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## **TIGER: POTENTIAL GENERATIVE ASSET OF INDIA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Forests and animals in forests are the treasure of wealth in abundance. They are to be developed and utilized meaningfully for creation of wealth for the country. Since, these natural resources are included in the State List given in the Constitution, the State Government is responsible and accountable for development, protection, conservation and utilization for production of goods or services, .Accordingly, the Government of Maharashtra through the office of Chief Conservative of Forests, and Directorate of Wild Life as well as the Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd., has been undertaking several varied income and employment generating projects, measures and techniques. This paper attempts to bring those projects, measures and steps into lime light to assess effectiveness and benefic . .

Key words: Reserve forests, Compost, Root trainer, Teak woods, ,

### **Introduction**

Animals wild or domestic have inherent considerable capability to contribute directly or indirectly to the national income or GDP. When a country owns them, she owes them too. The presence of healthy, active and freely moving wild animals in protected forests offers the ample scope and opportunity for the business of tourism. Tourism is highly potential business because of the following reasons:

It is the business which increase the earnings of the state government ,

It promotes hotels and restaurants around the tourist spots,

It promotes transport and carriage business, petrol pumps, etc.

It generates employment opportunities for a skilled and unskilled workers,

It also provides scope for videographer or photographers.



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It is a perennial yet seasonal business.

Observing the earning potential of the tourism, the state government has set up a number reserve forests rearing and breeding various kinds of wild animals. Nagpur is called the 'Tiger Capital' since out of 39 Tiger Reserve Forests, 13 Tiger Reserve Forests are in the vicinity of Nagpur, in the region of Vidarbha.

### Objectives

The paper zeroes on

Describing various Tiger Reserve Forests in the region of Nagpur i.e. Vidarbha;

Identifying the forest-based rural and small scale industries generating labour potential and income for the government.

### Hypothesis

The potential for asset formation through natural resources like forests and wild animals should have been the significant sources of revenue for the government and avenues for business and industry.

The State of Maharashtra is blessed with captivating bio-diversified regions like Vidarbha, Kokan, Malabar Hills, Sayadri Hills etc., which continue to captivate the devotee of eco-tourism. The state receives adequate rainfall throughout the year resulting in the growth of lush greenery evenly throughout the state. As a result, a significant group of critically endangered birds and animals get the safest rescue in its wildest regions. To promote this boon of nature without affecting the eco-system or natural habitats of endangered species, the Government of Maharashtra has divided its wildlife spots into various relatively less crowded wildlife reserves such as Melghat Tiger Reserve, Bor Wildlife Sanctuary or Umred – Kharandla Sanctuary. These wildlife reserves even have enlisted their names among the best place to see tigers in India. Thus, for the nature lovers, Maharashtra appears to be a treasure trove of fascinating natural grandeurs, few of them are described in brief.

### TadobaAndhari Tiger Reserve

TadobaAndhari Tiger Reserve is a famous tiger reserve forest situated in the district of Chandrapur. It is one of the oldest and largest national parks in the State. It is the second largest reserve in the state and is incorporated in India's 41 "Project Tiger" - Tiger reserves. This Tiger Reserve was established in the Maharashtra State, in 1994-95. This Reserve comprises an



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exceptional ecosystem, with wide variety of flora and fauna including rich and beautiful vegetation making it exquisite and splendid scene.. The reserve represents Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests which turns out to be a shelter for the animals like Indian Leopards, Sloth Bear, Dhole, Striped Hyena, Small Indian Civet, Sambar, Barking Deer, Spotted Deer, Chital, and Chausingha. Tadoba Lake is the residence of Marsh Crocodile which is a rare species in Maharashtra.

#### Pench Tiger Reserve

This beautiful and charming place has a poetic attraction compelling writers to describe its splendor in novels and books of history other literature. It contains the Indira Priyadarshini Pench National Park, the Mowgli Pench Sanctuary and a buffer zone. One of the best places to see tigers in India, this wildlife reserve houses around 1200 species of plants and a good number of mammal species among which tiger population is the highlight. The best way of exploring the interior parts of this park is going for an exhilarating jeep safari that takes one from rugged landscape to the areas flourishing with dense greenery.

#### Umred – Kharandla Sanctuary

A simple yet charming retreat to the eyes of greenery lovers who also want to avoid crowd, Umred – Kharandla Sanctuary is spread over Pauni, Umred, Kuhl and Bhivapur Taluka of Maharashtra. The reserve has connection with Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve and is surrounded by the Wainganga River. The sanctuary protects a sizable population of tigers which is a delight for the wildlife lovers. Further the presence of mammals like leopard, flying squirrels, pangolin and honey badger enhance the excitement of travelling when they are exploring inside the park.

#### Nagzira

Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary is locked in the arms of nature and adorned with a picturesque landscape, luxuriant vegetation and serves as a living outdoor museum to explore and appreciate nature. The sanctuary has a number of fish, 34 species of mammals, 166 species of birds, 36 species of reptiles and four species of amphibians. The invertebrate fauna includes, besides a number of insects and ant species, several species of butterflies. Nearly 30,000 tourists visit this sanctuary annually. Wild animals to spot are the tiger, panther, bison, sambar, nilgai, chital, wild boar, sloth bear and wild dog.



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Navegaon-nagzira Tiger Reserve An ideal destination for tiger safari in Maharashtra, Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve is a small wildlife sanctuary located in the Vidarbha Mountain Range of Bhandara District. The rocky and undulating terrains of this park are coated with thick teak woods that support an exclusive population of biodiversity. Animals like four horned Antelope, Mouse Deer, Indian Gaur, Sloth Bear and leopards are frequently seen here. Further as you explore the interior parts of the park, you get to see the best attraction of the wild, the tiger. People with great fascination for birds can see around 166 species of birds here. Jeep safaris are available inside the park to let you go closer to the wildlife.

- Melghat Tiger Reserve

This another attractive Tiger Reserve is located the district of Amaravati. It is in a remote place less accessible on account of absence of proper road and means of communication. It is developed as a park with a sizeable population of Royal Bengal Tigers. This lush green forest park is on the bank of Tapti river on one side and the mountains of Gavilagarh on the other. The main attractions of this reserve include species like python, pangolin, leopard, sambar, chausingha, porcupine, mouse deer etc. The best attraction of Melghat is the critically endangered Forest Owlet.

- Tipeswar Wildlife Sanctuary

A perfect eco-tourism getaway for the wildlife lovers of Maharashtra, Tipeswar Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Pandharkawada Taluka of Maharashtra. The hilly terrains of this park are covered with southern tropical moist mixed forests, with a thick coating of shrubs and green pastures. Animals like chital, wild cat, black buck, blue-bell and Sambar are found here in good number. The scenic beauty of this mesmeric forest is often enhanced by the presence of the beautiful Konkan Waterfall which is the highlight of the place. The reserve also protects 180 species of birds, 29 species of mammals, a host of Arachnids and 26 species of reptiles.

- Bor Wildlife Sanctuary

A living zoological museum of Maharashtra, Bor Wildlife Sanctuary is located along the Southern boundary of Nagpur district and Northern boundary of Wardha district of Maharashtra. This game reserve-turned-wildlife sanctuary has a dense population of tigers and was mainly formed to conserve the catchment value of Bor River along with the motive of supporting the unique eco-system of Bor Wildlife Sanctuary. The wildlife reserve is enclosed by several

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sightseeing options including the temple of Shiva at Khori-Khapa, Hanuman Temple at Khadki, Bruhaspati Temple at Chauki, and Ganesh Temple at Kelzar. The noteworthy species of herbs found in Bor Sanctuary are Tarot, Tenella, Waghori and Tarwar etc. The faunal diversity of the park includes 160 species of birds, 26 species of reptiles, a sizable population of endangered animals along with 9 species of endangered birds.

#### Ecological values of the Tadoba Forest Reserves

The economic benefits of this most attractive tourists centre are indescribable. However, few of it is described herein below:

This area represents Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests in the Tiger habitat where the population of tigers varies between 90 and above as per governments reports;

Their massive bio-diversity content has a great conservation value. Its gene bank has been actively working for developing hybrid species for future use.

It is the prominent abode for numerous wild life animals such as Leopard, Wild dog, Sloth bear, Gaur, Sambar, Barking deer, Cheetal, Chausinga, Nilgai, Wild boar alongwith rare ones like Ratel, Flying squirrel, Pangolin and Rusty spotted cat. The continuity with forests of Chandrapur, Bramhapuri and Central Chanda Division enrich the conservation prospects of these species.

- Vast bird diversity is of great interest along with diverse vertebrate species.
- The tree clad forests, rolling grasslands habituated with spotted dears afford wonderful sights.

#### Government Earnings from Reserve Forests

The Directorate of the Reserve Forests, Government of Maharashtra in annual reports published the figures of estimated annual revenue earnings from tourists sources of these reserved forests which are presented in the following Table. (In lakhs of Rs.)



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Name of Reserve Forests	2017-18	2016=17	2015-16
TadobaAndheri Tiger	15.17	12.05	09.27
Pench Tiger Reserve	10.01	09.87	08.71
Umrer Tiger Reserves	07.16	06.87	05.43
Nagzira Tiger Reserves	08.17	07.88	07.12
Melghat Tiger Reserves	10.82	08.76	08.12
Bor Wild Life Century	11.45	10.34	07.56

**Sources:** Annual Reports published by the Directorate of Reserve Forests, Government of Maharashtra, Government Press, Nagpur.

#### Observations

[1] Annual earnings from the selected reserve forests only from tourist's sources had been continuously rising every year; the annual rate of increment, however, was not much significant, probably due to lack of awareness among the people;

[2] The TadobaAndheriTiger Reserves continued draw highest annual earnings as compared to other reserves, probably due to increasing awareness among the people in adjacent regions of surrounding States;

[3] It is not the size of forest areas or their densities or varieties of vegetation but the number as well as kinds of wild lives the tourists comes across matter.

[4] The continuously rising annual earnings from these forests is an assured indicator guarantying the extensive potential for future business, provided the protection and maintenance of wild animals would be looked after.

#### Forest Development

Sanctuaries and parks are the most valuable productive assets the common people are unaware of their contribution in the GDP. Since the development and maintenance of forest is the State subject, their state-wise contribution in the GDP usually remains undisclosed.



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The Government of Maharashtra has set up the Forest Development Corporation, Ltd. Nagpur (India) as early as in 1974 by allocating the forest area of 3.94lakh hectares on lease basis. The Corporation supplements the activities of the Forest Department providing protection and undertaking several projects for initiating development projects.

However, the FDCM has mainly under taken the following major projects:

Plantation of Teak covering the area of about 1.5 lakh hectares between 1970-2000;

Harvesting of Bamboo in more than 20,000 hectares for estimated income of Rs. 40 crores during the initial years;

Setting up Containerized Root Trainer Plants at six different places namely, Nagpur, Nasik, Chandrapur, Pathrot, Chulaband –making it the largest producer of Root Trainer Container Plant in the country;

Special projects for development and maintenance of Teak, Clonal seedlings, vermin compost and teak stumps.

These are all long term development projects providing substantial earnings over the period of more than twenty years. The FDCM Ltd, plays a vital role in developing the basic forest products being the inputs for a number of small industries in rural areas. Few of them are noted here.

[1]Bamboo trees

Bamboos are the major inputs for furniture, houses, curtains, dolls, columns, and many other artistic items. They are also used for ladders, fences. Numerous articles of everyday use like tool handles beds, sticks, tent, poles, brushes, baskets, mats etc. are made out of it. Bamboo is very important material in Paper Industry in India. Bamboo is used for rayon pulp as well.

[2]Teak trees

These trees provide highest quality of wood for high furniture, doors, decorative items, wardrobes. Teak wood is suitable for all types of constructions, beams, columns, roofs, doors & windows, planking paneling etc It is used for high class furniture, decorative paneling, flooring carving and ornamental articles, like, antique boxes and plaques. It is the major source of continuous and increasing income for FDCM Ltd.



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There are a number of varieties of trees providing timber for different kinds of uses domestic and industrial. Even their brief narratives are not possible in this paper.

### Summary

From above it is proving that not only industry but forest is also sustainable ecofriendly economic asset of the country. Nagpur is second green city of country. Ecotourism is that wing of tourism that entails visiting fragile, pristine, and unruffled natural areas. It is splendid blend of socially responsible travel, personal growth, and environmental sustainability. The motive of this facet of travel is to foster respect for varied cultures, help tourists understand the essence of ecological conservation and to urge them to work towards the economic and political empowerment of local communities.

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