

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 Charges Amongst Officials



Regional Workshop on Poverty & Consevation of Forest



Core-buffer co-ordination meeting



Taxi owners orientation meeting at Baripada

Contents

| | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Introduction | 1-1 |
| 2. Structure | 2-2 |
| 3. Protection measures | 3-4 |
| 4. Human Resource | 5-6 |
| 5. Developmental activity | 6-6 |
| 6. Budget | 7-7 |
| 7. Census & population monitoring | 7-13 |
| • Mid-waterfowl census | |
| • Elephant census | |
| • Crocodile census | |
| • Monitoring of carnivore and their prey population | |
| • Checklist of birds | |
| • Inter-state migration of elephants | |
| 8. Trainings and workshops | 13-16 |
| 9. Research activity | 16-17 |
| 10. Ecotourism | 18-19 |
| 11. Non-Governmental Organizations | 19-19 |
| 12. Rescue and rehabilitation | 20-21 |
| 13. Acknowledgement | 21-22 |
| 14. Publication | 22-22 |
| 15. Visitors to STR | 22-23 |
| 16. Important events | 23-24 |
| 17. Obituary | 24-24 |



INTRODUCTION

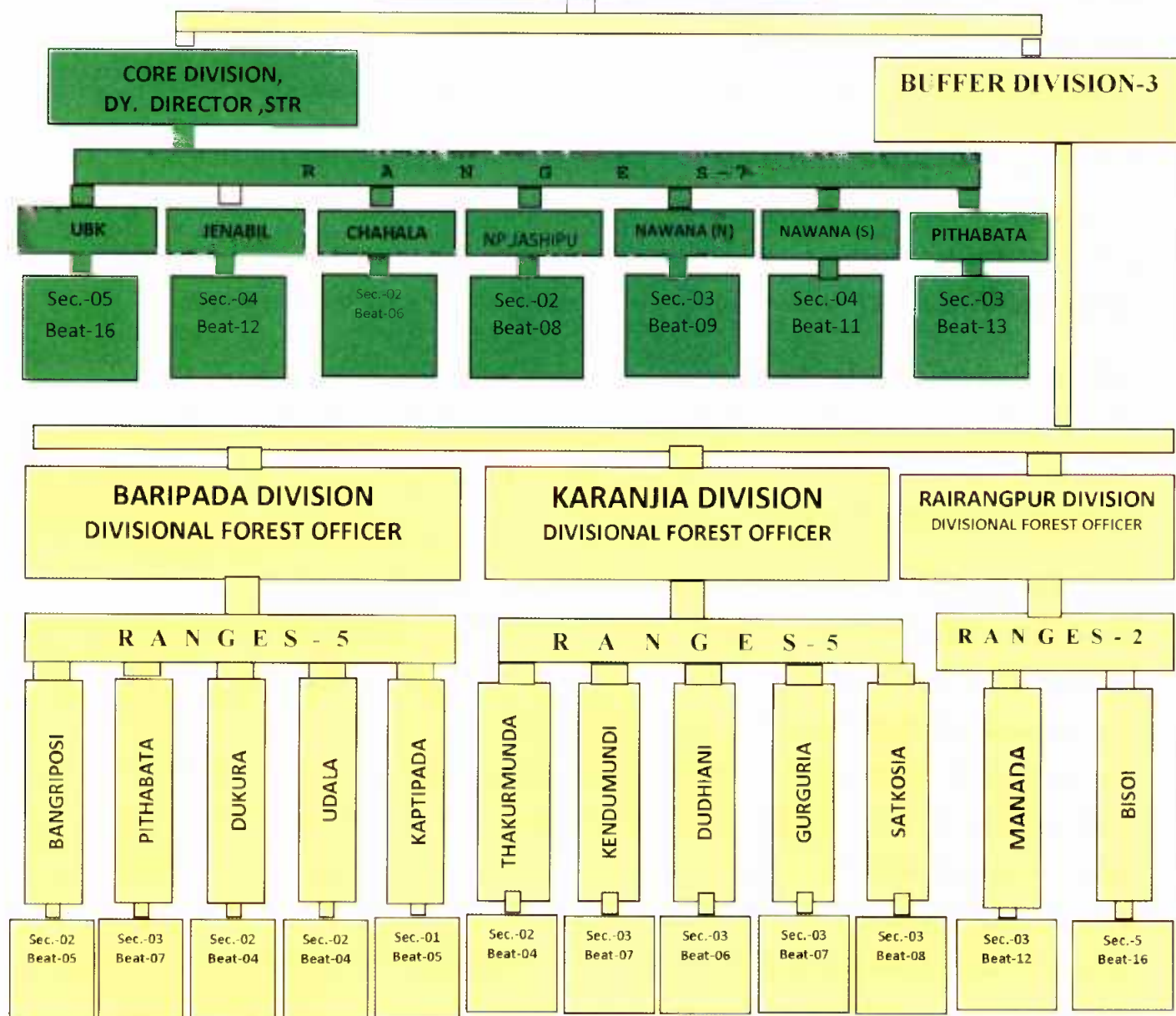
Similipal Tiger Reserve, covering an area of 2750 sq km of forest lying on the South Eastern corner of Deccan Peninsula in the Mayurbhanj District of Odisha, is one of the largest tracts of contiguous forest with immeasurable ecosystem service values. It forms the largest watershed of northern Odisha. 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 4th December 1973 covering an area of 2750 km² 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. 31st December 2007 which gave legal sanctity to the tiger reserve.

Similipal Tiger Reserve is located between 21° 31' and 22° 02' north latitude and 86° 06' and 86° 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, 2011 to 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 1st 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 1st 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 1st 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 1st 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 th 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 19th and 20th 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.

Elephant Census.

Census for elephants was taken up in 2012 from 1/6/2012 to 3/6/2012 over a period of three days. Most of the sightings were recorded near water bodies, foot path, Saltlicks. In 2012 total 334 elephants were sighted in the core area out of which 132 (39.52) from UBK Range, 62 (18.56%) from Chahala Range, 52 (15.56%) from Jenabil Range, 50 (14.97%) from Pithabata Range, 18 (5.38%) from National Park Range, 14 (4.19%) from Nawana North Range and 6 (1.79%) from Nawana South Range were sighted. The adult cow population is found to be high (46.4%), followed by calf (15.86%), sub adult cow (7.48%), Juvenile (11%), sub adult bull (7.48%), adult bull (4.49%) in that order. However the female proportion is much more than male in Similipal Tiger Reserve, ratio being 5:1.

Population structure of elephants in Similipal Tiger Reserve (Core) during 2012.

| Name Of Range | Adult Bulls | Adult Cows | Sub-Adult Bulls | Sub-Adult Cows | Adult/ Sub-Adult Unknown | Juvenile | Calf | Total |
|---------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------|------|-------|
| UBK | 07 | 55 | 10 | 26 | 00 | 11 | 23 | 132 |
| Jenabil | 03 | 25 | 04 | 06 | 00 | 05 | 09 | 52 |
| Nawana(N) | 00 | 08 | 00 | 01 | 00 | 01 | 04 | 14 |
| Chahala | 04 | 26 | 04 | 10 | 00 | 10 | 08 | 62 |
| Nawana(S) | 00 | 02 | 00 | 02 | 00 | 02 | 00 | 06 |
| National Park | 00 | 09 | 03 | 03 | 00 | 03 | 00 | 18 |
| Pithabatha | 01 | 30 | 04 | 01 | 00 | 05 | 09 | 50 |
| Total | 15 | 155 | 25 | 49 | 00 | 37 | 53 | 334 |

| Division/ Area | Adult Bulls > 8 Ft. or >240 cm | | | Adult Cows >7 ft or >210 cm | Sub adult bulls 5 ft to 8 ft (151 cm to 240 cm) | | | Sub adult cows 5 ft to 7 ft (151cm to 210 cm) | Adult – Sub adult unknown | | | | Total Juvenile 4 ft to 5 ft (121 cm to 150 cm) | Total calf < 4 ft. or < 120 cm | Grand Total |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|-------|---|--|---------|-------|--|------------------------------|----------------|---------------|-------|--|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| | Tusker | Makhana | Total | Total | Tusker | Makhana | Total | Total | More than 8 ft. | 7 ft. to 8 ft. | 5ft. to 7 ft. | Total | | | |
| Similipal Core | 15 | 00 | 15 | 155 | 24 | 01 | 25 | 49 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 37 | 53 | 334 |
| Baripada | 05 | - | 05 | 27 | 00 | 01 | 01 | 04 | - | - | - | - | 05 | 10 | 52 |
| Karanjia | 03 | | 03 | 01 | 01 | - | 01 | 11 | - | - | - | - | 02 | 05 | 23 |
| Rairangpur | 04 | - | 04 | 12 | 06 | - | 06 | 14 | | 01 | | 01 | 02 | 08 | 47 |
| Total | 27 | 00 | 27 | 195 | 31 | 02 | 33 | 78 | 00 | 01 | 00 | 01 | 46 | 76 | 456 |

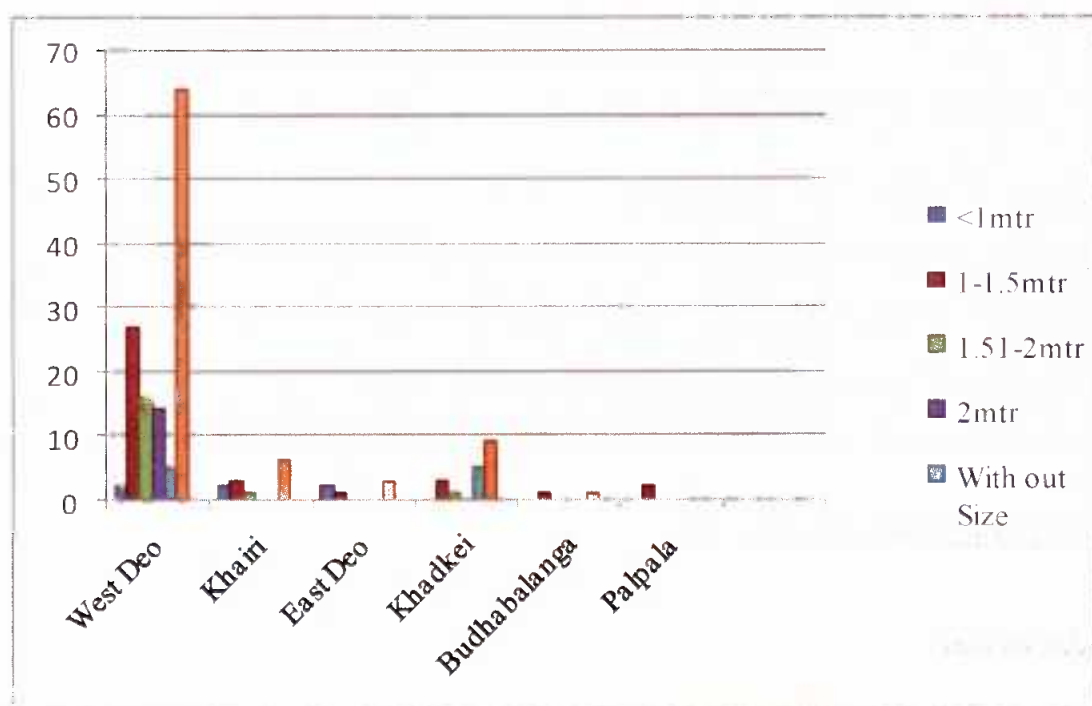
Elephant Census Figure of core and buffer during 2012

Crocodile Census.

Of the 21 species of Crocodilians that are found in the warm subtropical and tropical regions of the world, three occur in the Indian subcontinent (Singh 1999). These are the Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*), the Saltwater or Estuarine crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) and the Mugger (*Crocodylus palustris*). All occur in the state of Orissa. Gharial is found in the Mahanadi, the Salt water crocodile is found in Bhitarkanika Sanctuary and the Mugger is found in river systems of Similipal Tiger Reserve. The Mugger Project was established at Ramtirtha, Jashipur during the year 1976.

Survey of muggers in Similipal was conducted in 2012 on 30.01.2012 and 31.01.2012 to ascertain the status of muggers inside Similipal Tiger Reserve. The direct sighting method was used to count the number of muggers. For this purpose, the entire survey team was divided into 24 groups. Different river systems were surveyed and direct sighting as well as indirect

evidence such as tunnel, basking place, scute mark on the ground were collected. They surveyed the river side on foot. The body length was measured by ocular estimation during direct sighting. From indirect evidence the same is measured from the tracks of hind paw mark and also from the tail mark. The body length is equal to approximately 14 x paw length and approximately 65 times the maximum distance between two lines created because of movement of tail. A total of 82 Muggers were found in 6 different river systems in STR. Highest number of crocodiles were found in West Deo river system originating in UBK range.



Muggers sighted in different rivers of Similipal from 2011-2012 during Census Period.

| RIVER SYSTEMS | West Deo | East Deo | Khairi | B.Balanga | Khadkei | Palpala | Total |
|---------------|----------|----------|--------|-----------|---------|---------|-------|
| 2011 | 64 | 03 | 06 | 01 | 09 | 02 | 85 |
| 2012 | 60 | 07 | 06 | - | 09 | - | 82 |

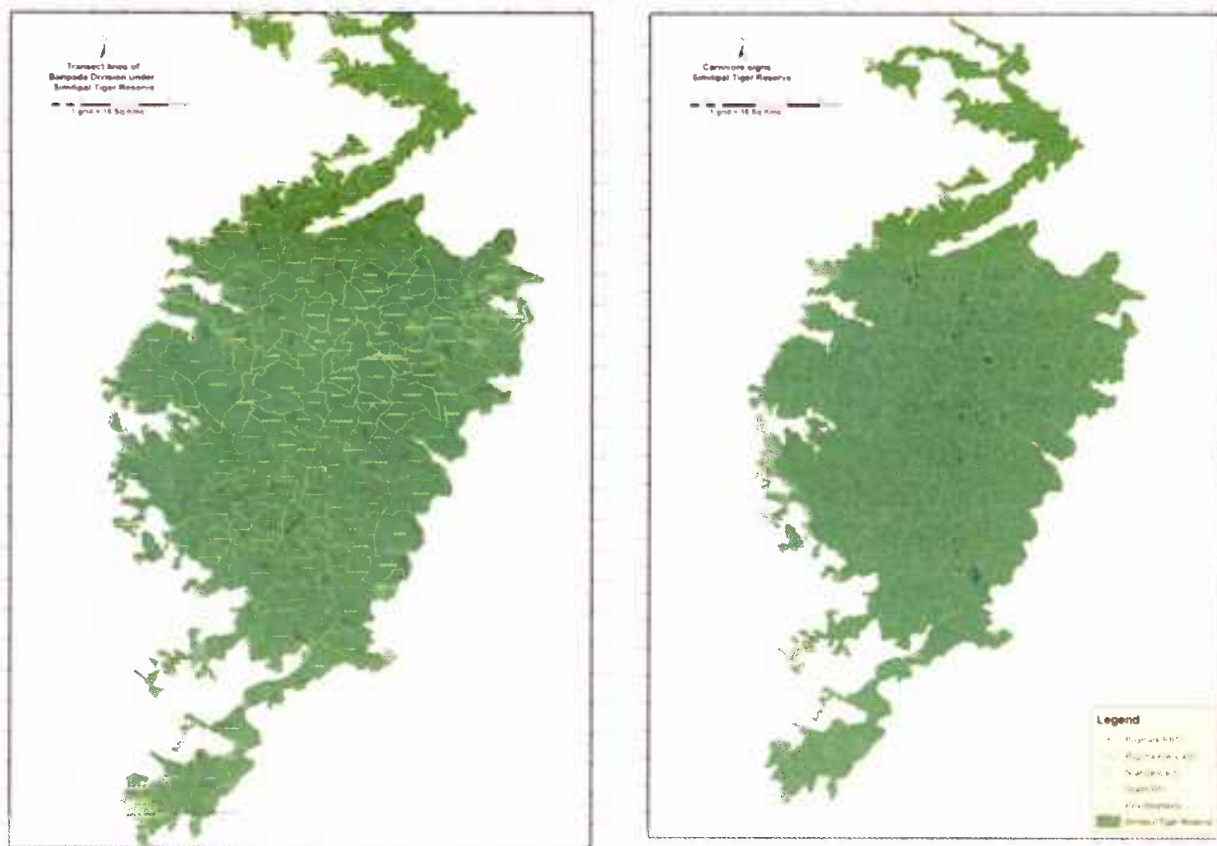
Crocodile population in different river with size during 2011, census.

Monitoring of Tiger population in STR.

A. Prey population density in STR

As per NTCA guidelines, prey population density in respect of each tiger reserve will be determined by the respective field director as part of the phase-IV tiger monitoring protocol. Similipal has already taken a lead. A 3-day sign survey for prey species was conducted during 3-5 January, 2012 in 178 transect lines covering core and buffer areas over entire 2750 sq km of STR. The division wise break up of units is as follows. STR Core- 73 units, Baripada- 29 units, Karanjia- 48 units, Rairangpur-28 units. Prior to conduct of 6 day sign survey a number of exhaustive training programmes were undertaken for the staff of 19 ranges.

During the survey as many as sightings of prey species were noticed in Ranges. Prey species included Sambar, Chital, Wild Boar, Barking Deer, Monkey. Then density of prey species was calculated for the STR based on DISTANCE, a software commonly used for such purposes. The density was found to be 3.71.

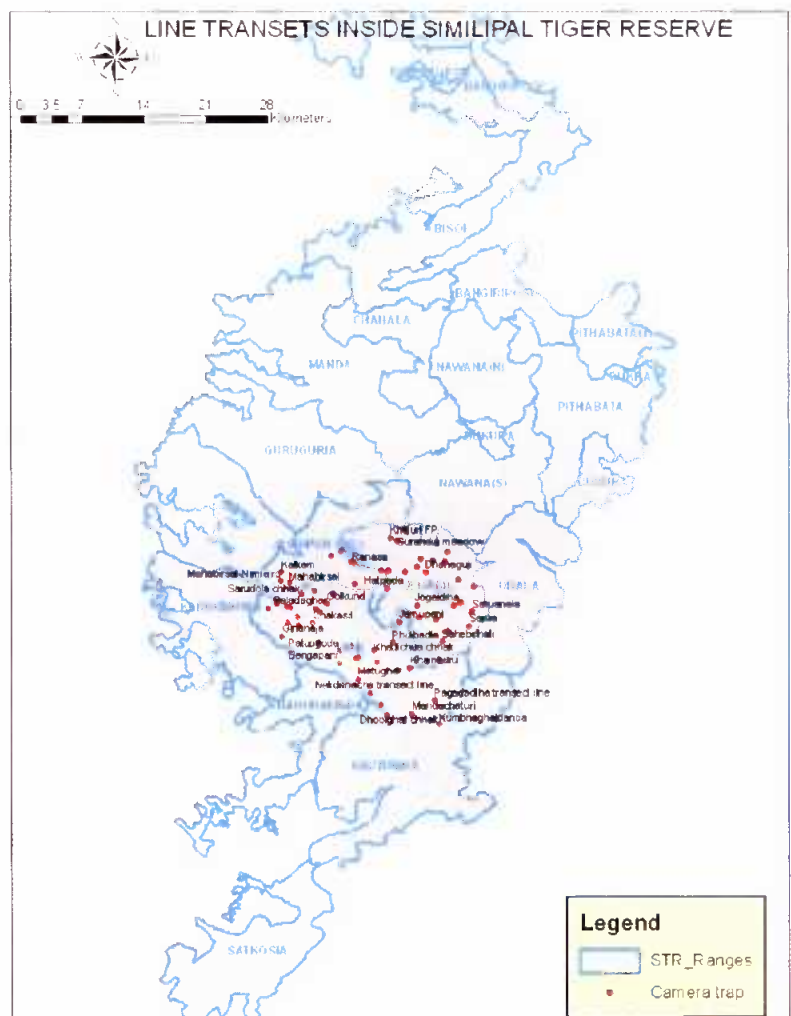


B. Carnivore sign survey

Carnivore sign survey was conducted during 6-8, January, 2012 in 178 number of units covering both core and buffer areas. The division wise break up of units is as follows. STR Core- 73 units, Baripada- 29 units, Karanjia- 48 units, Rairangpur-28 units. More than 1500 PIPs were also laid. During the survey more than 68 signs were obtained and scat samples were preserved. Most of the scats identified as tiger scats turned out to be of leopard and some of the scats identified as of leopards turned out to be of Jungle/ leopard cats or of jackals. Most of the scat samples are being examined in laboratories at North Odisha University for determining the prey species. Tiger signs were collected from as many as 9 Ranges, where as Leopard signs were recorded from 16 Ranges. The highest abundance of tiger signs were from UBK followed by Jenabil, National Park, Chahala, in that order. Whereas abundance of leopard signs were noticed from Chahala, Pithabata(wl), Bisoj, & UBK ranges.

C. Camera Trap study

Based on sightings in the sign survey and the availability of limited number of digital trap cameras, it was decided to cover 400 sq km of area under UBK, Jenabil and NP Ranges of STR for monitoring of tigers and its co-predators. Accordingly, 80 camera were placed at strategic places for the period from 15th May, 2012 till 30th June, 2012. Analysis of photo captured during the period indicated presence of tigers, leopards, leopard cats, strip necked mongoose, rudy mongoose, civets, porcupines. A few melanistic tigers were also captured by the camera.



Checklist of birds of Similipal

Only 262 species of birds were earlier enlisted in the checklist, which was subsequently modified to 304 species by Manoj Nair during his stint as Deputy Director. Presently, above list is being modified to update the list of birds in Similipal and its periphery. A number of new species like Great myna, Grey-headed lapwing etc not enlisted so far have been encountered and photographic evidences recorded. The updated list has 357 species so far.

Inter-State Movement of Elephant in Baripada Circle during 2010-12.

| Year | State From where Entered | Entry point | Herd Composition |
|------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| 2010 | West Bengal | Bhaduasole | 65 |
| 2011 | West Bengal | Dheridihi Under Rasgovindapur Range | 79 |

Herd Composition

| Year | Adult-Tusker | Sub-Adult Tusker | Adult Female | Sub-Adult Female | juvenile | Calf | Total |
|------|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|----------|------|-------|
| 2011 | 08 | 14 | 12 | 24 | 14 | 04 | 79 |
| 2010 | 07 | 10 | 10 | 24 | 12 | 02 | 65 |

TRAININGS & WORKSHOPS

National Level Training/Workshop on Phase-iv Tiger Monitoring.

Training Programme on Phase-IV Tiger Reserve Level Monitoring was conducted at Bandipur, Karnataka on 4-5 January, 2012. Field Director Dr Anup Kumar Nayak, Dy Director Sh Bikash Ranjan Dash along with 5 Range Officers of STR, 2 Range Officers of Rairangpur Division and 1 Range Officer from Karanjia Division participated in the workshop

A National Level Training/workshop on Phase-IV Tiger Monitoring was held on 13 th October and subsequently during 25th and 26 th November 2011 in the Tagore Hall of The Scope Complex, New Delhi organized by National Tiger Conservation Authority, which was attended by Field Director, Similipal Tiger Reserve.

Another meeting on protection status and progress in phase- IV monitoring was held on 2-3, May 2012 in New Delhi, under the chairmanship of Union Minister of Forests and Environment in which Field Director, STR made a presentation pertaining to status of progress in Similipal Tiger Reserve

Field level training programmes conducted by STR on Phase-IV tiger monitoring protocol

15.11.2011: Training at Jashipur for the frontline staff from Manada, Bisoi, Karanjia and National Park on Phase-IV tiger monitoring. Discussion regarding carnivore sign survey and line transect survey for herbivore population estimation.

16.11.2011: Training at Jenabil for the staff of Jenabil, UBK, Nawana south, Nawana North and National Park on the above subject.

06.02.2012: Training on sign survey to the Baripada Division staff. Discussion regarding identification of signs (scat, pug mark etc) of different species of animals encountered in field.

04.03.2012: Training programme at Manada range office for Manada and Bisoi staff regarding use of GPS in sign survey. Discussion regarding identification of signs (scat, pug mark etc) of different species of animals encountered in field and the staffs were trained regarding saving way point for each encounter.

08.03.2012: Training programme at Karanjia Division office for Dudhiani, Jamuani, Kendumundi, Thakurmunda and Satkosia staff regarding use of GPS in carnivore sign Survey.

19.03.2012: Training programme at Udala range for the Baripada division staff regarding use of GPS in carnivore sign survey. A training manual in Odiya was developed.

04.04.2012: Training programme at Pithabata (w), Nawna (N), Nawna (S) individually in each ranges on use of GPS in carnivore sign survey.

05.04.2012: Training at Jenabil for the Jenabil staff on use of GPS in carnivore sign survey.

06.04.2012: Training at UBK for the UBK staff on use of GPS in carnivore sign survey.

Training programme on Elephant Census.

27.04.12: Circle Level Training Programme for Elephant Census at Manchabandha was conducted under the chairmanship of Regional Chief Conservator of forest cum Field director, in which all the Range Officers, ACFs and DFOs of the circle attended. A power point presentation was made by Sh Sandeep Mishra, Research Fellow.

25.05.2012: Training on Division level elephant census at Bisoi range office for Rairangpur staff.

28.05.12-31.05.12: Division Level Training at Similipal Tiger Reserve in three ranges i.e. Upper Barakamuda, Chahala, Pithabatha.

29.05.2012: Training on Division level elephant census at Udala for the staff of Baripada division.

In-service Training.

5 nos Foresters and 8 Forest Guards of STR have undergone their forestry training at various training institutions of Odisha during the year.

Other field training programmes.

- **8.12.2011** - A sensitization programme for the eco-guides and taxi operators of Baripada was held at FRH, Salabani under the chairmanship of Dr Anup Kumar Nayak, Field Director. About 100 guides, taxi drivers and tour operators attended the programme. Dy Director Sh B.R.Dash and D.D.(tourism), SMT Rahaman were also present. There was a demand for increase on the maximum no. of vehicles entering through Pithabata entry gate from 20 to 40.
- **12.02.2012**- Conducted a wildlife quiz competition for children of Forest Department staff at Shri Maa Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Baripada.
- **12.12.2011 & 13.12.2011** - Training on birds identification for staff of STR was conducted at Jashipur/Gudgudia. More than 25 interested staff including Forest Guards, Guides and Protection Assistants were imparted field training on various aspects of bird identification by experts from Bhubaneswar under the guidance of Babu Abedin.
- **14.12.2011-16.12.2011**-Training Programme on Wild life Crime and Camera Trapping at Jashipur, Ramtirtha Organized by Wildlife Trust of India.
- **19.12.2011 & 20.12.2011**-Training on Intelligence gathering in wildlife crime was conducted by STR under the direct supervision of FD, STR and RCCF Baripada for all the staff of the rank of Range Officers and above at North Orissa University, Takatpur, Baripada. More than 40 participants from all the 4 Divisions of Mayurbhanj District attended the programme coordinated by Retired Official from Intelligence Bureau.
- **19.02.2012 to 22.02.2012** - An exposure visit by the frontline staffs of Similipal Tiger Reserve was successfully conducted for the 1st time to **Sundarban Tiger Reserve**. Team consisting of four Forest Guards and 4 Lady Forest Guards of the core area was led by Field Director, Similipal Tiger Reserve.

- **17.03.2012 to 19.03.2012** - Subsequently the 2nd batch of the frontline staffs of Similipal Tiger Reserve went on an exposure visit by to **Satkosia Tiger Reserve**. 08 Forest Guards including 02 lady Forest Guards of the core area was led by Assistant Conservator of Forests, Similipal Tiger Reserve.
- **18.03.2012** - Field training was imparted on to eco guides, interpreters operating in Similipal Tiger Reserve. About 60 tourist guides both from Pithabata and Jashipur participated in the day long programme coordinated by both the Deputy Directors of STR. They were taken through the tourist route and taught what to talk about the point during the process.
- **28.03.2012** - Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack represented by Dr. R. C. Mishra in collaboration with Rairangpur Forest Division had organized "Food & Herbal Plant Biodiversity Fair" at Ghatkumari. The fair was attended by DFO, Rairangpur, Dy. Director, STR, elected peoples' representatives and local PRI members. About 200 villagers and farmers attended the fair. They were familiarized with various food plants available in the fringe area of Similipal and their conservation

International Training

- Dr Anup Kumar Nayak, Field Director and RCCF underwent Mid- Career Training programme for IFS officers from 26/03/2012 to 22/04/2012, which included a two week visit to USA.

RESEARCH

Research works undertaken in Similipal Biosphere Reserve during the Year 2010-11 & 2011-12.

| SI No | Activity | Year | Conducted by | Report Submitted or Not |
|-------|--|---------|---|---|
| 1 | Study On Ecological density and distribution of Ungulates in STR | 2010-11 | North Orissa University, Baripada | Submitted |
| 2 | Diversity Assessment and documentation of Pteridophytes of SBR | 2010-11 | Institute of Mineral and Material Technology, Bhubaneswar | Interim Report Submitted Final Report Awaited |
| 3 | Strategies to Improve availability of Meadows In Similipal. | 2010-11 | RPRC, Bhubaneswar | Not Submitted |

| | | | | |
|----|--|---------|--|------------------|
| 4 | Modeling On Economic Valuation and Eco-System services in SBR. | 2010-11 | RPRC, Bhubaneswar | Not submitted |
| 5 | Documentation of the tradition of Forest Conservation as known in Folklore and traditional literature. | 2010-11 | RPRC, Bhubaneswar. | Not Submitted |
| 6 | A study On Prey-base & Their influence on Tiger distribution pattern in STR | 2011-12 | North Odisha University, Baripada | Ongoing |
| 7 | Camera Trap survey of Cryptic and nocturnal fauna of STR like Civet, Leopard Cat, and Rattle. | 2011-12 | North Odisha University, Baripada | Ongoing |
| 10 | Assessment Of Floral Diversity, Richness and Vegetational zonation of SBR with special reference to endemic, rare and threatened taxa. | 2011-12 | North Orissa University | |
| 11 | Impact of Domestic Dog On wild herbivore population in multiple use area of STR | 2011-12 | Field Director, Similipal Tiger Reserve. | Report submitted |

Findings of a study conducted by Field Director, STR during 2011-12 on "Impact of domestic dog on wild herbivore population in multiple use area of Similipal Tiger Reserve, Odisha, India."

A study was conducted to estimate the herbivore abundance in multiple use area of Similipal Tiger Reserve and to know the Impact of domestic dog on herbivore population. Two villages of core area and two villages of buffer area were randomly selected for the study. The major outcome is that it reveals the negative impact of dogs on wild herbivores. Each household is keeping dog. Though the villagers during the survey stated to have kept dogs for safeguarding their life, livestock, property and crop against wild animal, the fact they did not reveal is use of dogs for hunting of wild herbivores. Mainly the small sized herbivores are mostly affected by domestic dog presence. Apart from domestic dogs, there are also stray dogs in every village whose number would be more than that of the domestic dogs. The presence and movement of dogs in the vicinity of the forest reduces the space of wild herbivores. The present study does indicate the adverse effects of use of dog by villagers of fringe villages on ungulate populations due to which there is a restriction in their distribution within the tiger reserve. From management point of view it is necessary to monitor the use of domestic dogs and to vaccinate them to reduce the risk of disease spread.

ECO-TOURISM INITIATIVES

STR has strived during the year to promote sensible tourism in and around Similipal. For the 1st time after the naxal attack, tourists were allowed to stay at two places within STR. These are Gudgudia and Jamuani. The park was open to tourists from November, 2011. Only 60 vehicles were allowed entry through two entry gates. For the 1st time, eco-guide with every tourist vehicle was made compulsory from Jashipur entry gate with effect from dated 16.2.2012. Jamuani tourist complex was made functional.

Steps were taken to declare areas under Jenabil and UBK ranges as a no-go area. Even research activity was also suspended to allow the stressed fauna of STR a relief.

Many spots in the periphery were promoted as ecotourism sites. These are Devkund, Ramtirtha, Alkudar, Sitakund, Ecotourism site at Salabani, Baripada, Sami briksha etc. An updated brochure was published with places of interest clearly shown in the route map.

Elephants Bhabani and Sibani were stationed at Gudgudia for recreation of tourists, which was acclaimed by all.

A new and updated website was launched. Online reservation for tourist accommodation at Toshali resorts, Gudgudia was started. Online downloadable application form for entry into STR was also launched.

Many new components of tourism was launched like bird watching trips and trekking from Gudgudia and Jamuani.

Visitor Profile during 2010-12

| Year | India | Foregin | Total | Revenue Collected |
|---------|-------|---------|-------|-------------------|
| 2010-11 | 9663 | 49 | 9712 | 6,84,020 |
| 2011-12 | 13709 | 83 | 13792 | 13,36,450 |

Similipal Ecotourism Society: (SES)

The SES was formally registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860, having the registration Number MBJ 7783-63 of 2006-07 on 21st December 2006. Presently SES has a general body of 12 members and a governing body of 6 members. The Governing Body meeting of SES was conducted at FRH, Salabani under the chairmanship of Dr Anup Nayak, FD cum RCCF, Baripada on 22/11/2011 in which 9 members including MLA, Morada attended. Important decisions taken during the meeting was to call for fresh tender for management of Ramtirtha and Gudgudia tourism complex. An amount of Rs 7.28 lakhs was spent during the year and at the

end of the financial year 11-12, an amount of Rs 58.48 lakh was available with the society. The main work component during the year was renovation of kitchen cum dining at Chahala, watch tower at Brindavan and log house at Bareipani. Income generated during the year was Rs 7.22 lakh which was mainly consisting of entry fee, accommodation charges and bank interest.

Similipal Tiger Conservation Foundation.

1st General Body meeting on Similipal Tiger conservation Foundation was held on 28.6.2012 at Odisha Secretariate under the chairmanship of Minister, Forest and Environment Sh Devi Mishra. Principal Secy, Forest and Environment Sh R.K.Sharma, PCCF and Head of Forest Force Sh P.N.Padhi, PCCF(WL) and CWLW, Sh J.D.Sharma, Spl Secy F&E Sh B.P.Singh was present along with Dr P. S. Easa and Mr Qamar Quereshi as expert members. Field Direct, STR made a presentation on various activities of STR and issues requiring immediate attention.

INVOLVEMENT OF NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

1. SRDTC (Society for Research & Development of Tribal Culture)

Sh Gurba Soren of SRDTC, ex- member State Board Of Wildlife, conducted awareness programme at Talabandha (Bangiriposi Block) on 29 May, 2012, in which awareness was done to the villagers in local tribal language on wildlife conservation and they were persuaded to refrain from the practice of *Akhand Shikar*. The Asst. Conservator of Forests, STR participated in the programme where more than 500 villagers attended.

2. Kherwal Uthnou Foundation

Conducted awareness against Akhanda Sikhar in 18 Villages of Kaptipada and Udala Range Under Baripada Division in April & May. The target was to aware the *Dehuries* along with the villagers against the destructive practice of mass hunting. The programmes were conducted in local tribal language where the local field forest officers also participated.

3. Gram Swaraj

The organization conducted awareness programme at Ghatkumari on conservation of Similipal. It also did eco-development programme in Majhigaon village in collaboration with STR. The organization Conducted stake holder consultation on Improvement of Health Services in Villages situated inside Similipal Tiger Reserve area on 8th June, 2012.

4. SANGRAM

The organization is associated with all the Divisions of Similipal Tiger Reserve in detection of offences, intelligence collection and capacity building of frontline staff.

RESCUE AND RELEASE OF WILD ANIMAL

| Sl. No. | Name of Division | Range | Place of Rescue | Date of rescue | Date of Rehabilitation | Place of Release | Name of Animals |
|---------|------------------|--------------|--|----------------|---|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Baripada | Bangriposi | Dhabanisoile | 29.09.2011 | 13.12.2011 | Nandankanan | Mouse deer |
| 2 | Baripada | Udala | Courtyard of Sri Narayan Singh of Khamarsahi, PS: Khunta | 17.9.2011 | 17.9.2011 | Compt. No.ED-8 | Python |
| 3 | Baripada | Udala | On the road near Mendhakhai UGME School | 6.2.2012 | died on 6.2.2012 | - | Langur |
| 4 | Baripada | Udala | Kuting near Phuljhari RF | 19.01.2012 | 20.01.2012 | Inside Similipal RF near Phuljhari RF | Fishing cat |
| 5 | Baripada | Deuli | Deuli | 13.06.2012 | 13.06.2012 | Chahala | Barking deer |
| 6 | Baripada | Kaptipada | Notto RF | 19.07.2011 | 19.07.2011 | Inside Similipal RF near Nalkhanja | Barking deer |
| 7 | Baripada | Udala | Kuanrpur village | 21.01.2012 | 21.01.2012 | Inside Similipal RF near Notta | Python |
| 8 | Baripada | Udala | Nuasahi college road | 7.4.2012 | 7.4.2012 | Inside Similipal RF near Notta | Owl |
| 9 | Baripada | Dukura | Basipitha | 26.11.2011 | 26.11.2011 | Similipal RF | Cobra |
| 10 | Baripada | Rasgovindpur | Fuljhari village | 22.12.2011 | | Nandankanan | Mouse deer |
| 11 | Baripada | Rasgovindpur | Fuljhari village | 17.12.2011 | Died at Veterinary Hospital, OUAT, BBSR on 02.01.12 | Veterinary hospital OUAT, Subsequently died | Baby elephant |
| 12 | Karanjia | Gurguria | K.Pandugandi | 29.08.2011 | 29.08.2011 | Badampahar-14 | Banded Krait |
| 13 | Karanjia | Gurguria | Jashipur | 25.12.2011 | 25.12.2011 | Comptt No.WD-17 | Pangolin |
| 14 | Karanjia | Kendumundi | Kendumundi | 14.04.2012 | 14.04.2012 | Comptt No.WD-17 | Sambar |
| 15 | Rairangpur | Manada | Near village of Sanjhili Khadiasahi road | 26.01.2012 | 28.01.2012 | Similipal Sanctuary | Pangolin |
| 16 | Rairangpur | Manada | Allhapani | 08.10.2011 | 08.10.2011 | Similipal Sanctuary | Python |
| 17 | Rairangpur | Manada | Tangriani village | 24.08.2011 | 26.08.2011 | Chahala | Owl |
| 18 | Rairangpur | Manada | Sanjhili village | 26.01.2012 | 28.01.2012 | Similipal Sanctuary | Pangolin |

Death of Elephant during 2011-12

| Name Of The Division | Date Of Detection | Place of Detection Compt No/ Range | Common& Scientific name with Material Seized | Sex | Age | Nature Of Mortality |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| STR | 17.4.11 | Compt No BLE-9 Of Pithabatha WL Range | Elephant (Elephas maximus), Tusk-33.150kg | M | 60Yrs | Poaching by poisoning |
| | 03.01.12 | Compt No WD-23 of Pokharibadi Beat | Elephant (Elephas maximus, juvenile | Juvenile, Male | 4 Yrs | Natural |
| Baripada | 03.12.11 | Near Asanbani village | Elephant (Elephas maximus) | Newly Born Baby Male | | Natural |
| | 03.02.12 | Udala Range | Elephant (Elephas Maximus | Male | 5Yrs | Poaching due to gunshot |
| Karanjia | 05.11.11 | Compt No.WD-1 of Dudhiani Range | Elephant (Elephas Maximus-3 | Female-3 | | Poaching by poisoning |
| | 18.01.12 | Thakurmunda | Meat of wild Boar, 1.5 Kg | - | - | Poaching by |

ACKNOWLEDMENT

- STR acknowledges the contribution of Sh Vanoomitra Acharya and Miss Sanjukta Basa of SANGRAM in providing actionable intelligence on poachers movement on various occasions during the year. The STR staffs have thwarted the attempts of incursion into the core areas by the poachers on each such occasion. The duo have played a crucial role in organizing a number of awareness camps in vulnerable pockets of Similipal.
- STR acknowledges the contribution of Sh Deepak Kumar Pani, Secretary, Gram Swaraj in assisting STR in implementation of eco-development programme in Majhigaon village. The village was provided with a water pump during the year 2011-12, which will fulfil

the long standing demand of the people. A meeting was also organized on 14.05.2012 in presence of DD, STR in which about 2000 villagers participated.

- Moreover, Sh Pani of Gram Swaraj assisted STR in organizing a huge workshop at Gurguria on 08/06/2012 on health matters within Similipal. About 200 people consisting of Asha, Anganbadi workers, Health officials, Block officials, Panchayat Raj Institution members apart from officers from Khadia Mankadia Development Agency and STR participated for finding solution to perennial health problems of inhabitants staying within Similipal.
- STR acknowledges the contribution of Sh Omkar Ram, Jashipur in assisting STR in surveying the potential recipient of old age pension and widow pension and facilitating for granting of 47 such pension in Bareipani G.P. during 2011-12.

Publication during 2011-12.

- Study on Migration of Elephant from Keonjhar Division to Karanjia Division, Orissa, India. Sandeep Ranjan Mishra, Dr. Anup Ku Nayak & Debi Prasad Sahoo, Cheetal Vol.49, No-4, December 2011 (July 11 to Nov 11).
- Interstate Migration of Elephant From west Bengal to Baripada Division. Sandeep Ranjan Mishra, Dr. Anup Ku Nayak, Bijaya Kumar Panda. Cheetal Vol, 50 No-1 June 2012 (December 11 to March 12).
- Sighting of Red-necked Keel back *Rhabdophis subminiatus* in Similipal Tiger Reserve. Debiprasad sahu, H.K.Sahu, S.K.Dutta & H.S upadhaya. Tiger paper, Vol.39 no-1 Jan-mar, 2012.

Officials who visited STR.

- Sh J. D. Sharma IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha visited Similipal Tiger Reserve from 19.11.2011 to 21.11.2011. he reviewed the general protection scenario of Similipal and inspected tourists facilities at

Jamuani, Chahala, Gudgudia and Ramatirtha. On 21.11.2011 he interacted with local media and peoples' representatives at Khairi Niwas, Jashipur.

- **Sri P.N. Padhi IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Odisha** visited interior areas of Similipal Tiger Reserve on 04.03.2012 and 05.03.2012. He along with Field Director, Similipal Tiger Reserve -cum- Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Baripada interacted with Divisional Forest Officers of three buffer Divisions and Deputy Director, Similipal Tiger Reserve to take stock of various protection as well as developmental issues
- **Sri S.P.Yadav IFS, DIG, NTCA, New Delhi** paid a visit to Similipal Tiger Reserve on 02.03.2012 and 03.02.2012. Low prey population in Similipal Tiger Reserve is a cause for concern as pointed out by him.
- **Sh Ravikiren Gawatrikar AIG,NTCA, Nagpur** visited Similipal Tiger Reserve from 06.06.2012 to 08.06.2012.
- **Sh Suresh Mahapatra IAS, Prinicpal Secretary, Water Resources** visited Similipal Tiger Reserve on 19.05.2012 and 20.05.2012.
- **Hon'ble Justice Sushree Sanju Panda, Odisha High Court,** visited Similipal Tiger Reserve on 10.12.2011.
- **Smt. Sipra Mallick, MLA, Kendrapada** visited Similipal Tiger Reserve on 28.12.2011.
- **Dr. Sarat Kumar Mishra, Orchid Specialist** visited Similipal from 02.03.2012 to 05.03.2012.
- **Sj. Braja Kishore Tripathy ex-Minister, Union of India** visited Similipal Tiger Reserve on 29.05.2012.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

- People staying inside the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) staged a rasta roko by blocking the tourist road on 24th and 25th December,2011 thus depriving the visitors to visit the park for two days . They demand pucca roads, solar lighting system and plying of buses to their villages remotely located within STR . All efforts to bring the locals to the negotiating table by the administration have failed.
- NTCA appointed Central Monitoring Committee on relocation of villages visited STR during 11-13, June,2012. The team was headed by Sh B. K. Pattnaik, Retd PCCF, U.P. and

included members from IIFM, Bhopal and Ms Vishaish Uppal, WWF. The team encountered a tiger near Patbil while on a field visit to the core area.

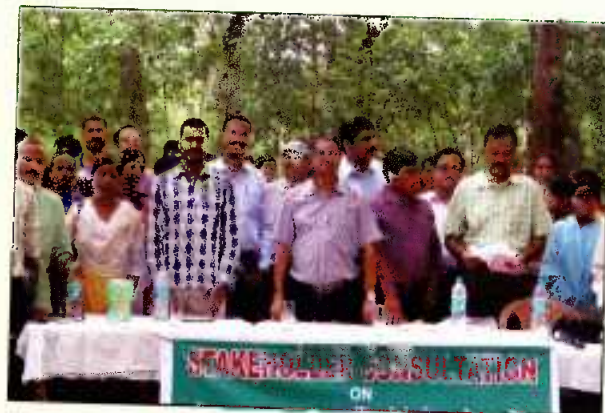
- A mass meeting was organized at Bareipani under the chairmanship of Field Director, STR by DFO Rairangpur, in which more than 400 villagers of the Gram Panchayat attended along with PRI members. The villagers' grievance of non-receipt of old-age pension and widow pension was immediately attended to. Sh Omkar Ram wildlife conservationist volunteered on the request of Field Director to assist the villagers in submitting the required documents to Sub-Collector. Logistic support was provided by DFO, Rairangpur.
- The villagers of Gopinathpur and nearby villages, about 500 in numbers kept hostages of 12 nos staff and protection assistants of Nawana (N) & (S) Ranges for two days, i.e., 22nd & 23rd May, 2012 in retaliation of arrest of 4 suspects of elephant poaching cases. The officials of police, district administration and forest department had to make a negotiation with the villagers who finally released the staff in the evening of 23rd May.
- Hon'ble Minister of Forest & Environment, Odisha on 27th May, 2012 hold a meeting with the representatives of *Ho Samaj* in presence of Hon'ble M.P., Deputy Speaker, State Assembly, President, Zilla Parishad, Mayurbhanj, Field Director, STR & RCCF, Baripada and other officials of the District at Baripada. The Minister also hold a meeting with the forest officials on protection of Similipal and also a review meeting of all plantation agencies of the District regarding preparedness for coming plantation season.
- Following the recovery of carcasses of two elephants in Palpala compartment during April 2012, the CWLW, Odisha, Sh J.D.Sharma made a spot visit to enquire into the matter, that resulted in suspension of Range Officer, Nawana(s) due to gross negligence.

OBITUARY

Similipal Tiger Reserve expresses with profound grief the sad demise of Sri Sital Prasad Naik, Range Officer, Jenabil Range in a road accident on 12.05.2012. He had started his career as a Forester in Similipal Tiger Reserve and got promoted to the rank of Forest Ranger while still working in STR. He is survived by his wife and two sons. . A sincere and dedicated worker, his place will be too difficult to be replaced.



Exposure visit to Sundarban during Feb.2012



Stakeholders consultation at Gudgudia



Forest staff facing poachers during Akhand Shikar



CWLW, Odisha at Palpala during his inquiry into the death of elephants



G. P. level meeting at Barehipani



Meeting on Health matters at Gudgudia



Sezure of leopard skin in Bisoi Range 11.11.2011



Arrest of 35 poachers with country made guns during Akhand Shikar

**Melanistic Tiger captured in a trap camera
during tiger monitoring**



**Office of the Field Director, Similipal Tiger Reserve
cum**

Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Baripada

Phone : 06792-252593, Fax : 06792-258705

E-mail : rccfbaripada@gmail.com

website : www.similipal.org