ANIL AGARWAL DIALOGUE 2020

ANNUAL MEDIA CONCLAVE ON THE STATE OF INDIA’S ENVIRONMENT
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
“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 km² (Core) + 1101.77 km² (Buffer) = 1,727.17 km²
- 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.
Some who have steered this movement
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 निलंगम
2. Tree-pie टाकाचोरे
3. Paradise flycatcher स्वर्गीय नालक
4. Indian Pitta नफरंग
5. Magpie Robin क्याल
6. Flameback Woodpecker सुतारपक्षी
7. Honey buzzard मलेंक्षेर
8. Egret गाय बागा
9. Peacock मोर
10. Vulture गिर्हाड़
11. Serpent Eagle सर्पगंडू
12. Spotted Owlet पिंगू
13. Oriole - (a) Black-hooded (b) Golden
14. Parakeet - Plum-headed
15. Dove - (a) Ringed/Collared (b) Little brown (c) Spotted
16. Kingfisher - (a) Pied (b) White breasted (c) Common (d) Stork-billed
17. Lapwing - (a) Red wattled water
18. Purple Moorhen/ Sumpen
19. Hoopoe कुर्रुक

CARNIVORE - कर्सीवेऊर (Non-Veg)
OMNIVORE - ओमनिवेऊर (Mix)
INSECTIVORE - इन्सेक्टिवेऊर (फूड)

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

This is the start of a village that looks like a forest and benefits from the tourism.

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

As we began our trail, walking on a puneen stream.

We saw the most amazing plants. One even grew on a crested toad's eagle beak...

Here are some beautiful seeds. They are locally called Guppi and are used by goldsmiths.

We found this amazing predator on the trail. We named it ‘Paw’... Notice its eyes and prepared a naming.

Oh my God!! Look at this amazing predator marked its territory very recently.

This is the first time I held a frog in my hands. It was small but fun.

Wow!! Look at this insect... does it not look like a tiger?!
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 6-km cycling route will be thrown open for visitors at Pardi in Agazari. 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), Zarli in Kol, Kolar, 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 Inroli Lake near Agazari. 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,” sources 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 machan sittings and night safari to boost tourism in its buffer zone in Nagawadi area.

Veg mkt allotment mess to be probed

Cycle on traffic less roads – in wilderness
What does the Grey Headed Fish Eagle say? Come to Moharli to listen to it and many others too!!!

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.

Common Kingfisher
*Alcedo atthis* - 16 cms

White-throated Kingfisher
*Halcyon smyrnensis* - 27 cms

Pied Kingfisher
*Ceryle rudis* - 25 cms

River Tern
*Sterna aurantia* 42 cms

Wire-tailed Swallow
*Hirundo smithii* 14 cms

White-browed Wagtail
*Motacilla maderaspatensis* 21 cms

Grey Wagtail
*Motacilla cinerea* 19 cms

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

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

Common Sandpiper
*Actitis hypoleucos* 20 cms

Darter
*Anhinga melanogaster* 90 cms

Cattle Egret
*Bubulcus ibis* 50 cms

Pond Heron
*Ardea grayii* 42 cms

Lesser Adjutant
*Leptoptilos javanicus* 115 cms

Grey Heron
*Ardea cinerea* 95 cms

Asian Openbill Stork
*Anastomus oscitans* 68 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.

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
Call: 7588063463

Enchanting Tadoba
BUT… Why restrict only to wildlife?

Let's give them an opportunity in Adventure too.
More training
Explore Tadoba Differently
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity (Click to book)</th>
<th>Reporting/ Start Pt.</th>
<th>Activity Timing</th>
<th>Fees</th>
<th>More Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meet our Butterflies</td>
<td>Village Agarzari</td>
<td>10 am to 6 pm</td>
<td>Rs. 20/- pp.</td>
<td>Tuesday Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cycling</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mohari – Padmapur - Mohari on the road</strong></td>
<td>Buffer Gate</td>
<td>7 am – 10 am</td>
<td>Rs. 1600/- for 4 pax</td>
<td>Three hour</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 pm – 6 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boating</td>
<td>Sitarampeth Boat club, Shegaon Road</td>
<td>7 am to 6 pm</td>
<td>Rs. 3000/- for 6 pax</td>
<td>One hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elephant Feeding</td>
<td>Core Gate, Mohari</td>
<td>5 pm to sunset</td>
<td>Rs. 100/- for 6 pax</td>
<td>Bananas free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elephant Ride</td>
<td>Core Gate, Mohari</td>
<td>8 am – 10 am</td>
<td>Rs. 2000/- for 4 pax</td>
<td>Forty five minutes</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>3 pm – 5 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sit on a Machan</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kalar Lake, Devada Talao, Junona Kuti,</strong></td>
<td>Buffer Office, Mohari</td>
<td>5:30 am to 9:30 am</td>
<td>Rs. 1850/- for 2 pax</td>
<td>Guide compulsory</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Navargaon Lake,</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rs. 650/- for Gypsy</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9 no. Tower</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Night patrolling</td>
<td>Padmapur/ Junona</td>
<td>7 pm to 10 pm</td>
<td>Rs. 2,500/- / your vehicle</td>
<td>Guide compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rs. 1500/- / for Gypsy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adventure Activities</td>
<td>Agarzari</td>
<td>7 am to 6 pm</td>
<td>Rs. 250/- for 10 activities</td>
<td>Booking compulsory</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Why stay only in Hotels – take in the local flavour
Benefits were soon visible
Moharli is transformed now
Pressure on ‘their’ forest will reduce too….
Now non-Buffer villages are requesting to be included
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
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?
The Pioneers in developing Tourism in the Sundarbans

Sunderban Tiger Camp
Empowering locals to become Guides (Alternate Employment)

Promotion of Local Culture through Bonbibbi 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
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