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Can tigers survive in human-dominated landscapes?

Kolipaka, S.S.

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Author: Kolipaka, S.S.

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kolipaka.s.s@gmail.com

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Can tigers survive in human-dominated landscapes?

**Understanding Human-Tiger Coexistence in the Buffer Zone of Panna
Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh, India.**

PROEFSCHRIFT

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Geboren te Vizianagaram, India
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Promotor: Prof. Dr. G.A. Persoon, Leiden University

Co-promotor: Prof. Dr. H.H. de Jongh, Leiden University/University of Antwerp

Promotiecommissie

Prof. Dr. E.H.M. Sterck, University Utrecht

Dr. N. Yamaguchi, Qatar University

Dr. H. Bauer, University of Oxford

Prof. Dr. P. Pels, Leiden University

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Terms used

Human-dominated landscapes:

In this study, the term human-dominated landscapes are referred to government-controlled non-protected forests or territorial divisions, where land use is predominantly anthropocentric.

Multiple-use lands:

Multiple-use forests or lands are managed to accommodate various uses on the same land. For example, in the buffer zones of the tiger reserve, livestock grazing by local communities and wildlife conservation are both pursued side by side. The term *shared lands* also means the same.

Tiger Reserves:

To protect the tiger, Indian government identified and declared several areas that are vital for the species continued survival as tiger reserves. These areas comprise of national parks, multiple use forests like Wildlife Sanctuaries and human-dominated non-protected forests (territorial divisions). In tiger reserves, the focus of management is on tiger conservation.

Panna Tiger Reserve:

Panna Tiger Reserve or Panna TR comprises a core zone, which is a national park or IUCN PA category II area (meaning areas secured exclusively for wildlife with human activities limited to non-consumptive tourism). Surrounding the core zone is a multiple use buffer zone which is an IUCN PA category IV area (meaning the area has villages, and it is permitted for residents to extract natural resources from the area).

Core Zone of a tiger reserve:

An area within the tiger reserve that is exclusively managed for wildlife. Here human influence is limited to non-consumptive tourism and all other human activities are prohibited by law.

Buffer Zone of a tiger reserve:

An area separating the core zone from the surrounding intensive land uses. The buffer zone is a multiple-use land and its creation is mandatory around the core zones of tiger reserves. However, these areas contain villages, and resident people extract natural resource for their consumption from the forests in the buffer zone. Developmental activities are restricted in these zones.

Cattle:

Cattle are colloquially referred as cows in India. The domestic cow of India belongs to the genus *Bos*. The female cow is kept for milk and males are used for ploughing fields. For religious reasons beef is not eaten by majority Hindus.

Domestic water buffalo:

These animals from the genus *Bubalus* are domesticated and widely used across India. Female buffalos are kept for milk and males are used for ploughing fields. Buffalo meat is widely consumed unlike beef.

Livestock:

A more general term for addressing all farm animals (cows, domestic water buffalo, goats, pigs, horses and donkeys).