

**CENTRE FOR SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT**



**ANIL AGARWAL DIALOGUE 2020**

# **ANNUAL MEDIA CONCLAVE ON THE STATE OF INDIA'S ENVIRONMENT**

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# Tourism ‘for’ and ‘with’ people

Presentation by Dr. Anjuna Dhir



National Body for Responsible Tourism

# Ecotourism Society of India( ESOI)



- Formed by a group of professionals from the tourism industry, environmental bodies, government & Parliament members.
- ESOI works closely with Central and State Governments and regional stakeholders across the country to establish Sustainable Tourism practices
- We partner MoT, State Govt, Industry, Destination Managers, Community & visitors

# Where Do The Challenges Lie

With so much wildlife diversity why are we so far behind in wildlife tourism to leading destinations such as countries in Africa.



Quality of  
Lodges



Safari  
Experience



Qualified  
Naturalists



Park Rules &  
Regulations



Conservation &  
Sustainability



Wildlife  
Knowledge





**ANIL AGARWAL  
DIALOGUE 2020**

***“Unless we are in a position to provide **employment** and the **purchasing power** for the daily necessities of tribal people and those who live in and around our forests, we cannot **prevent** them from poaching or despoiling our vegetation...”***

**Mrs. Indira Gandhi**

Late Indian Prime Minister  
at Stockholm, 1972.



On the contrary, in many parts of the country we still don't appreciate basic facts...

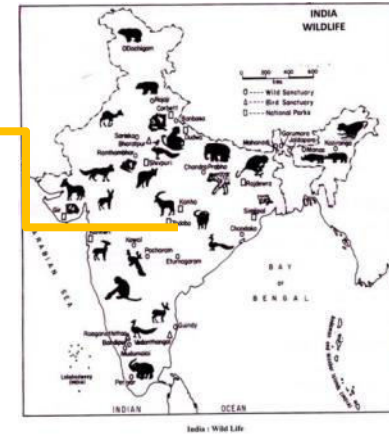
- Forest neighbouring communities **PAY** the **PRICE for our CONSERVATION** ideas and actions... poor access, few schools, poor medical facilities...

- We had forgotten that even they could have **ASPIRATIONS** like us – the people who enjoy benefits of Conservation.



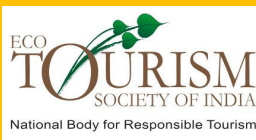
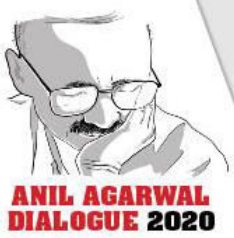
*Not much had changed for these people since independence.*

# This is a story from TATR **Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve**, in Maharashtra State of India



- ❖ Area :  $625.40 \text{ km}^2$  (Core) +  $1101.77 \text{ km}^2$  (Buffer) =  $1,727.17 \text{ km}^2$
- ❖ Almost 100,000 people live next to the T.R.
- ❖ 79 villages in Buffer & 2 inside the Core
- ❖ Today, many more neighbourhood villages are our friends
- ❖ And Tadoba is one of India's finest Tiger Reserves

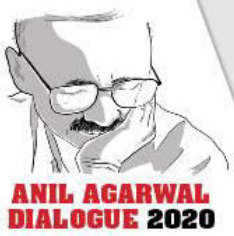




# Presenting a new outlook in the Indian wildlife tourism & conservation scenario

*Protecting the tiger in a human populated landscape – by involving the same communities, we once considered as enemies of the forest.*





# Formation of EDCs : Eco Development Committees

*Empowering forest neighbouring communities to become stakeholders.*

*By helping them benefit from the forest - through capacity building for Eco Tourism.*





**Thus, it was  
time to  
rediscover the  
wheel...**

**Thus was born the  
plan to empower the  
communities and bring  
about their  
development.**

**This would also help  
reduce conflict and  
improve relations.**



***This generation should be born  
in an atmosphere of peace and  
happiness & not of conflict.***





# Time to look at Locals – NOT as “Cheap Labour” but as **Partners** and even **Actual Owners** - **Making them Stakeholders**







Number of training programmes – Indoor...





And outdoors...



- |                         |                |                                |               |
|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Roller               | निलपंख         | 11. Serpent Eagle              | सर्पगुरु      |
| 2. Tree-pie             | टकाचोर         | 12. Spotted Owlet              | पिंगला        |
| 3. Paradise flycatcher  | स्वर्गीय नर्तक | 13. Oriole — (a) Black-hooded  | हलदिया        |
| 4. Indian Pitta         | नवरंग          | (b) Golden                     |               |
| 5. Magpie Robin         | दयाल           | 14. Parakeet — Plum-headed     | पोपट/लुनई     |
| 6. Flameback Woodpecker | सुतारपट्टी     | 15. Dove — (a) Ringed/Collared | होल्मा        |
| 7. Honey buzzard        | माहोळदार       | (b) Little brown               |               |
| 8. Egret                | गाय बगला       | (c) Spotted                    |               |
| 9. Peacock              | मोर            | 16. Kingfisher — (a) Pied      | खंड्या/बंड्या |
| 10. Vulture             | गिधाड          | (b) White breasted             |               |
|                         |                | (c) Common                     |               |
|                         |                | (d) Stork-billed               |               |
|                         |                | 17. Lapwing — (a) red wattled  |               |
|                         |                | 18. Purple Moorhen/Swamphen    | पान्नाकोव     |
|                         |                | 19. Hoopoe                     | हुडहुड        |

CARNIVORE — कार्नीवोर (Non-Veg)

OMNIVORE — ओमनीवोर (Mix)

FRUIT EATER — फ्रूटीवोर (फ्रूट)

INSECTIVORE — इनसेक्टीवोर (मिड)

Birds are always a great starting point  
Colour, song and movement







Many became guides in “their” forests,  
some bought vehicles too...

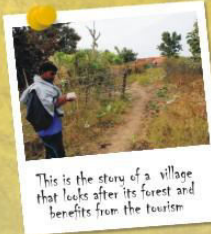




# Be a detective in our forest

**Tadoba Eco Tourism**  
Community Tourism Initiative

Exploring our Jungles like never before!!!



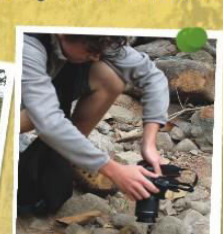
This is the story of a village that looks after its forest and benefits from the tourism



Some of us friends went on a Nature Trail in the forest... Accompanied by a local guide



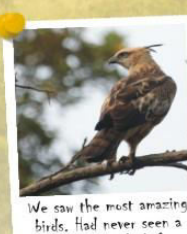
So we began our trail, passing a monsoon stream



We were soon observing and documenting what we saw...



Height of Patience... We sat motionless on this machan waiting for wildlife.



We saw the most amazing birds. Had never seen a crested hawk eagle before...



These are so beautiful seeds. They are locally called Gurja and are used by goldsmiths.



Analysis of a predator dropping - scat shows what it must have eaten. This tiger ate a small Porcupine...



Check this Leg Piece!!! Sambar was killed by a tiger and dragged into a bush there. This is all that remains.



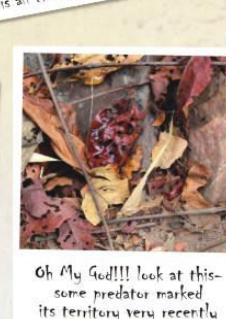
Wow!!! Look at this insect - does it not look like a tiger?



This is the first time I held a frog in my hands. It wasn't weeks at all. Loved it in fact.



We found this amazing pugmark on the trail. We poured POP solution into it and prepared a casting.



Oh My God!!!! look at this - some predator marked its territory very recently



Hey look what our Camera Traps caught!!! A tigress and a wild bear walked in front of our camera at night!



# Bicycling in Tadoba buffer from Jan 1

## Seven-Km Nature Trail Also Being Opened

Vijay.Pinjarkar  
@timesgroup.com

**Nagpur:** In a bonanza for tourists visiting Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR), new attractions will be launched in its buffer zone from New Year. From January 1, a 6km cycling route will be thrown open for visitors at Pardi in Agarzari. Besides, a 7-km nature trail will also be opened at Sitarampeth near Moharli.

"We also plan to open four nature trails in Tadoba buffer in Navegaon (Ramdegi), Zari in Kolasa, Kolasa, and Junona next month. We have procured 15 bicycles. One guide will

accompany a group of three tourists. The facility will be available in mornings and evenings," said Gajendra Narwane, deputy director (buffer), TATR.

Soon, boating facility will also be started at Iril Lake near Agarzari. The deputy director (buffer) office has applied for NOC with authorities at Chandrapur Super Thermal Power Station (CSTPS). "Till a NOC is received, trials are being conducted at Moharli lake. Local youths are being trained as guides," source said.

The aim to start these activities is to focus on tiger habitat tourism instead of tiger tourism. Parks have become overcrowded due to tiger-centric tourism. Recently, Pench Tiger Reserve on Maharashtra side has also announced a slew of measures like mochan sittings and night safari to boost tourism in its buffer zone in Nagwadi area.

# End with

Payal.Gwa  
@timesgroup

**Nagpur:** Why is it dark, and split in hours? Is it possible to travel at the speed of light? What makes a common body become a superhero? These were questions that were asked from the city govt. from scientists and others. Others were busy with the models that they had to put forth their solutions of the problems like conservation, agriculture and security.

This was the scenario at the Raman Science Centre Planetarium as the Orange City Fair inaugurated on Monday that will end on Wednesday. It was inaugurated in the presence of Meenakshi vanshi, director of Shikshan Sanstha, Dr. Rameshwar Bhave, director of Radhikatai Pandey Engineering. They also presented their teaching aids. Poems and written quiz competitions were also held on the

MODEL ACT



Cycle on traffic less roads – in wilderness





Silent boat-ride for birding on the Irai backwaters.  
A totally new experience.



# What does the Grey Headed Fish Eagle say? Come to Moharli to listen to it and many others too!!!



Common Kingfisher  
*Alcedo atthis* - 16 cms



White-throated Kingfisher  
*Halcyon smyrnensis* - 27 cms



Pied Kingfisher  
*Ceryle rudis* - 25 cms

Forests support water-birds

As you search for the Kings of good fishing- these kingfishers and other water-birds depend on the rich water ecosystem.

The water-body itself gets fed from the neighbouring forest.



Little Cormorant  
*Phalacrocorax niger* 50 cms



Purple Swamphen  
*Porphyrio porphyrio* 45 cms



Common Sandpiper  
*Actitis hypoleucos* 20 cms



White-breasted Waterhen  
*Amaurornis phoenicurus* 32 cms



Little Grebe  
*Tachybaptus ruficollis* 25 cms



Life on the edge

You can sit by the lake-side and scan the water-edge to search for these beautiful hunters. They can be seen chasing dragon flies, water-beetles and other little insects. In fact you can actually see a beautiful living ecosystem here.

River Tern

*Sterna aurantia* 42 cms



White-browed Wagtail

*Motacilla maderaspatensis* 21 cms

Little insect chasers

Wagtails, terns and swallows are always on lookout for insects- on the ground or in the air. Joy watching them.



Darter

*Anhinga melanogaster* 90 cms

Pond Heron

*Ardeola grayii* 42 cms

Grey Heron

*Ardea cinerea* 95 cms



Cattle Egret  
*Bubulcus ibis* 50 cms



Asian Openbill Stork

*Anastomus oscitans* 68 cms

Check their long necks

All these long necked gentlemen use their long necks to reach out to their prey - who must be feeling that they are a safe distance away.

# The Great Tadoba Bird Race

Moharli – 14th Jan, 2019

“Makar Sankrant”

**Win exciting Prizes**

Details : [biologist.tatr@gmail.com](mailto:biologist.tatr@gmail.com)

Call: 7588063463





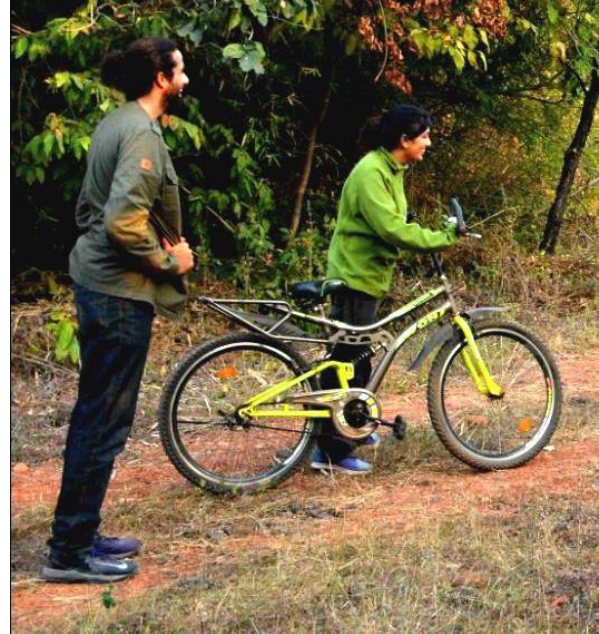
VIKRAM PATASKAR | PHOTOGRAPHY



More training








## Explore Tadoba Differently







Meet our Butterflies @ Agarzari

Test your Adventure Spirit @ Agarzari

Cycle our Jungles @ Junona

Sit on our Watch towers

Meet Feed & Ride our Elephants @ Moharli

Patrol at Night @ Padmapur/ Moharli

Go boating @ Sitarampeth

How are you exploring our Tadoba

**tadoba** National Park  
Deputy Director (Buffer) Office  
+91-75078 09222  
H/O Buffer Office at Moharli  
+91-93254 74458  
Eco Tourism Manager at Agarzari  
+91 87864 58121

Book your Tadoba Experience

Activity (Click to book)	Reporting/ Start Pt.	Activity Timing	Fees	More Details
<a href="#">Meet our Butterflies</a>	Village Agarzari	10 am to 6 pm	Rs. 20/- pp.	Tuesday Closed
<a href="#">Cycling</a> Moharli – Padmapur - Moharli on the road	Buffer Gate	7 am – 10 am 3 pm – 6 pm	Rs. 1600/- for 4 pax	Three hour
<a href="#">Boating</a>	Sitarampeth Boat club, Shegaon Road	7 am to 6 pm	Rs. 3000/- for 6 pax	One hour
<a href="#">Elephant Feeding</a>	Core Gate, Moharli	5 pm to sunset	Rs. 100/- for 6 pax	Bananas free
<a href="#">Elephant Ride</a>	Core Gate, Moharli	8 am – 10 am 3 pm – 5 pm	Rs. 2000/- for 4 pax	Forty five minutes
<a href="#">Sit on a Machan</a> Kalar Lake, Devada Talao, Junona Kuti, Navargaon Lake, 9 no. Tower	Buffer Office, Moharli	5:30 am to 9:30 am	Rs. 1850/- for 2 pax Rs. 650/- for Gypsy	Guide compulsory
<a href="#">Night patrolling</a>	Padmapur/ Junona	7 pm to 10 pm	Rs. 2,500/- your vehicle Rs. 1500/- for Gypsy	Guide compulsory
<a href="#">Adventure Activities</a>	Agarzari	7 am to 6 pm	Rs. 250/- for 10 activities	Booking compulsory

Why stay only in Hotels –  
take in the local flavour





# Benefits were soon visible





**Moharli is transformed now**







**Care to see my point of view please?**

Welcome to  
**An enchanting forest**

Protected by her people,  
this jungle provides water



Enchanting Tadoba

**Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve**



# Phase 1: We had used Eco Tourism route... very successfully!!!



Community members are today passionate about their forests – They take tourists on Safari drives into “their” forests. And many of them have also helped in nabbing offenders.





**But only Tourism based model had its limitations...**

**The benefits of Tourism could reach only a few families directly**

**There was a need to ensure others too were benefitted- And bring about an upliftment of the society as a whole**



*Historically existing anger against wildlife and the Forest Department had to be reduced. Urgently*





***Thus the Forest Department (F.D.) started the revolution to bring about a fundamental change in the Buffer area villages***

***The F.D. also started the process to provide people with livelihood generation skills***

***• Implemented with soft loans/ subsidies NOT Free***

***Dr. Shama Prasad Mukharjee Jan-Van Scheme has been a game changer***



How do you reduce people's forest dependence?  
Give them an alternative livelihood

**Solution...**

**F.D. has provided 429 milk yielding cattle  
and also technology to "value add" their milk.**





More livelihood options

**Solution...**

F.D. started 7 Incense Sticks (Agarbatti)  
manufacturing units



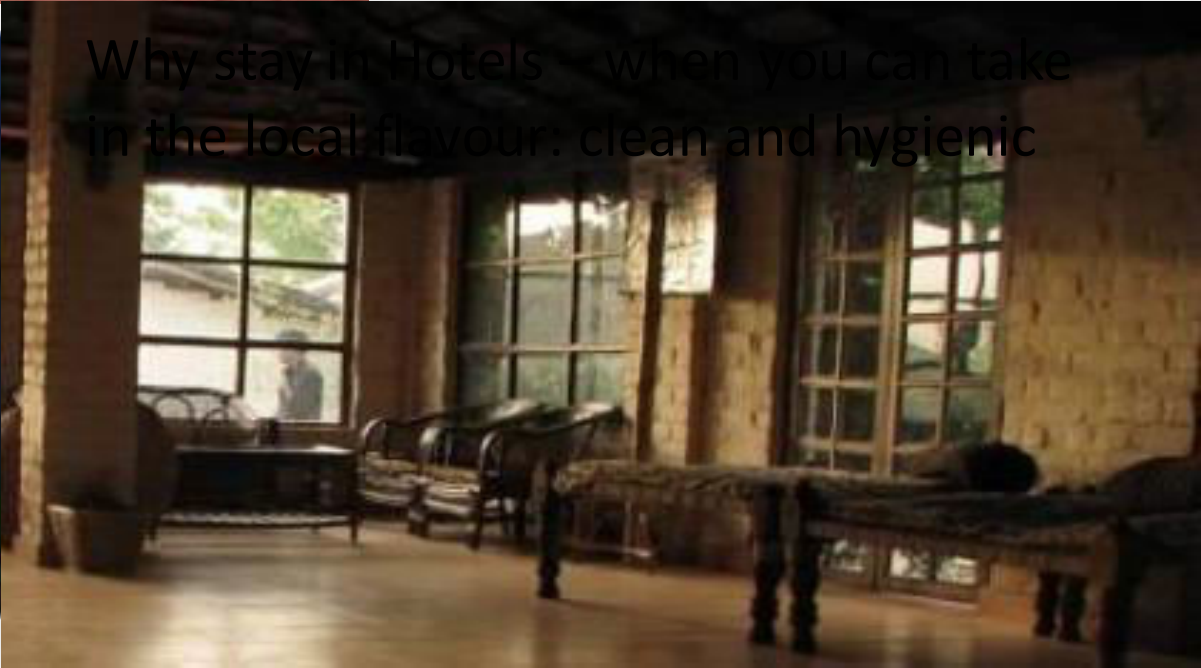
**More livelihood options  
Solution...  
F.D. started  
3 Cotton spinning units**





**More livelihood options  
Solution...**

**F.D. is supporting the  
starting of  
Community Home Stays  
and established the  
Agarzari Campsite.**



**Why stay in Hotels – when you can take  
in the local flavour: clean and hygienic**



Adding colour to life...







Moharli is transforming now...



# So what is the end result?

Improved peace and harmony between the TATR Buffer staff and local community

Community is participating in the conservation activities wholeheartedly

Damage due to forest fire has reduced

## **Most important...**

More and more villages are seeking to be included within Buffer area network

Tadoba is performing as an excellent breeding area for the Tigers – which are dispersing into other nearby forests

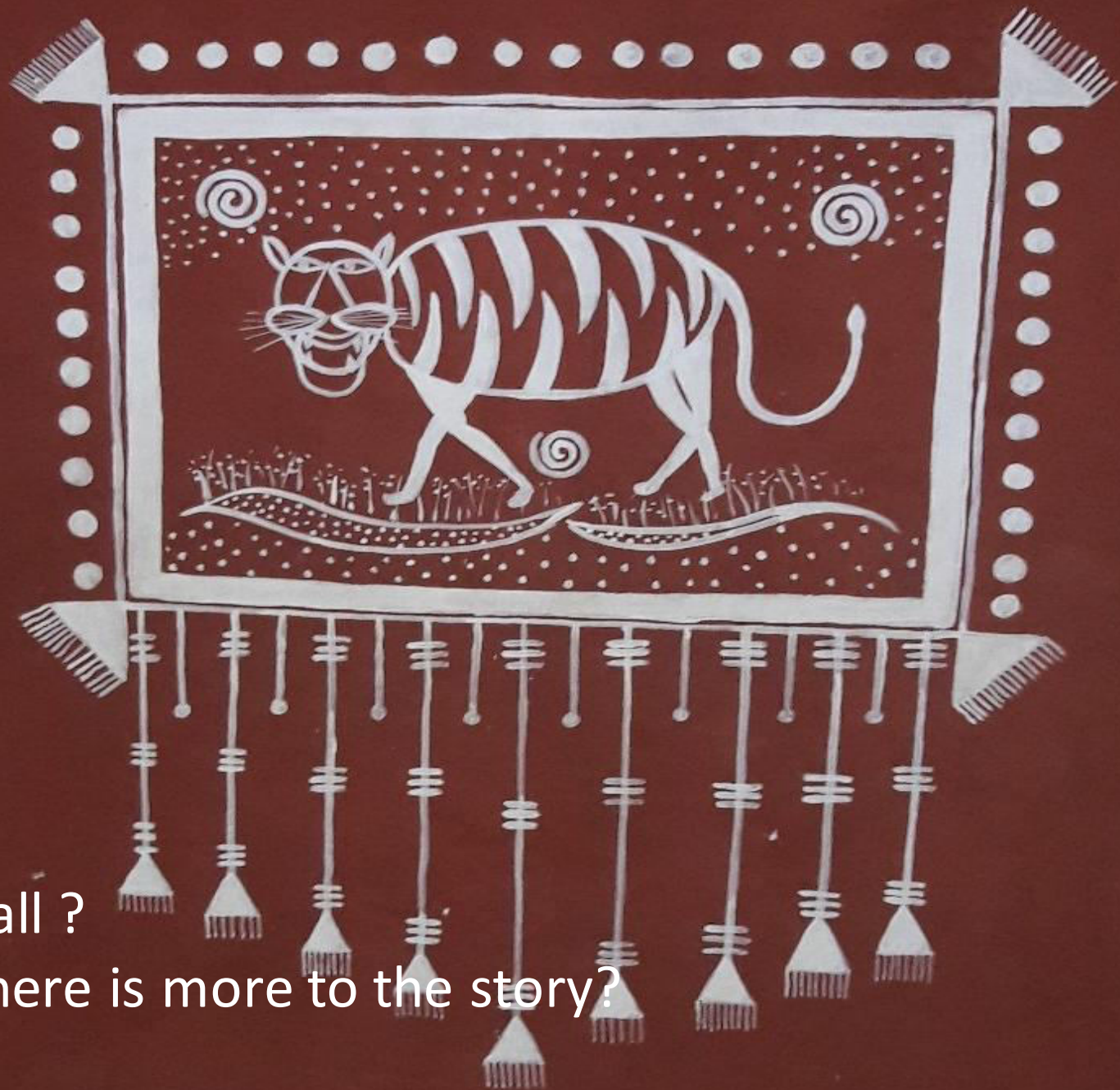






Lesson Learnt...

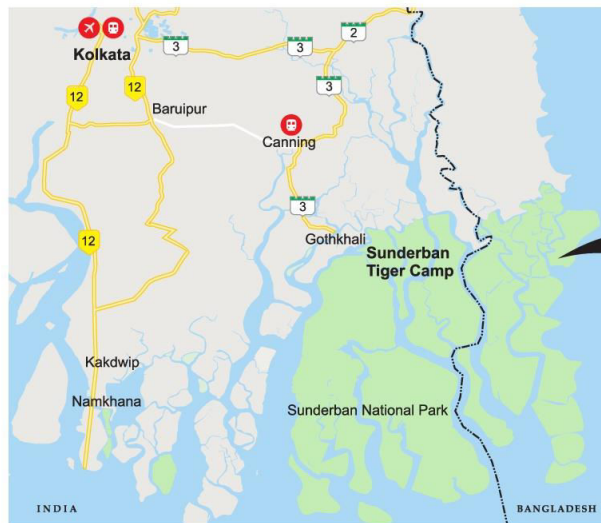
**But a community that becomes a stakeholder –  
WILL surely protect the Vandevi & its inhabitants**



Is it all ?  
Or there is more to the story?



# SUNDARBAN NATIONAL PARK



## LEGENDS



## LATITUDE & LONGITUDE LOCATION

SUNDERBAN TIGER CAMP - West Bengal	Watch Towers	Dayapur, West Bengal
22°11'07.0"N 88°51'13.5"E	Sajnekhali Watch: 22°07'25.4"N 88°49'46.1"E Sudhanyakhali: 22°06'05.2"N 88°48'06.3"E Jharkhali Park: 22°01'24.7"N 88°41'04.9"E Dobanke: 21°59'20.4"N 88°45'18.6"E Netidopani: 21°55'12.8"N 88°44'45.8"E Burirdabri: 22°04'40.3"N 88°01'44.1"E	22°07'51.2"N 88°50'48.6"E
Kolkata, West Bengal		Gothkhali, West Bengal
22°35'07.6"N 88°22'24.6"E		22°10'04.5"N 88°47'17.0"E

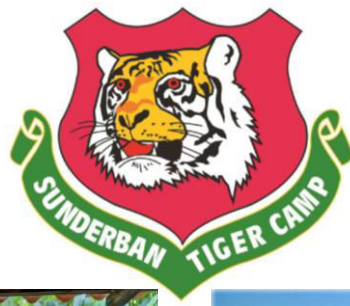
Travel Time: By Road : 3 hrs By Boat : 1.5 hrs

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[www.waxpolhotels.com](http://www.waxpolhotels.com)



Map not to scale





## The Pioneers in developing Tourism in the Sundarbans







## Empowering locals to become Guides (Alternate Employment)



**Sunderban Tiger Camp**  
Sunderban

**How can YOU make a difference for our environment?**

**CONSERVE WATER**  
by preferring showers to baths it reduces your consumption of water and reduces the length of your shower, as hot water is energy.

**REUSE**  
minimizes the use of personal care products and detergents to wash linen and reuse your hotel towels and bed linen.

**RECYCLE**  
newspapers and magazines you use, reduce the number of brochures, maps, booklets you take and return the publications you do not need.

**RESPECT**  
the environment, stay on trails during hikes, do not remove plants or feed animals, never litter. Removal can seriously disrupt ecosystems.

**RESPECT**  
local culture, traditions and religious places. Insensitive behaviour such as taking photographs of people without their consent or failure to observe local customs can cause offence.

www.waxpolhotels.com

**RESPECT**  
rules and regulations, pay attention to signals and behave responsibly (e.g. do not light fires where it is forbidden).

**REDUCE**  
the use of your car choosing other ways to move like trains, buses or bikes etc.; share taxis and take shuttles to and from the airport. Encourage drivers to stop engines when they are not used.

**REDUCE**  
the number of bags, napkins and disposal cups you use when you eat fast food and recycle your beverage containers.

**DO NOT**  
discharge litter into water or forest: it is environmental unfriendly and illegal.

**DO NOT**  
animal products and shells as souvenirs as this encourages further plundering of the forests, reefs and beaches and products which are made from endangered species as forbidden by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

**SUNDERBAN TIGER CAMP**  
Dayapur Island, P.O. Gosaba,  
South 24 Parganas, West Bengal  
India  
+91-9831170453  
kolikata@waxpolhotels.com  
www.waxpolhotels.com



## Promotion of Local Culture through Bonbibi Jatra (the local folk drama)



**Use of local transport**



**Use this for tribal dance and interactions**



**Cruise into the national parks in boats with silencers**







**Interaction with the Local Villagers**



**Honey Collection Tours**



**Promotion of Bengal Handicraft**

**Employment to local Fishermen and Baul Singers by Dingy Boat Ride Experience**



- Similar Pockets of Good Practices exist everywhere-
- Periyar
- Munnar & Kerala
- & the story goes on....



# Tourism the Means of Conservation

- MP spends all its tourism revenues on PA management.
- Bandhavgarh tiger reserve earned \$1.2 million in tourist revenue and almost the same amount from government sources.
- Reintroduction of Tigers in Panna, Gaur in Bandhavgarh and Blackbuck in Kanha, Swamp Deer in Satpura, all financed by tourism revenues.
- Obviously, without tourism revenues, PAs in MP would have been in a far worse condition.

# How Tourism Saves Nature

- Ecotourism (Access to Wilderness) is a Demanded Public Service: Government Has to Meet the Demand.
- Ecotourism is an Economic Force (It creates wealth, jobs and businesses): **What Pays, Stays.**
- Ecotourism is the only Economic Activity Which Requires Preservation of Wilderness and Wildlife.



# How Tourism Saves Nature:

- Generates Resources for Conservation
- Creates Jobs for People Who May, Otherwise, Overuse Forests and Wild Animals for Making a Living. (60-70% Jobs for Locals)..
- Tourists Act as Ears and Eyes for Antipoaching.
- Tourists Deter Criminals.
- Generates Awareness About Conservation Issues.
- Builds Public Support for Conservation.
- Enhances Staff Self-Respect and Motivation.
- Tourism Zones are better Funded and Supervised.

# CHALLENGES

## HOW TO

- GENERATE AND DEMONSTRATE MORE AND VISIBLE **BENEFITS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES** (JOBS AND BUSINESSES).
- IMPROVE THE **IMAGE** OF WILDLIFE TOURISM. (LOCALS DISPLACED FOR OUTSIDERS' ENJOYMENT).
- **PROTECT** COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE, RESOURCES AND CULTURE.
- **REGULATE AND CONTROL** VOLUMES.
- MAKE TOURISM **RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE**.



# Wildlife and Tourism: Made For Each Other.

- Wildlife Survives Only Where Ecotourism Flourishes.
- Ecotourism Flourishes Where Wildlife Flourishes.
- Ecotourism Only Industry Which has Strong Stakes in Conservation.



**THANK YOU**



**Dr. Anjuna Dhir**

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National Body for Responsible Tourism