



Satkosia Tiger Reserve

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

▪ National Parks:

- [Bhitarkanika National Park](#)
- [Simlipal National Park](#)

▪ Wildlife Sanctuaries:

- Badrama WLS
- [Chilika](#) (Nalaban) WLS
- Hadgarh WLS
- Kotagarh WLS
- [Nandankanan WLS](#)
- Lakhari Valley WLS
- Gahirmatha (Marine) WLS

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