



NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY / PROJECT TIGER

Statutory Body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(Government of India)

UDANTI-SITANADI TIGER RESERVE

The Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve includes total area of Udanti & Sitanadi Wildlife Sanctuaries, some parts of Tourenga, Mainpur, Indagaon and Kulhadighat ranges of Udanti Forest Division, Gariyaband District, parts of Dhawalpur range of East Raipur and parts of Sankara range of Dhamatari Forest Division, Dhamtari District.

The Core I (Udanti) of the Tiger Reserve was declared as Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary in 1984 by the then undivided Government of Madhya Pradesh. It is a small but an important Wildlife Sanctuary located in the Gariyaband district of Chhattisgarh. Apart from having good habitat for tigers, it is also contiguous to Khariar Forest Division of Odisha State and acts as Buffer for Sonabeda WLS. Hence, the location of the reserve becomes significant since it shares its boundary with another proposed tiger reserve forming one (Chhattisgarh-Odisha) Tiger Conservation Unit.

Area of the tiger reserve

Core/Critical Tiger Habitat	: 851.09 sq km
(Includes Core I Udanti	: 275.77 sq km and Core II Sitanadi: 575.32 sq km)
Buffer	: 991.45 sq km
Total	: 1842.54 sq km

Location

Core 1 Udanti

Latitudes : 20⁰ 0' to 20⁰ 15' N

Longitudes : 80⁰ 30' E to 82⁰ E

Core 2 Sitanadi

Latitudes : 20⁰ and 22⁰ 14' 0" N

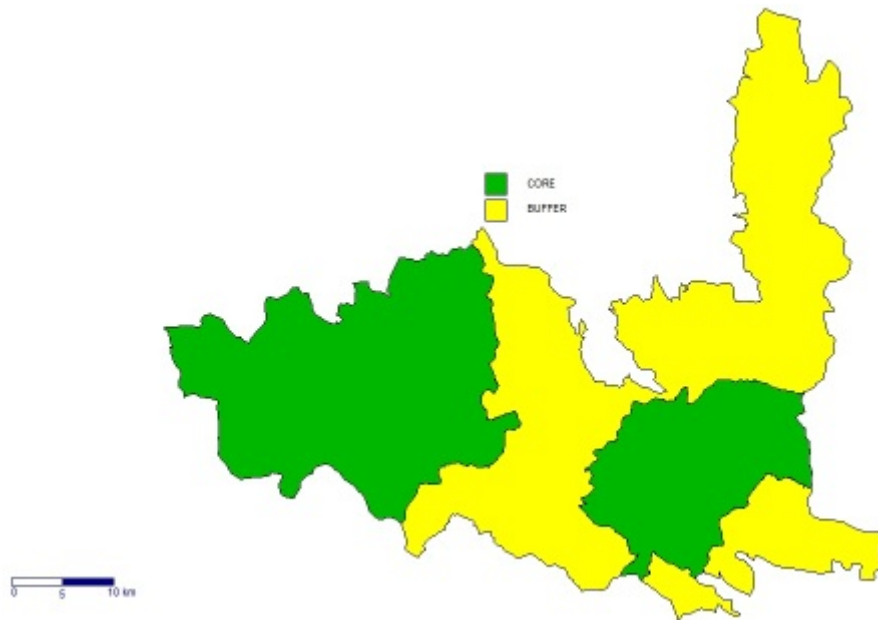
Longitudes : 80⁰ 75' 0" and 82⁰ 15' 10" E

Buffer

Latitudes : 20⁰35'00" to 19⁰55'00" N

Longitudes : 82⁰1'8" to 82⁰30'00" E

Map



Habitat Attributes

Flora

The Core 1 Udanti comes in the 6C bio-geographic zone of India (by *Rodgers and Panwar, 1988*) classification by Wildlife Institute of India and represents the Indo-Malayan area according to Woodward's classification. Champion and Seth (1968) classified the area broadly in to the following forest and vegetation types:

1. Dry Teak Forest 5A/c 1b(iii)
2. Dry peninsular *Sal* Forest 5B/c 1c(iv)
3. Moist peninsular *Sal* Forest 3C/c 2 e (ii)
4. Northern Dry mixed deciduous forest 5B/c 2(ii)

In Core 2 Sitanadi, *Chandrapur sandstone* gives rise to a poor quality of mixed forest whereas *sheet* rock supports species like *Salai*, *Tinsa*, and *Ghont* etc. along with few climbers. In *nala* banks and in slopy and hilly areas good quality forest can be seen. On the slopes bamboo also starts appearing. The valleys and plains carry good quality of mixed forest with great proportion of *Saja*, along with granite gneiss area carrying strips and patches of *Sal* forest. The sedimentary rock in several parts carries mixed forest with varying proportion of *Teak*. As a result of variation in underlying geological formation, Core 2 Sitanadi contains various types of forest crop and mixed *Sal* forest. Some areas have several *Teak* plantations and sample plots. According to the revised classification of Indian forest types and classification by Champion & Seth, the main forest type found in Core 2 Sitanadi are as follows:

1. Type 5 A/C 1 b (iii) Dry Teak Forest

2. Type 5 B/C 1 c (iv) Dry Peninsular Sal Forest
3. Type 5 B/C 2 (xi) Northern Dry Mixed Deciduous Forest
4. Type 5 /E/9 Dry Bamboo Forest.

In the buffer, according to Champion and Seth (1968), the forest types can be broadly classified as:

(1) Sal Forest –

(a) 3C/C2 e (i) Moist (Peninsular) High Level Sal forest

(b) 3C/C2 e (ii) Moist (Peninsular) Low Level Sal forest

(c) 3C/C e Northern Tropical Dry Peninsular Sal forest

(2) Mixed Forest –

(a) 5A/d Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Mixed Forest (with bamboo and without bamboo).

(3) Teak Forest – (a) 5A/C Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Teak Forest

Fauna

All the representative faunal species of Central India are found in both the Core areas of Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger reserve. Asiatic Wild Buffalo is the key endangered species found in the Core Area. Apart from the tiger other endangered and rare species are Indian Wolf, Leopard, Sloth Bear and Mouse Deer.

Tiger Status

The area has good habitat for the apex predator. Several indirect evidences in the form of scat, kill or pugmarks are found in the Core Area. In 2010 country level assessment, shows an overall low density of tiger in the Udanti-Sitanadi-Sunabeda Landscape.

Managerial Issues

Since, the Tiger Reserve and its adjoining area/corridor come under the ‘Red Corridor’ due to left wing extremism; it is a challenge to achieve tiger conservation objectives in the Tiger Reserve. The important thrust areas include

- Stepped up protection and tiger monitoring
- Integration and coordination with various departments and line agencies to achieve conservation oriented development in the buffer and fringe areas to wean away local communities from forest resources.
- Fostering awareness amongst the locals and eliciting their support for conservation
- Capacity building of field staff.
- Voluntary village relocation