

A Study on Project Tiger in India

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Abstract

This research paper analyses the illegal wildlife trade in India, where many animals and related items are dispatched daily as food, pets, medications, clothing, and trophies which threatens plants and animals to the verge of extinction and obstructs sustainable development leading to corruption and criminality. It mentions The Project Tiger, launched by the Government of India in 1973 to ensure Bengal tigers' population and maintain their natural habitats, including setting up a tiger protecting force. The paper further examines the effectiveness of India's forest and wildlife laws. It analyzes the efficiency of the forest and wildlife legislations including the analysis of the various challenges faced while protecting wildlife and forestry and the Government's strategies while framing wildlife policies.

Keywords: Tiger conservation, Project Tiger in India, Illegal Wildlife Trade, Wildlife Policies, Bengal Tigers

INTRODUCTION

The primary goal of the research is to examine Project Tiger, an Indian tiger conservation effort, and the factors that led to the program's launch. As a result of the externality of conservation, the indigenous communities of the forest are dispossessed of their homes and livelihoods in India's national parks. These displaced communities frequently turn against the National Parks, which provide them with food and other resources. The first fifteen years of the program saw dramatic increases in tiger populations, with the tiger population demographic patterns in India peaked around 1987. The 21st Century Tiger Project is working with ZSL and UCL to guide Indian tiger tasks. From Domestic to the largest wild tiger population globally, the tiger census (2010) suggests that over 1700 Indian tigers dwell in 39 tiger reserves. They stay in a wide variety of habitats such as the excessive-altitude, bloodless, coniferous Himalayan forests, the steaming mangroves of the Bangladesh Sundarbans, the swampy reed lands, the scorched hills of the Indian peninsula, the plush moist forests of Northern India, and the arid forests of Rajasthan. Throughout the tiger census of 2006, a new technique was used, extrapolating website-specific densities of tigers, their co-predators, and prey derived from digital camera lure and sign surveys using GIS. Based on these surveys, the entire tiger population has been estimated at 1,411, starting from 1,165 to 1,657 grownup and sub-person tigers of more than 1. Owing to the project, the variety of tigers has progressed to 226, keeping with the census report launched on 20th January 2015. The total Tiger Population as per the Tiger Census 2018 is 2,967 Tigers.

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What is the Tiger Project all about?

As the range of tigers is reducing day by day, preventive measures are of utmost importance to stop them from going extinct. Numerous efforts are being performed to protect their species, and the Project Tiger is a critical motion aimed at the flora and fauna conservation of tigers in India. The habitat required by the Tigers must be adequately maintained, and any cutting of trees in that location must be prevented. Being India's national wild animal, the nation must safeguard flora and fauna

that support its existence. Many initiatives taken by India have caused a decrease in the depletion of tigers. Many conservation areas have been created to ensure that no human could enter the area and do any damage to the Tigers or their habitat. Project Tiger was first initiated on 1st April 1973 and is still taking its course.

This project commenced by saving several tigers. A great deal-breaking project was released in Jim Corbett countrywide Park, Utrakhand, under the leadership of Indira Gandhi. The goals of the undertaking became clear- saving Royal Bengal Tigers from getting extinct. The fundamental reason for their depletion is the people, and so all the conservation areas are made human loose. They made sure that the region that tigers lived in changed into additionally secure and comfortable reserves. This project was highly successful in increasing the population of tigers from 1200 to around 5000. The team has been doing its work with complete determination, and all countrywide parks are setting various efforts in carrying forward the venture. There are approximately fifty national parks and sanctuaries that are undertaking this mission [1]. Recent additions to this mission are Ratapani Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh), Sunabeda Tiger Reserve (Odisha), and Guru Ghasidas (Chhattisgarh).

Project tiger's main aim was to:

- Limit factors that lead to the reduction of tiger habitats and mitigate them by appropriate control measures. The damages carried out to the habitat were to be rectified to facilitate the recovery of the ecosystem to the most feasible extent [2].
- Ensure a viable population of tigers for economic, clinical, cultural, aesthetic, and ecological values. The Indian tiger population at the turn of the twentieth century was predicted at 20,000 to 40,000. The first use of an a-extensive tiger census conducted in 1972 expected the population to comprise a little more than 1,800.

THE SUCCESS OF PROJECT TIGER

The journey of increasing the tiger population has not been easy. Across the 1970s, the Tiger count became one thousand and two hundred, but it has elevated to five thousand in line with the recent census. There has been a thirty percent rise in the population in the following eight years. This says a lot about the efforts put in by the government and the countrywide wildlife parks. At the same time as the whole world is seeking techniques of increasing the wide variety of tigers, India has already commenced accomplishing milestones through the project Tiger [3].

From turning hunting grounds into tiger reserves, India has shown its magic of retaining wildlife in standard. They have additionally updated the acts regarding forest and wildlife. Any illegal buying and selling of animals have been banned. Human interference in any of the reserves and forests is not allowed. A proper habitat has been created for the Tigers to hunt and coexist. The arena has acknowledged this challenge because of the 'maximum hit challenge.' The project is still going on and will continue until the Tigers do not come out of the endangered species category.

TIGER CENSUS IN INDIA (2006-2018)

According to the Tiger Census of 2006, there were 1,411 tigers left in the country. The results were credible because the census procedures employed were technology-based. The overall tiger population was estimated to be 1,411 animals, with adult and subadult tigers ranging from 1,165 to 1,657. The 2006 Census sparked a new round of controversy and debate over tiger protection. Protection measures have increased since then.

Owing to the renewed sincerity to Tiger conservation, the number of tigers consistently increased in the next decade. 2014 Tiger Census-estimated 2,226 Bengal tigers in India [4].

The state with the highest tiger population was Karnataka. According to the 2014 tiger census, there were 408 tigers in the state. However, Madhya Pradesh has reclaimed the title of India's Tiger State, with 526 tigers, while Karnataka and Utrakhand ranked second and third, with 524 and 442 tigers,

respectively, in the 2018 Tiger Census [4]. Project Tiger now manages 50 tiger reserves spanning 72,749 square kilometers of natural space to save the Royal Bengal Tiger population.

The Survey

The primary goal of the research is to examine Project Tiger, an Indian tiger conservation effort, and the factors that led to the program's launch. As a result of the externality of conservation, the indigenous communities of the forest are dispossessed of their homes and livelihoods in India's national parks. These displaced communities frequently turn against the National Parks, which provide them with food and other resources. The first fifteen years of the program saw dramatic increases in tiger populations, with the tiger population demographic patterns in India peaked around 1987. The 21st Century Tiger Project is working with ZSL and UCL to guide Indian tiger tasks. From Domestic to the largest wild tiger population globally, the tiger census (2010) suggests that over 1700 Indian tigers dwell in 39 tiger reserves. They stay in a wide variety of habitats such as the excessive-altitude, bloodless, coniferous Himalayan forests, the steaming mangroves of the Bangladesh Sundarbans, the swampy reed lands, the scorched hills of the Indian peninsula, the lush moist forests of Northern India, and the arid forests of Rajasthan. Throughout the tiger census of 2006, a new technique was used, extrapolating website-specific densities of tigers, their co-predators, and prey derived from digital camera lure and sign surveys using GIS. Based on these surveys, the entire tiger population has been estimated at 1,411, starting from 1,165 to 1,657 grownup and sub-person tigers of more than 1. Owing to the project, the variety of tigers has progressed to 226, keeping with the census report launched on 20th January 2015. The total Tiger Population as per the Tiger Census 2018 is 2,967 Tigers.

Challenges faced by the government for Project Tiger

Any successful task needs to bear a ton of tension and needs to confront many difficulties. Making Project Tiger into an effective piece of work, there are endeavors and commitment of different government authorities. During old occasions, it was hard to remove the terrains that were utilized for hunting. Many really tried to avoid it and brought up criticisms. However, the task happened in any case. Another significant test was poaching. Numerous people use to sell tiger bones and skin to global business sectors. This was a significant business for themselves and brought in great cash. After every one of the drives taken by the task, they couldn't stop unlawful exchanging of creature skin. People used to overstep the law and offer them to global purchasers. This set off the consumption of tigers. The public authority authorities made severe law and grounded the issue. During the structure of safe-havens and stores, the human populace living around there dealt with the issue and thusly raised their voice against it. They passed out a Forest Rights Act in which they expressed their trouble. They needed to have space for them also and didn't have any desire to move from their unique region. In a few public parks, people actually live on the edges of the recreation area. They find come in harmony with the Project Tiger and comprehended its significance. However a few people are not extremely certain with regards to the choice, the venture is going on in maximum speed.

CONCLUSION

The forest sector in India has tremendous potential to moderate climate change, and achieving this would require genuine efforts to preserve, rebuild and regenerate the nation's forests. Over the most recent couple of years, India has witnessed a degradation of its thick forest cover at a remarkable rate. Given the primary territory of India's forests, the public authority should exhibit a desire to move quickly in legitimately arranging its afforestation program and do actual execution on the ground. To further ensure utmost environmental protection, seeking practical solutions to mitigate the consequences of human-wildlife conflict beyond mere compensation is necessary. Policy reforms, adequate legislation, and local regulations have reduced the problems faced while preserving wildlife and simultaneously protecting human habitats.

Other governmental efforts have also helped tremendously in forest and wildlife conservation, such as the Project Tiger, which increased the tiger population to 4,000. Such initiatives have saved several species of wildlife. However, the fact remains that the current wildlife and forest laws are ineffective in completely mitigating forest degradation. The efficient enforcement of meticulous laws by enforcement authorities is essential for forest and wildlife protection. A combined effort by all government agencies and the citizens is vital to provide practical strategies for protecting wildlife and forests in India. Furthermore, formulating the Forest and wildlife policies truly needs analytical and statistical work and recognition of various methodologies to overcome all challenges faced in balancing the ecosystem. It is not just crucial for the policies to be formulated for and based on wildlife, flora, and fauna, but it is also essential for the policymakers to consider the likelihood of the wildlife-dependent communities and the industries equated with rights that do not harm them or the wildlife.

The government must take all the aforementioned steps to ward off forest and wildlife degradation. After all, as fittingly stated by Justice Bhagwati, the right to life also includes the right to a healthy environment [5].

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