Sustainable Tourism & Biodiversity Conservation

The Uttarakhand Experience

Rajiv Bhartari, Chief Conservator of Forests Ecotourism

Ex Director, Corbett Tiger Reserve; Ex Board of Directors, The International Ecotourism Society
Sustainable Development of Tourism
Conceptual Definition (WTO, 2004)

Sustainability principles refer to the environmental, economic and socio-cultural aspects of tourism development, and a suitable balance must be established between these three dimensions to guarantee its long-term sustainability.
Sustainable Development of Tourism
Conceptual Definition (WTO, 2004)

- Make optimal use of environmental resources that constitute a key element in tourism development, maintaining essential ecological processes and helping to conserve natural heritage and biodiversity.

- Respect the socio-cultural authenticity of host communities, conserve their built and living cultural heritage and traditional values, and contribute to inter-cultural understanding and tolerance.

- Ensure viable, long-term economic operations, providing socio-economic benefits to all stakeholders that are fairly distributed, including stable employment and income-earning opportunities and social services to host communities, and contributing to poverty alleviation.
PA Network of Uttarakhand
## Protected Areas of Uttarakhand

### Tourist Arrival & Revenue Receipts (April 2011–March 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protected Area</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Area (Sq. km)</th>
<th>Indian</th>
<th>Foreigner</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Revenue (Rs in lakhs)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corbett NP</td>
<td>1936</td>
<td>520.84</td>
<td>202528</td>
<td>7734</td>
<td>210262</td>
<td>719.38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rajaji NP</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>820.42</td>
<td>19268</td>
<td>1793</td>
<td>21061</td>
<td>52.42</td>
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<td>Gangotri NP</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>2390.00</td>
<td>13675</td>
<td>1692</td>
<td>15367</td>
<td>38.15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valley of Flowers NP</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>87.00</td>
<td>6328</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>6855</td>
<td>11.39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nanda Devi NP</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>630.00</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>.13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Govind NP/WLS</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>472.08</td>
<td>2172</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>2297</td>
<td>4.88</td>
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<td>Binsar WLS</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>45.59</td>
<td>17343</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>17775</td>
<td>37.57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sonanadi WLS</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>301.76</td>
<td>16323</td>
<td>788</td>
<td>17111</td>
<td>29.41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kedarnath WLS</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>957.00</td>
<td>701</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>803</td>
<td>1.31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                      |       |               | 278393 | 13201     | 291594| 894.64                |
Corbett National Park

- Established on 8th August 1936 First NP of South Asia
- Highest Density of Tigers
- One of the three populations of Gharial
- Resurgent population of Hog deer
- Over 580 species and sub species of birds including 49 species of diurnal raptors
Corbett Tiger Reserve
Corbett Tiger Reserve

MCP = 410 km²
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sampled Area</th>
<th>Number of tigers</th>
<th>Population Estimate</th>
<th>CV%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Corbett records highest tiger density

Utpal Parashar
Dehradun, June 10

CORBETT NATIONAL Park has the highest density of tigers in the world, revealed a study done by the Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India (WII).

The results come as a silver lining at a time when the tiger population in most reserve forest areas across the country is decreasing.

Data compiled with the help of satellite imagery, camera trapping and recording of pugmarks by WII showed that the country’s first national park has one tiger in every 4.6 square kilometre. Corbett Park, spread over 520 sq km, has 112 tigers.

A census carried out by the Uttarakhand Wildlife Department in 2005 had recorded one tiger in every 5.66 sq km.

THE WILDLIFE INSTITUTE STUDY

Ideally, a tigress should have a territory spread across 50 sq km and a tiger needs an area of 300 sq km, but in reserves like Corbett where there is no shortage of prey, it could be less, say Wildlife experts.

“A reserve should have at least 20 such territories for the tiger population to thrive. While Sariska has only five such territories, Corbett has 50 of them,” said Y.B. Jhala, a senior scientist at WII.

The latest tiger census carried out in Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh using data received through satellites shows that there are 490 tigers in 16 reserve forest areas, Jhala said. In contrast, the previous census carried out using old techniques like counting of pugmarks had shown that there were 1,233 tigers in these states.

According to the new survey, Madhya Pradesh has 276 tigers, Maharashtra 102, Rajasthan 32 and Chhattisgarh only 26.

WII is still studying the tiger population in the 500 sq km area south of the Ramganga River, and the total tiger population for the Corbett National Park could go up, said Jhala.

A recent study carried out by WII in tiger reserves in Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh using latest techniques showed a 60 per cent decline in tiger population in these states.

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## Corbett NP - Visitor Arrival and Revenue Receipts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Indians</th>
<th>Foreigners</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Revenue (Rs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003-04</td>
<td>91,847</td>
<td>5,493</td>
<td>97,340</td>
<td>147,16,141</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>110,189</td>
<td>7,495</td>
<td>117,684</td>
<td>185,19,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>134,480</td>
<td>9,181</td>
<td>143,661</td>
<td>217,61,079</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>132,528</td>
<td>8,316</td>
<td>1,40,844</td>
<td>239,20,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>169,043</td>
<td>8,356</td>
<td>177,399</td>
<td>285,97,759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>211,151</td>
<td>9,932</td>
<td>221,083</td>
<td>320,18,759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>213,861</td>
<td>9,900</td>
<td>223,761</td>
<td>474,68,210</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>182,019</td>
<td>7,774</td>
<td>189,793</td>
<td>642,34,221</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>202,528</td>
<td>7,734</td>
<td>210,262</td>
<td>719,38,426</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chhoti Haldwani
Community-based Ecotourism Project
Appreciative Inquiry

1) Discovery  
(appreciating that which give life)

2) Dream  
(envisioning Impact)

3) Design  
(co-constructing the future)

4) Delivery/Destiny  
(sustaining the change)
Moti Souvenir Shop at Museum
5% of the lodge’s turnover and over 60% of the rod fee is shared with adjoining villages.
Constraints

- Forest Conservation Act 1980
- WL Protection Act (2006)
- NTCA Directives
- Ecotourism Guidelines
- Supreme Court judgments

Also

- Past Tourism Practices & Traditions
- Competition from PAs in other countries
Ecotourism – Opportunity & Threat
Depends on how we plan and manage.

- "Ecotourism is responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and sustains the well being of local people (TIES)."
  - Goal conservation
  - Authentic natural and cultural experiences
  - Demands Knowledge
  - Participation and local benefits
- Ecotourism is a potentially effective strategy for biodiversity conservation.
  - Jobs and increased income
  - Awareness understanding and public support
  - Skills
  - Revenues for PAs & Govt.
Strategy 1: Ecotourism Promotion

- Partnership with Arch i to produce a series of 4 experimental maps
- Destinations that have some semblance of ecotourism
- Variety of scales
  - Village level
  - PA level
  - State level
  - Landscape level
- Interpretative publications, based on research, exploring frontiers of design
- Help from Google maps, information fed on Google Earth Maps
I Chhoti Haldwani Heritage Map
CHHM Release Function
16th Dec 2010
Mapping Chhoti Haldwani

The first-ever heritage map of Chhoti Haldwani, Jim Corbett's village, was unveiled by Margaret Alva, Governor of Uttarakhand, in Jim Corbett's old house (now a museum) in the village. The effort is an initiative of the eco-tourism wing of the Forest Department of Uttarakhand. It has been conceptualised and designed by Delhi-based Arch, and the idea is to harness the potential of eco-tourism.

Travel and Tourism fair

The three-day long XX Travel and Tourism Fair in Bengaluru witnessed over 250 participants from all over India, including representatives from 17 states including Delhi, Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Goa, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan, and West Bengal, and three foreign countries including Hong Kong and Nepal. Like a super bazaar of travel products, participants get a chance to build their network with the tourism industry.

Native

Building bridges with nature

People of the village, including farmers and fishermen, are working to develop the concept of sustainable agriculture. The result is a beautiful landscape of green fields and living water bodies. The aim is to promote eco-tourism and create awareness about the importance of preserving the environment.

Tribute to Jim Corbett

Anchal Devi Dwivedi

It was here that he saw his first tiger, began to identify birds and butterflies, massed by biodiversity, fishes and mammals, rivers, streams, sounds, smells, landslides, tall-tail signs of the forest, and learned how to survive in the forest. He became a master tracker and hunter. He became a master tracker and hunter. He became a master tracker and hunter. He became a master tracker and hunter.

A tribute to Jim Corbett is being restored in a brilliant project in his own village in Chhoti Haldwani. There’s a magical new ecological story unfolding at the Corbett National Park.

Jim Corbett's house

Jai Corbett’s house in the village of Chhoti Haldwani is a beautiful and peaceful place surrounded by green fields and living water bodies. It is a perfect place to relax and enjoy the beauty of nature.

Corbett National Park

The park is a great place to spot the famous wildlife of India, including the majestic tigers. The park is also home to a variety of birds and other animals. It is a great place for nature lovers to enjoy the beauty of nature.

Corbett’s old house

Jim Corbett’s old house is located in the village of Chhoti Haldwani. It is a beautiful and peaceful place surrounded by green fields and living water bodies. It is a perfect place to relax and enjoy the beauty of nature.

Jim Corbett’s house

The house is a perfect place to relax and enjoy the beauty of nature.
Uttarakhand Ecotourism Map
along the river...

stories, observations and suggestions

end of winter 2012

Journey along the river Mandal and Ramganga.
Observing nature, wildlife, people, culture,
biodiversity and intangibles around it.

Strategy 2: Promotion of Bird watching

- In India 1300 Bird sp.
- Uttarakhand known to have 630 species
  - Healthy bird populations throughout the state.
  - Connectivity, proximity to Delhi.
  - Accommodation and guides available in rural settings

*Potential to be an international bird-watching hub*
Uttarakhand Bird-watching Programme

- Promoting bird watching activity in rural tourism destinations
- Increasing awareness and bird watching skills amongst forest dept. staff, nature guides and the tourism industry
- Publications/ guidebooks

Red billed Leiothrix
Maroon Oriole
Crimson Sunbird
Bird watching Camps

Asan Conservation Reserve

Chilla (Rajaji NP)

Binsar

Choti Haldwani

Dhanaulti

Dhanaulti

Mahaneshkhan

Pangot

Marchula

Sankri

Pangot
Strategy 3: Capacity Building

One Month State Level Nature Training Guide Course

One Month IHM Cook Training Course
Strategy 4: Destination Development

Dhanaulti Eco Park

Simtola Eco Park
Implementation

- Central Govt.
  - Ecotourism Policy
  - Institution
  - Scheme
  - Taxation / incentives
- State Govts.
  - Boards, Corporations
  - Regulatory Framework
  - Policy for CBET
Thank You!

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TRAVEL GREEN, TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY
for a cleaner Himalaya
Sustainable Tourism Development
Issues & Concerns

- Lack of Vision, Ambiguous Policies
  - too much choice

- Irresponsible Marketing, Lack of Monitoring
  - poor destination image

- No Destination Planning, Obsolete technology
  - Ad hoc development, major environmental impacts

- Absence of Partnerships with Tourism Industry
  - scarcity of funds, few local benefits

- Inadequate and Untrained staff
  - lack of professional services