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Newsletter

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## ECOTOURISM VS ECOCIDE IN NORTHEAST HILLS OF INDIA

Arnab Basu, Sustainability Consultant, Environmental Writer and Natural History Commentator Uncategorized

July 6, 2025

In spite of traditionally embracing shifting or jhum cultivation by majority of Naga tribes, which promotes sustainable land use and biodiversity, the forest and biodiversity are under threat in this northeast hill land. Nagaland boasts of the tallest rhododendron and the tallest rice plant in the Guinness book of world records, Naga King chilly is a contender for being the hottest chilly in the world. There are numerous rare and endangered species of plants; Blythe's Tragopan, the state bird and the Mithun, the state mascot are themselves rare species in the world.



*Jhum cultivation in Naga hills*

*“Deforestation on a hilly state like Nagaland often irreparably damages the local ecosystem leading to the loss of native flora and*

*fauna.”*, mentioned in an article published in The Morung Express, written by Chizokho Vero. The age-old development versus environment debate has always put environment in losing side. That was not an exception in this land of indigenous people. Despite witnessing the terrible impacts in Malaysia and Indonesia, the notorious Palm Oil menace has been allowed to make an entry in this part of subcontinent as well. As per an article published on 31st August online edition of The Morung Express, by Moa Jamir, “Oil palm plantation area in Nagaland has increased from 140 hectares (ha) in 2015-16 to 4,623 ha as of March 31, 2021. As per the Department of Agriculture (DoA) document, the State Government has further set a target of 15,000 ha for its cultivation. With the Union Cabinet approval for the implementation of a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) called the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP), with special focus on the Northeast and the Andaman region on August 18, the area may increase further.”

According to this article, Member of Parliament from Nagaland, Ms. Tura Agatha Sangma, wrote a letter to Prime Minister of India expressing her concerns over imposing this programme, by stating, “introduction of the “foreign species” in the region would create irreparable ecological imbalance, distort the ground water table and “wreak havoc on the social fabric” in the pre-dominantly tribal community-based society.”

*“Large-scale mono-cropping cannot and will not be sustainable for Nagaland's already vulnerable biodiversity. Clearing large areas of forests and growing*

*the same type of crop/plant will annihilate the remaining diverse species of flora and fauna, that too as identified by the world are endemic and found nowhere in the planet,”* asserted Abokali Jimomi, who promotes local products, organic and sustainable farming, as mentioned in Moa Jamir's article.



*Local fruits and vegetables market of Nagaland*

India is the world's largest importer of palm oil, hence one of the main contributors of forest and biodiversity loss in Malaysia and Indonesia. There is a very interesting research paper published by Ward Berenschot and others from Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV), in May 2022, Volume 31 of Geoforum. The title of paper is “Anti-Corporate Activism and Collusion: The Contentious Politics of Palm Oil Expansion in Indonesia”. The authors studied and documented 150 conflicts between rural Indonesians and palm oil companies in four Indonesian provinces (West Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan, Riau and West Sumatra). They found that palm oil conflicts generate a particular 'rightless' form of collective action. Instead of invoking legal provisions or rights, communities often avoid formal institutions while adopting largely accommodative forms of protest aimed at improving their bargaining position vis-à-vis companies. Despite regular and intense protests often directed at local governments, their study found that in 68% of the

studied conflicts communities fail to address their grievances. Authors' argument was that this limited success is not just due to the inadequacies of legal frameworks but also to the way in which Indonesia's informalized state institutions foster collusion between powerholders and palm oil companies. Such collusion has facilitated the repression of protests and undermined the effectiveness of conflict resolution mechanisms.

Thus, the crony capitalism played a definitive role in such large-scale ecocide caused by the palm oil menace. The same argument could be applicable for Nagaland and other part of Indian northeast hill as well. In the 24th June 2024, online edition of Northeast Live, an alarming news was published stating that state of Meghalaya has lost 17,100 hectares of forest land in six years from 2014 to 2020, as announced by H.C. Choudhary, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest of the state. In another report published in 22nd December 2024, online issue of Business Standard, Meghalaya saw an 84 square km decrease in forest cover between 2021 and 2023 as per latest India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The report also says, except for Sikkim, which reported an increase of 2 square km forest cover, all other states in the northeast region witnessed a reduction of the area under forests.



*Depleting Naga Forest a view from Mon village*

The Business Standard report mentioned that the ISFR study did not specify what caused the loss of forest cover in Meghalaya, forest officials in the state said

human activities, including agricultural expansion, increased settlement and infrastructure development are suspected to be the reasons. However, in a subtle way the report indicated towards jhum cultivation, as one of the probable contributing factors - “Widescale jhum cultivation holds cultural and economic importance for local communities; its ecological costs are immense.” Exactly what British government did in colonial India to cover up their uncontrolled timber logging and ban jhum cultivation in order to increase yield of crops.



*Destruction of hills in Meghalaya for mining and road construction*

However, I saw through my own eyes what caused and still causing the loss of forest cover in Meghalaya, when I explored upper Shillong, Mawphlang, and Cherrapunji between 5th and 7th January 2025 with my local nature guide Pallav Pranjal. We started from Guwahati at as early as 4:30 am to ensure reaching at Upper Shillong area, just before dawn. The forest on the both side of Shillong peak hiking trail, in Ri Bhoi forest division of Meghalaya, was covered with early morning light mist. The presence of mist was a barrier for winter morning sunshine to caress the canopy of northeast rain forest. That made the weather chilly and us a bit reluctant in exposing our fingers to operate camera. However, a repeated and fanatic, shrill “queek, queek, queek” sound put us on alert. It was elusive Assam laughing thrush. Upon hearing the call, we aimed our cameras to the source of it. But the bird was too quick to get captured. We saw it flew across from one side of our trail to another side. After few unsuccessful attempts of locating the bird one more time, we decided to ascend another trail

through dense bush and thorny forest floor which was still wet due to last night's dew, hence slippery as well. We had to stop again after a while upon hearing sound of fluttering wings and noticing rapid movement through thorny and leafy lower branches of a shrub. That was a flock of rusty-capped fulvetta. And we were lucky that time to get about thirty minutes or more to take enough photos of the flock.



*Rusty capped fulvetta*

Couple of hours later we started driving again towards Mawphlang and there we explored the sacred forest and the surrounding forests of Lawkyntang, up to noon. The exploration was quite productive with some fabulous sighting and shooting of grey sibia, crested finch bill, spot breasted parrotbill, spot breasted scimitar babbler and few other birds. After that it was time to take break from field work and checking in hotel for shower and lunch. Around 2 pm again we started our journey towards Sohra side of Cherapunji



*Spot breasted parrot bill*

The road travel showed me the reality behind reported forest cover loss in that part of India. Actually, it was Pallav who drew my attention towards ongoing road construction and various quarrying activities. The mountains appeared as wounded after losing their skin and flesh. The green cover was completely gone from most of the hills on both side of the under-construction road. The red and white exposed rocks appeared as bloody remains of flesh

attached with skeleton of once alive mother nature. Pallav told me, these activities have caused loss of many of his erstwhile birding spots, which were important for spotting parrot bill and scimitar babbler.



*Forest of Shillong known for birding*

To find other birding sites, he had to explore around 150 km around Mawphlang. Although he was eventually able to spot a stunning tawny breasted wren babbler in Cherapunji, and we both could observe and take some very close shots of the bird for good 10-15 minutes. But he also mentioned that, earlier he used to know at least twelve different spots for this bird. Now, only one out of those twelve spots exist, where we could see the bird. In a research paper titled as, Relentless Mining in Meghalaya, India, published in Conservation Science, September 2013 issue, authored by Kiranmay Sharma and Pramod K Yadav, it was mentioned that, "Environmental sustainability of rural areas in Meghalaya has been marred by indiscriminate exploitations of natural resources, mainly mineral deposits". According to the authors, Meghalaya is rich in large deposits of coal, limestone, gypsum and clay, including kaolin, glass, sand, quartz and feldspar. Local people of Meghalaya and migrants from neighboring states and even from Bangladesh have started mining to survive, putting increased pressure on land and water supplies of this state. The mining activities have brought in the desired effect of economic growth but on the other hand, affected the environment in a variety of ways, which contributed to its degradation. In this paper the authors have presented an interesting observation from their study on adverse impact of coal mining in plant species composition in Garo hills of Meghalaya. The study has shown, in three different sample study areas of Garo hills,

in the unmined areas the tree species composition is 113, whereas in the mined areas the composition is an alarming 76. For shrubs the numbers are 39 and 36 respectively, and for herbs the numbers are 72 and 68 respectively. Mining activities also bring air and water pollution which results in the loss of top fertile soil. Hence the lush green mountains of Cherapunji now started appearing as rotten dead bodies with exposed flesh and bone. In the first climate change assessment report published by Ministry of Earth Sciences, in June 2020, pointed out decreasing trend in rain fall (the annual mean rainfall for the period 1973-2019 showed decreasing trends of about 0.42 mm per decade.) in this landscape, which is otherwise known as wettest place of the world.



*View of Garo hills*

The northward moving moist winds from the Bay of Bengal passing over the plains of Bangladesh are forced to converge in the narrow valleys of the Khasi Hills with orography providing forced ascent that causes condensation, formation of clouds resulting in rain on the windward side of the slope. But now we are losing this orography due to destruction of mountains by mining activities. Hence, this reduction of rainfall. This trend of rainfall was also resonated in, a very disappointed Pallav's voice. "There is rapidly decreasing mountain and forest and decreasing rainfall. I would take Meghalaya out very soon from the itinerary of my birding ecotourism."



*Tawny breasted wren babbler*

Despite such huge loss of forest cover and habitat, in those three days in Meghalaya covering ten different birding spots, we sighted around 35 avian species including tawny breasted wren babbler, rusty capped fulvetta, grey sibia, spot breasted parrotbill, spot breasted scimitar babbler, flavescent bulbul, crested finch bill and rufous crowned prinia. Therefore, there is no denial about the inclusive ecotourism potential of this state. Unfortunately, either due to rampant growth of palm oil cultivation or indiscriminate mining activities, the places with huge inclusive ecotourism potential are facing this challenge of mass destruction of ecological habitat - the ecocide. And the crony capitalism is funding this ecocide.

Source:  
<https://aunatural.blog/2025/07/06/ecotourism-vs-ecocide-in-northeast-hills-of-india/>

## **KARNATAKA'S ROERICH ECO-TOURISM PROJECT: RUPEES NINETY NINE CRORE INVESTMENT TO BE DONE NOW TO PRESERVE HERITAGE AND PROMOTE GREEN TOURISM**

Tuesday, July 29, 2025



Strategically located in the Roerich estate, the Karnataka Tourism Department has decided to step up efforts of converting Bengaluru into a sustainable tourist spot and brought expedited formation of the Roerich Eco-Tourism and Cultural Hub, a grandiose ₹99.2 crore project which will

not only boost eco-tourism but also salvage its rich culture history. The venue falls under the estate of Roerich and Devika Rani, on Kanakapura Road, outskirts of Bengaluru.

It is among the projects under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 launched by the Union ministry of tourism and seeks to offer tourists a combination of cultural and natural experiences. The idea is to blend conservation with tourism through the development, creating an area that will provide sustainable lodging, nature trails, art galleries and cultural spaces.

### **Eco - Tourism and Benefits:**

The project is under pressure as it is to be completed within the deadline to get central funds under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme. The Karnataka Tourism Department has to comply to this schedule to avoid ₹65 crore of funding lapse in case the project does not get finished by March 2026. The funds will be a part of the total project cost of ₹99.2 crore, with the state government having earlier allocated the balance ₹34 crore. With this on flagship, the tourism department is willing to showcase Karnataka's ecotourism potential across the country.

When completed, the Roerich Eco-Tourism and Cultural Hub will give tourists to the valley access to guided nature trails, wildlife watching, eco-sensitive places of stay and workshops on Roerich's art and philosophy. The site will also include a visitor centre, eco-cottages, an amphitheatre and an art museum displaying the works of Roerich, who's renowned for his artistic creations that amalgamate Russian and Himalayan ideas.

The majority of the Roerich estate is not used today at all, but everything in it is interesting by some kind of historical and artistic inspiration. The association of Nicholas Roerich's name with India and the enrichment of Indian culture by the ideas of the Roerich Pact and the Banner of Peace render this place particularly suited for the eco-tourism development.

The artist's connections with the then the area and the contributions of Devika Rani to Indian cinema add to the culturally rich history of the estate. The goal of the eco-park project is to establish the attention to this unparalleled historical inheritance and to facilitate tourist access to the site so that, coming there, tourists would be able to enjoy not only the beauty of nature but the artistic heritage of the Roerich and Lopukhin.

The estate is located within an important elephant corridor linking the Bannerghatta and Savanadurga forest ranges, worrying wildlife conservationists. Though the region is revered for its wildlife diversity with elephants and leopards as regular sighting the department of tourism insists the design of the project is sensitive of the environment of the region. This addresses the potential negative impacts of wildlife movement from the project activities, through wildlife friendly fencing, and eco-sensitive construction, that is, methods that balance construction with the natural habitats. Furthermore, the government has made full environmental assessments to make sure that the construction project harmonises with the local environment.

### **Tourism Importance:**

The tourism department is ensuring a greener tourism project, with waste management, water conservation and renewable energy built into the eco-tourism hub. Natural landscaping and planting of trees will be incorporated in the estate's development so its visual is harmoniously laid out with the surroundings. The focus will be to reduce impact on the environment from tourism as well as promoting education programs to visitors on the theme of sustainability.

While it will draw tourists to Bengaluru, the impact on economy is expected to be felt in immediate vicinity as well. Local communities are likely to find new sources of income by reactivating jobs in hospitality and guiding as well as maintenance and there will be people in the area, eating in the local restaurants and trading in the local shops, no doubt stimulating the wider local economy.

The tourism department of Karnataka is ready to exploit the eco-tourism popularity for the same intention of promoting the state as the front of state in sighted tourism development. Combining cultural heritage with nature conservation, gaining inspiration from the national Swadesh Darshan scheme for development of theme-based tourism circuits in India and to create robust infrastructure and inculcating both sustainability and community involvement for strengthening the local economy and support community livelihoods.

The Karnataka administration has also underscored that the attraction is not only going to be dedicated to attracting tourists from across India, but also tourists internationally, especially those with a taste for nature, art and history. The eco-tourism hub is strategically located and ensures a easy access and is perfect for travellers from around the world who are seeking cultural and environmental experiences for a while.

The department of tourism has proposed phased development of the Roerich Eco-Tourism and Cultural Hub the first phase will primarily be about infrastructure including a visitor centre, eco-stay facilities, and other basic amenities. Later stages will add to the site, also offering educational programs on Roerich's life and work and conservation programs for the regional plants and animals.

People moving ahead will keep a watch that the development happens in the purview and gets cleared of the environmental norms and what they promise about a sustainable tourism happens as well. If you want to know about the project and the development, you can visit the tourism department's website and get regular updates.

### Conclusion:

The successful completion of the Roerich Eco-Tourism and Cultural Hub will be a major milestone in Karnataka's ongoing efforts to develop and augment its eco-tourism infrastructure and set an example for the other states

to follow. With tourism centered on sustainable development, culture and environment protection, the Roerich Centre would emerge as an important place in Karnataka's tourism map in the days ahead.

Source:

<https://www.travelandtourworld.com/news/article/now-roerich-eco-tourism-project-in-karnataka-rupees-ninety-nine-two-crore-plan-to-preserve-heritage-and-promote-green-tourism/>

## SUSTAINABILITY AT RISK: ECOTOURISM STRUGGLES IN GOA'S HINTERLAND DEMAND URGENT ACTION

Published on July 6, 2025



Goa is famously known for its shining beaches and exuberant nightlife, but its hinterland is no less stunning, with its scenic forests and waterfalls, and safe wildlife sanctuaries. But a more recent threat to the state is eco-tourism: though initially celebrated as an environment-friendly way to supplement regional economies, growing tourist inflow in regions like Bondal, Cotigao, and Mollem has had the unintended consequence of eco-tourism threatening the environment itself. To this growing menace, state agencies, in this case the Goa Forest and Tourism Departments, have raised the red flag and are calling

for regulatory changes to make sure that eco-tourism remains environment-friendly and benevolent to the communities in the region.

The tourism influx, though good for the state's economy, has brought with it several environmental issues. Garbage, disturbance to wildlife, congested paths, and strain on facilities are a few among the many outcomes that have arisen due to the growing popularity in Goa's interior. As pressure builds up more and more upon these natural assets, the fine line in keeping both developmental and wildlife protection in tandem is being stretched to its limits. As the popularity of nature-oriented activities gains further momentum, the issue at hand is how Goa can maintain its wild soul while still being able to embrace travellers.

### A Sustainable Ecotourism Industry

The Goa government has long promoted eco-tourism as its key development agenda. According to the Goa Tourism Policy 2019, sustainability and environmental conservation have been stressed with selective initiatives at the state level. Increasing to 10% Goa's total area, the territory dedicated to wildlife sanctuaries, places like Bondla, Cotigao, and Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary, catch attention for their richness in biodiversity. The protected areas have several endangered creatures, among them the tigers, the leopards, and the sloth bears.

Goa's Forest Department has also created eco-complexes in these sanctuaries with tourist centres, cottages, trekking tracks, and treetop observation towers. These allow tourists to experience Goa's wilderness with minimum environmental destruction. Monetary incentives to homestay operators and rural caravan tourism by the government reflect a conscious policy to support rural livelihoods and limit tourist pressure beyond the more populated coast regions.

### Fault Lines in the Eco-Tourism Pillar

But with more and more tourists comes a growing visible toll on the very environment that tourism was

supposed to preserve. Instances of poisoning and trash in areas previously untouched are becoming increasingly frequent, with glass litter and fast-food trash staining previously unspoiled tracks. Wildlife is also affected. Experts have commented upon the fact that animals like tigers and leopards are no longer inhabiting their natural areas due to tourists' crowds and commotions that stress them out. In some instances, the animals have even strayed into nearby townships and ended up disturbing local communities and inciting panic among people with reference to human-wildlife conflict.

The infrastructure that once supported a limited number of tourists is stretched today. Busy trek routes, viewing towers, and roads to key shrines like Chorla Ghat are facing overcrowding and related congestion, and security hazards. Increasing numbers of walkers have led to the erosion of tracks and wear and tear on public facilities never designed to support this number.

Even within the officially notified eco-tourism locations and Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs), there is a lack of enforcement. Despite the center's Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) regulations to maintain buffer areas within protected areas, unregulated development continues to erode the integrity of the forest.

### **States' Plan and Approach to Sustainable Tourism**

In acknowledgment of the seriousness of such concerns, Goa's government has implemented several strategic initiatives to address the growing strain being placed upon its hinterland. The Goa Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention Plan 2024-29, with an emphasis upon areas at highest risk, involves particular intervention in and around points of tourism like Mollem and Burnley. This program is part of an integrated approach to preserve Goa's natural heritage while guaranteeing that local populations gain from eco-tourism.

Among the most significant activities

has been the introduction of the Orange Button Training in efforts to equip individuals in workplaces and communities with skills to deal with mental health emergencies triggered by the pressures that surround eco-tourism. To date, over 1,400 people have already had the training, and the goal is to expand the program further.

Besides this, ₹440 crore has been approved for the state budget in 2024 to support tourism infrastructure with a focus on hinterland regions. These are being utilized to develop eco-resorts, to serve tourists better, and to ensure that the natural environment is preserved for future generations.

### **Gap and Challenge**

Despite these positive efforts, much remains to be done. Unrestricted visitors at locations like Mollem and the unavailability of real-time monitoring mechanisms for trails remain points in dire need of correction. Enforcing mechanisms remain poor, and communities at the grassroots level remain excluded from the eco-tourism agenda, with policies still not adequately empowering them to serve as guides or operators.

As a reaction to these gaps, the government is set to impose particular visitor limits within biodiversity hotspots and increase anti-littering patrols in collaboration with NGOs and local communities. A more integrated approach among the Tourism, Forest, and Regional Government ministries is required in order to build a more balanced and sustainable model for tourism within Goa's interior.

### **The Human Factor: Where the Problem Lies**

It's not policy or numbers-it's people. Take Maya, a 12-year-old at Bondla with her father, in hopes of catching a glimpse of an Indian bison. As she and her father walk up to the observation tower, the euphoria is dimmed in Maya's mind by the discovery of trash in the form of discarded plastic coverings along the path. She wonders to herself in quiet thoughts, "Why

couldn't we have magic without the mess?"

Maya's question hits a raw nerve. This is the environmental cost of failed eco-tourism. Though economic benefits can accrue by people flocking in hordes, the eventual price paid is the destruction of the environment that, if left unchecked, can dilute the very fact why Goa's interior is unique in the first instance.

### **Moving Towards a Regenerative Future**

The future of eco-tourism in Goa lies in regenerative activity-activities based on sustainability, empowerment at the local level, and ecosystem renewal. In initiatives like Ekadasha Teertha, wherein responsible tourism is paramount, Goa is striving to make its eco-tourism sector a regenerative industry that works for people and the planet both. By putting intelligent management of visitors first and effective enforcement and sustainable development in its infrastructures, Goa can build the foundation for an environmentally friendly model of tourism that respects both community and nature. Goa's hinterland magic still endures-if only guarded with prudence and care. As the sun sets over Goa's green valleys, it's a reminder that the forests and trails and villages are more than things to see-these are communities in which tens of thousands of people live, people like Maya and her father. The Goa eco-tourism tale is a tale of balance-of expansion and preservation, and of a mandate to future generations to come. In sustainability, only Goa's wild soul will remain vital and motivate the people and travellers to and from.

(Source: Goa Tourism Department, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Goa Forest Department, Goa Government, U.S. Department of State, World Travel Organization)

Source:

<https://www.travelandtourworld.com/news/article/sustainability-at-risk-ecotourism-struggles-in-goas-hinterland-demand-urgent-action/>

# Identification of Suitable Homestay Tourism Sites in the Himalayan Region for Protecting Biodiversity Using Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) and GIS: A Case Study of Joshimath Block, Uttarakhand

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<https://doi.org/10.51514/JSTR.7.2.2025.17-30>

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## ABSTRACT -1

Homestay tourism has emerged as a vital strategy for sustainable rural development, particularly in ecologically and culturally rich regions. This study aims to identify and evaluate suitable locations for homestay tourism in the Joshimath Block of Chamoli District, Uttarakhand, using the Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) integrated with Geographic Information System (GIS) techniques. Seven key criteria – slope, elevation, proximity to rivers, roads, villages, protected areas, and touristic hotspots – were selected based on their significance in sustainable ecotourism development. AHP was used to derive weighted values for each parameter, and consistency of judgment was confirmed with a Consistency Ratio (CR) of 0.09, within acceptable limits. The weighted factors were incorporated into a geospatial database, and overlay analysis using the Weighted Linear Combination (WLC) method was performed to generate a composite homestay suitability map. The map categorized the region into five suitability zones: Very Low (17.25%), Low (24.40%), Moderate (20.66%), High (21.16%), and Very High (11.98%). Very High suitability zones were concentrated around key tourist and ecologically significant areas such as Joshimath, Auli, Badrinath, Valley of Flowers, and Nanda Devi National Park. These zones offer favourable conditions for promoting community-based homestay tourism due to their accessibility and biodiversity richness. The findings provide a scientific basis for informed planning and policy-making to enhance sustainable tourism and local economic development in the Himalayan region.

**Keywords:** Homestay tourism, Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP), Site-suitability, Joshimath etc.

Source: <https://www.ijcrt.org/papers/IJCRT2504745.pdf>

Source: <https://jstr.org.in/2025/07/identification-of-suitable-homestay-tourism-sites-in-the-himalayan-region-for-protecting-biodiversity-using-analytical-hierarchy-process-ahp-and-gis-a-case-study-of-joshimath-block-uttarakhand/>

## Ecotourism as a Driver of Socio-ecological Transformation in Chhattisgarh: A Comprehensive Review

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## ABSTRACT -2

With over 44% of its land covered by forests, Chhattisgarh stands as one of India's greenest states, offering significant ecotourism potential owing to its unique geological features, rich biodiversity, and vibrant tribal traditions. This paper examines the ecological and economic dimensions of ecotourism in the state, with a focus on key areas such as the Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve, Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary, and Kanger Valley National Park. Ecotourism in Chhattisgarh plays a vital role in biodiversity conservation, forest regeneration, and climate resilience by supporting habitat preservation, promoting geoheritage conservation, and enhancing carbon stock development. Initiatives like "Unexplored Bastar" foster sustainable livelihoods for local tribal communities by generating employment in guiding, hospitality, and craft-based microenterprises. Government support through infrastructure development, policy initiatives, and skill-building programs has further strengthened

ecotourism's impact. Despite facing challenges such as habitat degradation, human-wildlife conflict, and limited public awareness, ecotourism presents a viable model for sustainable development by aligning conservation efforts with inclusive socio-economic growth. The study highlights the importance of integrated management, policy support, and community engagement to ensure the long-term ecological and economic sustainability of ecotourism in Chhattisgarh.

**Keywords: Ecotourism, Chhattisgarh, Biodiversity, Sustainable Tourism, Tribal Communities**

**Source:**

<https://journaljgeesi.com/index.php/JGEESI/article/view/921#:~:text=Ecotourism%20in%20Chhattisgarh%20plays%20a, and%20enhancing%20carbon%20stock%20development.>

**Exploring community-based ecotourism in Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, India: a literature review**

Pawas Chaturvedi, Akhilesh Kumar Singh, Vaibhav Bhatt, Jigmie W. Bhutia and Amit Kumar Singh

Published Online: August 1, 2025

**ABSTRACT -3**

Ecotourism has emerged as a sustainable alternative for fostering socio-economic development while safeguarding natural resources and cultural heritage. Protected areas (PAs) use ecotourism projects and initiatives as a strategic framework for conserving natural resources and community-led approaches to sustainable tourism development. This paper analyses the various issues, challenges, and opportunities for community participation in ecotourism initiatives within and around Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary (KWS), an untapped wildlife ecotourism destination in Uttar Pradesh. An in-depth analysis (quantitative data analysis) based on relevant literature on the selected indicators, framed with the help of an appropriate literature review of community-based ecotourism (CBET), has been applied to answer the study's objectives. The study found the potential of untapped CBET in and around (in the peripheral areas) KWS. This paper provides an overview of the current state of ecotourism in Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary and highlights avenues for future research on community-based ecotourism in the area.

**Keywords: Ecotourism, Community-Based Ecotourism, CBET, Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, KWS, Ecotourism Opportunities, Literature Analysis, India**

Source: <https://www.inderscienceonline.com/doi/10.1504/IER.2025.147805>

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- Full paper with abstract notes.
- 1,000 words in English language.
- High resolution pictures (3,4 nos.) of the topic.

**Note:** Publication of the research paper/ article will be decided by the editorial board of the Newsletter.

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*As part of the programme on Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building & Livelihood Programme (EIACP) to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.*