

A Case Study: Nainital High Altitude Zoo, Ecotourism and People Participation

*Maya Nainwal, Narayan Singh, L. S. Lodhiyal & Balwant Kumar**

Department of Forestry, Department of Botany Kumaun University, Nainital- 263002*

Uttarakhand (India)

Email: naturewithnary@gmail.com, Tel: - 09411199162

Abstract: The main aim of present study in Pandit Govind Bullabh Pant, High altitude Zoo, Nainital was to assess the role of local community in conservation and management of wildlife. There were 19 wild animals and 22 different kinds of pheasants. 18 different organizations and people adopted 16 different type of Carnivorous, Omnivorous & Pheasants. The local community and local organizations of Nainital were so keen to conserve and manage the wildlife of high altitude's Zoo, so they are much interested to adoption of wildlife. This is a new step to conservation and management of wildlife in high altitude Nainital Zoo. [Nature and Science. 2009;7(7):61-66]. (ISSN: 1545-0740).

Key words: Conservation, management, participation, ecotourism

Introduction

Conservation and management of wildlife not only preserving the remaining flora and fauna but also helping in promoting economic activities that brings money through tourism. It also contributes towards maintenance of biodiversity of landscape. Different wildlife's such as colorful birds, animals and other form of life in the forest are the important maintaining the ecosystems. Distraction of forests or its reduction will cause disappearance of much wildlife. As far as the concern of Indian region it has total area of 32 million hectare with rich in biological diversity. India is one of the 12-mega biodiversity centers in the world. It is estimated that about 45,000 species of plants comprises 15,000 species of which several hundred species are endemic to India. Besides this the region is also rich in fauna and containing about 65,000 species of animals. This richness in biological diversity is due to immense variety of climatic and altitudinal condition coupled with varied ecological habitats. These vary from the humid tropical Western Ghats to the hot desert of Rajasthan from the cold desert of Ladakh and the icy mountain Himalayas to the warm costs of Peninsular India. The following two conservation strategies are most famous for flora and fauna. In-situ conservation is the conservation of genetic resources through their maintenance with in natural or even human made ecosystem in which they occur. This is an ideal system for genetic resources conservation. This type includes a system of protected areas of different categories such as National Parks, sanctuaries, Natural Reserves, Natural Monuments, Cultural Landscapes, Biosphere Reserves, sacred Groves etc.

The origin of Zoo may be said to have commended with the opening of the London Zoo in 1828. Most of the older Zoos in North America and Europe were founded in the later part of the 19th century after 1870. During that period animal species were being regularly discovered and the various zoos were keen to collect as many different kinds of animals as possible for public display. (Sharma, 2000).

The Zoo movement in India is also one of the oldest in world. The setup Zoo was in Madras in the year of 1855, which is seen followed by Trivandrum (1857), Bombay (1863), Hyderabad (1959) and Guwahati (1960).

Ecotourism is viewed as a means of protecting natural areas through the generation of revenues, environmental education and the involvement of local people. In such ways both conservation and development are being promoted in sustainable forms. Local economic benefits from Zoo ecotourism have been documented both in the form of increased employment opportunities and incomes. The introduction of Zoo ecotourism can encourage socio economic development as desired by the community contribution, which ecotourism can make to biodiversity and integrity of natural areas are as important as the potentially positive effects on adjacent communities. The provision of environmental education through enhancement

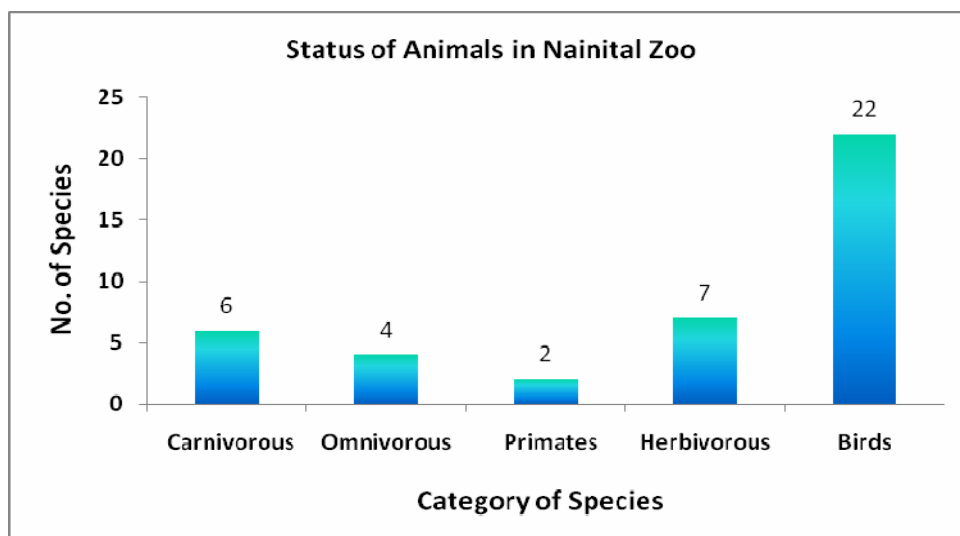
of opportunities to appreciate nature is fundamental to the success of ecotourism. Biodiversity and natural areas can provide this service in return for economic revenues, which can contribute to protected area conservation.

Zoo ecotourism is regarded as being more than tourism to natural areas and should be viewed as a means of combining the goals of resource conservation and local development through tourism in a synergistic fashion. This means that care should be taken to ensure that goal of tourism development do not interfere with the goals of protecting natural areas and biodiversity, local population may become advocates for protection of their natural resources and take pride in the unique surrounding which attract outsiders (Kandari & Chandra, 2004).

Description of Study Area

The Nainital high altitude Zoo is situated at 2100 m above sea level on the hill of Sher Ka Danda in Uttarakhand. The Zoo was established in 1964 on the name of Pandit Govind Bullabh Pant. The zoo is spread over 4.69 ha. The main objectives of Zoo are to conserve the high altitude Himalayan birds and animals which all endemic and endangered and to create awareness about our rich Himalayan fauna among the general people.

On the basis of animal kingdom there are five categories animals found in the High Altitude Nainital Zoo.



Methodology

The present study was carried out in April 2004 to May 2005. According to our study plan, we visited zoo weekly and collected the respected data based our objectives in relation to ecotourism. There after we developed a list of peoples and organization they were interested to adoption of zoo animals for conservation point of view.

Ecotourism with People Participation

Zoo is an important ex- situ conservation procedure. It is for not only the conservation and management of endangered wild animals and birds but also play a very crucial role in the ecotourism,

education and public awareness about the wildlife. Therefore the zoo authority has invited the people and organizations are interested in the wild life conservation and management for the adoption of wild species kept in zoo for their annual expenditure. 18 different organizations and peoples adopted 16 different type of Carnivorous, Omnivorous & Pheasants. The total annual donated amount was Rs. 123950 by different organizations and individuals. The total annual expenditure of different animals was Rs. 107600. So this is a very good sign for the management and conservation of different animal species.

Table- List of different organization and people who are adopting the wildlife in Nainital Zoo

[Sl. No.	Species	Adopted by	Donated annual amount (Rs)	Annual expenditure (Rs.)
1	Leopard	Nainital Bank	10,000	
		U. K. Photographer, Hotel & Restaurants Nainital	11,000	31,300
2	Leopard Cat	Boat House Club, Nainital	7000	7,000
3	Hill Fox	CHEA, Nainital	6,800	4,700
		Rana Conustraction Co., Almora	800	
4	Himalayan Black Bear	State Bank Of India, Nainital	15,000	
		Kumaun Mandal Vikas Nigam	24,100	24,100
5	Palm Civet Cat	Hotel Prashant, Tallital, Nainital		
6	Himalayan Civet Cat	Hotel Wecome Resort, Tallital, Nainital	3,800	3,800
7	Serow	CHEA, Nainital	11,200	11,200
8	Lady Amherst Pheasant	Consul Printers, nainital	3,750	1,500
9	Silver Pheasant	Miss. Prys Priyanka C/O Prema Gosh, Mallital, Nainital	3,000	1,500
10	Reeves Pheasant	Mr. B. K. Bisht & Mrs. Renu Bisht, Senior Advocate, Nainital	1500	1,500
11	Golden Pheasant	Mrs. Sunita & Mr. Manoj Sah		
12	Edward Pheasant	Sajjanlal, Gopichand, Nainital	3,000	1,500
13	White Pea Fowl	Mrs. Alka, Mr. Sunil Nigam, Long view		
		Mrs. and Mr. Deep Chandra Pandey, Executive Engineer, Irrigation Department, Nainital	6,000	3,000

14	Steppe Eagle	Alok Sah & Rakhi Sah, Heritage Restaurant	3,000	2,500
15	Indian Great Horned Owl	Fair Havens, Nainital	7,000	7,000
16	Spot Bellied Eagle Owl	CHEA, Nainital	7,000	7,000

Ecotourism Activities

Among the tourists visited the Zoo, children (5-12 years age) and adult (>12 years) were 20.75 % and 79.3% respectively (Table 1 & 2). Total number of tourists visited in the Zoo during 2004 – 2005 was 94,884. Maximum tourists (26.6%) were visited in the month of June 2005 and followed by the month of May 2005 (15.9%). However; very small number of tourists came in the month of February 2006 (Table 3).

As far as economy concerned, Zoo authority earned total rupees seventeen lakhs and one thousand forty only (Rs. 1701040). Of this amount received from adult and children tourists was 88.4 and 11.6% respectively (Table- 3). Of the total amount, about 26.3% were earned during June 2005 (Table- 3). Of this amount, 29.8% came from children and adult tourists, respectively (Table 2 & 3).

Table 1. Ecotourism Activities of 5- 12 years Visitors during 2004- 2005

Sl. No.	Months	Visitor (5-12 Years)	Amount (Rs.)	% Contribution
1	April	1258	12580	6.4
2	May	3405	34050	17.3
3	June	5862	58620	29.8
4	July	1082	10820	5.5
5	August	375	3750	1.9
6	September	849	6490	4.3
7	October	1318	13180	6.7
8	November	1995	19950	10.1
9	December	1041	10410	5.3
10	January	743	7430	3.8
11	February	464	4640	2.4
12	May	1272	12720	6.5

Table 2. Ecotourism Activities of > 12 years Visitors during 2004- 2005

Sl. No.	Months	Visitor (>12 Years)	Amount (Rs.)	% Contribution
1.	April	5332	106640	7.1
2.	May	11643	232860	15.5
3.	June	19390	387800	25.8
4.	July	6770	135400	9.0
5.	August	3022	60440	4.0
6.	September	3518	70360	4.7
7.	October	3306	106120	7.1
8.	November	4738	94760	6.3
9.	December	4690	93800	6.2
10.	January	3264	65280	4.3
11.	February	2789	55780	3.7
12.	May	4758	95160	6.3

Conclusion

The nature-based tourism involves education and interpretation of sustainable natural environment. Ecotourism is viewed as a means of protecting natural areas through the generation of revenues and the participation of local people. In such a way both conservation and management would be promoted in sustainable forms. Nainital high altitude Zoo is one of the single Zoo established in high altitude region. There were 19 wild animals and 22 different kinds of pheasants. 18 different organizations and peoples adopted 16 different type of Carnivorous, Omnivorous & Pheasants. The local community and local organizations of Nainital were so keen to conserve and manage the wildlife of high altitude's Zoo, so they are much interested to adoption of wildlife. This is a new step to conservation and management of wildlife in high altitude Nainital Zoo. As far as economy concerned, Zoo authority earned total rupees seventeen lakh and one thousand forty only (17, 01040=00). Of this amount received from adult and children tourists was 88.4 and 11.6% respectively. Of the total amount, about 26.3% were earned during June 2005 (Table- 3). Of this amount, 29.8% came from children and adult tourists, respectively.

Table 3. Ecotourism Activities of total visitors years Visitors during 2004- 2005

S. No.	Months	Total Visitors	Amount (Rs.)	% Contribution
1.	April	6590	119220	7.0
2.	May	15048	266910	15.7
3.	June	25252	446420	26.3
4.	July	7852	146220	8.6
5.	August	3397	64190	3.7
6.	September	4367	78850	4.6
7.	October	6624	119300	7.0
8.	November	6733	114710	6.7
9.	December	5731	114210	6.2
10.	January	4007	72710	4.3
11.	February	3253	60420	3.6
12.	May	6030	107880	6.3

Acknowledgement

Authors are great thankful to Department of Forestry, Kumaun University, Nainital and Zoo authority also for necessary help and support.

References

- Kandari O. P., Chandra, Ashish 2004. Tourism Biodiversity & Sustainable Development. *ISSA, Book 4-3* Prithviraj Road, Adarash Nager, Delhi.
- Sharma P. D. 2000. Environmental Biology. Published by Rakesh Kumar Rastogi from *Rastogi Publication*, Shivaji Road, Meerut.

5/7/2009