



ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026

SUNDARBAN TIGER RESERVE

Foreword

The annual report of an organization is a vital record of its work. It provides field officers with key insights and serves as an important management tool. It is my privilege to present the Annual Report of the Sundarban Tiger Reserve (STR) for the financial year 2025-26 (FY 2025-26). This year brought both challenges and achievements. I am delighted to report zero cases of poaching and a nil record of tiger straying incidents. This reflects the commitment and vigilance of our frontline staff. Technology and optimal resource use have been central to our management approach. The M-STrIPES-based e-patrolling application and drone-based monitoring was effective in wildlife monitoring, fencing checking and other protection activities during the financial year.

This year we have done the All-India Tiger Estimation 2026 (AITE- 2026) through camera-trap exercise along with Sign Survey which yielded important data on tigers, cubs, co-predators, and herbivores. We also successfully organized the 4th Sundarban Bird Festival 2026 and the Saltwater Crocodile Estimation 2025-26, further advancing our conservation objectives. Our ex-situ conservation breeding program for *Batagur baska* (Northern River Terrapin) also continued to make steady progress.

Community participation continues to be the foundation of our work. Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) were supported through various livelihood initiatives like hospitality training. Regular veterinary camps were conducted by the Veterinary Officer in fringe villages. Essential treatment was provided to cattle and domestic birds to safeguard livelihoods. Several health check-up camps for fringe villagers were held in this financial year in collaboration with NGOs. Apart from this, first-aid training, stress management camps and annual sports meet for frontline staff were also arranged in this FY. Such collaborative efforts reflect the spirit of the Conservation with Community.

Capacity building remained a priority, with regular training programs for staff. Key events such as Global Tiger Day, Van Mahotsav, World Wetlands Day and Wildlife Week etc. were celebrated with great enthusiasm, raising awareness and public participation.

In conclusion, I express my sincere gratitude to all officers and staff of Sundarban Tiger Reserve for their dedication and hard work in safeguarding this ecologically vulnerable landscape. Their commitment ensures that STR remains a beacon of conservation excellence.



Rajendra Jakher, IFS
Chief Conservator of Forests & Field Director
Sundarban Tiger Reserve

Date : 29th July, 2026
Place : Canning Town, WB.

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For further information, visit: <https://sundarbantigerreserve.org/>

Chapter 1

General Introduction & Background



BACKGROUND

India's globally acclaimed conservation initiative, 'Project Tiger', was launched on 23rd December 1973 in the Sundarbans. With this, the Sundarbans earned the distinction of being one of the first nine Tiger Reserves declared in the country.

The Sundarbans Tiger Reserve (STR) is located in the coastal districts of West Bengal — South 24-Parganas and North 24-Parganas (Basirhat Range only). It lies at the southernmost tip of the lower Gangetic delta, bordering the Bay of Bengal. The Sundarbans is a vast network of estuaries, tidal rivers, and creeks that encompass 105 islands of varying shapes and sizes. The Tiger Reserve spans an area of 2584.89 sq. km. Together with the Sundarbans in Bangladesh; it forms the largest contiguous mangrove forest in the world. It is also the only mangrove ecosystem outside Bangladesh that supports a significant population of wild tigers. Beyond tigers, the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve is renowned for its rich biodiversity, harboring a wide variety of flora and fauna unique to the mangrove ecosystem.

PRESENT STATUS

The Indian Sundarban has a forest area of 4,263 sq. km. of which 2,584.89 sq.km. has been designated as Sundarban Tiger Reserve (STR), w.e.f. 23.12.1973. Within this Tiger Reserve, 1699.62 sq. km. has been designated as the Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH) vide Notification No. 6028-For, dated 18.12.2007. Within this CTH, lies the Sundarban National Park having an area of 1330.12 sq. km. area notified vide No. 2867-FOR, dated 04.05.1984. The area outside the CTH is known as Buffer Zone notified vide No. 615-For/11M-28/07, dated 17.02.2009. Within the buffer area is located the Sajnekhali Wildlife Sanctuary covering an area of 362.42 sq. km. vide Notification No. 5396-FOR, dated 24.06.1976. Rest of the area is the multiple use zone, which is used by the local population to fulfill their bonafide needs. The importance of this area was recognized by the UNESCO and the area was accorded the status of a World Heritage Site in the year 1987.

SIGNIFICANCE OF SUNDARBAN MANGALS

- One of the first nine Tiger Reserves declared under the Project Tiger scheme in the year 1973.
- The National Park area of the Tiger Reserve is a natural World Heritage Site, which was declared in the year 1987.
- The Sundarban Tiger Reserve is a part of the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve, which is one of the few globally recognized Biosphere Reserves in the country. It was declared as a Biosphere Reserve in the year 1989.
- It constitutes over 60% of the total mangrove forest area in the entire country and has 90% of the total Indian mangrove species.
- The Sundarbans has been classified as a Tiger Conservation Landscape of global priority, as it is the only mangrove habitat (along with the Bangladesh), which support a significant tiger population.
- Mangrove biomass and deep peat soils store massive amounts of carbon-up to four times more per hectare than many terrestrial forests-mitigating climate change. The mangrove forests trap debris and silt and stabilize the near shore environment. Certain mangrove species also act as bio-filters as they have been found to bio-accumulate heavy metals. Mangrove roots trap

debris and silt and stabilize the near shore environment. Certain mangrove species also act as bio-filters as they have been found to bio-accumulate heavy metals. Mangrove roots trap sediments and absorb pollutants, enhancing water clarity and quality in tidal waterways. They filter ground-water and storm-water runoff which often contains harmful pesticides. They recharge the ground water by collecting rain water and slowly releasing it to the underground reservoir.

- The dense root network moderates wave energy and storm surges, reducing shoreline erosion and safeguarding inland communities from cyclonic impacts. The mangrove forests act as a natural shelter belt and protect the hinterland from storms, cyclones, tidal surges, sea-water seepage and intrusion.
- The Tiger Reserve is abode to a large number of endangered and globally threatened species like the tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*), fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrina*) and estuarine crocodile (*Crocodilus porosus*), Gangetic Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) and Irrawaddy Dolphin (*Oracella brevirostris*), King Cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*), water monitor lizard (*Varanus salvator*, *V. bengalensis*) etc.
- It harbours last remaining populations of the Northern River terrapins (*Batagur baska*), which was once believed to be extinct. It is the nesting ground for marine turtles like Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), Green Sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*).
- Two species of horseshoe crabs (which are considered as living fossils as they are thought to be more than 400 million years old), i.e. *Tachypleus gigas* and *Carcinoscorpius rotundicauda* out of the four species found in the world are found here.
- More than 300 species of birds are recorded from the Sundarbans. It is known as a kingfisher's paradise as out of the 12 species of kingfishers found in the country 9 species are found here. A number of heronries are formed here during monsoon, which harbour large bird populations, which come and breed here. Also, during the winters it is home for Trans-Himalayan migratory birds. Goliath heron (*Ardea goliath*) is another important bird is found in the area.
- The Sundarbans acts as nursery grounds for shrimp, crabs, and commercially important fish species boost fisheries productivity in adjacent coastal waters. More than 350 species recorded from the Indian Sundarbans.
- Local populations depend on sustainable fishing, honey harvesting for income and subsistence. The Sundarbans harbors unique genetic variants adapted to saline, waterlogged conditions—valuable for crop improvement and biotechnological research.
- By exchanging moisture and heat with the atmosphere, mangroves help stabilize local temperatures and humidity levels. Decomposition of mangrove litter retains and recycles nutrients, sustaining high primary productivity in coastal ecosystems. In this work, ecotone biodiversity like- mudskippers, fiddler crabs help a lot.
- Cultural cornerstone embedded in local folklore and religious traditions, mangroves shape community identity and traditional spiritual practices.
- Eco-tourism resource like Birdwatchers, photographers, and wildlife enthusiasts flock to the Sundarbans, generating revenue and fostering conservation awareness.

- Scientists study the Sundarbans to understand mangrove ecology, climate adaptation strategies, and restoration techniques.
- Highly sensitive to sea-level rise, salinity shifts, and pollution, the Sundarbans provides environmental sentinel and early warning of broader ecological changes.

BOUNDARIES

The Sundarban Tiger Reserve is bound in the east by the international boundary with Bangladesh formed by the rivers Harinbhanga, Raimangal and Kalindi. On the south lies the Bay of Bengal. The western border is formed by the river Matla, which acts a common boundary with the territorial Forest Division of South 24-Parganas. Towards the north-west, the area is bound by rivers Bidya and Gomdi/Gomor. All the fringe villages lie outside the Tiger Reserve along the northern boundary.

There exist two distinct ecological units of mangrove vegetation as are given below:

The western portion lying west of river Thakuran where a trickle of sweet water reaches from the river Hooghly, i.e. mostly in the South 24-Parganas Forest Division.

The central mangrove patch, which is practically cut off from the upstream flow and is fed by backwaters of Bay of Bengal lying between rivers Harinbhanga and Thakuran.

The Sundarban Tiger Reserve falls under this area. The salinity regime is very high here. However, on the eastern side bordering Bangladesh river Kalindi receives some sweet-water flow, as a result, the salinity levels are comparatively low.



Chapter 2

Legal Status of Sundarban Tiger Reserve



LEGAL STATUS:

Category	Area (in sq. Km.)	Notification No.	Legislation
Sajnekhali Wildlife Sanctuary	362.42	5396-FOR, 24.06.1976 dt.	As per sub-section (1) of section 18 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (53 of 1972).
Sundarban National Park	1,330.12	2867-FOR, 04.05.1984 dt.	As per clause (b) of section 21 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
Critical Habitat Tiger	1,699.62	6028-FOR, 18.12.2007dt.	As per sub-section (4) of Section 38 V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
Buffer Area	885.27	615-FOR/11M- 28/07 dt.17.02.2009	The Sanctuary area along with adjacent RA is a part of Buffer.
Total Area:	2584.89		

AREA STATEMENT OF SUNDARBAN TIGER RESERVE:

(a) Core Area or Critical Tiger Habitat			
Sl. No.	Block and Compartments	Total Area (in sq.km.)	Legal Status
1	Matla (1-4)	176.30	NP
2(a)	Chamta (1-3)	96.32	RF
2(b)	Chamta (4-8)	124.37	NP
3	Chotahardi (1-3)	175.67	NP
4	Goasaba (1-4)	171.73	NP
5	Gona (1-3)	139.03	NP
6(a)	Bagmara (1)	24.30	RF
6(b)	Bagmara (2-8)	269.63	NP
7	Mayadwip (1-5)	273.36	NP
8	Netidhopani (1-3)	93.00	RF
9	Chandkhali (1-4)	155.91	RF
	<i>TOTAL:</i>	1699.62	-
(b) Buffer Area			
Sl. No.	Block and compartments	Total Area (in sq.km.)	Legal Status
1	Panchamukhi (1-5)	176.66	WLS
2	Pirkhali (1-7)	185.76	WLS
3	Arbesi (1-5)	150.43	RF
4	Jhilla (1-6)	123.14	RF
5	Khatu Jhuri (1-3)	132.41	RF
6	Harinbhang (1-3)	116.87	RF
	<i>TOTAL:</i>	885.27	-

Entire area has the status of Reserved Forest (RF) also.

Chapter 3

Administration



Here is the administrative set up of STR:

Sl.	Range	Beat	Camps/ Floating Camps under respective ranges
1	Sajnekhali WLS (Hq – Pakhiralay)	Sajnekhali, Duttar, Dobanki	Chayan, Sudhanyakhalai, Pirkhali, Sadakkhali, Bijoy varani (Tentultala)
2	NP West (Hq- Vidya)	Netidhopani	Havati
		Haldibari	
		Kendo	
		NPW Hq- Vidya	
3	NP East (Hq- Gosaba)	Chamta	Chandkhali (Green camp), Luthirduani
		Bagmara	
		NPE Hq- Gosaba	
4	Basirhat (Hq- Jhila)	Bagna	Kaksa, Chilmari, Kakmari, Samsernagar
		Jhingekhali	
		Burirdabri	
		Khatuajhuri	
		Harikhali	
5	Head Quarter (Hq- Canning Town)	Canning HQ	
6	Land and Law cell		
7	Research		
8	Rampura Mobile	Rampura HQ (Jhila, now) *	
9	Eco-tourism		

* Rampura Range area is handed over to 24 Pgs (North) Forest Division and the range is shifted to Jhila HQ of Bashirhat Range under Sundarban Tiger Reserve as per the Office Order No. 10-Misc/CS /2025, dated 31.01.2025 by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force (PCCF & HoFF), West Bengal. The CCF & FD and DFD, Sundarban Tiger Reserve received the office order vide Memo No. 10453/CS/2M-1531/2020, dated 04.02.2025.



Chapter 4

Staff Strength



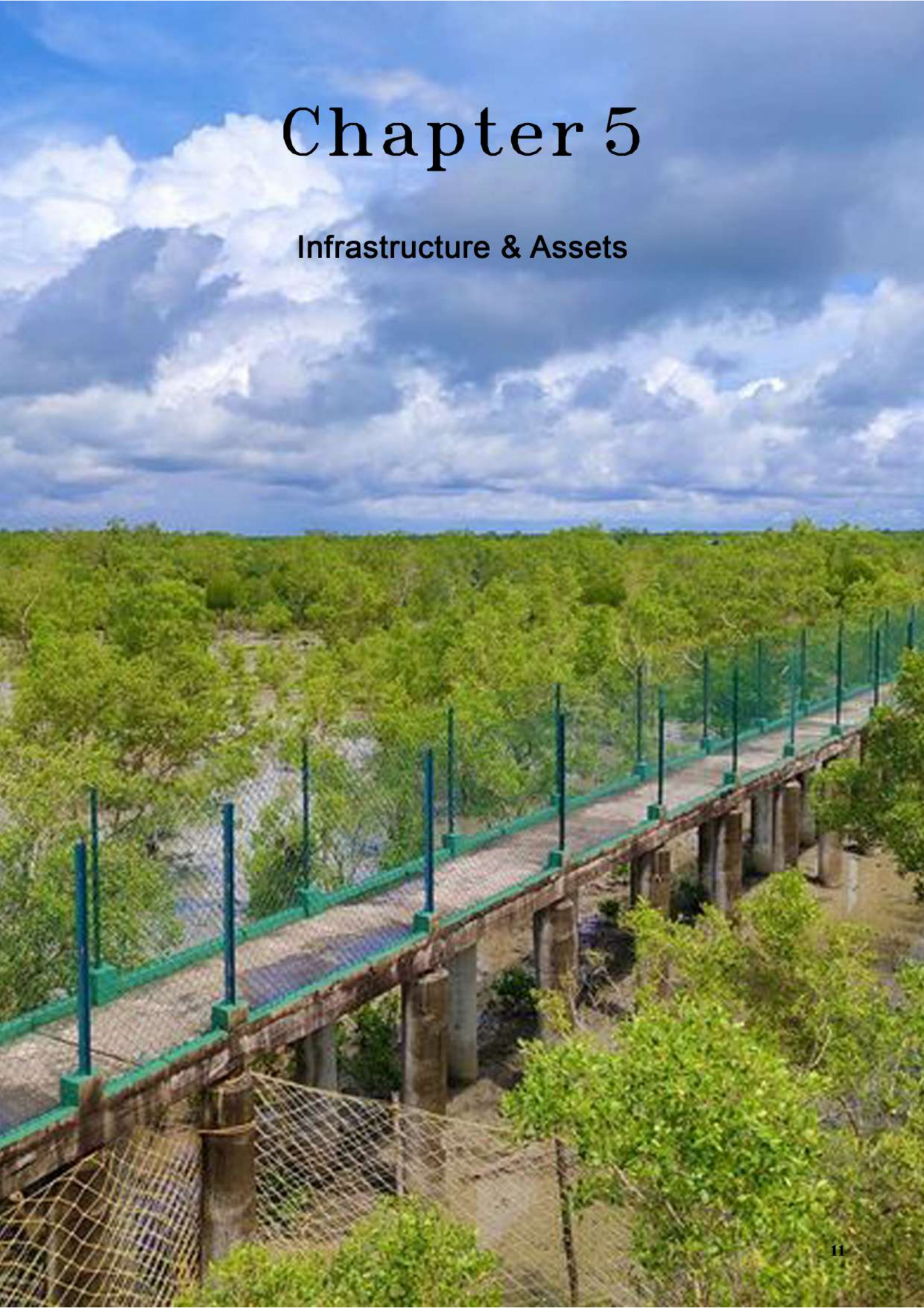
Sundarban Tiger Reserve is headed by Field Director, an officer of the rank of Chief Conservator of Forests. He is supported by one Deputy Field Director, two Assistant Field Directors, Range Officers and other frontline staff, the details of which are given in the table below:

EXISTING SANCTIONED STAFF STRENGTH AS ON 31.03.2026

Sl. No.	Category of Post	Sanctioned Strength	Existing	Vacant	Audited Against	Existing G.O. No.
1.	CCF & FD	1	1	-	-	PCCF, WB's O.O. No.20-Misc/2001 dt. 18.05.2001
2.	DFD	1	1	-	-	-do-
3.	AFD	2	2	-	-	1234-For dt. 27.2.1974
4.	Research Officer	1	-	1	-	11343-For dt. 21.12.1976
5.	Lab. Asstt.	1	-	1	-	4253-For dt. 10.7.1978
6.	Veterinary Officer	1	-	1	-	1130-For/11B-22/88 dt.14.2.1991
7.	Head Clerk	1	1	-	-	PCCF, WB's O.O. No. 26-Misc/PMC/15, dt.30.03.2015
8.	Accountant	1	-	1	-	PCCF, WB's O.O. No. 26-Misc/PMC/15, dt.30.03.2015
9.	UDC	6	2	4	-	PCCF, WB's O.O. No. 26-Misc/PMC/15, dt.30.03.2015
10.	PA	1	1	-	-	PCCF, WB's Letter No.11062/ PMC/2E-212 dt. 15.09.97
11.	Clerk-cum-Typist	7	5	2	-	PCCF, WB's O.O. No. 26-Misc/PMC/15, dt.30.03.2015
12.	Typist	1	-	1	-	PCCF, WB's O.O. No. 26-Misc/PMC/15, dt.30.03.2015
13.	Forest Ranger	11	9	2	-	PCCF, WB's O.O. No. 20-Misc/2001 dt. 18.05.2001
14.	DR/Fr.	28	13	15	-	PCCF, WB's O.O. No.07-Misc/PMC/2018, dt.19.01.2018
15.	Head Forest Guard	8	2	6	-	-do-
16.	Forest Guard	110	31	79	-	-do-
17.	Majhi	21	2	19	-	CCF/WB's O.O. No. 45/S, dt. 24.9.1975
18.	Boat Man	54	3	51	-	4192-For dt. 19.9.1981
19.	Forest Watcher	1	-	1	-	769-For dt. 9.2.1974
20.	Karmabandhu	1	-	1	-	5295-For/11B-41/80-I dt.21.7.1984
21.	Mali	1	1	-	-	769-For dt. 9.2.1974
22.	Driver	2	-	2	-	8815-For dt. 20.9.1976
23.	Chowkidar	2	1	1	-	769-For dt. 9.2.1974
24.	Karmasathi	2	-	2	-	769-For dt. 9.2.1974
25.	Peon	4	2	2	-	*Audited against PCCF, WB. G.O. No. 760-For dt. 9.2.1974 & 5295-For/11B-41-80-I dt. 21.7.1984
26.	Orderly	8	3	5	-	769-For dt. 9.2.1974 & 5926-For dt. 2.9.1977 & 2661-For dt. 27.4.1974
27.	Engine Driver	5	3	2	-	1170-For dt. 17.12.76 & 4128-For dt. 19.7.1980
28.	Sareng	3	1	2	-	4128-For dt. 17.09.80 & 4192-For dt. 19.09.1981
29.	Sukhani	2	-	2	-	1170-For dt. 17.12.76 & 4128-For dt. 19.07.1980
30.	OMG	3	-	3	-	-do-
31.	Laskar	8	-	8	-	-do-
	Total	298	84	214	-	
	Banasramik		3			

Chapter 5

Infrastructure & Assets



Infrastructure and assets are the one of the valuable materials of a forest division. These are presented in the following, as received by the concerned Range Officers of STR.

Sl.	Items	SWLS	BHT	NPE	NPW	Rampura	ET	HQ
1	RANGER'S QUARTER	1	1	1	1	0	1	0
2	VETERINARY OFFICER'S / DOCTOR'S QUARTER	1	0	0	3	0	0	0
3	DR/FR QUARTER	4	3	3		0	0	0
4	TWIN DR/FR BUILDING (PUKKA)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
5	TWIN FG QUARTER (PUKKA)	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
6	OTHER STAFF QUARTER	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
7	BOATMANS BARRACK	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
8	STAFF BARRACK	9	10	10	2	0	0	2
9	TWIN STAFF BARRACK (PUKKA)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	TWIN STAFF BARRACK (WOODEN)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	WATCH TOWER	3	3	3	3	0	0	0
12	LABORATORY	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
13	HONEY GOWDOWN	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
14	STORE HOUSE (WOODEN)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
15	PUMP AND GENERATOR ROOM	5	0	0	4	0	0	0
17	RCC WATER RESERVOIR	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	COMMON KITCHEN FOR STAFF	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
19	MOTOR CYCLE	2	1	1	2	0	0	1
20	MECHANIZED DINGHI BOAT	4	0	3	4	0	0	0
21	SPEED BOAT	1	2	2	5	0	0	0
22	RT BASE SET	14	15	10	10	0	1	1
23	WALKIE TALKIE	8	9	9	6	0	0	0
24	COMPUTER - DESKTOP	2	2	1	1	0	1	27
25	LAPTOP	3	2	1	0	0	0	1
26	GPS MACHINE	8	4	7	5	0	0	0
27	PRINTER	3	2	2	0	0	1	25
28	SCANNER	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
29	MULTIMEDIA PROJECTOR	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	16 MM PROJECTOR	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

31	XEROX MACHINE	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
32	REFRIGERATOR	0	2	0	1	0	0	2
33	VIDEO CAMERA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	35 MM ANALOG CAMERA	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	DIGITAL CAMERA	2	4	0	0	0	0	0
36	STILL CAMERA	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
37	NIGHT VISION BINOCULAR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
38	BINOCULAR (NORMAL)	6	7	6	6	0	1	0
39	TV SET	1	6	4	4	0	0	2
40	INTERCOM	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
41	MOBILE PHONE (ANDRIOD)	10	12	8	8	0	1	3
42	GENERATOR	6	2	4	5	0	0	1
43	PUMP SET	0	4	3		0	0	0
44	AIR-CONDITION	2	2	0	0	0	0	9
45	SEARCH LIGHT	19	28	10	9	0	1	2
46	SOLAR LANTERN	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
47	TRAP CAGES	4	3	0	2	0	0	1
48	SMALL TRAP CAGE	1	4	0	1	0	0	0
49	TRANSLOCATION CAGE	4	3	0	1	0	0	0
50	SQUEEZE CAGE	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
51	DRONE	2	1	0	0	0	0	0



Other structures: (as per 31.03.2026)

These are presented in the following, as received by the concerned Range Officers of STR.

Sl.	Category	SWLS	BHT	NPE	NPW	Rampura	ET	HQ	Remarks
1	FD/ DFD/ AFD Officers' Rest Rooms	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	
2	Subordinates' Rest House	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	
3	Research Range Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
4	Office Shed (Wooden)	1	3	0	1	0	1	0	Rampura Patrol Range was handed over to North 24 Pgs forest division, mentioned earlier in Chapter 3.
5	Veterinary Clinic	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
6	Mangrove Interpretation Centre (MIC)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
7	Cage trail	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
8	Canopy Walk	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
9	Tourist Shed & Ticket Counter	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	Harikhali (BHT) damaged
10	Two Unit Toilet (for tourists)	2	3	0	2	0	3	0	
11	Post-Mortem Unit	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Trap cameras: Total stock 1405 in numbers only (150 cameras were sent to Buxa Tiger Reserve earlier for wildlife monitoring activities). Note that, some cameras are damaged due to weather conditions.

Dehumidifier/ Dry Cabinet Box for camera traps:

15 nos. dry cabinet boxes were kept at Research Range, Canning, to protect and safe upkeep of the trap cameras from moisture and humidity.

Type	Nos.	Remarks/ Condition
Mahindra Scorpio	01 (WB-08G-4116)	Departmental Vehicle of CCF & FD/STR
Mahindra Scorpio	01 (WB-08G-4112)	Departmental Vehicle of DFD/STR
Four-wheeler	01	Hired Vehicle
Mahindra Bolero Camper	01 (WB-95A-7563)	Donated by WWF-India*
Launch (Departmental)	HQ- 01 (Banasova)NPE - 01 (Banaraj)	Good condition
Launch (Hired)	HQ-02(Debraj Bharat Laxmi)	Good condition
Accommodation Boat (Departmental)	SWLS-01 (Chayan), NPW- 01(Havati)	Good condition
Accommodation Boat (Hired)	HQ-02 (Maa Sumitra, Bharat Laxmi)	Good condition

*The Mahindra Bolero Camper car was donated by WWF-India vide NTCA letter no. F. No. 7-1/2015-NTCA, New Delhi, the 7th February 2024 and WWF-India letter to NTCA dated 22.02.2024, file memo no. 2776/ 2M-1, 22 OCT 2024.

Tranquilization Guns:

Category	No.
Dist- inject	06
Dan-inject	01

Arms & Ammunitions:

Range	Rifle stock	Defective	DBBL stock	Defective	Pump Action Gun	Defective	Total Gun Stock	Total Defective
BHT	22	2	9	3	5	1	36	6
SWLS	11	0	8	0	4	1	23	1
NP EAST	10	3	3	2	5	1	18	6
NP WEST	16	7	5	2	6	1	27	10
Rampura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eco-tourism	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HQ	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	1
Research	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

SCRAP MATERIAL:

List of the scrap items in various ranges of the reserve were made and were put to auction in the year FY 2025-26- NIL



Chapter 6

Financial Performance



Budget (2025-26):**a) State Plan:**

Sl. No.	Scheme	Fund received (in Rs.)	Expenditure (in Rs.)
1.	State Development Scheme	3,36,01,130.00	2,93,66,600.00

b) Centrally Sponsored Schemes:

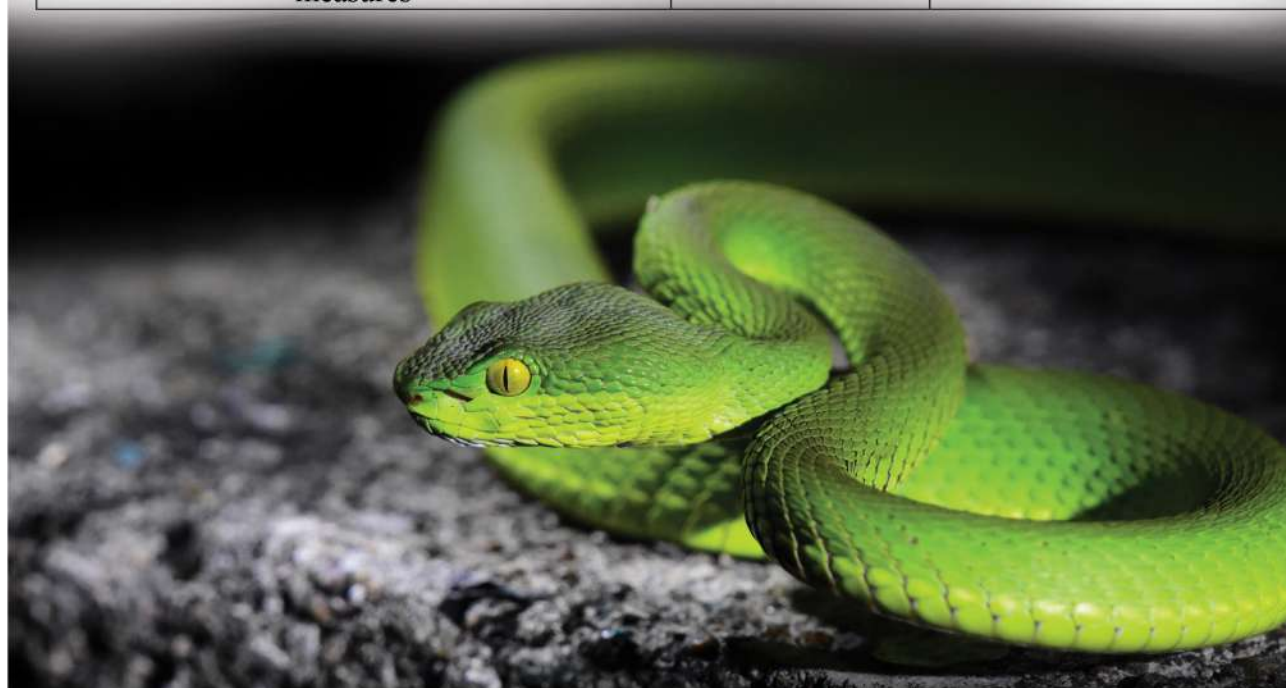
Sl. No.	Scheme	Fund received (in Rs.)	Expenditure (in Rs.)
1.	Centrally Development Scheme (Project Tiger)	3,29,20,216.00	3,29,20,216.00

c) Any other schemes:

Sl. No.	Scheme	Fund received (in Rs.)	Expenditure (in Rs.)
1.	WB-CAMPA	0.00	0.00
2.	CSS-IDWH	25,10,171.00	25,10,171.00

Number of Man days Generated in various Forestry Activities (2025-26)

Activity (Please specify)	Man-days generated	Average Labour rate (Rs.)
Control of poaching and illegal trade etc. at different range in Sundarban Tiger Reserve	3939	330
Hiring of manpower for habitat improvement measures	740	330



Renovation & maintenance of Staff staying & office facilities: 2025-26

Sl.	Work	Expenditure (in Rs.)
1	Maintenance of Staff Toilet at MIC (Mangrove Interpretation Centre) at Sajnekhali	2,49,480.00
2	Maintenance of Roof of SIC (Sundarban Interpretation Centre) by way of bituminous water proofing treatment	1,85,669.00
3	Maintenance work of UPVC Door & Windows of Sundarban Interpretation Centre (SIC) & Mangrove Interpretation Centre (MIC) at Sajnekhali	2,34,018.00
4	Maintenance of Staff Barrack by Roof shed (01/Pak)	2,23,925.00
5	Repairing of Wooden Barracks (No. 09/Pak) & (No. 11/Pak)	1,44,517.00
6	Maintenance of SIC (Sundarban Interpretation Centre) by way of netting guard of ground floor	2,10,900.00
7	Repairing of Staff Barrack (No. 36/BHT)	1,40,633.00
8	Repairing and Maintenance of Staff Barrack (No. 06/NPE)	1,35,396.00
9	Maintenance of Watch Tower for re-painting at Netidhopani	99,986.00
10	Repairing and Maintenance of Culvert at Kendo	2,36,248.00
11	Repairing & Re-painting of Watch Tower at Chamta	1,50,167.00
12	Repairing, Re-painting & Plumbing work of Watch Tower at Bagmara	1,49,134.00
13	Maintenance of Staff Barrack By Floor Tile Work (No. 08/NPE) at Champta	90,111.00
14	Minor maintenance of Staff Barrack(10/NPE)at Chandkhali	29,265.00
15	Maintenance of paver block road by way of relaying of paver block Netidhopani	2,46,059.00
16	Maintenance of Cement Concrete Path Jhila	79,321.00
17	Maintenance of Earthen Path Dobanki	46,171.00
18	Maintenance of Earthen Path Bagmara	1,47,747.00
19	Maintenance of Earthen Path Chamta	1,50,825.00
20	Maintenance of Earthen Path Burirdabri	92,342.00
21	Maintenance of Earthen Path Haldibari	1,08,963.00
22	Repairing of joint patrolling BSF Camp at Bagna under Bashirhat Range	1,99,980.00
23	Repairing of joint patrolling BSF Camp at Khatuajhuri under Bashirhat Range	1,99,960.00
24	Extension of jetty at Pakhiralay	4,97,558.00
25	Repairing of Beat office's Barrack at Dobanki	1,98,292.00
26	CC jetty at Samsernagar	4,95,505.00

Performance Report of Works in 2025-26:

Works in JFMC area in 2025-26		
Sl. No.	Particulars	Amount (in Rs.)
1	Repairing and Maintenance of Cement Concrete Path at Adharpara JFMC	1,65,848
2	Repairing and Maintenance of Cement Concrete Path at Jamespur JFMC	1,66,297
3	Repairing and Maintenance of Double Brick Soling Path at Lahiripur Santigachi JFMC	1,29,845
4	Conducting training on "KEORA" value added product preparation to JFMC villagers in Sundarban Tiger Reserve	99,604
5	Conducting training to JFMC villagers on Home Stay/Hotel Management and Hospitality in Sundarban Tiger Reserve	99,746
6	Sinking of Deep Tubewell at Amlamethi	200000
7	Re-digging of Pond at Bagnapar JFMC	49,966.00
8	Re-digging of Pond at Hentalbari JFMC	49,966.00
9	Re-digging of Pond at Gobindapur JFMC	49,966.00
10	Re-digging of Pond at Kalitala Paragumti JFMC	49,966.00
11	Installation of submersible pump at Harikhali	3,24,968.00
12	Installation of submersible pump at Vidya	3,25,000.00
13	Maintenance of C.C. path at Luxbagan	249759
14	Maintenance of C.C. path at Rajatjuble	249925
15	Re-digging of Sweet water pond at Bagnapara	99,450.00
16	Re-digging of Sweet water pond at	99,450.00
17	SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF STREET LIGHTS 27 NOS. SONAGAON AT SAJNEKHALI	1,45,530.00
18	Installation of submersible pump at Bali	3,24,837.00
19	Installation of submersible pump at Amlamethi	3,24,838.00
20	Maintenance of Cement Concrete Road(70m) at Satjelia JFMC	2,49,542
21	Maintenance of Cement Concrete Road(70m) at Kumirmari JFMC	2,49,517
22	Minor repairing of Cement Concrete Road(30m) at Chotomollakhali JFMC	58,625.00
23	Organizing free veterinary camp at different JFMC (26 nos.) under Sundarban	6,50,000
24	Free medical camp at different JFMC (4 nos.) under Sundarban Tiger Reserve	85,668

ECO-DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES (STCFT): FY 2025-26

Sl. No.	Description of work	Expenditure (in Rs.)
1.	Patrolling & protection.	12,36,771.00
2.	Anti-poaching camps and staff welfare	12,99,743.00
3.	Mitigation of human animal conflict & rescue operation.	8,30,738.00
4.	Eco-tourism.	4,34,284.00
5.	Conservation and management of species.	12,10,866.00
6.	Research and estimation exercise.	8,11,712.00
7.	Awareness and allied activities.	28,48,740.00
8.	J.F.M.C. Capacity building and & alternative livelihood.	5,48,270.00
9.	Fringe area development activities.	17,30,704.00
	TOTAL	1,09,51,828.00



Chapter 7

Non-Timber Forest Produce



NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCE

Honey and bees-wax are the minor forest produce, which are collected during the months of April and May. Sundarban Tiger Reserve issues permit(s) every year for honey collection. The honey collected is deposited at different godowns of the Tiger Reserve for storage and subsequent disposal by handing over the same to West Bengal Forest Development Corporation Limited. Earlier, Golpata (Nypa sp.) and Hental (Phoenix sp.), which were collected by the fringe villagers, were discontinued in 1978 and 1991 respectively, due to environmental causes. The coupe operation has been discontinued since the year 2001.

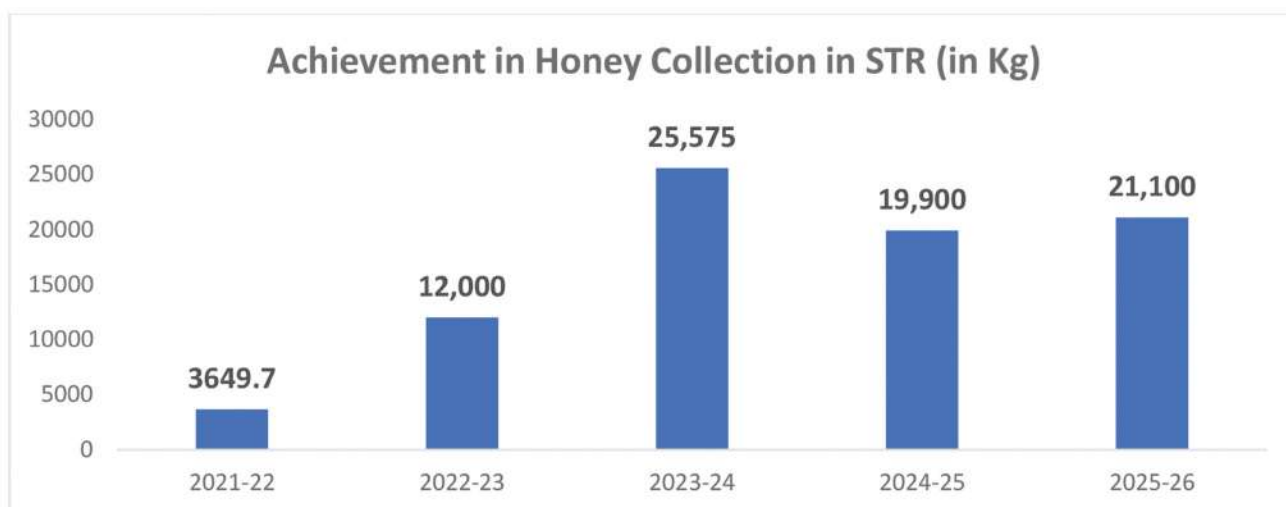
Details of Crude honey collection in past 5 financial years at STR:

Sl. No.	Year	Target in Kg.	Achievement in Kg.	Collection cost per Kg.	Incidental cost per Kg.	Total cost in Rs.	Remarks
1	2020-21	18,000	389	150	15	64,185	
2	2021-22	30,000	3649.7	160	17	6,45,997	
3	2022-23	16,000	12,000	180	20	24,00,000	
4	2023-24	25,000	25,575	225	25	63,93,750	Grade "B"
5	2024-25	25,000	19,900	235	30	52,73,500	Grade "B"
6	2025-26	20,000	21,100	240	30	56,97,000	Grade "B"

It was stressed in the meeting of collection of crude honey from Sundarbans during 2023 – 2024 held on 17.03.2023 in the office of Managing Director, West Bengal Forest Development Corporation Ltd., Kolkata that Crucial parameter of moisture % in honey which ultimately determines its quality and value.

1. A Grade: Crude Honey containing up to 23% moisture
2. B Grade: Crude Honey containing 23% to 26% moisture

* Crude Honey containing more than 26% moisture will be rejected.



Chapter 8

Plantation



To meet the local demand of small-wood and fuel-wood, mangrove plants are artificially regenerated on the mud-flats adjoining the fringe villages of the Tiger Reserve. Non-mangrove plantations were also raised along village roads and earthen embankments to cater to the needs of the local people. But in recent financial year, mangrove plantation was not taken place in Sundarban Tiger Reserve jurisdiction.

Plantation during 2025- 26:

Year	Mangrove Plantation (Creation)
2025-26	NIL

Maintenance of Mangroves in FY 2025-26:

Particulars	Area (in Ha)	Fund (in Lakh)
1st Year Maintenance of Greening Sundarban Plantation	Nil	Nil
2nd Year Maintenance of Greening Sundarban Plantation	Nil	Nil
2 nd Year Maintenance of Mangrove Plantation under State Development Scheme	Nil	Nil



Chapter 9

Joint Forest Management (JFMC)



India has a long-standing tradition of coexistence between people and wildlife, ensuring space for both to thrive in harmony. The earliest examples of this ethos are sacred groves — an indigenous practice of protecting forest patches to secure diverse ecosystem services. Across the country, many communities have historically conserved local forests through traditional knowledge and collective action. Joint Forest Management (JFM) is a participatory approach introduced under the National Forest Policy of 1988. Under this programme, State Forest Departments cooperate with forest-dependent and forest-fringe communities to protect and manage forest resources. It promotes equitable sharing of responsibilities, costs, and benefits arising from forest conservation. FM has the potential to meet local subsistence needs such as fuelwood, fodder, and other Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP), while also generating livelihood opportunities through sustainable use and sale of forest produce. Simultaneously, it helps prevent forest degradation and safeguards the ecological services that forests provide at the local, national, and global levels. Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) play a vital role as the primary interface between forest departments and local communities. Through JFMCs, people actively participate in various developmental and conservation activities, fostering a strong partnership for sustainable forest management.

Demography & Socio-Economy:

Some 4.5 million people live in the biosphere reserve (2011 Population Census, Govt of India). They depend directly on forest and forest-based resources since agriculture is not productive enough due to saline waters. Emphasis is given to schemes that generate additional income and economic security to people through Joint Forest Management, Animal husbandry, Popularization of energy alternatives, Habitat improvement, Aquaculture, Apiary- Honey harvesting, Local Cottage Industry- development of crafts and education.

No. of JFMCs	26
No. of JFMCs registered	26
No. of Revenue villages covered	38
Total Forest area covered (in ha.)	26,474
No. of JFMC having Women as Executive Committee Members	26

List of JFMCs under STR jurisdiction (2025-26):

Sl. No.	Range	Name of JFMC
1	Basirhat	Adharpara
2	Basirhat	Adibasipara
3	Basirhat	Bagnapara
4	Basirhat	Bhrulipara
5	Basirhat	Emlibari
6	Basirhat	Gobindapur
7	Basirhat	Hemnagar
8	Basirhat	Hentalbari
9	Basirhat	Kalidaspur
10	Basirhat	Kalitala-Perghumti
11	Basirhat	Mitrabari
12	Basirhat	Samsernahgar
13	NPW	Bijoynagar
14	NPW	Mathurakhanda
15	NPW	Satyanaranpur
16	NPW	Amlamethi
17	NPW	Bali

Sl. No.	Range	Name of JFMC
18	SWLS	Lahiripur Chargheri
19	SWLS	Lahiripur Santigachi
20	SWLS	Luxbagan Bidhancolony Parasmani
21	SWLS	Dayapur
22	SWLS	Jamespur
23	SWLS	Dulki
24	SWLS	Sonagaon
25	SWLS	Anpur Rajatjublee
26	SWLS	Pakhirala

10

The share money for the eco-developmental works in different JFMCs is distributed by the forest department from the total collection from the eco-tourism.



The distribution of shared earnings has been suspended because no fees are being collected from eco-tourism (vide Chapter 15 as per departmental order).

Status of Self-Help Groups (SHG) in Sundarban Tiger Reserve: 2025-26

Self Help Groups (SHGs) in fringe villages empower local women through livelihood activities like handicrafts, eco-tourism. They promote income generation, reduce forest dependency, and strengthen community participation in conservation and sustainable development.

List of SHGs is attached in the Annexure 1.

- Forest Village and Encroachment during 2025-26: Nil
- Status of implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006: Not applicable in STR.
- Diversion of Forest Land during 2025-26: Nil

Chapter 10

Forest Protection



List of anti-poaching camps:

Land- based Camps			Floating Camps/ Check Posts		
Sl.	Range	Camp Location	Sl.	Range	Camp Location
1	Sajnekhali WLS	Pakhiralay	1	Sajnekhali WLS	Pirkhali
2		Sajnekhali	2		Sadak Khali
3		Dobanki	3		Tentualtala
4		Duttar	4		Panchamukhani (Chayan)
5		Sudhanyakhali			
6	Basirhat	Jhila	5	Basirhat	Kakmari
7		Bagna	6		Chilmari
8		Jhingekhali			
9		Khatuajhuri			
10		Burirdabri			
11		Kaksa			
12		Harikhali			
13		Samsernagar			
14	NP East	Chamta	7	NP East	Luthirduani
15		Chandkhali	8		Banaraj (Moving Patrolling Camp)
16		Bagmara			
17	NP West	Netidhopani	9	NP West	Havati
18		Haldibari			
19		Kendo			
20	Rampura	Jhila (since April 2025)			
21	HQ Canning	Canning Town			

Protection strategy and Liaison with other departments:

- One State Armed Police Camp posted at Jhila under Bashirhat Range headquarters. It also functions as a Special Strike Force and assists the field staff in patrolling and rescue operations.
- State Armed Police Force Camp established in the year: 2000
- No. of State Armed Police personnel posted: 5
- Rank of highest ranked officer posted in the Camp: Head Constable
- Two BSF camps have been established at Khatuajhuri and Bagna camps under Bashirhat Range. They along with the field staff carry out joint patrolling operations besides performing their day-to-day duties.
- No. of BSF personnel posted: 7 in Khatuajhuri and 7 in Bagna Camp.
- Name of highest ranked officer posted in the Camp: Sub-Inspector.

Forest Offence related data of past few FYs:

Sl. No.	FOREST OFFENCE	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
1.	POR (in Nos.)	01	07	01	01
2.	COR (in Nos.)	3171	4024	3286	2530
3.	UDOR (in Nos.)	11	09	19	07
4.	No. of Persons Arrested	04	25	27	19
5.	Incidences of Firing by Staff (in Round)	00	00	00	00
6.	No. of Offender Died	00	00	00	00
7.	No. of Offender Injured	00	00	00	00
8.	No. of Forest Staff Killed	00	00	01	00
9	No. of Forest Staff Injured/Assaulted	00	00	00	00
10.	Total Compensation Realized (in Rs.)	3223350.00	4702652.00	4394650.00	3324800.00
11.	Quantity of Timber Seized (Sawn & Log)	00	Garan log- 03 nos (L= 5 feet, G= 6 inch), Gnewa log- 08 nos (1.4 m X 10.6 cm each), Garan log- 02 nos (1.4 m X 10.8 cm each), Sundari log- 02 nos (L= 2.25 m, G= 2.20 m)	Garan log- 02 nos (L= 4 feet, G= 4 inch)	Garan log- 02 nos (L= 3 feet, G= 10 inch)
12.	No. of Vehicle Seized	00	00	00	00
13.	No. of Dingi Seized	10	09	17	06
14.	No. of Mechanized Boat / Trawler Seized	01	03	02	02
15.	No. of Cattle Seized	23	45	24	00



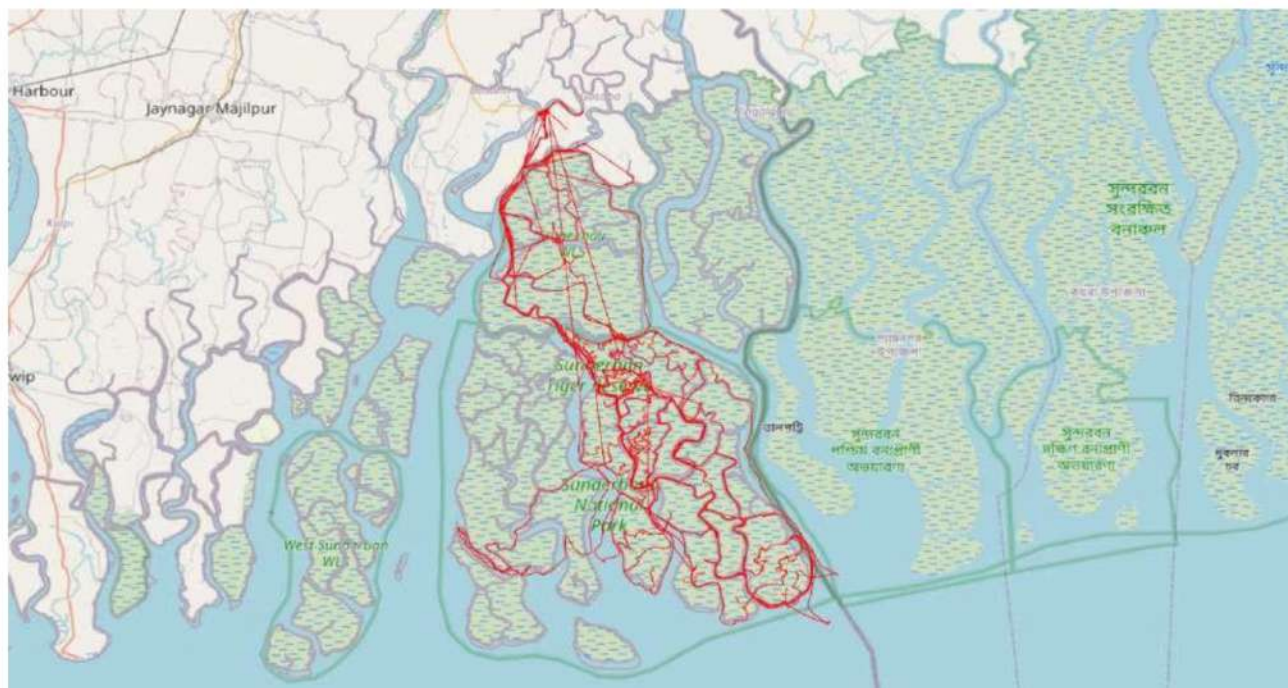
Wildlife Offence Cases (under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972) during 2025-26:

POR	COR	UDOR	Person arrested	Conviction details (if any)
01	2530	07	19	Nil

*08 persons arrested through direct POR, 11 persons (Bangladeshi offenders) were arrested through joint patrolling with BSF (as per the data received from Land and Law Cell Range, STR).

Patrolling at STR:

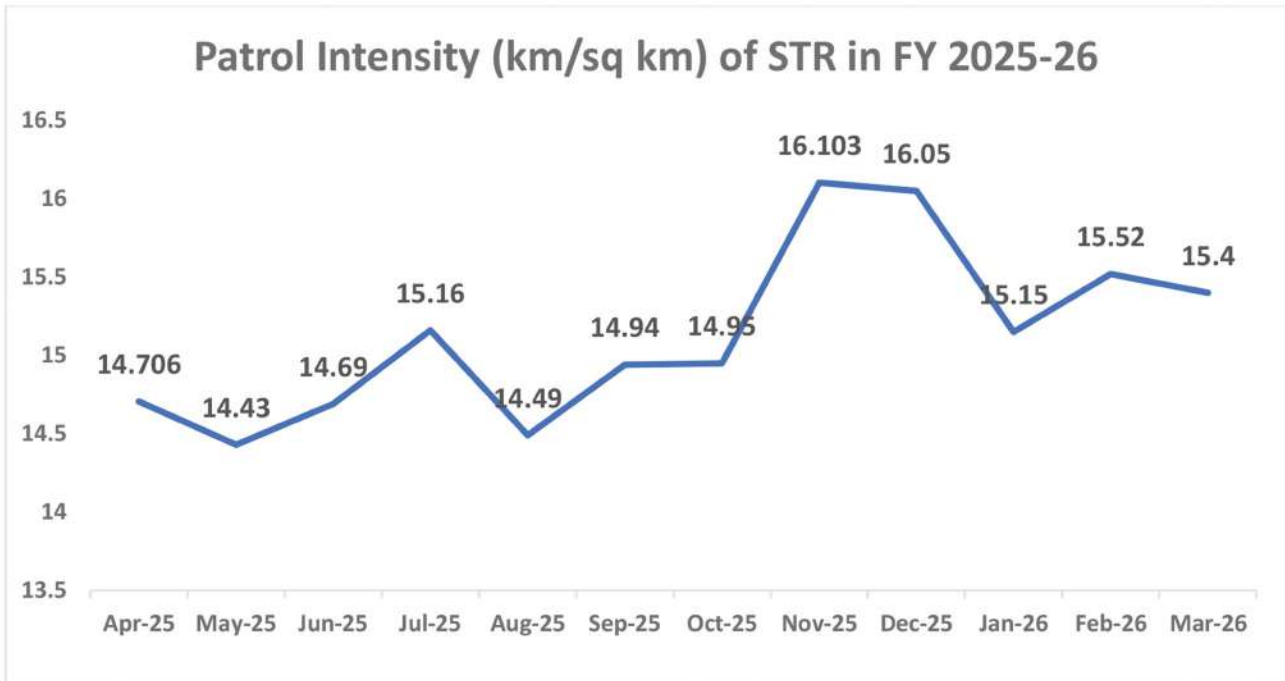
Age-old pattern, procedure and practice of traditional patrolling and wildlife monitoring had some limitations with only use of manual pen, pencil and papers along with prolonged and time-bound use of RT system. Main constraints were time dependency on RT network, errors and time-consumptions in manual entry, possibilities of data manipulation and absence of real-time data. To overcome all of these limitations E-patrol was introduced in Sundarban Tiger Reserve in the FY 2021-22 at a preliminary level. In this new system every camp has been given a smart phone with a mobile application installed on it for monitoring and patrolling purposes. With this software/application the front-end staff are recording every possible activity like patrolling, fencing checking, night patrols, offence detections, wildlife sightings etc. That patrolling data is submitted by the Range officers and therefore analyzed by the Research Range of STR and presented to the senior officers on Protection Monitoring Protocol meeting.



E-Patrol Android Application Software: M-STriPES

In the past FY 2021-22, Wildlife Institute of India made M-STriPES android patrolling application 'E-Patrol', that has been installed in new mobile phones and the field staff are well trained with this. In the PMP meetings there is a technical session for data entry operators and other staff to train them about the mobile application for betterment of the strategic patrolling. the Initially it faced several challenges due to the global positioning system and data loading but after rigorous training the field staff overcame the situation.

In the following chart, the patrol intensity of the FY 2025-26 at STR is tabulated below:



Chapter 11

Wildlife Management



Wildlife management and mitigation of conflicts are another important attribute for any tiger reserve. Here it goes:

Death of wild animals during 2025-26:

Sl.	Date	Species (with details - age, sex etc.)	Place of incidents	Details of cause of death (as per Post Mortem Report)	Category (Natural, Poaching, Accidental, Retaliatory killing, Other)	Whether any body part (horn / tusk / hair/ teeth/ meat/ hoof/ skin, etc.) is missing
1	24.11.25	Olive ridley decomposed carcass	near Dobanki Beat, Pirkhali- 5	Natural death	Natural	N.A.
2	28.05.25	Batagur baska (female)	Sajnekhali assurance colony	Natural death	Natural	N.A.
3	19.08.25	Batagur baska (2025 batch-juvenile)	Nursery pond-3, Sajnekhali	Natural death	Natural	N.A.
4	16.09.25	Saltwater Crocodile (juvenile)	Nuesery pond-1, Sajnekhali	Natural death	Natural	N.A.

Poaching Cases in STR in past few years:

YEAR	NAME OF ANIMAL	NUMBER
2021-22	NIL	NIL
2022-23	NIL	NIL
2023-24	NIL	NIL
2024-25	NIL	NIL
2025-26	NIL	NIL

Rescue of wild animals during 2025-26:

Sl. No.	Date/ Month	Animal Name	No.	Release Date	Release Place/ Compartment No.
1	14-04-2025	Jungle Cat	1	25-05-2025	Pirkhali - II
2	03-05-2025	Jungle Cat	4	27-05/2025	Pirkhali II
3	20-05-2025	Monocled Cobra	1	22-05-2025	Pirkhali – I
4	11-06-2025	Jungle Cat	3	26-06-2025	Pirkhali -II
5	12-06-2025	King Cobra	1	13-06-2026	Pirkhali -II
6	17-06-2025	Fresh water Soft Shell Turtle	7	19-07-2025	Sajnekhali Pond
7	18-06-2025	Jungle Cat	2	25-06-2025	Pirkhali -II
8	17-07-2025	Monocled Cobra	1	18-07-2025	Pirkhali -II
9	18/07/2025	Olive Ridley	1	09-08-2025	Harintana Char (NPW)
10	20/07/2025	Jungle Cat	1	22-07-2025	Pirkhali -I
11	21/07/2025	Jungle Cat	1	24/07/2025	Pirkhali-II
12	06/08/2025	Olive Ridley	1	27-08-2025	Kendo Beat (NPW)
13	08-08-2025	Monocled Cobra	1	09-05-2025	Pirkhali -II

Sl. No.	Date/ Month	Animal Name	No.	Release Date	Release Place/ Compartment No.
1	14-04-2025	Jungle Cat	1	25-05-2025	Pirkhali - II
14	19-08-2025	Olive Ridley	1	27-08-2025	Kendo Beat (BPW)
15	01-10-2025	Monocled Cobra	1	05-10-2025	Pirkhali - I
16	06-10-2025	Monocled Cobra	1	07-10-2025	Pirkhali - II
17	26-10-2025	Monocled Cobra	1	27-10-2026	Pirkhali -II
18	01/11/2025	Monocled Cobra	1	01-11-2025	Pirkhali -II
19	09-12-2025	Indian flap shell turtle	3	10-12-2025	Sajnekhali Pond
20	24-12-2025	Leopard Cat	1	26-12-2025	Pirkhali-II
21	29-04-2026	Olive Ridley	1	11-05-2026	Haldibari (NPW)
22	30-04-2025	Jungle Cat	1	11-05-2026	Pirkhali - II

Tiger Capture/ Radio collaring of Tigers during FY 2025-26: Nil

DNA fingerprinting of tigers in Sundarban Tiger Reserve in FY 2025-26: Nil.

Census of Wildlife:

2025-26 Tiger Estimation:

In Sundarbans landscape, tigers occupy 1895 sq. KM area (published report of AITE 2021-22, Govt of India). 81 tigers were photo captured in Sundarban Tiger Reserve, and 20 tigers were photo-captured in adjoining South 24 Parganas, as per the published report of AITE 2021. However, one tiger was common between two divisions. The best model for estimating tiger density took into account the heterogeneity associated with tiger gender for both the detection probability at the activity centre and the movement parameters. Tiger density was estimated as 4.27 (SE 0.43) tigers per 100 sq. KM. The g_0 (detection at activity centre) for females was 0.009 (SE 0.0006) while for males it was 0.007 (SE 0.0005). The σ (movement/scale parameter) for females was 4.1 (SE 0.1) km while for males it was 6.4 (SE 0.2) km. The detection corrected sex ratio was 2 females per male.

In this FY 2025-26, the tiger estimation exercise was carried out with full devotion between November 2025 and January 2026 along with Sign Survey. This FY is market as the AITE-2026 year and the tiger population data will be published by the National Tiger Conservation Authority, New Delhi, guided by the MoEF & CC.



Tigress with her cub, Phase IV camera trap exercise, 2024-25, STR

Sundarban Bird Festival (4th SBF, January 2026):

Sundarban Tiger Reserve (STR) and South 24 Parganas Division under the guidance of Wildlife Wing of the West Bengal Forest Department has organized the 3rd Sundarban Bird Festival (SBF) on 23rd to 27th January, 2026 with the objective of bringing in awareness about the conservation of Avifauna and provide interesting insights into the world of avifauna in Sundarbans. The festival was inaugurated with the photography exhibition at Sajnekhali MIC Hall. Post the inaugural session, sessions on orientation of the participants to the objectives of the festival and informative sessions on the topics like Evolutionary aspect of ornithology, Training and identification of waders, Bird migration all with specific focus to Sundarbans were organised. This was followed by a conservation photography session by world renowned conservationist and photographer Shri Dhritiman Mukherjee. A thorough training on the data collection protocol, roles of different persons in the team, and the expected outcome of the exercise was completed. Six resource persons along with twenty four (24) participants and other field staff were then divided into 6 different teams each with the responsibility to cover the specific routes within a 3 day period (24 January- 26 January, 2025) of fieldwork. Each team was led by the Resource person as the knowledge head and a staff member of the Forest Department as the team head.

The weather condition was mostly good during the exercise. A total of 168 avian species were recorded with 30986 numbers of birds in the 3 day exercise. The authority adopted the one- day extra field survey from 2025 with more hotspot area coverage. Hence, the total recorded species of birds sighted also have considerably increased. Out of all the threatened species of birds as per the State of Indian Birds Report (SoIB) 2023, 14 species were recorded during the bird trails. A pair of Himalayan Griffon Vulture was recorded from Netidhopani during the survey. The panel discussion on the 27th January, 2026 with the resource persons and the participants, existing and emergent issues related to the conservation of avifauna were discussed in detail and deliberated for determining the future course of action.

Saltwater Crocodile Estimation (2025-26):

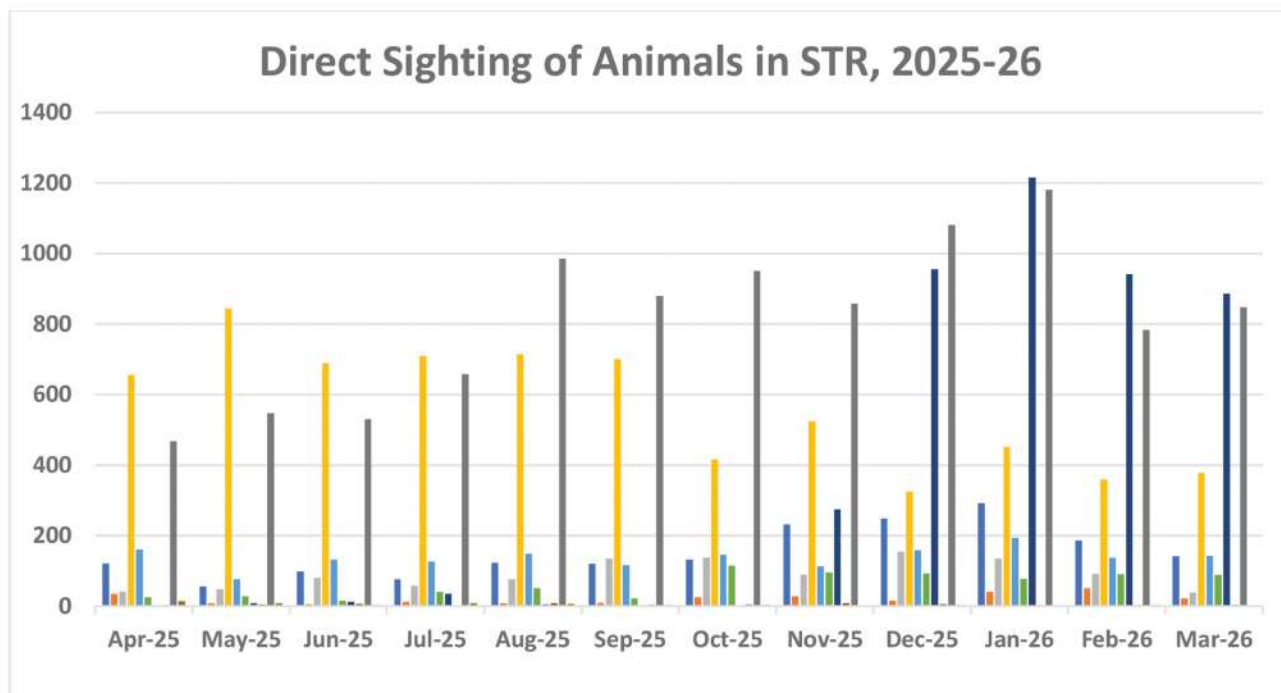
Saltwater crocodiles are one of the apex predators in the Sundarban landscape and they play an important role in maintaining the health of the aquatic ecosystem. Saltwater crocodiles are an important indicator species of the health of the aquatic ecosystem. The conservation of aquatic ecosystems is important to conserve the overall biodiversity of the region apart from supporting the fringe population which depends on fishing and crab collection for their livelihood. A detailed population assessment exercise was planned and conducted during the months between December 2025 to February 2026 to assess the population status of the saltwater crocodiles in Indian Sundarbans and to increase the understanding of the habitat ecology of the species. This exercise is in continuation of the previous year's exercise with the necessary modifications and additions. The exercise captured the direct and indirect sighting data of saltwater crocodiles, salinity, surface water and ambient temperature for basking, creek widths and other parameters like slope of the banks and vegetation. The exercise was conducted for 3 months i.e. 3 days in each of the 3 months covering the whole transect length in Sundarbans. The days of the exercise were finalized using the neap phase dates of the moon and forecasted temperature range. The transect length was also increased in comparison to the previous exercise (2023-24) covering all the most probable creeks for sighting the saltwater crocodiles. The inferences and learnings from the previous year's exercise was used to fine tune the methodology and transects so as to get more statistically significant data for further analysis. The exercise was successful in capturing the requisite data for a comprehensive analysis of the population and

the habitat ecology parameters of Saltwater crocodiles in Indian Sundarbans. Analysis of the data shows the number of saltwater crocodiles in Sundarbans has increased in comparison to the previous exercise that was held in 2012 and 2024. Total direct sighting along the transect length of around 1168 kilometres was 252 for the whole of Sundarban Biosphere Reserve (SBR). The final report is yet to be published and will be uploaded in the official website of STR.

Direct Sighting of other Animals in respect of Sundarban Tiger Reserve in 2025-26, based on daily RT reporting:

Months	Wild Boar	Otter	Crocodile	Deer	Dolphin	Water Monitor	Waterbird	Fishing Cat	Monkey	Snake
Apr-25	121	35	41	656	160	25	0	3	468	14
May-25	56	8	48	844	76	28	8	5	547	8
Jun-25	98	6	80	689	132	15	12	7	530	3
Jul-25	76	12	58	709	126	40	35	0	658	8
Aug-25	123	8	76	714	149	51	5	8	986	7
Sep-25	120	9	135	701	116	22	0	4	879	3
Oct-25	132	25	138	416	146	115	0	5	951	4
Nov-25	232	28	90	525	113	95	274	8	858	2
Dec-25	248	15	154	325	158	93	956	6	1081	3
Jan-26	292	40	135	451	193	77	1216	3	1181	1
Feb-26	186	51	92	359	137	91	941	3	784	3
Mar-26	142	22	38	378	143	89	886	4	848	0

The graphical representation is given below:



Translocation of wild animals during 2025-26: Nil.

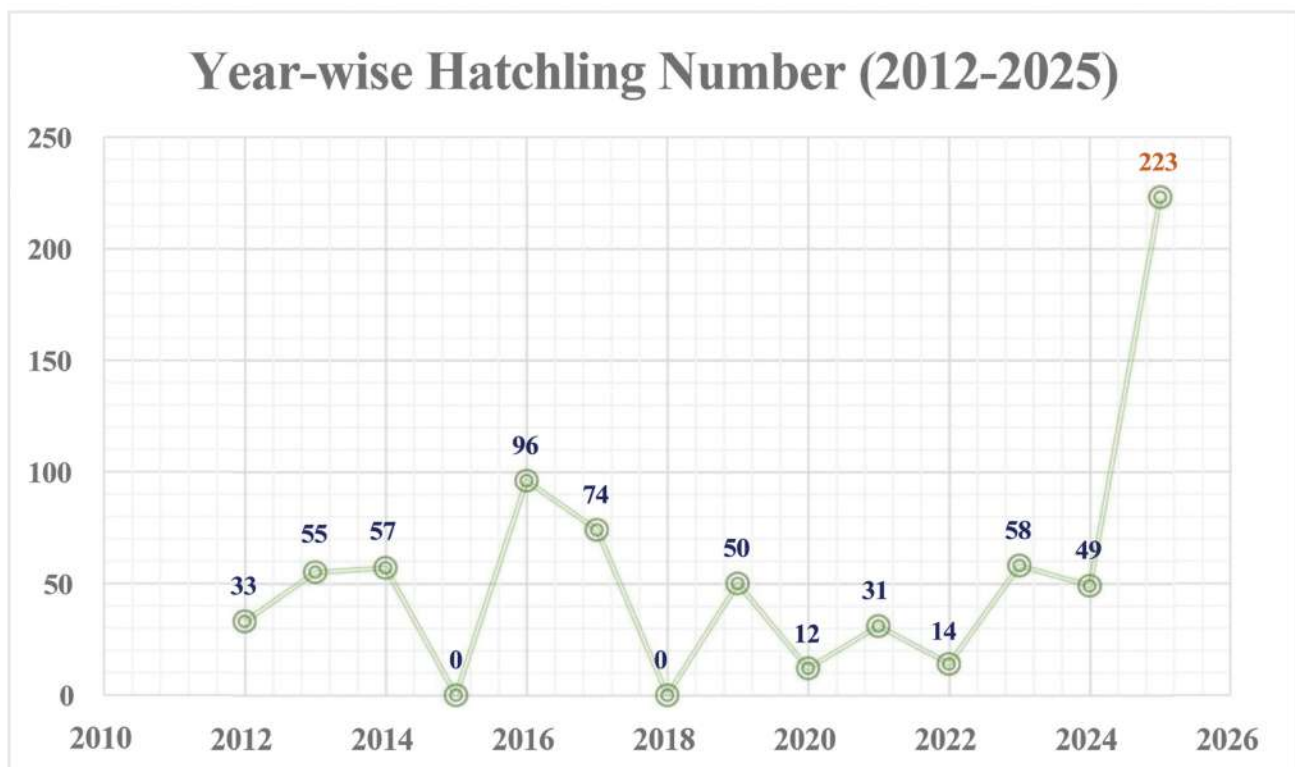
Batagur baska Conservation Breeding Project in 2025-26:

Breeding Management and Egg Incubation-

Preparatory activities for the 2026 breeding season included the translocation of 22 gravid females to designated breeding pools at Sajnekhali to ensure suitable nesting opportunities. In addition, two mature males were shifted from Sajnekhali to Jhila Conservation Facility to address the absence of breeding males and enhance reproductive potential at that site.

A total of 267 eggs were collected during the 2026 breeding season, comprising 199 eggs from Sajnekhali and 68 eggs from Jhila. Eggs were incubated under controlled temperature and humidity conditions using both natural and artificial methods. This approach enabled comparison of hatching success while refining incubation protocols.

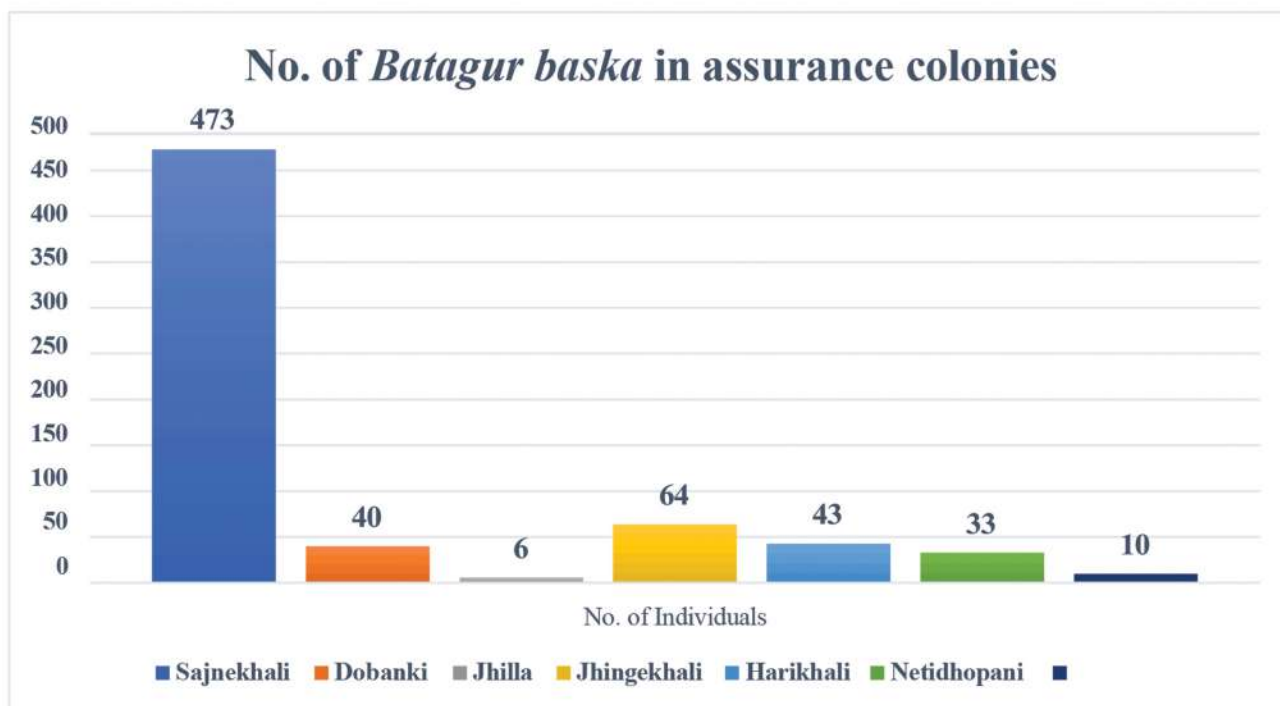
The 2025 breeding season resulted in the production of 223 hatchlings, including 105 hatchlings from artificial incubation and 118 hatchlings from natural incubation. Artificial incubation achieved an 84% hatching success rate, representing the highest level of success recorded in the project.



The figure illustrates the progressive increase in hatchling production over time and highlights the substantial improvement achieved in FY 2025-26.

Assurance Colony Management-

As of March 2026, the total assurance colony population in the Sundarban Tiger Reserve reached 669 individuals distributed across seven conservation facilities. Sajnekhali remained the principal conservation facility, holding 473 individuals, followed by Jhingekhali (64), Harikhali (43), Dobanki (40), Netidhopani (33), Chamta (10), and Jhila (6).



This decentralized management strategy reduces the risk of catastrophic loss due to disease outbreaks, infrastructure failure, or site-specific environmental disturbances.

Habitat Preparation and Infrastructure Improvement-

Sand banks were prepared and improved at Sajnekhali, Jhingekhali, Chamta, Netidhopani, and Jhilla to provide suitable nesting and basking substrates prior to the breeding season. Additional support was provided for strengthening fencing, installing protective netting, and improving ventilation through exhaust fans and mesh doors. Recommendations were also made for future installation of camera traps and additional basking platforms.

These interventions enhanced habitat quality and reduced environmental stressors affecting breeding adults and developing eggs.

Routine Husbandry and Health Monitoring-

Daily husbandry included provision of nutritionally balanced diets, monitoring of feeding behavior, and regular health checks. Monthly morphometric measurements (till October) were collected for hatchlings from 2025 season, including straight carapace length, straight carapace width, plastron length, and body weight.

PIT Tagging and Scientific Monitoring-

A total of 67 individuals were implanted with Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags across five conservation facilities. PIT tagging provides permanent individual identification and supports accurate long-term monitoring of growth, survival, and movement.

Research activities undertaken during the year included comparative growth analyses, preparation of a manuscript on life-history traits, development of non-invasive sex identification methods, and formulation of proposals for genetic and phylogeographic studies.

Chapter 12

Man-Animal Conflict



Nestled at the delta of the Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers, the Sundarbans is a sprawling mangrove labyrinth celebrated for its extraordinary biodiversity, including its iconic Bengal tiger. Yet this verdant wilderness is also the stage for recurring clashes between human communities and wildlife. Farmers and fishers venturing deeper into the forest to sustain their livelihoods increasingly encounter tigers, crocodiles, and venomous snakes, resulting in devastating losses of life and property on both sides. Habitat destruction from agricultural expansion, aquaculture development, and rising sea levels exacerbates these confrontations by pushing wildlife into human settlements. Addressing this escalating conflict demands integrated strategies that reconcile local livelihoods with the imperative of conserving one of the world's most unique and fragile ecosystems. The present status is depicted below:

1. Human Casualties by wild animal (2025-26): Nil
2. Human injuries by wild animal (2025-26): Nil
3. Crop damage (2025-26): Nil
4. Hut damage (2025-26): Nil
5. Livestock killed (2025-26): Nil
6. Details of staff casualties / injuries (2025-26): Nil
7. Straying of wild animals during 2025-26: Nil

PROTOCOL FOR CREATION AND MAINTENANCE OF NYLON NET FENCING:

Nylon-net fences have been found to play an important role in preventing the straying out of tigers into village's areas from forest. A protocol for maintenance of the nylon-net fencing has been designed with an aim of carrying out thorough checking and proper maintenance. The Protocol includes involvement of local stakeholders of JFMC members also along with forest staff.

To mitigate the tiger straying a thought of mechanical barrier came out in field level by obstructing the route of the tiger from where it strayed in the villages. Therefore, the concept of fencing along the forest villages interface was developed and interestingly it works as a psychological barrier rather than a mechanical barrier. Forest officials in the early 2000s noticed that the villagers erected Fishing Nets in and around the safe shed and homes so as to prevent them from the tiger if it strayed in the villages. On further questioning and deliberations, a new innovative idea of passively fencing the forest boundaries with such nets came up and was tried using locally available materials like Bamboo and Nylon rope nets on a trial and pilot basis. This actually resulted in reduction in the tiger straying incidences in the area where the Nylon Net fencing was installed. Then slowly the Nylon Net fencing was increased to the whole stretch of the forest boundary which is adjacent to the villages which has reduced the tiger straying incidences significantly. Slowly the erection and maintenance of Nylon Net Fencing became a part of the management plan and a routine activity for the staff.

Practicing Nylon Net Fencing:

- Initially the boundaries of the vulnerable forest areas along the river, associated lands with fringe villages were fenced by vegetative cover i.e. Ceriops- Excoecaria combination with nylon rope, commonly known as 'Garan chitte'.
- The height of the fencing initially was 6-8 now bamboo posts help to erect the fencing at a height of 10 – 12 ft.
- The normal mesh size remains 4" X 4" to avoid any strangulation of wild animals like deer. The net is made of 4mm, 3-strand IP- PARA yellow Nylon rope.
- Fencing checking Protocol: A Fencing Register will be kept in each station and records will be kept in accordance to the parameters given.

Parameters for fence checking:

The total length of Nylon Net fencing has to be checked as proposed on following parameters:

- Height of Nylon Net fencing maintained (The height should be of 10 ft minimum; (in case of new fencing) and 8.0ft (in case of old fencing).
- Height of Khal guard to be maintained at least 5 ft above from the highest tidal level estimated for 'Kotal' period.
- Condition of nylon rope of the net (if the net found brittle, immediately it should be changed after bringing it to due notice to the concerned authority).
- Condition of the posts of the fencing (if found rotting at the base, to be changed immediately after bringing it to due notice to the concerned authority).
- Condition of the runner (the tensile strength to be checked) GI runners to be used.
- Condition of khal guard (if sagging noticed, to be repaired immediately).
- Monitoring frequency (as proposed)- 'Reverse funnels made by nylon-net fences at Khal mouth should be maintained with at least 50mt. side wing. Fencing posts will be changed from 'Bain' to 'Goran' to bamboo in phases depending on availability of the same.

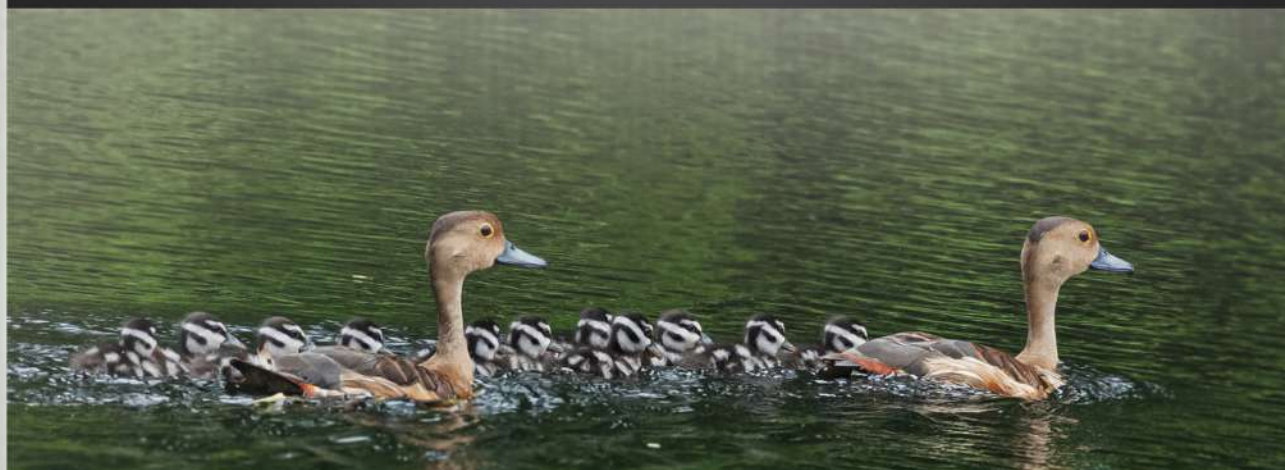
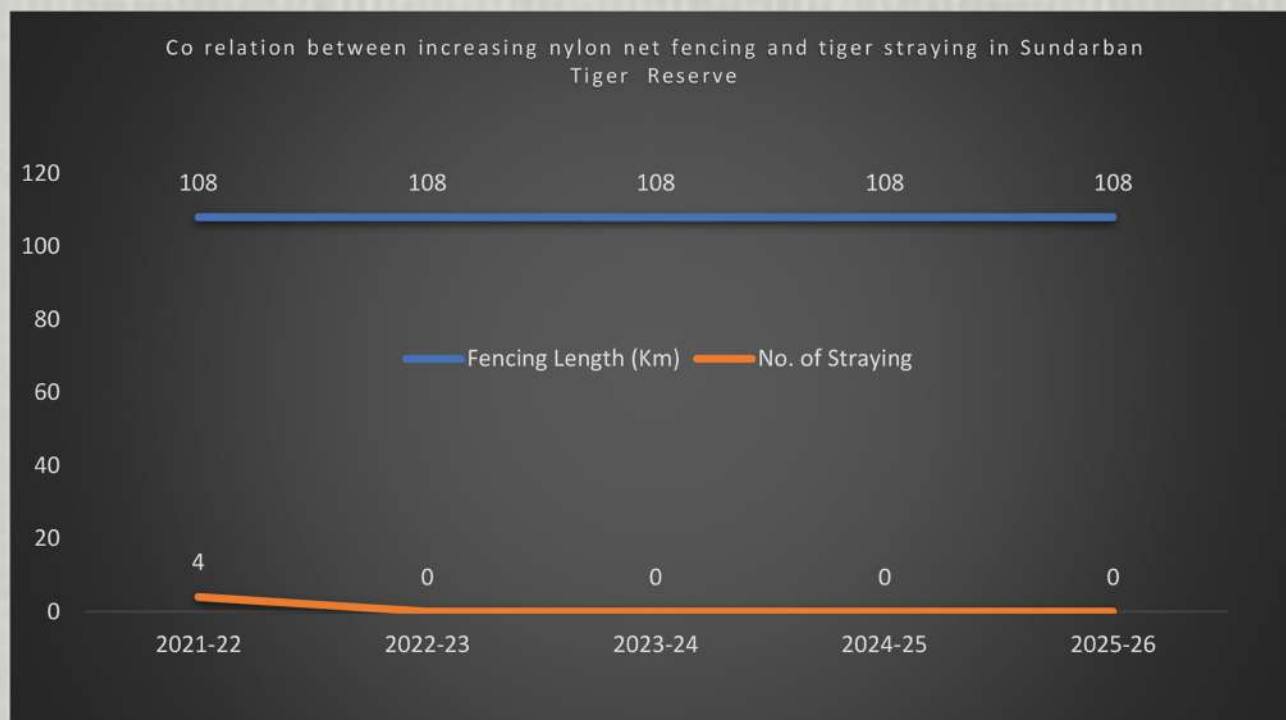


The map showing the N-N Fencing boundary in STR jurisdiction.

Range wise location of the existing Nylon-Net fencing in 2025-26 and its maintenance is given below:

Coverage area (Range/ Block/ Compartment)	Total Length of Nylon Net Fencing (Km)	Present status	Remarks
NP West (Hq Vidya)	22	Functional	Maintained daily as per net checking protocol
SWLS (Hq Pakhrala)	40		
BHT (Hq Jhila)	46		
Total	108 Km		

The co-relation graph between Nylon Net Fencing and Tiger straying incidents in STR jurisdiction shown below:



Chapter 13

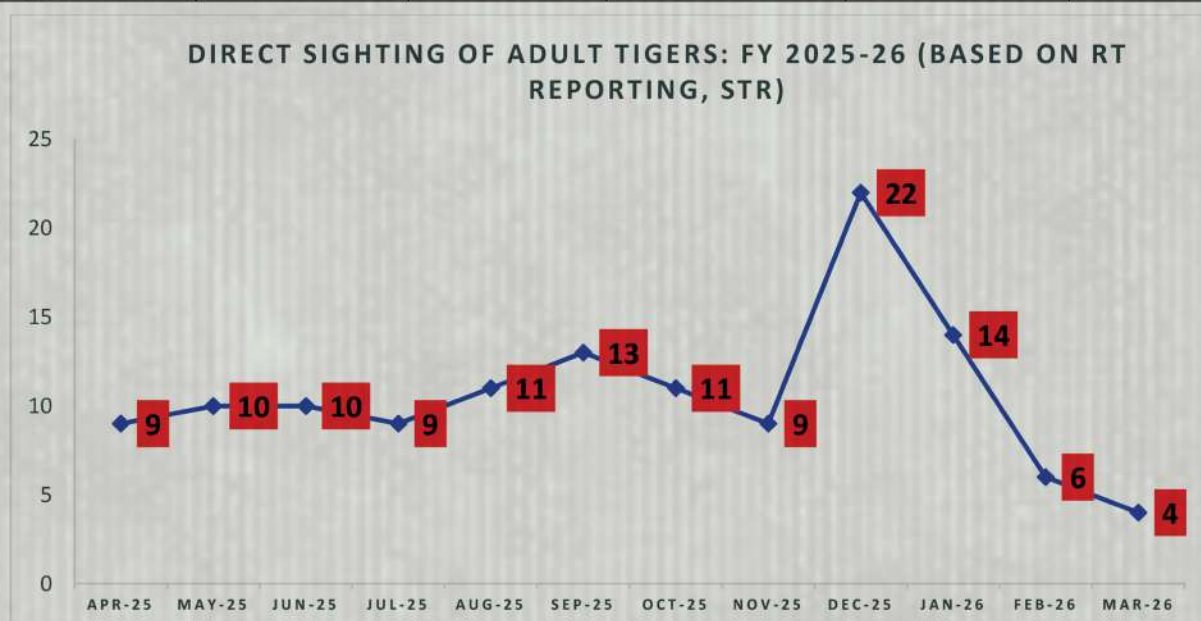
Tiger Monitoring



TIGER MONITORING IN STR

Tiger Monitoring a well-adapted monthly monitoring system where direct tiger sightings and other evidence (indirect) of presence of tigers and their movements in the Tiger Reserve are being recorded, as per the directive of National Tiger Conservation Authority (formerly known as 'Project Tiger'). The table given below shows a summary of the month- wise scenario of tiger monitoring in STR.

Month	Frequency of Direct sighting		Heard of roaring	Frequencies of Sighting of fresh pugmarks	
	Adult	Cub		Adult	Cub
April 2025	09	00	03	109	00
May 2025	10	00	00	69	00
June 2025	10	00	02	36	00
July 2025	09	00	04	22	00
August 2025	11	00	01	33	00
September 2025	13	00	07	42	00
October 2025	11	00	06	63	00
November 2025	09	00	04	141	00
December 2025	22	00	00	150	00
January 2026	14	00	05	107	00
February 2026	06	00	05	70	00
March 2026	04	00	05	75	00



Tiger Population Estimation of 2025-26:

Planning and execution of the exercise-

At the very first step, high resolution maps of four territorial ranges under STR were procured. The entire survey area was divided into grid cells of 2 sq. km each, as per NTCA protocol guided by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun. The division of the study area into grid cells was done to systematically divide the area and allow teams to decide on sites such that maximum possible coverage could be ensured, while maintaining a sufficient minimum distance between camera trap stations. Beats are the units of the survey.

This was the year of All India Tiger Estimation- 2026, the experts of WII- Dehradun along with NTCA members provide an extensive training to the frontline staff at Sajnekhali WLS and its adjacent areas.

The training programs refreshed the skills of experienced forest staff in using camera traps and GPS devices and assisted in planning the exercise execution. These programmes helped in brushing up the skills of the experienced forest staff regarding the use of camera traps, GPS devices, and data collection methodology and also in planning the execution of the exercise.

Sl. No	Timeline	Events
1	28-30 th October, 2025	Training of Trainers (ToT) for Sign survey and Camera trap both by the NTCA team and WII- experts.
2	11-13 th December, 2025	Sign Survey (Field work)
3	25.11.2025 to 15.01.2026	Camera Trap exercise (Field Work)

Field Team Formation-

The teams were led by the Beat officers along with other frontline staff. The Range officers were engaged in overall management during the exercise. Bashirhat (BHT) and Sajnekhali WLS posses 2 teams whereas NP East and NP West posses 3 teams during the survey.

Mode of transport- Though the whole area is penetrable through the waterways, boats are the only means of transportation.

Technical Attributes:

Machinery used for survey- GPS Machines (etrex 20X, 30X), Cuddyback digital trap camera, Cuddyback Professional Camera, Bharti telecom digital camera, Bushnell Trap camera.

Camera installation and data Collection in 2025-26 (i.e. AITE- 2026)-

Study Area	Exercise		CT Pairs
	Installation	Withdrawal/ Removal	
Block 1 (STR)	25.11.2025 to 29.11.2025	12.01.2026 to 15.01.2026	582
Block 2 (South 24 Pgs)	25.11.2025 to 27.11.2025	10.01.2026 to 12.01.2026	160
			Total= 742



Picture showing trap camera installation points during Camera Trap Exercise in STR, 2025-26.

Over the past few years, the number of tiger cubs in the Sundarbans has been steadily rising. Conservation initiatives, stricter anti-poaching measures, and community involvement have played pivotal roles in this success. The most recent data shows an encouraging upward trend in the tiger population, with cubs making up a significant portion of this growth.



Demography of Tiger Individuals captured in Sundarban Landscape (2018-19 to 2024-25):

RANGE	NO. OF INDIVIDUALS BY YEAR					
	2018-19 (AITE)	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 (AITE)	2023-24*	2024-25*
SWLS	-	10	12	STR 81	16	17
BHT	-	19	17		19	19
NPW	-	20	21		23	24
NPE	-	24	24		25	23
S- 24 PGS	-	23	22	20	22	22
Total	88	96	96	101	105	105

*Cubs are not considered in population estimation, as per the guideline of NTCA. Identification of tigers was carried out by ocular flank matching, so there may be manual errors.

Importance of Tiger Cubs:

1. Indicator of a Healthy Ecosystem: Tigers are apex predators, and their presence indicates a balanced and healthy ecosystem. The increase in cub numbers suggests that the Sundarbans' environment is thriving, supporting a robust prey base and maintaining ecological stability.
2. Genetic Diversity: A growing number of cubs contributes to the genetic diversity of the tiger population, reducing the risks associated with inbreeding and increasing the resilience of the species to diseases and environmental changes.
3. Future Population Growth: Tiger cubs are the future of the species. Their survival into adulthood ensures the continuation and potential expansion of the population, helping to stabilize and eventually increase the overall tiger numbers in the Sundarbans.

Status of Tiger Conservation Plan preparation as on 31.03.2026:

Name of PA	Status			Covering period
	Approved	Under preparation	Not prepared	
STR	Approved on 6th July, 2020	—	Prepared	2017-18 to 2026-27



A good number of prey species is present in STR and it is also important to maintain the equilibrium of the ecosystem, as per the Lotka- Volterra Model of Predator-prey relationship.

Chapter 14

Sabujshree

Sabujshree is a Govt of West Bengal Project, launched in May 2016. The idea is that for each child birth in every block, the parents are given a tree sapling of specific timber wood along with some fertilizer pack and a certificate of concerned Range Officer from Forest department, that the parents don't have to take permission from forest department for harvesting of the mature tree which would be grown from that distributed sapling.

The big goal of the scheme is that the fund procured by selling the matured tree is for the child's education purpose. No permission will be needed from the Forest Dept for the disposal of the tree to be harvested after maturity. Gosaba, the only fringe block of South 24 Pgs district under Sundarban Tiger Reserve had a nominal birth of children as per the requisition placed by the Block Development Officer, Gosaba CD Block.

Date of Letter Issued from this office	Report of the Month of -	No. of children born on and after 27.05.2016 till date of reporting (A)	Cumulative No of beneficiaries to whom saplings have been distributed since the inception of the schemes (B)	C= (A-B)
20.05.2025	Apr-2025	15725	15704	21
09.06.2025	May-2025	15747	15725	22
04.07.2025	Jun-2025	15788	15747	41
04.08.2025	Jul-2025	15726	15788	38
11.09.2025	Aug-25	15826	15788	38
09.10.2025	Sept-25	15871	15856	15
06.11.2025	Oct-25	15927	15871	56
10.12.2025	Nov-25	15962	15927	35
05.01.2026	Dec-25	15987	15962	25
03.02.2026	Jan-26	16026	15987	39
06.03.2026	Feb-26	16048	16026	22
16.04.2026	Mar-26	16066	16048	18



Chapter 15

Ecotourism



Sundarban has always been alluring to the tourists who come here to enjoy the scenic beauty of the pristine mangrove forests. Since inception of Tiger Reserve there has been a steady increase of visitors to the area. The tourists entering the Tiger Reserve have to take a permit after paying the entry fees. Presently, the entry of the tourists is restricted mainly within the Buffer area. Tourist inflow continuously increases in last year which have created huge pressure on Biodiversity.

Eco-tourism aspects in the division:

There are 7 tourist spots except the water body part, namely, Sajnekhali, Dobanki, Sudhanyakhali (SWLS Range), Harikhali, Burirdabri, Jhingekhali (BHT Range), and Netidhopani (NPW) Range.

Tourists visited and amount collected in FY 2025-26:

Name of Eco-tourism site (PA/Zoo/Eco-park/ NIC, etc.)	Number of tourists visited		Total amount collected (Rs.)
	Indian	Foreigner	
STR Jurisdiction	6,08,936	3,301	NIL*
List of Forest Rest Houses in STR: NIL			

*Tourism entry fees levied for entering the STR was suspended by order of the PCCF(WL) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt of WB, vide memo no. 382(13)/WL/2M-638/2023 (Pt- XI, dated 04.02.2025 until further orders.



Chapter 16

Other Important Activities



Medical camps (FY 2025-26):

Sl.	DATE	AREA (JFMC/VILLAGE)	NO BENEFICIARY (MALE/FEMALE)	AGENCY / NGO
1.	21.12.2025	Kalitala- Pargumti	66 (sixty-six) only	Society for Disease Control and Research
2	04.01.2026	Hemnagar	50 (fifty) only	Society for Disease Control and Research
3.	31.01.2026	Adharpara	78 (seventy-eight) only	Society for Disease Control and Research
4.	14.12.2025	Lahiripur- Chargheri	300 (three hundred) only	Pather Sathi and Lions Club
5.	20.12.2025	Lahiripur Santigachi		
6.	04.01.2026	Anpur Rajat Jubilee		

Veterinary Camps (FY 2025-26):

Sl.	Date	JFMC	Cattle	Goat	Sheep	Poultry Bird	Duck	Pig	Dog	Cat
1	29.10.2025	Sonagaon	132	367	28	892	203	06	01	00
2	30.10.2025	Dulki	229	391	21	970	293	05	01	01
3	03.11.2025	Pakhiralay	262	332	198	3398	1098	02	17	02
4	11.11.2025	Dayapur	129	233	29	970	373	00	03	00
5	26.11.2025	Jamespur	140	239	00	1115	422	00	01	00
6	02.12.2025	Anpur- Rajat Jubilee	129	292	00	1196	378	05	04	00
7	13.12.2025	Lahiripur- Santigachi	230	427	04	1892	721	00	05	00
8	21.12.2025	Chargheri- Lahiripur Santigachi	138	387	10	1133	368	00	03	00
9	08.01.2026	Luxbagan Parashmani Bidhan Colony	204	274	00	1258	809	08	05	00
TOTAL			1593	2942	290	12824	4665	26	40	03

Seminar / Workshop organized on wildlife management & other wildlife related matters during 2025-26:

Representatives of the CCF and FD Office, STR attended the programmes during FY 2025-26.

SL. No.	Date of Workshop on Wildlife and Forest Law Enforcement / Training Programme	Purpose of Workshop on Wildlife and Forest Law Enforcement / Training Programme
1	07.05.2025 to 09.05.2025	'Geographical Indication as a tool for the conservation of Natural Resources"
2	28.05.2025	'Biodiversity Conservation - Mangrove Ecosystem"
3	28.05.2025	Workshop on "RET Species"
4	18.06.2025	National Workshop
5	06.08.2025 to 07.08.2025	Capacity Building Programme for Forest & Police Personal of West Bengal on Handling Wildlife Crime Cases
6	12.08.2025	Establishing linkages of Jalaj centers with a large market platform under the National Mission for clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Shakti sponsored project "Jalaj"- Connecting River and People to realize Arth Ganga"
7	03.11.2025 to 04.11.2025	Training on Law (BNS, BNSS, BSA) related matter
8	03.11.2025 to 04.11.2025	Training on on "RET Species", Seed stand, grafting related matter
9	06.07.11 to 07.11.2025	Training on GIS, Working Plan, Felling, CFC related matter
10	13.11.2025 to 14.11.2025	Training on Law (BNS, BNSS, BSA) related matter
11	16.12.2025	Training-cum-Workshop on submission of the Digital APO for 2026-27 on PARIVESH 2.0 Portal
12	09.03.2026 to 20.03.2026	14th Comprehensive Course on Disaster Risk Management
13	06.07.2026 to 23.01.2027	International Study Tour on Knowledge Co-operation
14	10.11.2026 to 11.11.2026	Field Visit by the Director, Forest Training School-cum-DFO, Sarada Forest Division
15	24.02.2026 to 25.02.2026	Study Tour of East India Tour Programme of FRO Trainee officer 9th batch of 2025-26 of Himachal Pradesh Forest Academy, Sundernagar
16	17.02.2026 to 18.02.2026	North East India Study Tour Programme of FRO Trainee batch -XI 2024-26 of Tamilnadu Forest Academy, Coimbatore
17	23.03.2026 to 30.04.2026	Study Tour of North East and South India Tour Programme of FRO Trainee batch of 2025-26 of Gujrat Forest Rangers College, Rajpipla

Visit of dignitaries in STR during 2025-26:

SL. No.	Date of V.I.P Tour Programme	Purpose of V.I.P Tour	Name of Institution
1	09.06.2025 to 10.06.2025	Sundarban Visiting	Hon'ble Judge , Orissa High Court
2	03.06.2025 to 04.06.2025	Visiting Sundarban and Krishnanagar	Hon'ble Judge , Allahabad High Court
3	02.08.2025 to 03.08.2025	Meeting UNESCO Heritage Site	Consul General of France namely, Mr. Samuel Bouchard
4	02.08.2025 to 03.08.2025	Sundarban Hotel Sonar Bangla	Anjita Banerjee (Roy Chaudhury)
5	03.11.2025	Learning abot fauna ,flora,forest management and Human-Wildlife coexistenceat the Padma delta	Dean (FAC), Forest College and Research Institute of Hyderabad at Mulugu
6	14.10.2025 to 16.10.2025	Sundarban Visiting	Standing Committee on Backward Classes Welfare, West Bengal Legislative Assembly
7	19.09.2025 to 21.09.2025	Sundarban Visiting	Additional District Magistrate (Dev.)South 24 Parganas and his family members.
8	11.11.2025 to 12.11.2025	Stydy Visit tour	Standing Committee on Panchayats and Rural Developments and Sundarban Affairs(2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26) of West Bengal Legislative Assembly
9	21.11.2025 to 23.11.2025	Meeting with Mr. Sandeep Saha, Regional Head (NER & Ladakh), APEDA for honey collection points in mangrove areas inside the forest and meet exporters, honey collectors and local beekeepers.	New Zealand High Commission, New Delhi, Mr. Eshan Jayawardena, Manager Trade Plan Implementation for FTI in agriculture sector.
10	14.12.2025	Visiting Gosaba, Sudhanyakhali and Dobanki	Additional Director of Sericulture Head Qtrs. Kolkata
11	07.12.2025 to 08.12.2025	Visiting Sundarban	Hon'ble Justice Manoj Bajaj, Judge, Allahabad High Court, and his spouse
12	15.12.2025	Visiting Godkhali Sundarban	Hon'ble Justice Pramod Goyal, Judge, Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh with his spouse
13	22.12.2025 to 24.12.2025	Visiting Godkhali Sundarban	Hon'ble Justice Mukesh Rajpurohit, Judge, Rajashthan High Court with his spouse and two sons
14	28.12.2025 to 30.12.2025	Sundarban Visiting	Mr. Sandip Bhattacharjee, Additional Secretary attached to Hon'ble Chief Justice Shri Sujoy Paul, The Hon'ble Acting Chief Justice, Calcutta High Court (STATE GUEST) .
15	30.12.2025 to 31.12.2025	Visiting Sundarban and Sajnekhali	Hon'ble Justice Shri Ajay Kumar Gupta, Judge, Calcutta High Court, Chandigarh with his family members.
16	28.12.2025 to 30.12.2025	Visiting different places of Sundarban	Hon'ble Justice Shri Dipankar Datta, Judge, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India (STATE GUEST).
17	23.01.2026	Visiting Sundarban	Joint Block Development Officer, Basanti and other Officials

18	16.01.2026 to 17.01.2026	Sundarban Visit and Sajnekhali	Hon'ble Justice Shri Gautam Kumar Choudhary, Judge, High Court of Jharkhand, Ranchi with family members and for his Lordship's P.S.O and Driver.
19	16.01.2026	Visiting different places of Sundarban	Hon'ble Justice Shri Dhiraj Singh Thakur, Chief Justice, High Court of Andhra Pradesh (STATE GUEST) with family members .
20	09.02.2026 to 11.02.2026	Carry out a Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) related Field Survey at Sonagaon Mouza under Gosaba Block	Additional Director, Institute of Environmental Studies and Wetland Management (IESWM), Enviroment Department, Govt. of W.B.
21	12.03.2026 to 13.03.2026	Meeting about tourist belongs to America, visiting Sundarban and surrounding areas require assistance during emergencies, including natural disaster	Mr. Karl Mercer, Consular Section Chief of U.S.

Educational Tour at STR during FY 2025-26:

SL. No.	Timeline	Purpose of Educational Tour Programme	Name of Institution
1	23.12.2025	Educational Tour to Sundarban, Jharkhali and Dobanki for practical exposure to the unique mangrove ecosystem, wildlife conservation practices, tiger reserve management, and biodiversity of Sundarbanfor enhancing academic understanding.	Secretary cum Chairman of Ramkrishna Ashram Vidyalaya , Singerkone, Kalna, Purba Bardhaman.
2	3 days programme in October 2025 and early November 2025	For educate the studens on biodiversity in the Sundarban and also informing about the flora and fauna in the mangroves	Aishwarya Kali, Beauftragte Bildungskooperation Deutsch, Project Manager Educational Cooperation Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, Kolkata.
3	28.02.2026	Educational Tour to Sundarban for visiting Open Air Interpretation, Batagur baska Consevation Project, Watch Tower, Study and observation of Nylon Net Fencing intervention and innovation management of Human Animal Conflict in Sundarban, Study of Mangrove Arboretum, Watch Tower and Wildlife Pond Sundarkhali, Bonbhihibarani, Choragazi, Gazikhali and other creeks of Sundarban and study various ecological niches, tidal variation and ecosystem of Sundarbans mangrove canopy walk and study Eco-tourism management activities, Cruising through various creeks island .	Dean (Forestry)College of Forestry Ponnampet, Kodagu,University of Agricultural Sciences, Mandya.

NGO's active in Sundarban Tiger Reserve during 2025-26:

WWF-INDIA, Prakriti Samsad, WPSI, Bali Nature-Club, NATUREMATES-Nature Club, SHER, JUKTIBADI SANSKRITIK SANSTHA, BALI NATURE club, SAFE, HEAL, KOLKATA SOCIETY FOR CULTURAL HARITAGE, GIZ- India, NEWS, etc.

Batagur baska conservation breeding: Apart from the conservation breeding in Sajnekhali, Structured training programmes were conducted for Indian Forest Service trainees and Range Officer trainees, covering species biology, captive management, egg handling, hatchling care, and PIT tagging. More than 200 trainees participated during the reporting period. A video-based egg collection protocol was also developed to standardize field practices. School outreach programmes were conducted in seven schools across fringe villages of the Sundarbans, reaching more than 1,800 students. Educational materials developed during the year included a 66-page Teacher's Training Manual and a Bengali conservation storybook. A four-day embroidery training programme was conducted for women Self-Help Group members to promote conservation-linked livelihood opportunities. The programme encouraged local participation in species conservation while supporting skill development and income generation. In addition to livelihood initiatives, several public outreach events were organized during the reporting period to strengthen community participation and raise awareness on freshwater turtle conservation. Major events included the celebration of World Turtle Day, World Environment Day, and Wildlife Week in this FY.

Research Publication:

Publication of 3rd Sundarban Bird Festival report 2025 (available in official website).

Publication of Population Assessment & Habitat Ecology Study of Saltwater Crocodiles in Sundarbans 2025 (available in official website).

Publication of a Bengali Booklet- “ Mrigaranye Kurmasankat” by the STR and TSA-India (available in official website).

Jakher R, Justin SJ, Ghosh D. Camera-trap survey confirms the melanistic leopard cat *Prionailurus bengalensis* in the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve. *Oryx*. 2025;59(4):412-412. doi:10.1017/S0030605325101956. Published online by Cambridge University Press: 29 September 2025.



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The authority thanks to all frontline staff for the successful completion of the financial year 2025-26 and Research Range for compilation of the report.

We act contrite in advance for any unintentional errors (typing and typesetting etc.) made in the report.



ANNEXURE I

List of registered Self Help Groups in Sundarban Tiger Reserve area.

Sl.	SHG name	JFMC Area	JFMC Area
1	Banabithi	Sajnekhali	Luxbagan- parasmoni
2	Banabithi	Sajnekhali	Anpur- Rajatjublee
3	Champa	Sajnekhali	Anpur- Rajatjublee
4	Jibontari	Sajnekhali	Anpur- Rajatjublee
5	Ma Sarada	Sajnekhali	Lahiripur- Shantigachi
6	Ramkrishna	Sajnekhali	Lahiripur- Shantigachi
7	Banadevi	Sajnekhali	Lahiripur- Shantigachi
8	Sundari	Sajnekhali	Lahiripur- Shantigachi
9	Ma Laxmi	Sajnekhali	Lahiripur - Chargheri
10	Ma Banabibi	Sajnekhali	Lahiripur - Chargheri
11	Joy Ma Kali	Sajnekhali	Lahiripur - Chargheri
12	Baba Sri Hori	Sajnekhali	Lahiripur - Chargheri
13	Sri Sri Ramkrishna	Sajnekhali	Lahiripur - Chargheri
14	Joy Ma Kali	Sajnekhali	Lahiripur - Chargheri
15	Maa Basanti	Sajnekhali	Sonaga
16	Maa Monasha	Sajnekhali	Sonaga
17	Tiger	Sajnekhali	Sonaga
18	Gitanjali	Sajnekhali	Dulki
19	Garjan	Sajnekhali	Dulki
20	Shilya	Sajnekhali	Dulki
21	Sundari	Sajnekhali	Dulki
22	Maa Sitala	Sajnekhali	Dulki
23	5 No Dulki	Sajnekhali	Dulki
24	Chital	Sajnekhali	Dayapur
25	Ma Laxmi	Sajnekhali	Dayapur
26	Sonar Bangla	Sajnekhali	Dayapur
27	Palli Mata	Sajnekhali	Dayapur
28	Ma Ganga	NP West	Bijoynagar
29	Nirmala	NP West	Bijoynagar
30	Shuchetana	NP West	Bijoynagar
31	Akata	NP West	Bijoynagar
32	Bijaya	NP West	Bijoynagar
33	Sundari	NP West	Bijoynagar
34	Banolata	NP West	Bijoynagar
35	Banadabi	NP West	Bali
36	Sagarika	NP West	Bali
37	Biswakarma	NP West	Mathurakhand
38	Bhagabati	NP West	Amlamethi
39	Saradiya	NP West	Amlamethi
40	Bissha Mundha	NP West	Amlamethi
41	Kalimata	NP West	Amlamethi
42	Ranirashmoni	NP West	Amlamethi
43	Srima	NP West	Amlamethi

44	Joy Ma Durga	NP West	Amlamethi
45	Khudiram	NP West	Amlamethi
46	Annapurna	NP West	Amlamethi
47	Ma Laxmi	NP West	Amlamethi
48	Kachipata	Basirhat	Adharpara
49	Bangashree	Basirhat	Adharpara
50	Kanakchanpa	Basirhat	Adharpara
51	Akasganga	Basirhat	Adharpara
52	Banamata	Basirhat	Adharpara
53	Annadata	Basirhat	Adibasipara
54	Maa Bhabani	Basirhat	Adibasipara
55	Banaful	Basirhat	Adibasipara
56	Sarathi	Basirhat	Adibasipara
57	Aranyashikha	Basirhat	Adibasipara
58	Amrita	Basirhat	Bhruliapara
59	Bishnupriya	Basirhat	Bhruliapara
60	Krishna Sudama	Basirhat	Bhruliapara
61	Sapna Sandhani	Basirhat	Bhruliapara
62	Banasrijan	Basirhat	Bagna para
63	Srijani	Basirhat	Bagna para
64	Banabeethi	Basirhat	Hemnagar
65	Ma Bipattarini	Basirhat	Hemnagar
66	Radharani	Basirhat	Hemnagar
67	Juii	Basirhat	Kalitala- Parghumti
68	Vivekananda	Basirhat	Kalitala- Parghumti
69	Ichhamati	Basirhat	Kalitala- Parghumti
70	Mohuya	Basirhat	Kalitala- Parghumti
71	Barnali	Basirhat	Kalitala- Parghumti
72	Bana barta	Basirhat	Kalitala- Parghumti
73	Mouchak	Basirhat	Kalitala- Parghumti
74	Kankara	Basirhat	Kalitala- Parghumti
75	Rajani	Basirhat	Samsernagar
76	Jibandwip	Basirhat	Samsernagar
77	Tiger	Basirhat	Samsernagar
78	Nabadiganta	Basirhat	Samsernagar
79	Tiya	Basirhat	Samsernagar
80	Radharani	Basirhat	Hemnagar
81	Niribili	Basirhat	Hemnagar
82	Ma Bipattarini	Basirhat	Hemnagar
83	Banabibi	Basirhat	Hemnagar
84	Banalata	Basirhat	Hemnagar
85	Banabithi	Basirhat	Hemnagar

Appendix 2

Notification of Sajnekhali Wildlife Sanctuary

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

FOREST DEPARTMENT

FOREST NOTIFICATION

No. 5396-For/—24th June 1976—Whereas the area whose situation and boundaries are described in the Schedule below (hereinafter referred to as the said area) is considered to be of adequate ecological, faunal, natural and zoological significance;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the power conferred by sub-section (1) of section 18 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (53 of 1972), and in supersession of such part of all previous notifications as declared the said area or part thereof as a sanctuary, the Governor is pleased hereby to declare, with effect from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the said area to be a sanctuary to be known as Sajnekhali Wild Life Sanctuary for the purpose of protecting, propagating and developing wild life and its' environment.

The Schedule

A. Situation

District: 24-Parganas

24-Parganas Forest Division, Basirhat Range (Part) covering an approximate area of 362.40 Sq. Km. and comprising following forest blocks and compartments:

Blocks	Compartments
Panchamukhani	1 to 5
Pirkhali	1 to 7

B. Boundaries

North	:	Bara Herobhanga Khal, Gomdi Khal and Pich Khal.
East	:	Duttar Gang.
South	:	Part of Gosaba river and Netidhopani Khal.
West	:	Bidya river.

By order of the Governor,

A.K. GUPTA

Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of West Bengal

Appendix 3

Notification of National Park

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

FOREST DEPARTMENT

FOREST NOTIFICATION

No. 2867-For./11B-6/83.—4th May 1984.—Whereas by notification No. 3640 For., dated the 6th June 1978 published at page 1361 of Part I of the "Calcutta Gazette" dated the 13th July 1978, the Governor was pleased to declare his intention to constitute the forest lands covering an approximate area of 1330.10 sq. kms. and comprising reserve forest blocks and compartments, in the district of 24-Parganas, more fully described in the Schedule below (hereinafter referred to as the said lands) as a National Park to be called the "**Sunderbans National Park**" for the purpose of protecting, propagating and developing wild life therein;

And whereas more than two months from the date of such proclamaion have elapsed for preferring claim, as required under clause (b) of section 21 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, (53 of 1972), (hereinafter referred to as the said Act);

And whereas no claim has been preferred under section 19 of the said Act;

And whereas all rights in respect of the said lands have been vested in the State Government;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the power conferred by sub-section (4) of section 35 of the said Act, the Governor is pleased hereby to specify in the Schedule below the limits of the said lands comprising the reserve forest blocks and compartments and declare that with effect from the 14th May 1984, the same shall be a National Park to be called the "**Sunderbans National Park**" for the said purpose.

The Schedule

A. Situation

District: 24-Parganas

Forest lands covering an approximate area of 1330.10 sq. kms. and comprising the following reserve forest blocks and compartments:

Blocks	Compartments
Matla	1 to 4
Chamta	4, 5, 6, 7 and 8
Chhotahardi	1 to 3
Gosaba	1 to 4
Gona	1 to 3
Baghmara	2 to 8
Mayadwip	1 to 5

B. Boundaries

North	:	Reserve forest blocks and compartments, namely, Netidhopani-1, 2 and 3; Chamta-3 and 2; Chandkhali-2 and 4; and Baghmara-1.
East	:	Harinbhanga river adjoining the international boundary with Bangladesh.
South	:	Bay of Bengal.
West	:	Matla river.
By order of the Governor,		
R.N. DE		
Secy. to the Govt. of West Bengal		



Appendix 10

Notification of Critical Tiger Habitat

Government of West Bengal
Forests Department
Forest Branch

Writers' Buildings, Kolkata – 700 001

NOTIFICATION

No. 6028-For

Dated: 18.12.2007

WHEREAS it has been established on the basis of scientific and objective criteria that the area described in the Schedule below (hereinafter referred to as the said area) is required to be kept as inviolate for the purpose of tiger conservation, without affecting the rights of the Scheduled Tribes or such other forest dwellers;

WHEREAS the State Government agrees with the recommendation of the Expert Committee set up vide P.C.C.F. (Wildlife), Govt. of West Bengal's Office Order No. 12-M/8-2007 dt. 4.11.2007 that the said area should be maintained as the Core or Critical Tiger Habitat of Sundarban Tiger Reserve.

WHEREAS National Tiger Conservation Authority, Govt. of India, vide its memo No. 1501/11/2007-PT (Part) dated December 3, 2007, has also recommended that the said area be notified as the Core or Critical Tiger Habitat of Sundarban Tiger Reserve.

NOW, therefore, in exercise of the power conferred by paragraph (1) of the Explanation following sub-section (4) of Section 38 V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the Governor is pleased hereby to declare, with effect from the date of issue of this Notification, the said area to be the Core or Critical Tiger Habitat of Sundarban Tiger Reserve.

THE SCHEDULE

Sl. No.	Block	Compartment	Total Area (In Ha.)	Legal Status
1	Matla	1-4	17630	National Park
2	Chamta	1-3	9632	Reserved Forest
		4-8	12437	National Park
3	Chotahardi	1-3	17567	National Park
4	Goasaba	1-4	17173	National Park
5	Gona	1-3	13903	National Park
6	Baghmara	1	2430	Reserved Forest
		2-8	26963	National Park
7	Mayadwip	1-5	27336	National Park
8	Netidhopani	1-3	9300	Reserved Forest
9	Chandkhali	1-4	15591	Reserved Forest
			169962	

By order of the Governor

(K. Chaudhury)

Addl. Chief Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal



Sundarban Tiger Reserve
Canning Town, Dist: 24 Pgs (South), PIN: 743329, West Bengal, India.
sundarbantigerreserve.org