



Short Review Paper

## Perception of ecotourism in state of Madhya Pradesh, India

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### Abstract

Madhya Pradesh is endowed with rich and diverse forest resources. One third of the state is forested and offers an exciting panorama of wildlife. To enhance the conservation value of biological diversity, there is a need to establish awareness among the general public. Moreover, it was felt that the existing staff of the Forest department is overburdened with a number of tasks beyond their core focus of protection and administration. Therefore a volunteer force is proposed to be created comprising of wildlife enthusiasts who are basically citizens of civil society but dedicated to devote their time, talent and energy to help the State of Madhya Pradesh to manage its rich biodiversity in a better way. This Volunteer Force can assist various Park Managements in carrying out their critical functions without compromising on their core focus of conservation and protection of the biodiversity.

**Keywords:** Endowed, Wildlife, Biodiversity.

### Introduction

Tourism can bring both benefit and problems to an area it well planned developed and manage tourism generate local jobs in income provide fortunately to local entrepreneurs to establish tourism Enterprises all of which lead to improve living standard of Residence tax revenue generated by tourism can be used to improve community facilities and.

Tourism requires improved infrastructure which can be used by residents tourism can stimulate the expansion of other economic activities such as agriculture fisheries manufacturing and craft production.

Tourism can provide justification and help, pay for conservation of local natural areas archaeological and historical art craft and cultural tradition and overall improvement of environmental quality because these are attractions for tourist. However if not well planned developed and manage properly, tourist can result in Congestion, pollution and other environmental problems<sup>1-2</sup>.

Tourism and environment are closely interrelated. The natural and built environment provide many of attraction for the tourist and tourism Development can have both negative and positive impact on the environment. Sustainable Tourism Development depends on the protecting the environmental resources for tourism<sup>3</sup>.

### Ecotourism

*Ecotourism Means* "responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people, and involves interpretation and education".

Ecotourism is emerging trend of tourism and important component of the Indian tourist industry in general and Madhya Pradesh tourism in particular. Ecotourism has been considered here as sustainable, equitable, community based endeavor for improving the living standard of indigenous host communities.

Ecotourism support in economy of the country and enhancing bio-cultural diversity and helps protect the natural and cultural heritage of our beautiful planet. It increasing local capacity building and employment opportunities, ecotourism is an effective tool for empowering local communities around the world to fight against poverty and to achieve the better condition for the society.

Most tourism in natural areas today is not ecotourism. Ecotourism is distinguished by its emphasis on conservation, education, traveler responsibility and active community participation. Following characteristics are represent the ecotourism: visitor behavior, understanding towards, and admiration of, local culture, support for local maintenance efforts, sustainable settlement to local communities, people participation in decision-making, educational components for both the visitor and local communities.

Enlarged tourism to responsive natural areas without appropriate planning and management can harm the local environment and the culture of society. Due to the enhancement of number of tourist agitate the climate, political and social condition can lead to significant environmental degradation. These climatic, political and social fluctuations can make over-dependence upon tourism a risky business.

Hence government collects revenue from ecotourism which might not be obtainable from other sources. Furthermore, ecotourism can provide a practicable financially viable development option for local communities with few other income-generating options. Moreover, it can enhance the scenario of literacy and activism among travelers; also change them more passionate and efficient agents of preservation.

Tourism industry is amongst largest in the world and is on a pace to double in size over the next decade and it will supportive to generate revenue.

"Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people."

World Tourism Organization has define Ecotourism as "tourism that involve travelling to relatively undisturbed natural area with specified object of studying, admiring and enjoying the scenery and its wild plants and animals, as well as any existing cultural aspect (both of past and present) found in these area".

The Ecotourism Society (TES) defined Ecotourism as "responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and sustains the well- being of the local people". Its main aim is ecological and socio-cultural integrity, responsibility and sustainability. Ecotourism has developed from the traditional nature tourism and sustainable development concepts"<sup>4</sup>.

### **Eco tourism Potential in Madhya Pradesh**

There has been a significant growth in nature tourism all over the world. The world tourism attained new records with half a billion-tourist arrival all over the world in spite of the recession in the 2010. Madhya Pradesh (MP) with its vast resources in the form of natural landscape, bio-diversity, heritage sites and adventure sites has got tremendous potential in terms of promoting Ecotourism.

The Madhya Pradesh houses a diversity of ecosystems including plateaus, ravines, ridges, valleys, riparian areas and flat plains. With four major forest types, nine National Parks and 25 Wildlife Sanctuaries, the Tiger state houses one of the richest floral diversity. With around 5000 plant species home to six tribes with distinct customs, practices and diverse cultures, the biological diversity and Eco-tourism sustains livelihoods and ensures food security to two-fifth of the state 73.34 million population. Tourism in Madhya Pradesh is centered on nature and wildlife. It is in this context that "Eco-tourism" has gained its bearing in Madhya Pradesh. Eco-tourism also had potential to play an important role in creating environmental as well as cultural.

Madhya Pradesh has huge potential for eco tourism as it is very affluent in its natural range, cultural birthright and Civilization and traditions. Eco tourism potential of the state has not been

explored to its point as it carries in it. Pachmarhi well known hill station in the North East Provinces is Virtually a junction of forests representative types prevailing in the state. One-third area of Madhya Pradesh covered by forest. The unique treasure is wildlife promotion drive include developing new area in the state.

Ecotourism also has potential to play an important role in creating environmental as well as cultural awareness amongst all the stakeholders, local communities, tourists government in the private sector. Some key features of the state of Madhya Pradesh are such: Forest area of MP is 95221 sq km, 12.44% of India's total forest area, ecological sensitivity, other spatiality is four major rivers Guardian States, countries 22% Tiger States<sup>5</sup>.

### **Madhya Pradesh Ecotourism Policy**

The State Eco-tourism Board is continuous working on their developmental proramme themselves and with the help of other state department and they highly focused and expand their promotional activities like publicity campaign, documantry films through local radio channels. There is also a plan to produce a short film and launch a massive publicity campaign to promote eco-tourism in the State. The plan is to project Madhya Pradesh as a Tiger State through the short film and its VCD would be provided free of cost to tourists visiting the eco-tourism destinations in the State<sup>6</sup>.

Government doing the evaluation studies to get the feedback of their scheme and invite the suggestions from the people for new developments.

State government has also provided the needed focus on the development of Ecotourism in the area. State government playing an important role to stress the innate advantage of the Ecotourism plainly, and preparing the new forest policy p in the form of envisages creation of an environment conducive to attracting increased private investment in the tourism sector, and a more meaningful role for the government.

For the sustainable development and the encouragement of ecotourism and try to acquire apex ecotourism destination in India state government spotlight the following factor.

**Upgrading and expansion of basic infrastructure:** Progression and amplification of accommodation and entertaining facilities, Growth of transport facilities, Promotion of destination, Evolving suitable policies for increasing foreign exchange earnings.

### **Promotion of art and craft of Madhya Pradesh**

There are numbers of promotional activities organized by state government and NGOs like exhibition, Mela, Jatra, Rural Hat Bazar and Trade fair. Government encourage the workers by provide the facilities and rewards for their excellence.

## Eco tourism activities and facilities

Madhya Pradesh Ecotourism Development Board (MPEDB) has been developing ecotourism destinations at various potential places in the state with a focus on developing diverse and enriching ecotourism activities to give a unique experience of nature to tourists both from home and abroad<sup>6</sup>.

Acting within the tenets of the Forest Conservation Act, the Board intends to foster activities like camping, trekking, birding, tree huts, nature trails, watch towers, nature interpretation centre, adventure activities, and Wilderness Camp for nature lovers.

Eco friendly Accommodation's, Tracking and nature's Walks, Wildlife living and river cruise, Adventure sports, Angling, Herbal Eco tourism, Urban ecotourism for Eco Park, Visitor interpretation centre, Conservation education, Other facilities.

## Conceptual framework

Ecotourism which is known as nature based tourism .Due to the awareness of the society it is the top rising section of the global tourism industry. Ecotourism can be considered as a subset of sustainable tourism and nature tourism because it represents a sustainable way of travelling in natural areas.

Nature Tourism → Ecotourism ← Sustainable Tourism

Ecotourism promotes the natural environment which is non-destructive and non-consumptive and especially designed for interior rural and tribal area which are highly underdeveloped. The key considerations of ecotourism value the natural environment, respect of host culture and the local quality of life. It preserves the natural and terrific beauty and exceptionally spotless places with identify their own<sup>6</sup>.

Ecotourism is environmentally responsible travel and visitation to relatively undisturbed natural area, in order to enjoy and appreciate nature that promote conservation have the visitor negative impact and provides for beneficially active socio economic environment of local population.

## Rationale of the study

Ecotourism play an important role in promoting tourism in the state. The ecotourism department is a government body with the Sole motive of preserving the fauna and flora of the state and benefit the economic development of the state. Ecotourism helps to protect environment in a better way and if it is promoted well it has immense potential to attract foreign tourists and generate foreign revenues this is good work for the development of the state as well as for the betterment of the people of Madhya Pradesh.

## Conclusion

Tourism and environment are closely interrelated. The natural and built environment provide many of attraction for the tourist and tourism Development can have both negative and positive impact on the environment. Ecotourism support in economy of the country and enhancing bio-cultural diversity and helps protect the natural and cultural heritage of our beautiful planet. It increasing local capacity building and employment opportunities, ecotourism is an effective tool for empowering local communities around the world to fight against poverty and to achieve the better condition for the society.

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