

# ANNUAL REPORT

2011-12

(July, 2011 to June, 2012)



**SIMLIPAL TIGER RESERVE**

ODISHA, INDIA



8th General Body meeting of SES



Central Monitoring Committee on relocation, Amdiha



Visit of Forest Secretary to Similipal



Training on Wildlife Crime at Jashipur



Workshop on Inculcating Positive Attitudinal Changes Amongst Officials



Regional Workshop on Poverty & Conservation of Forest



Core-buffer co-ordination meeting



Taxi owners orientation meeting at Baripada

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## INTRODUCTION

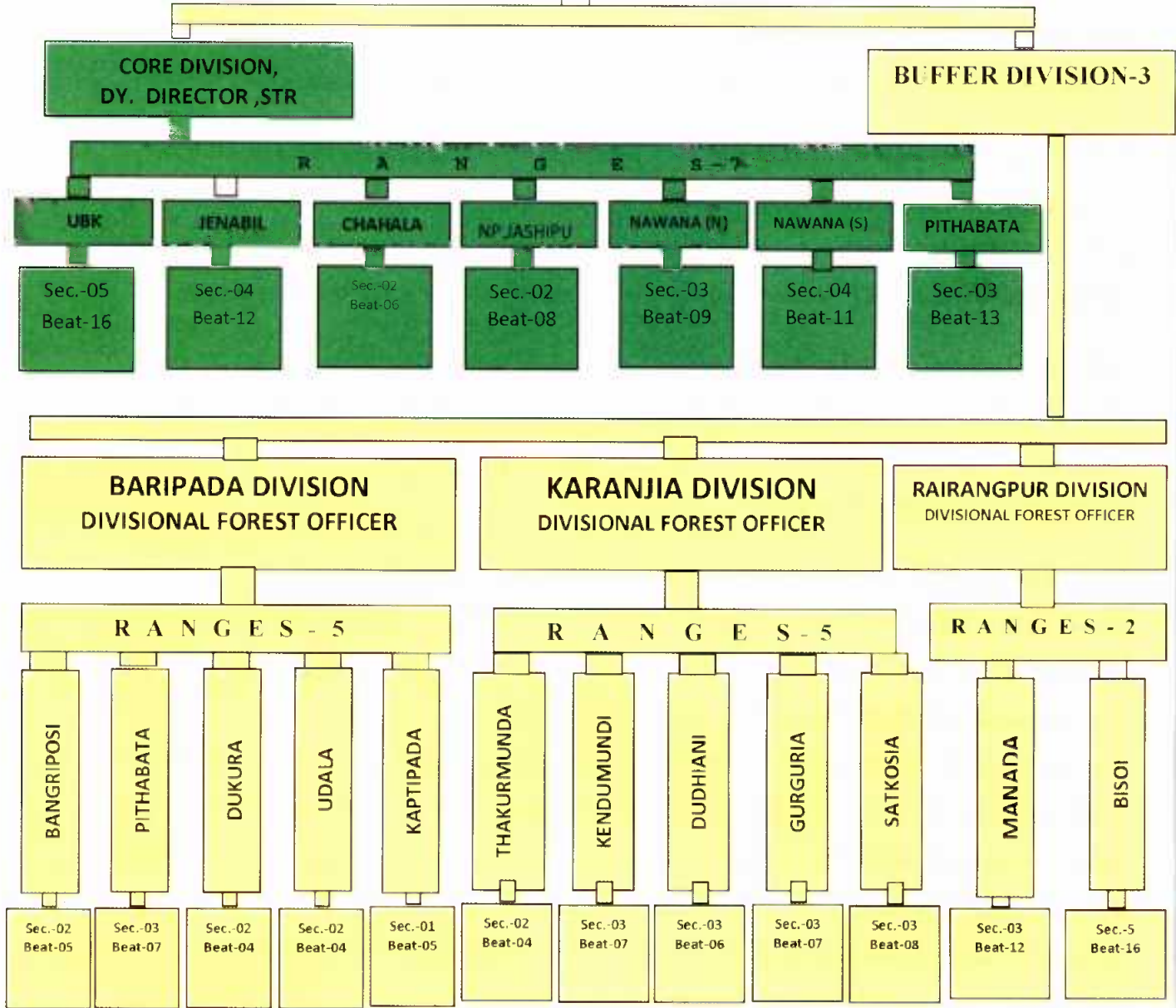
Similipal Tiger Reserve, covering an area of 2750 sq km of forest lying on the South Eastern corner of Deccan Peninsula in the Mayurbhanj District of Odisha, is one of the largest tracts of contiguous forest with immeasurable ecosystem service values. It forms the largest watershed of northern Odisha. The rich diversity of habitats and mosaic of landscapes with unique geological formation also supports a fascinating floral and faunal composition.

Similipal Tiger Reserve was constituted on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1973 covering an area of 2750 km<sup>2</sup> as one of the first nine tiger reserves of India. Similipal Tiger Reserve was notified under Section 38(V) of Wildlife Protection Amendment Act, 2006 vide Govt. of Orissa Notification No.8F(T)-9/2007/20801/F&E dtd. 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007 which gave legal sanctity to the tiger reserve.

Similipal Tiger Reserve is located between 21<sup>o</sup> 31' and 22<sup>o</sup> 02' north latitude and 86<sup>o</sup> 06' and 86<sup>o</sup> 36' east longitude. It covers an area of 2750 sq kms covering Similipal RF and the surrounding contiguous Reserve Forests, proposed Reserve Forests, 61 villages inside Similipal RF, 5 villages inside Satkosia RF and 3 villages inside Tungru RF.

The landscape harbours 7% flowering plants, 8% orchids, 7% reptiles, 20% birds, and 11% mammals of India, Similipal stands as a link between the flora and fauna of southern India and sub Himalayan North-east India. It is the abode of 1076 species of flowering plants, 20 species of amphibians, 62 species of reptiles, 357 species of birds, 55 species of mammals and many species of flora and fauna still to be identified. The forest is a unique composition of different types of forests such as northern tropical mixed deciduous forest, northern tropical semi-evergreen forest, mixed deciduous hill forest, high level sal forest, dry deciduous sal forest, plain sal forest, grassland and savannahs. Similipal is the home of melanistic tiger and black panther. It bears 93 species of orchids, many of them endemic and endangered, many species of insects, ferns and medicinal plants. Mahaseer, Hornbill, Mouse deer, Giant squirrel, Flying squirrel, Ruddy mongoose and Rufus tailed hare are examples of this unique biodiversity. Above all, Similipal is famous for its tigers and elephants. It alone is the home of 50% tiger and 25% elephants of Orissa. The biodiversity rich Similipal constitutes vast treasure of diverse wild genes with wide adoptability to diverse climatic and ecological conditions prevailing here.

**SIMILIPAL TIGER RESERVE**  
FIELD DIRECTOR & RCCF, BARIPADA



## PROTECTION MEASURES

Similipal has witnessed all the vagaries that the human being can play- be it the high anthropogenic pressure from the villages within and surrounding or mass hunting of animals by tribal groups in the name of tradition or even naxal attack with subsequent devastation of flora & fauna and it has withstood the test of time and proved its great power of resilience. This has been possible due to the dedicated work force of Similipal working relentlessly in adverse conditions inside the reserve for its protection. Followings are the highlights of forest protection in the year under report.

- For making the protection activities more effective and fruitful with participation of both core and buffer staff, entire Similipal Tiger Reserve has been divided into 5 landscapes as:

Landscape No. 1: Udala, Jenabil and Nawana (N) Ranges

Landscape no. 2: Kaptipada, Thakurmunda, Satkosia, UBK and Kendumundi Ranges

Landscape No. 3: Pithabata (T&WL), Dukura and Nawana (N) Ranges

Landscape No. 4: Chahala, Babgiriposi & Bisoi Ranges

Landscape No. 5: Gurguria, Manda, National Park and Dudhiani Ranges

- Special strategy has been adopted for monsoon patrolling and to prevent *Akhand Shikar*.
- 14 Forest Guards of Bhadrak Wildlife Division were deployed for 3 months to Similipal for *Akhand Shikar* duty.
- 10 nos ex-army personnel were deployed in Podadiha, Jenabil and Sarua camp at different periods from February to July.
- 38 nos of joint combing operations by core and buffer staff have been conducted inside Similipal.
- 23 attempts of mass intrusion of villagers for poaching have been thwarted during these combing operations.
- 1495 cases have been booked out of which 250 cases have been booked under Wildlife Protection Act.

- 556.96 cum timber and 14.61 MT firewood have been seized.
- 2 leopard skins have been seized and 8 offenders have been arrested.
- 5 number of Core and buffer meetings was conducted between August,2011to July,2012 under the chairmanship of FD, Similipal Tiger Reserve & RCCF for coordination amongst wildlife and territorial staff
- A lot of persuasion resulted in creation of Special Tiger Protection Force for Similipal Tiger Reserve consisting of 90 armed Forest Guards, 18 Foresters, 6 Range Officers and one A.C.F.
- 3 hard core elephant poachers belonging to villages within STR have been nabbed by the core and buffer staff in a landmark joint operation and sent to jail custody with the help of police and Magistrate.
- 4 accused persons were quickly apprehended in October,2011 in a series of raids following poisoning of 3 female elephants in Karanjia Forest Division, a 1<sup>st</sup> of its kind in the history. Interstate linkages of smuggling were also unearthed
- Two poachers were apprehended on 31.07.2012 by UBK range staff while patrolling in inviolate zones of STR. This is the 1st time that poachers have been caught by STR core staff all alone after the maoist attack during 2009
- 95 persons have been arrested and forwarded to judicial custody out of which 35 persons have been arrested on a single occasion during *Akhand Shikar*. This has been done for the 1<sup>st</sup> time after naxal attack since 2009

## **HUMAN RESOURCE**

### **Recruitment**

In the beginning of the year there was large scale vacancies at the level of Forester and Forest Guard in all Divisions which play the key role in protection. However Govt in a major initiative allowed direct recruitment of the vacant posts in all the Divisions. In Similipal Tiger Reserve (Core) recruitment was done for 11 posts of Foresters and 31 posts of Forest Guards out of which 11 candidates of Forester post joined and one candidate resigned subsequently. Similarly, out of 31 candidates of Forest Guard posts, 28 candidates joined. This could substantially fill the vacancies at field level.



## Retirement

Following officials of Similipal Tiger Reserve retired from service during this year.

- Sri Abhay Kumar Ray, Deputy Director
- Sri Faguram Majhi, Range Officer
- Sri Parameswar Majhi, Dy. Ranger
- Sri Madhu Charan Murmu, Forester
- Sri Harmohan Barik, Forester
- Sri Tankadhara Mohanta, Forester
- Sri Sauna Charan Hemram, Senior Clerk
- Sri Kapila Chandra Barik, Junior Clerk
- Sri Harihara Pradhan, Forest Guard
- Sri Gandhiram Ho, Bungalow Chowkidar

## New Incumbents

- Dr Anup K Nayak joined as 1<sup>st</sup> Field Director and RCCF, Baripada on 08/08/2011. The post of Field Director, Similipal TR has been upgraded to that of Regional C.C.F. Vide govt notification no. 11884 dated 02.07.2011 and the unified post has been named as FD, STR cum RCCF, Baripada having control over both core and buffer areas.
- Sh Bikash Ranjan Dash joined as Dy Dir, STR on 31/10/2011
- SMT Rahman joined as 1<sup>st</sup> Dy. Dir (tourism and Research) on 24/08/2011
- Sh Asish Behera joined as DFO, Karanjia on 20/04/2012
- Sh Arun K Swain joined as DFO, Rairangpur on 02/05/2012
- Sh Sanjay Kumar Swain joined as A.C.F Baripada on 29/06/2012
- 10 Foresters and 28 Forest Guards joined STR core in April, 2012 on being recruited newly in the recruitment of 2011.

### Staff strength of Similipal Tiger Reserve as on 30.06.2012.

Sl. No.	Category of post	Sanctioned Strength	Staff in position	Vacancy
01.	Chief Conservator of Forests	01	01	00
02.	Divisional Forest Officer	05	05	00
03.	Asst. Conservator of Forests	09	04	05
04.	Forest Range Officer	19	16	03
05.	Forester	55	55	00
06.	Forest Guard	156	135	21

### DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES.

During the 2011-12, some of the important developmental works taken up in Similipal Tiger Reserve are

- Part construction of Range Officers Residence, Jashipur at a cost of Rs 8.0 lakh
- Part construction of Section office for foresters at joranda at a cost of Rs 4.0 lakh
- Construction of barrack at Chahala at a cost of Rs 12 lakh
- Watcher shed at Jenabil for Rs 4 lakh
- Beat office for forest Guard at Karkachia in Chahala Range at a cost of Rs 4 lakh
- Beat office at Jodapal, Nawana –S Range for Rs 3.75 lakh.
- 2VHF towers installed at UBK and Nawana-N at a cost of Rs 1.66 lakh
- Reconstruction of Forest Range Office and Residence at Dhuduruchampa in Nawana-S. at a cost of Rs 5 lakh
- Creation of 3 number WHS 1 each in Nawana (N), UBK and Jenabil Range, respectively at a cost of Rs 13 lakh
- Construction of Surface causeway at Dhudruchampa, Lengdakacha, Bakua and Brundaban at a cost of Rs 11.65 lakh, and at Dhundubasa & Jenabil at a cost of Rs 3.0 lakh
- Box Culvert at Jharangati under Nawana(S) Range for Rs 4 lakh
- Surface causeway 3 no each at National Park and Nawana-N Range for Rs 34.5 lakh

## ALLOTMENT & EXPENDITURE IN 2011-12.

Scheme	Allotment in lakh Rs.	Expenditure in lakh Rs.
CSP-Project Tiger	440.3681	224.77
State Plan (Wildlife)	22.24	22.24
State Plan (PCCF)	3.75	3.75
13 <sup>th</sup> FC Grant (PCCF)	0.85	0.85
Central Plan	4.0	4.0
Non-plan	6.08	6.08
CAMPA	69.17	30.13
IAP	38.98	38.98

## CENSUS & POPULATION MONITORING.

### Mid-Winter Waterfowl Census:

Mid-Winter Waterfowl Census in Mayurbhanj district was conducted in 43 water bodies comprising 3 sites at Rairangpur Division, 12 Sites in Karanjia Division and 28 sites in Baripada Division on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2012. The census was coordinated by FD cum RCCF, Baripada himself. Four groups led by experts carried out the survey in collaboration with NOU, Baripada. A total of 41 species of waterfowl comprising of 2 species of Grebes, 2 species of Cormorants, 6 species of Herons and Egrets, 2 species of Storks, 1 species of Ibis, 9 species of Geese and Ducks, 4 species of Gallinules and Coots, 2 species of Jacanas, 13 species of shorebird and One species of Gull were found along with 6 associated species. Three new species were enlisted during the census for the first time in this part of the Country. These are Woolly-necked Stork, Ferruginous Duck and Grey headed Lapwing. Most common spp were found to be Gadwall followed by Lesser Whistling Duck, Red-Crested Pochard, Little cormorant and Tufted Duck respectively.