



सत्यमेव जयते

GOVT. OF MAHARASHTRA



MELGHAT TIGER RESERVE AMRAVATI



TIGER CONSERVATION PLAN: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Plan Period: 2024-25 To 2033-34

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Tiger Conservation Plan of Melghat Tiger Reserve has taken shape in the background of the following policy frameworks:

- Global
 - UN Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030)
 - Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
- National
 - National Wildlife Action Plan (2017-2031)
 - National Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan (2021-2026)

Keeping this context in mind, the Tiger Conservation Plan (2023-24 to 2031-32) for MTR has been conceived. The document doesn't limit itself to land consolidation or biodiversity conservation within its boundaries, alone. Instead the plan, acknowledges its position in the larger landscape context of Satpuda-Maikal Conservation landscape.

The plan is also a departure from the Traditional Tiger Biased Conservation. The core plan recognizes the need to protect and conserve native biodiversity to ensure a viable breeding population of tiger, co-predators and its prey base by creating inviolate habitat and facilitating movement across the conservation landscape.

Recognizing the importance of an impending water crisis, the plan also states in no uncertain terms that 'Protection of catchment of Sipna, Gadga, Dolar, Khandu, Khapra, Wan rivers and other associated streams for sustainable conservation of basic life support systems' as an important management objective.

The plan also provides a dedicated Forest Owlet Conservation Plan which is a commitment of the reserve to protecting the endemic species.

The TCP recognizes the fact that making tiger habitats inviolate has been the crux of 'Melghat recovery' since the first relocation of Bori, Koha, Kund and the plan details various learnings and lessons learnt in the process. This will be a ready reckoner for the future administrators of the reserve and any reserve manager who wants to understand how the nuts and bolts of relocation and rehabilitation process works on ground.

The plan provides an interesting perspective and raises important questions on carrying capacity calculations that have been traditionally used in deciding how many tigers a reserve is supposed to have and provides a deep analysis on what these numbers mean in the context of ground realities of MTR.

The buffer plan commits to maintain an ecologically viable buffer area which will suitably safeguard and supplement the core area, the critical core natal habitat for the Tiger, its co-predators and prey base and which shall be managed both for the betterment of wildlife and local communities based on sound principles of sustainability

& Co-occurrence. The plan also confirms to the present rethinking of buffer area management when it says that status of buffer should not be elevated to that of the core and managerial interventions should be restricted to allow tiger / wildlife gene permeability and low-density occupancy while facilitating the meta-population dynamics of tiger in productive patches.

The ecotourism, interpretation and nature education plan for Melghat Tiger Reserve focuses on participatory, community based, low impact, educational, eco-friendly, ecologically sustainable, socially and culturally acceptable programmes which are aligned with the objective of tiger and its landscape conservation

The corridor plan also uses to the latest tools of CIRCUITSCAPE in delineating corridors thereby ensuring that the legal backing bestows on all important corridors that provide the permeability to tigers and other co-predators sharing the landscape.
