Overall View and Conclusions

Ms. Madhu Verma (Professor, Environment and Development Economics) & Mr. Munish Sikka (Research Fellow, UBC_CNRM Project)

Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal
DAY 1
Inaugural Session

Welcome and Introduction
- K.K. Singh
  Founder Member & Hon. Treasurer ESOI, Convenor, ESOI Bhopal Workshop

- Need for responsible tourism by internalizing environmental laws, land use planning and sustainable practices
- Strategic location of current workshop in MP as the state hosts largest number of National arks and the stakeholders therefore urgent need to create awareness about environmental laws around PAs
- Place of Tourism in National Park Management Plan
• Absence of department of tourism in MP as an umbrella agency to regulate and facilitate tourism industry
• Lack of communication and therefore cooperation between different stakeholders
• Concern of the various stakeholders regarding recent statement of authorities to stop Tiger Tourism (C&C vs MBIs)
• Wildlife critical zone to be extended to National parks (Landscape Approach)
• Lack of availability of GoI report on overcrowding of NPs in 2001
• NPs being National Heritage should serve the interest of all concerned stakeholders
• Degradation of NPs on account of denial of rights to people therefore need for involving people and general public (tourists) for tiger conservation
• Overview of the Structure of the workshop
Inaugural Address:
Mr. Avani Vaish IAS
Chief Secretary, Madhya Pradesh

• Appreciated variety of stakeholders in the workshop and showed concern over issues raised by Mr. K K Singh
• Showed concern over mushrooming of settlements around NPs
• Exemplified irresponsible tourism through the case of Galapagos National Park, Ecuador
• Need to promote soft eco-tourism
• Highlighted the role of MP eco-tourism board to develop eco-tourism infrastructure

Vote of Thanks: Mr. Sarath Champati
Technical session I
Policy and Legal Framework on Eco-Tourism in India
- Mr. Sanjay Upadhyay
Advocate Supreme Court / Managing Partner Enviro Legal Defence Firm

- ET definition: Nature, Communities & Monetary Gains
  - Tourism is an integral part of NPMPs and States policies and the guidelines

  - Ecotourism Guidelines - Quite Sketchy

- National Tourism Policy, 2002 and Ecotourism
  - Principles and Parameters of Ecotourism

  - A shift towards eliciting People’s participation in wildlife conservation
• State Policies and Laws on Eco Tourism
  – Punjab, Assam - Ecotourism Policy; Kerala – only state which has ET Act; Sikkim – ET Notification

• Eco Tourism Areas and Legal Categories and their legal implications
  – National Parks and Sanctuaries – WLPA
  – Conservation and Community Reserves- WLPA
  – Critical Tiger Habitat (WLPA) and Critical Wildlife Habitats- FRA; Core and Buffer Areas


• Geographical Context: Islands, Coasts, Mountains, River, Deserts……………..ignorance of law

• ET and Customary law : Nagaland, Laddakh

• Climate concerns : REDD and REDD +; Carbon credits : ITC Sonar Bangla for energy conservation
Judicial Trends on Ecotourism and evolution of Special Procedures

Ms. Shilpa Chauhan
Advocate Supreme Court of India,
Sr.Associate ELDF

• Geotourism : An offshoot of Ecotourism
  – geographical character of a place—one environment,
    culture, aesthetics, heritage

• Environmental Authorities: An outcome of court based action

• Ecologically Sensitive Areas
  – Conceptually recognized by courts – Bittu Sehgal,
    M.C Mehta, Goa Foundation, T.N Godavarman etc
  – Pre 2004 phase: specific to a single site cases
  – Post 2004 phase: Landmark cases dealt with different environmental issues
Cont…

• Supreme court clearance: in addition to FCA for ‘use’ of ‘forest land’ for ‘non-forestry activity’

• Prescription of payment of Net Present Value (NPV) in addition to payment for compensatory afforestation
Queries and Comments

- Any limitation on the size of NPs
- Concern over appropriation of community reserve by the government
- Need for a **manual or toolkit** on NP, conservation reserves, community reserves based eco-tourism containing glossary, Do’s and Don’ts, procedures, FAQs, where to locate a lodge
- Further clarification regarding critical wildlife and tiger habitat, core and buffer area
- Can forest land be granted/exclusively provided for ecotourism like forest areas being broken up for mining activities
- Can CAMPA fund be used for National Park conservation and providing benefits to adjoining communities
Technical Session II
WILDLIFE TOURISM: A Conservation Tool

Dr. H.S. Pabla
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Madhya Pradesh

- Existence of symbiotic relationship between WL and Tourism
- Threats to Wildlife, thus need to care for wildlife
- Factors contributing to wildlife protection
- Tourism activity serve as an economic force behind wildlife protection
- Tourism’s potential for Poverty Alleviation
- Various Challenges faced in promoting wildlife tourism
- Need to clear some confusion: locals displaced for outsiders; living and visiting
- To popularize: Low visitation, decongestion, forested corridors, encourage donations
Global Trends in ECOTOURISM
a tool for conservation

Mr. Sarath Champati
Chief Naturalist, Taj Safaris

• Global Scenario
  • Wildlife tourism in Kenya
  • Masai Mara Reserve managed by the Masai tribe and receives 30% Park income
  • Valuation of Lion (27,000 US$/year) and Elephant herd (610,000 US$/year)
  • Great Barrier Reef: Tourism is the largest commercial activity in the region (US $4.75 billion in 2005)
  • Rwanda’s Gorilla Tourism (Premium charge and high quality of service) : restrictive tourism……..carrying capacity
Indian Scenario

- Snow Leopard Tourism-Hemis National Park, NGO: Snow Leopard Conservancy-linking local communities in the economic activity; predator proofing
- Masheer species conservation in Cauvery river by JLR

Challenges
- Unregulated development
- Limited Interpretation
Potential & Opportunities

• Night Drives in Buffer Zones
• Concept of Premium Zones
• Overnight Camping, Machans
• Flagship species centric - Snow Leopard, Macaque etc.
• To expand the Tiger Basket: other cat species to be popularized
• Ecotourism Industry in India should be nurtured by the Government
• Private sector should be involved actively
Global Best Practices in Tourism

Mr. Mandip Singh Soin FRGS
Founder Member & President ESOI

- Need for ploughing back profits from National Parks for their conservation
- Examples from Africa, Australia
- Earning carbon credits through offset mechanism and promoting climate responsible tourism
- Need to tap ecotoursim sites of India in the global market e.g. Global award won by Kerala state is yet to be tapped for the benefit of various stakeholders
Comments and Queries

• Need to use donations given at national park for specific purpose and donor agency need to be told about their progress & use
• Provisioning a list of works to be done at NP would facilitate donation process……water holes, particular species conservation
• Project based fund raising activity
• Concern over donation not being utilized for specific purpose
• Need to disperse tourism around NPs
• Change in tariff system and increase in entry fee
• Diversification of activities within the NPs
• Differential package to be offered to domestic, rest of the national and international tourists
Comments and Queries

- Replication of interpretation zone model of Gir National Park to assure the sighting of dominant species
- Overall improvement of various public services like aviation, tele-communication, water, solid waste management etc.
- Possibility of Public-private partnership in NPs
- Provisioning in 1927 forest act regarding management of forest lands and waste lands as joint property
- More CSR activities around NPs
- Imposition of conservation cess
- Proper utilization of revenue raised for NP management
Day 2
Session I

Summary of Day 1:
Mr. K.K. Singh

Briefed the guests about first day proceedings, highlighting issues and points raised by all the speakers.
Chief Guest :
Mr. Dhruv Narain Singh
Chairman, MP Tourism Development Corporation

- Appreciated the audience and encouraged the hoteliers and nature experts to preach and practice the sustainable tourism and message of Mahatma Gandhi
- Emphasized on individual and collective responsibility to reduce GHG emissions in daily life
- Highlighted the importance of environment and forest conservation for tourism industry in MP
- Promised ESOI all kind of institutional support and to conduct the workshop on annual basis in Bhopal
Technical Session I
Green Tourism: Key environmental legislative requirements & standard procedures
Mr. Shawahiq Siddiqui
Advocate & Associate, ELDF

- Regulatory perspective: Issues in Ecotourism
- Regulation of permissible activities through Standard Procedures
  - To reduce ecological footprint
  - For smooth commencement of eco-projects
- Standard Procedures include
  - CTE/CTO from Pollution control standpoint
  - National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuary etc. from wildlife and forest protection standpoint
  - EIA: size and impact standpoint
Cont...

- **Source of Standard Procedures: The Legal Framework including**
  - The Environment Protection Act
  - The Water and Air (Prevention and Control Of Pollution) Acts
  - The Wildlife (Protection) Act

- **Approach towards Standard Procedures:**
  - Procedural Requirement->Applicable laws->First level institution authority ->Documents required
Queries and Comments

• Legal issues related to notification status and construction activity in the Panchmarhi Biosphere reserve

• Wildlife protection act 1972 and status of resettlement of villages from the National Park activity
  – Funds are not the only constraining factor
  – Timely intervention could have prevented increasing pressure on NPs

• Multi land use plans within the notified National Parks and Sanctuaries is a possible step forward to identify crucial no intervention zones
Place of Tourism in Management Planning of National Parks

**Dr. Erach Bharucha**
Director, Bharati Vidyapeeth Inst. Of Environment Education & Research, Pune

- The Carrying capacity dilemma in tourism activity inside National Parks and Sanctuaries
- Integration of ecotourism into the National Park’s planning exercise
  - No qualitative and quantitative studies
  - Understanding the impacts of tourism through various tools on biological as well as on abiotic aspects of PAs
  - Identifying stakeholders and their responsibilities
Cont...

• PA Management plan – Current Gaps
  – Lack of strong data on the number of tourists related to carrying capacity
  – too few alternate visitor destinations for PAs
  – Training aspect of guides
  – No specific detailing for serious visitors

• Need Sustainable Tourism Plan in all Protected Area management plans
Eco-Friendly Architecture

Ar. Dean D’Cruz,
Architect, Mozaic Goa

- Fascinating cruise to the various sites containing Eco-Friendly Architecture
- Learning from Nature, its creatures including indigenous communities

A few site photos ........
Technical Session II
Institutional Support Opportunities for Ecotourism in Forest Areas
Mr. Ajoy Bhattacharya
Chairman, M.P. Eco-Tourism Board, Bhopal

- Understanding Ecotourism
  - Conservation, education and community participation (side stepped)
- Issues: Difference in the perception of Forest Officers, Operators’ and Visitors’
- Several mechanisms for institutionalizing ecotourism
- MP Ecotourism Board: vision, mission, objectives, organizational structure, functions, destinations, activities
Marketing Madhya Pradesh
(Corporation + Private Sector)
Mr. Hariranjan Rao
M.D., M.P. State Tourism Devt. Corpn.

- USPs of MP tourism
- Wildlife, Rivers, Heritage Sites, Culture
- New policy initiatives
  - Land Allotment Policy, Water Tourism, Caravan Tourism sites
  - Bed & Breakfast Scheme: Register on MP Tourism Website
  - Investment Facilitation: Investors’ Guide
- Other Proposed Initiatives: Convention Centre, 5 star hotel in Bhopal, Institutes to train human resource
- Branding MP: “Hindustan Ka Dil Dekho” campaign (TV Commercials)
Queries and Comments

- Need to document information on various management issues of NPs
- Setting up MP wildlife tourism association to raise concerns of various business houses
- How by adopting eco-friendly techniques various eco-friendly carbon credits can be earned
- Eco-fencing of lodges
- Concerns over sanitation issues
- Exploring opportunity of rebuilding several forest bungalows, lodges for visitors
- Workshop for forest rangers regarding eco-friendly construction
- Develop the eco circuit based ecotourism covering the entire Landscape
Technical Session III
Ethics of Responsible Wildlife Tourism & Shortcomings
Dr. Latika Rana
Wildlife Biologist

- Ethical aspects for various stakeholders
- Wildlife Watching Tourism
  - Sustainable
  - non intrusive: avoid any behavior change to the animal as a result of the human presence
- Ethical Tiger Tourism
- Seeking Conservation through Partnership
Challenges of Turning Green

Mr. Cherian T Ramapuram
Director Sales, Orange County, Karnataka

- Environment Protection and Social Benefits associated with Orange County tourism operations
- Facilitate guests to participate in local community development programmes
- Infrastructure for solid waste management
Major Recommendations

• Preparation of a **Manual or Toolkit** to provide information regarding NPs, Sanctuaries, conservation reserves, community reserves based eco-tourism containing glossary, Do’s and Don’ts, procedures, FAQs, where to locate a lodge etc.

• Establishment of a **Help Desk** to respond to immediate queries
The workshop intended to promote Ecotourism as...

Economic, Ecological, Ethical and an Elegant activity within the framework of Environmental Law
Certificate Distribution &

a few moments
ESOI founding members presenting symbol of life and nature to Mr. G. S. Chahal, Advisor, MPTDC thanking them for their support.

August assembly of distinguished speakers & delegates
Thank You

Supported by

Partner

Email: admin@ecotourismsocietyofindia.org
Visit us: www.ecotourismsocietyofindia.org