



Satkosia Tiger Reserve

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Why in News

Recently, the **National Tiger Conservation Authority** has asked Odisha to submit a status report on the **adverse impact of tourism** on Satkosia Tiger Reserve.

Key Points

- **Satkosia Tiger Reserve, Bhubaneswar** comprises **two adjoining sanctuaries of central Odisha** named as **Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary** and **Baisipalli Sanctuary**.

These two sanctuaries together covering an area of 963.87 sq km were **notified as Tiger Reserve in December 2007**.
- Lying in a **transitional zone** extending between the **Chhota Nagpur Plateau** and the **Deccan Plateau**, the tiger reserve **exhibits endemic life forms of both biotic provinces**.
- **Flora and Fauna:**
 - The area supports **moist deciduous forest, dry deciduous forest and moist peninsular Sal forest**.
 - This area is the home for **Tiger, Leopard, Elephant, Gaur**, Chousingha, **Sloth bear**, Wild dog, varieties of resident and migratory birds, reptilian species, etc.
- **Crocodile Conservation:**
 - In March 1974, the **Forest Department of the Government of Orissa** with technical support from the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** started a breeding programme of crocodiles.
 - In **March 1975**, the **Gharial Research and Conservation Unit (GRACU)** was started, which has done pioneering work in **crocodile conservation** in India.

The activities include conservation breeding, releasing of reared crocodiles into the wild and its rehabilitation.

- **Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary:**
 - It owes its name to the **narrow stretch of River Mahanadi** i.e. **“Sat-Kosh”** or seven miles long near **Tikarpada**, 60 km south of Angul.
 - The area was **made a sanctuary in 1976** and spreads out in four districts of Odisha namely Angul, Budh, Cuttack and Nayagarh.
 - The Satkosia Gorge is a **unique feature in geomorphology of India** because here **Mahanadi cuts right across the Eastern Ghats** and has formed a magnificent **gorge**.
 - **Fauna:** It is known for Gharials, Mugger crocodile and rare freshwater turtles like Chitra indica and Indian softshell turtle.
- **Baisipalli Sanctuary:**
 - It gets its name from the **22 settlements existing within its span**.
 - It was given the status of **sanctuary in May 1981**.
 - It is located where the **Mahanadi River passes through a gorge in the Eastern Ghats** mountains in **Nayagarh** District.
 - The whole area is a part of the **Deccan Peninsula** Biogeographic Zone, **Eastern Plateau province** and **Eastern Ghat sub-division**.
 - **Flora and Fauna:** It is a **sal dominated forest** with a significant number of tigers, leopards, elephants, herbivores like Chousingha and water birds, reptilians, etc.

Major Protected Areas in Odisha

Wildlife Sanctuaries:

- Badrama WLS
- **Chilika** (Nalaban) WLS
- Hadgarh WLS
- Kotagarh WLS
- **Nandankanan WLS**
- Lakhari Valley WLS
- Gahirmatha (Marine) WLS