

Prospects for Managing Eco-Tourism Development in Protective Areas with Special Reference to Corbett National Park

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ABSTRACT: Ecotourism is a type of tourism that aims to benefit the environment while also promoting conservation. Uttarakhand has a lot of promise when it comes to promoting ecotourism. The current study looks at the ecotourism potential of Corbett National Park, which is part of the Terai landscape. Tigers are protected in wetlands and meadows with mixed woodlands. This park is the most popular in India, this famed national park is known for its tiger and elephant safaris. However, the absence of the lack of ecotourism standards has resulted in mass tourist practices within the park.

Keywords: Eco-tourism, National park, Mass tourism, Uttarakhand Tourism, Tiger reserve

INTRODUCTION: Corbett was India's first national park, founded in 1936 by famed tiger hunter Jim Corbett. The park is located in the Indian state of Uttarakhand, around three hours drive from Nainital and seven hours drive from Delhi. The park is big and divided into five zones. It is well-known for its wildlife safaris, temples, and natural beauty. The park is named after a famous hunter called Jim Corbett. The Ramganga river runs through Corbett National Park, which is recognized for its diverse species and spectacular scenery on the Himalayan butte. Elephant safari tour, Jeep safari tour Corbett, Corbett-Tour with Golden Triangle, and Corbett-Tour with Dhikala are all enjoyable trips. Jhirna, one of the zones, is accessible all year. During the monsoon, the rest of the park is closed. There aren't many opportunities to view a tiger in Corbett, but there are lots of other creatures to see, and elephant safaris are available. Stay in the Dhikala zone of the reserve for the finest animal watching. Leisure and business travel, as well as the idea and practice of traveling the business of attracting, accommodating, and entertaining tourists, and the business of operating tours, as well all covered under tourism. Tourism is defined by the world tourism organization as "people traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for less than one year for leisure and less than one day for business and other purposes", in terms that go "beyond the common perception of tourism as being limited to holiday activity only". Tourism can be domestic (inside a traveler's own country) or international, and international tourism affects a country's balance of payments both in and out. Ecotourism, also known as ecological tourism, is low impact and (typically) small-scale travel to fragile, pristine, and usually protected environments. It aids in traveler education, offers cash for conservation, and directly supports local communities' economic development and political respect for diverse cultures and human rights. In protected regions, the saying "take footprints" is especially popular. Following the trends of visitors who are more concerned about being ecologically responsible and adopting sustainable behavior, tourist places are transitioning to low carbon emissions.

Principle of tourism:

Ecotourism aims to bring together conservation, communities, and sustainable travel. This means that ecotourism practitioners, participants, and marketers should adhere to the following ecotourism principles:-

- Reduce the negative effects on physical, social, behavioral, and psychological health.

- Create an awareness of and respect for the environment and culture.
- Ensure that both visitors and hosts have a good time.
- Providing direct monetary incentives for environmental protection is a good idea.
- Produce monetary benefits for both local residents and private industry.
- Provide guests with unforgettable interpretive experiences that assist them to become more aware of the political, environmental, and social climates of the host countries.
- Low-impact facilities should be designed, built, and operated.
- Recognize the indigenous people's rights and spiritual beliefs in your community, and engage with them to build empowerment.

AREA UNDERSTUDY:

The oldest National Park in the state of Uttarakhand, the Corbett National Park, is located in Ramnagar city, which is part of the Nainital district. This was set up with the goal of saving tigers, which were on the verge of extinction in 1936.

(Dr. Hari Mohan 2003 p334). Originally, this national park was known as Helli National Park. Spread over Ramnagar's paatli Doon valley, an area of 821.99 sq km has been set aside for tigers, i.e. this area is part of the tigers' protected areas. It stretches from 29°32'55" north to 78°56'7" east. Hills, riverine belts, marshy depressions, grassland, and huge trees cover 520.8 km²

(Ellis, 1998) A livelihood is described as actions that are tied to generating some form of money or economic revenue and that determine a person's and their family's way of life. Individually, it defines livelihood as the capacity to receive fundamental living essentials such as food, water, housing, and clothes, as well as all other necessities essential to human survival. Agricultural techniques are practiced by about 90% of families in rural regions **(Davis et al., 2010).**

(Khatun & Roy, 2012) Agriculture, animal husbandry, or herding, cattle farming, hunting, and gathering are all activities prevalent in rural areas. Trading, hawking, wage labour fetching, carrying, bakery, basket making, and service provision are among the other activities that can be found there. Age, access and dimension of education, family size, reliance proportion, access and accessibility of land, resources, access and accessibility of water system office, access to credit and capacity to obtain, separation from town, preparing/aptitude advancement, and participation in social gatherings are all factors that influence development.

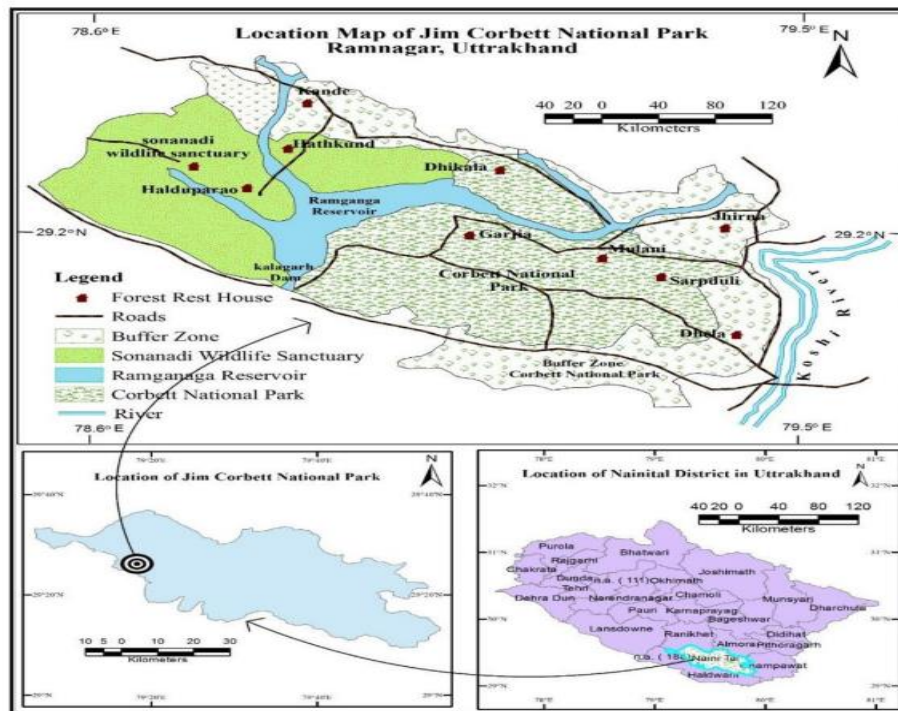


Fig 1. Locational map of the study area

Source:-**(Kumar, 2019)**

Ramnagar is the gateway to Jim Corbett National Park and attracts a part of vacationers' attention because of its geological place. Its closeness to Nainital that's a famous hill station in Northern India. The place lies in range 29°25' to 29°40' North and longitude 78°5' to 79°5' East. (Fig. 1). On August 8, 2019, the Jim Corbett National Park became set up and became the primary National Park of India. It became additionally the web website online for the release of Project Tiger in India. The reserved woodland regions shape a part of the buffer quarter of the Corbett national park. The whole place, besides the east Domunda block (that's withinside the Kalagarh Tiger Reserve department), lies withinside the Ramnagar Tiger Reserve department beneath neath the executive manager of the Corbett tiger reserve.

There are five safari zones in Corbett National Park:

1. Bijarani zones
2. Jhirna zone
3. Dhela zone
4. Dhikala zone
5. Durga devi zone

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY: Researcher used secondary data to research this topic, as well as data from magazines, books, and interviews for this work. To learn more about this area of research the researcher has reviwed many published paper and related brochure. All of the data is thoroughly examined in order to determine the impact of tourism.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Tourism has been compared to a "golden goose that not only lays a golden egg but also fouls its own nest." Tourists in Corbett National Park degrade the park's vegetation and contribute to soil-related issues like as soil contamination. Because of the increasing number of tourists visiting these locations, vegetation is being trampled, soil is being compressed, and ecosystems are being destroyed. Littering is a problem in the park because of visitors. Littering is a major issue for wild animals, and it has a negative impact on the environment. Many hikers spend a significant amount of time in Corbett National Park. During this time, they bring food and other supplies with them. They left food, wrappers, plastic cup, etc behind when they departed the park.

As the number of visitors to the Corbett National Park grows, so does the construction of resorts and hotels in the surrounding area, particularly at Dhikuli. A considerable portion of national parks is exploited for the construction of hotels and resorts. As a result, the park's wildlife habitat is dwindling day by day. These resorts and hotels not only degrade the habitat of wild animals, but also pollute the air, water, soil, noise, and rubbish, among other things. These resorts and hotels are to blame for the blocking of corridors in several national parks.

The wildlife of Corbett National Park suffers as a result of tourist overcrowding. Corbett National Park is a quiet place for wildlife, but tourism has caused tension and fury in the animals, causing them to shift their natural behaviour. Hiking, vehicle use, camping, and other activities harm the Corbett national park's vegetation. As a result, the rate at which they regenerate becomes extremely slow. Trampling of the soil in Corbett National Park has an effect and causes soil erosion.

In 2017-18 the number of tourists arrived in Jim Corbett National park is 284807 and the Revenue generate from the arrivals of the tourist is(In Crore) 87592703. In 2018-19 the number of tourists arrived in Jim Corbett National park is 283281 and the Revenue generate from the arrivals of the tourist is (In Crore) 86454812 Respectively (source :- <https://www.jagran.com>. Naint.)

CONCLUSION:

Ecotourism is a good method for managing natural resources in a way that generates economic opportunities while also protecting the environment. The Corbett National Park's eco-tourism potential has been investigated. Ecotourists will be drawn to the area because of its numerous intriguing natural features. Tourists are drawn to the area because of the high concentration of tigers. The most popular tourist activities are elephant and jeep safaris, trekking, and camping. However, the location encourages mass tourism over ecotourism, resulting in environmental damage as a result of the Uncontrolled tourist strategy.

Based on the facts presented in the report, we may deduce that the government is discovering new areas, such as two zones located in the Corbett National Park, Rigoda and facto, which are being offered to the government for formal recognition. We'll also wrap it off with all of the aforementioned proposals for tourism expansion.

Because all Tiger Reserves are under growing biotic strain, the overall Reserve is shrinking and the whole area of the reserve is shrinking. Recommendations to improve tiger reserve are directly related to Local communities involvement in the conservation of these essential natural resources via the formulation of site-specific eco-development plans. The goal is to secure their existence by reducing the demands on them. They must work together to achieve true harmony amongst local communities as well as the 19 tiger reserves. Project Tiger Reserves, as well as the wildlife that thrives inside them will not be collected for commercial purposes and will be utilised to build damssites, or other large-scale or small-scale initiatives.

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