areas have been proposed for declaration as per direction of Govt. of India. Out of these, ten have been finally notified and draft notification on four sanctuaries have been issued by Govt. of India. All the sanctuaries are guided by a wildlife management plan prepared for ten years. Similarly, all the zoos are operated as per the Zoo Management Plan approved by the Central Zoo Authority. As of now, 539 nos. of EDC have been formed covering an area of 43455.32 ha. of protected area and thus people's participation play a major role in conservation of wildlife.

Protection of Wildlife

Increase in human population has enhanced the dependency on forest resources for which the man animal conflict in the state is a matter that needs special attention. To check the man-animal conflict caused by wild animals including elephant in the State following measures are being taken by the State Govt. during 2021-22.

- i. 586 nos. of Anti-depredation /Anti-poaching squads / Elephant squad & 115 nos. elephant trackers have been engaged to prevent depredation by wild animals.
- ii. Trench fencing over 1 km. has to be taken up in the depredation prone localities to prevent entry of wild animals into human habitations.
- iii. Inhabitants of depredation prone localities are made aware well in advance regarding presence of elephants and are being made aware of the do's and don'ts to deal with elephants.
- iv. Govt. has launched awareness campaigns with an objective to spread general awareness among the people with the help of VSS/Eco Development Committee members, NGOs and school students. To monitor the movements of elephants and for alerting villagers timely, 2785 nos. Gaja Saathi has been engaged in 557 nos. of villages(5 nos./ village).
- v. 367 nos. of Solar Street light is to be installed in the remote villages having no electricity to prevent depredation of wild elephants.

- vi. Regular coordination meetings with DISCOMS & Railway are regularly being conducted.
- vii. In all the upcoming linear projects, provision of animal underpass/ overpass along with other prescriptions of Govt. of India is being made to provide safe passage to animals.
- viii. Vulnerable stretches of National & state Highways are being identified to take steps to check road accidents of animals.
- ix. Compassionate payments due to wildlife depredation is being made promptly to the victims through the DFOs. Compassionate amount due to wild animal attack to the tune of `1512.11 lakh has been paid to the victims up to 31st December 2021.
- x. SMS based early warning system is being implemented to minimize loss to life and property due to wildlife depredation. Also through ANUKAMPA portal collection, processing & sanction of wildlife depredation related claims have been digitized to hasten the process of claim settlement.
- xi. A 24 x 7 toll free number (18003456771) is functioning in the headquarters of wildlife organization to address the man-animal conflicts.

Habitat Development

Habitat development is an important activity in wildlife management. Various developmental process, biotic interferences and incidences of fire in forest areas are the main cause of degradation of wildlife habitat.

The following habitat development activities are taken up during 2021-22.

a) **Creation of waterbodies:**

To check the water scarcity in wildlife habitat, 86 nos. new waterbody and 5 nos. of WHS has to be created and 47 nos. of waterbodies to be renovated.

b) **Plantation of fruit bearing and fodder species around the water bodies:**

To augment the food and fodder requirement of wildlife, 10 ha. of fodder plantation are created and 9000 nos. of fruit bearing plants planted around the water bodies.

c) **Rejuvenation of wildlife corridor:**

Elephants being long ranging animals use traditional migratory routes for commuting between different forests. These routes known as corridors are essential to be safeguarded and rejuvenated through habitat improvement for ensuring minimal human-elephant conflict and to conserve the gene pool of the

pachyderms. 25 ha. of rejuvenation of corridor has been taken up during 2021-22.

d) Mangrove plantation:

To protect and preserve the coastal areas including human habitations from natural calamities mangroves plays a vital role. For its protection and management, 150 ha. of mangrove plantation have to be taken up in coastal district of Puri (Devi-Kadua) and Kendrapada (Mahanadi Delta & Bhitarkanika) during 2021-22.

e) Census:

Census is an integral part of wildlife management. Census of wildlife species conducted during 2021 is enclosed in **Annexure-I**.

f) Construction of multi level Car parking place

A large numbers of visitors visiting Nandankanan regularly and the numbers is increasing especially in the weekend days. The visitors are parking their vehicles here and there on the road creating heavy rush for which the traffic problem is arising. To avoid such heavy rush and traffic problem, one multi level car parking has been newly constructed at the entry gate of Nandankanan Zoological Park.

Village relocation

Relocation of villages from critical protected areas is an important steps for conserving flagship species like tigers which require vast inviolate habitats. It not only makes the protected area inviolate but also enable the villagers to assess various development schemes of the state.

From the year 1994 to 2020, 14 villages involving 801 families have been relocated from Similipal, Satkosia, Debrigarh, Khalasuni and Hadgarh Sanctuaries. During December, 2021 all 42 families of village Lambipali have been relocated from Debrigarh Sanctuary to outside Sanctuary. In this process, funds have been provided for relocation of Asanbahal village of Satkosia (WL) Sanctuary, Baliamba village of Khalasuni (WL) Sanctuary and Jamunagarh village of Similipal Tiger Reserve.

Eco-tourism

Forest and Environment Department is the Nodal Agency for development of ecotourism in the state.

Till now 47 no. of eco-tourism destinations have been developed with 366 rooms for accommodating 769 eco-tourist for night stay. 7 new eco-tourism sites are under construction. Online booking facility is available for Ecotourism destinations through www.ecotourodish.com. During the year 2021-22 (up to 29th December, 2021), the revenue generation of State from eco-tourism is `556.81 lakh.

46,576 nos. tourist have visited these 47 eco-tourism destinations spread over 18 revenue districts of State (including tribal dominated districts like Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Malkangiri, Kandhamal, Bargarh and Nayagarh etc.) during 2021-22 (till 29th December, 2021). Eco-tourism is an alternate source of livelihood for the forest dependent communities. More than 600 forest dependent community members are engaged in eco-tourism activities.

Awareness Creation

Various important wildlife related days such as World Elephant Day on 12th August, International Wildlife week on 7th October and World Tiger Day on 29th July, foundation day of Nandankanan on 29th December etc. are celebrated in a big way involving school and college children, VSS, EDC, NGO, various line department officials, persons from Civil society, public representatives, members from the media to generate mass awareness and sensitization towards conservation of wildlife. Debate, quiz, sit and draw and photography competitions on various wildlife related topics are conducted, rallies, awareness meetings, pamphlets-posters and street play, etc. are organized to spread awareness.

Apart from that persons having exemplary contribution in the field of Wildlife conservation are felicitated with Biju Patnaik Award for Wildlife Conservation which has been instituted since 2005. This award is given at the sub-division and at the state level. The sub-division level awardees and the state level awardee are now being given a cash award of `5,000/- and `2,00,000/- respectively. Shri Nanda Kishore Bhujabal, Vice Chairman, Wild Orissa has been awarded this prestigious award at the State Level on 08.10.2021 by the Hon'ble Minister, Forest, Environment & Climate Change, Odisha.

The details of financial target and achievement up to 30th November, 2021 and financial target for 2022-23 (proposed) under Programme Expenditure is enclosed in **Annexure-II**.