

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, On behalf of the Institute of Hotel Management, Pusa, New Delhi, we wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Shri Sujit Banerjee, Secretary, Shri Sanjay Kothari, Additional Secretary (T) and Shri Devesh Chaturvedi, ADG (T) Ministry of Tourism, Government of India for giving the opportunity to the institute to conduct the audit/ survey of hotels, lodges, resorts, camps and guest houses in and around Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand.

We take this opportunity to convey our sincere thanks to Shri Rajiv Bhartari, Additional Secretary, Tourism, Government of Uttarakhand for providing guidance, logistic support and modalities to conduct survey.

We would like to thank Dr. Prabhaker Dubey, Director and Smt. Dhiraj Bhalla, Asst. DG, Ministry of Tourism for coordinating the survey.

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We sincerely thank all the media people who have given a lot of publicity by covering the survey for so many days.

SUMMARY

Background of the survey– Keeping in mind the recent spate of tiger mortality, the Ministry of Tourism under the leadership of Shri Sujit Banerjee, Secretary, Shri Sanjay Kothari, AS (T) and Shri Devesh Chaturvedi, ADG (T) has taken an initiative to conduct an audit/ survey of all the lodging establishments in and around Corbett National Park.

Aim & Objectives of the survey- The main objective of the audit/ survey was to study the impact of tourism, with specific reference, to lodging establishments on environment and wild life of the National Park.

Methodology used- A Questionnaire was used to collect data from all resorts, hotels, camps, lodges and guest houses in and around Corbett National Park by the team consisting of 10 students under the guidance of 2 faculty members from Institute of Hotel Management, Pusa, New Delhi (IHM Pusa).

Findings & Inference- 77 existing resorts/ hotels and 17 under construction were surveyed where 1421 rooms and 3197 beds are present in existing resorts/ hotels. Some of the findings include 69% rooms are AC, 48% owners are locals, 71.4% resorts are less than 5 years old, 19.4% use solar energy, 37.6% resorts segregate waste and only 10.3% are having eco friendly building.

Areas of Concern- Concrete buildings, heavy vehicular traffic, no proper waste segregation & disposal, loud music/ DJ, no proper water supply, excessive camp fire and other activities are some of the areas of concern.

Recommendations & Suggestions- Ban on concrete buildings, proper guidelines for construction, camp fire, playing music and organizing conventions and concerts in open is recommended. It is suggested to reduce the number of vehicles, to lay water and drainage pipelines, to collect and dispose or recycle dry waste by local body or cooperative of resorts. Eco awareness drives, announcing awards and survey of other reserves should also be done.

Annexure- Media Coverage & Questionnaire

BACKGROUND OF THE SURVEY

Sariska was declared tiger-less in 2004 and now the news of Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh having lost all its tigers is very alarming given the small number of wild tigers that remain today. What is even more disturbing are the signals suggesting that there could be several other Tiger Reserves in a similar situation.

The recent spate in tiger mortality reported from across the country has left most conservationists wondering about the future of tigers in the country. Till 4th September 2009 over 61 tigers death have been reported in the year. (Source: TRAFFIC India, WWF Panda)

Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand is one of the oldest Tiger Reserves where the tigers are under threat. A rough estimate says that there are 162 tigers in Corbett National Park. 11 tiger deaths have been reported in Corbett National Park in 2009 out of which 2 tiger deaths were noticed within 10 days in the month of December only.

Increased tourism activity may be one of the reasons for human-wild life conflict, habitat degradation and illegal wild life trade of which the tiger is a victim. Mushrooming of lodges, camps, resorts, hotels and guest houses in and around Tiger Reserves is leading to more vehicular traffic, water and air pollution, encroachment of the wild life space, hindrances to wild life movement, threat to the survival of tigers and other wild life.

This necessitated the study of the impact of tourism especially of accommodation establishment on wild life and to develop guidelines for responsible tourism with specific reference to Wild Life Sanctuaries and National Parks. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India under the leadership of Mr. Sujit Banerjee, Secretary, Mr. Sanjay Kothari, Additional Secretary (T) and Mr. Devesh Chaturvedi, ADG (T) has taken an initiative to conduct an audit/ survey of hotels, lodges, resorts, camps and guest houses in and around Tiger Reserves across the country. Corbett National Park has been taken as a pilot project for the audit/ survey. Institute of Hotel management, Pusa, New Delhi has been assigned the task of doing audit/ survey on behalf of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

AIM

To study the impact of tourism with specific reference to accommodation on wild life and environment in Tiger Reserves/ National Parks of India to frame guidelines for responsible tourism.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the survey are as follows-

01. To list all the establishments providing accommodation in and around Corbett National Park.
02. To identify the number and types of rooms available.
03. To find out various services and facilities provided by these establishments.
04. To identify various activities undertaken by these establishments.
05. To find out the status of vehicular use by their establishment.
06. To find out the sources of energy used by these establishments.
07. To find out the sources of water supply used by these establishments.
08. To find out the sources of purchasing consumables and durables for their establishments.
09. To identify the waste disposal methods used by these establishments.
10. To find out the employment generation for the locals.
11. To identify their contribution towards environment and community.
12. To assess the impact of these establishments on wild life and eco system of the National Park.

METHODOLOGY

Questionnaire

A questionnaire was used for the survey. The questionnaire consisted of the questions related to general information about the ownership, property details, staff, community services, room tariff, hygiene & sanitation standards, eco-friendliness, their contribution towards community and environment, and number of tourist arrivals.

Informal discussions with experts, tourists, gypsy & taxi drivers, forest officials and other concerned people were also done by the survey team.

The survey team also had meetings with the officials of The Corbett Foundation, an NGO and Swedish Prof. Emil Uddhammar, Linnaeus University, Sweden. Ms. Frederique Lacraz French Vulture Conservationist also shared her views with the team.

Survey Team

The team from IHM Pusa comprised of the following-

2 faculty members - R K Gupta, Meenakshi Sumbly and

10 students – Mohit (M. Sc. HA-Previous), Abhas, Nitish, Prateek, Sandeep, Srikanth, Vinod, Veeransh (B.Sc. 2nd Year), Aditi and Ramandeep (B.Sc. 1st Year).

Sample

All the hotels, lodges, resorts, camps and guest houses in various tourism zones of Corbett National Park were surveyed.

Tourism zone	Gate
Bijrani	Amadanda
Dhikala	Dhangari
Jhirna	Khara, Kalagarh
Domunda	Durgadevi

Areas Covered

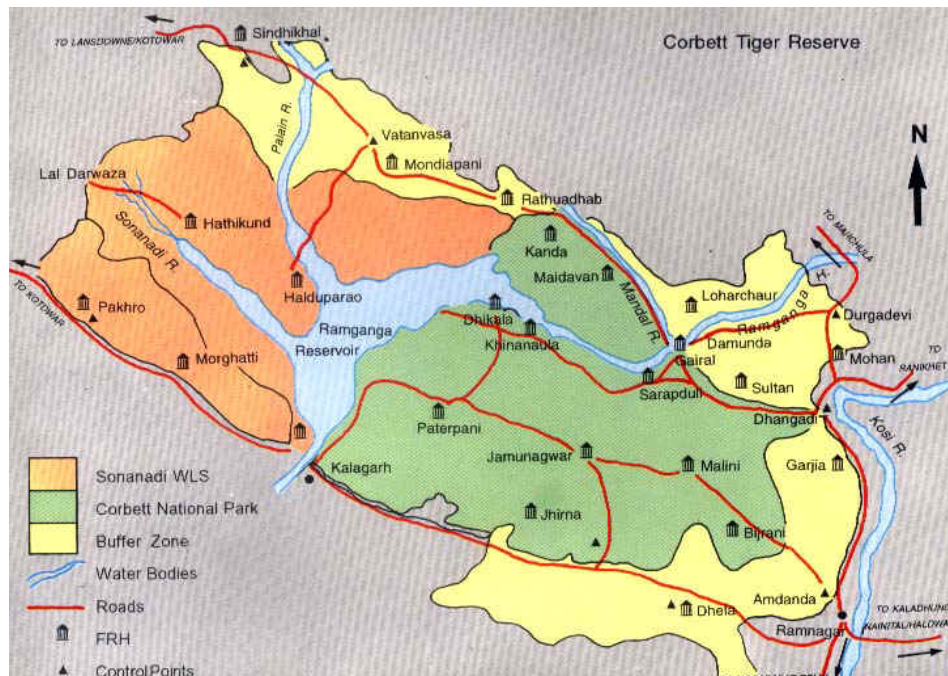
The areas covered in the survey were

Semal Khalia, Sawaldehy, Dhela in the southern side of the park,

Aamdanda, Ringoda, Dhikuli, Garjia in the eastern side and

Mohan, Kumeria, Bhakrakhot, Marchula in the north-east side of the park.

Dhikala, Jamoon, Ramnagar, Kyari and *Bailparav* areas were also covered in the survey.



Period of Survey

Total 7 days from 16th December 2009 to 22nd December 2009 were used for survey. This included travel from/ to Delhi.

FINDINGS

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

01. Total Number of Hotels/ Lodges/ Resorts/ camps/ Guest Houses surveyed

	Number Surveyed	Not Surveyed	Total
Existing	77	03	80
Under Construction	17	-	17
Planned	-	05	05
Total	94	08	102

Zone wise distribution is as follows-

Zone	Areas	Existing	U.C./ Planned	Total
A	Aamdanda, Ringoda, Dhikuli, Garjia	43	04	47
B	Mohan, Kumeria, Bhakrakhhot, Marchula	13	06	19
C	Semalkhalia, Sawaldehy, Dhela	04	05	09
D	Jamoon	01	01	02
E	Dhikala	01	-	01
F	Kyari	01	01	02
G	Ramnagar	10	-	10
H	Bailparav	04	-	04
I*	Pirumadara, Chorpani, Patkot	03	05**	08
	Total	77+3	22	102

* Survey not done.

U.C.= Under Construction

** At planning stage at *Patkot*

02. Number of Rooms

Existing Rooms	Existing Beds	Under Construction/ Planned Rooms	Under Construction/ Planned Beds
1421	3197	270	540

03. Types of Rooms

AC	Non-AC	Air Cooled	Total
980	401	40	1421

Single	Double/Twin	Suite	Cottages	Tents
27	1134	72	68	120

04. Forms of Ownership (for existing properties)

Proprietorship	Partnership	Franchise	Chain	Mgt. Collabo.	Any other
48	14	03	10	01	01

05. The owner is Local resident

Yes	No	Data Not Available	Total
37	21	19	77

06. The owner of the hotel is also the land owner

Yes	No	Data Not Available	Total
33	17	27	77

07. The land owner is Local resident

Yes	No	Data Not Available	Total
40	26	11	77

08. The General Manager/ Resort Manager is Local Resident

Yes	No	Data Not Available	Total
47	25	05	77

09. Project in operation

>10 yrs	5-10 yrs	<5 yrs	To be started in 2010
07	15	55	17

B. PROPERTY DETAILS

10. Location

Corridor Area	Extended Area	River Side	Inside Park	Other
06	10	45	02	14

11. Nearest Entrance to Park

Jhirna	Dhangadi	Durgadevi
04	59	14

12. Land previously used for

Agriculture	Forest	Revenue	Private	Village
55	7	1	7	7

13. Accessibility (The type of Road leading to the resort)

Bitumen	Concrete	Brick	Gravel
19	28	-	30

14. Area of the Property

The area of these properties is ranging from 2 bighas to 16 acres.

The covered area of these is ranging from 25% to 60%.

(1 acre = 16 bighas)

(1 bigha=2529.3 sqmt)

15. Fencing of the Property

Wall	Wired	Wall+Wired	No Fencing	Solar	Data Not Available
26	24	08	04	3	12

16. Construction of the building

Cemented	Brick	Hutments	Mixed	Tents
12	2	2	49	2

17. Facilities & Services

Restaurant	Bar	Conference/ Banquet Hall	Pool	Discotheque
71	04	19	20	4

18. Events organized

Wedding	New Year/ Christmas	Concerts	Parties	Conventions
17	46	09	36	16

Camp fire	Safari	Heritage Walk	Any other
55	59	20	-

Activities

Park Visit	Nature Walk	Elephant Ride	None
60	52	50	13

Events organized in

Hall	Open	Both	No Events
08	18	28	23

19. Vehicles

Safari Jeeps	Other	Total
51	26	77

Front Facing Seats	Side facing Seats	Total safari Jeeps
47	4	51

Petrol	Diesel	CNG	LPG	Battery
37	14	-	-	-

Insurance of vehicles

Comprehensive	Third Party	Data Not Available
3	8	40

Hiring vehicles

Always	Never	As & when required
5	5	67

20. Fire Fighting facilitates

Fire Extinguishers	Sand bucket	Sprinklers	None
41	3	-	33

Staff Trained in Fire Fighting

Yes	No
25	52

Total No of Exits

One	More Than One
40	37

21. Use of Energy

USEB	Generator	Both	Biogas	No Electricity
74	-	60	-	3

In case of Generator

Diesel operated	Petrol operated	Silent	Noisy
58	12	27	42

Use of Solar Energy

Somewhat	Not at All
15	62

Use of CFL/ energy saving bulbs

Public Areas	Rooms	Service Areas	All	Not at All
36	49	34	-	-

Kitchen fuel

Gas	Wood	Electricity	Diesel	Biogas
67	20	1	1	-

In the case of wood, it is sourced from

Forest	Forest Dept Depot	Own land	Other
2	1	17	-

Building illuminated in the night

Yes	No	Occasionally
38	33	6

22. Source of Water Supply

Municipal	Bore Well	River
35	42	5

Drinking water

Bottled Water	Mineral water	R. O.	Own Treated
32	36	15	27

In Swimming Pool

Chemically Treated	Filtered	No Treatment
20	19	1

23. Purchases

Items	Local market	Cooperatives	Tenders	Delhi
Consumables	75	-	2	-
Durables	66	4	4	3

24. Waste Disposal

Segregation into Dry and Wet waste

Yes	No
29	48

Segregation into biodegradable and non-biodegradable

Yes	No
27	50

Disposal of Dry Waste through

Municipal	Dumping	River	Bins	Burning
28	24	1	4	20

Disposal of Wet Waste through

Drains	River	Pits (<i>Soktas</i>)
15	1	51

Disposal of Kitchen Waste through

Municipal	Dumping	River	Bins	Fodder	Vermi-culture
38	24	-	4	6	5

C. STAFF

25. Staff Positions

Type	Number	Local	Trained/ Qualified	Hotel Mgt. Qualified
Managers	185	125	133	36
Staff	1779	1423	899	14
Naturalists	33 + 15 in Dhikala	33	02	-

D. OTHER

26. Participations in Community Services in

Conservation Project	Educational Project	Local Project
19	17	17

E. ROOM TARIFF

27. Room Tariff in Rs.

Minimum	Maximum
200/-	20,999/-

F. GENERAL STANDARDS OF SANITATION, HYGIENE & UPKEEP

28. General Standards of Sanitation, Hygiene & Upkeep are ranging from OK to Good baring a few resorts.

G. ECO-FRIENDLINESS

29. Eco-friendliness

	Yes	No	Data Not Available
Eco-friendly Building	8	54	15
Energy Management System	19	55	3
Water Recycling	4	68	5
Use of Recycled Material	10	59	8
Training of Staff	26	48	3
Written Guidelines	22	55	-

INFERENCES

01. Total 94 (98%) hotels, lodges, resorts, camps and guest houses in and around Corbett National Park were surveyed. Out of which 77 are in operations at present and 17 at different stages of under construction. There were 2 hotels at *Pirumadara* and 1 at *Chorpani* which could not be surveyed. There are 5 hotels at planning stage at *Patkot*.

02. There are 1421 rooms available at present providing 3197 number of beds. In 3 more hotels (not surveyed) there are 26 rooms and 52 beds available.

There are approximately 270 rooms or 540 beds will be available in the year of 2010 in 22 under construction or planned to be constructed resorts.

03. At present 980 (69%) rooms available are in AC category while rest of the rooms are air cooled or Non AC.

The maximum rooms are 1134 (79.8%) available in Double/Twin category and 120 (08.44%) available in the form of Tents.

04. In the case of ownership, 48 (62.3%) owners are having proprietorship form of ownership, 14 (18.1%) are of partnership and another 14 (18.1%) are franchisee, chain or management collaboration.

05. Only 37 (48%) owners are the Local Resident of the area and 21 (27.2%) owners are not local resident. 19 (24.6%) owners did not specify.

06. Only 33 (42.8%) owners of the resorts/ hotels also own the land and in 17 (22%) cases the owners of the resorts/ hotels and the land owners are different. 27 (35%) owners did not specify.

07. Only 40 (51.9%) land owners are the local resident while 11 (14.2%) land owners did not specify.
08. Only 47 (61%) General Managers/ Resort Managers are Local Resident while 25 (32.4%) are not.
09. 55 resorts (71.4%) started their operations within 05 years and another 17 resorts have to start their operations during the year 2010. Only 7 (9%) resorts are more than 10 years old.
10. Most of the resorts 45 (58.4%) are on the bank of River *Kosi* while *Dhikala* FRHs and Hideaway Riverside are inside the park.
11. *Dhangadi* gate is the most used entrance for the nation park which is the nearest to most of the resorts (59) also.
12. The agriculture land is the most converted into resort construction as 55 (71.4%) resorts are constructed on agriculture land.
13. The accessibility to these resorts/ hotels is mainly *pucca* road made up of concrete (36.3%) or bitumen (24.6%).
14. The resorts/ hotels are spread over areas ranging from 2 *bighas* to 16 acres (256 *bighas*) and the covered area ranging from 25% to 60%.

(1 *bigha* = 2529.3 sqmt)
15. The resorts/ hotels have the boundary made up of wall in 26 (33.7%) and wire in 24 (31.1%) cases while there are 8 (10.3%) resorts which have wall and wired fencing both. There are 04 resorts (05.1%) not having any boundary while 3 (3.8%) resorts (including *Dhikala*) have solar fencing.

16. There are 9 (11.6%) resorts which offer tented accommodation out of which 2 camps provide exclusively tented accommodation. On the other hand majority of them i.e. 49 (63.3%) are offering mixed accommodation and there are 12 (15.5%) resorts which have constructed cemented rooms only.

17. There are 72 (93.5%) resorts which have the restaurants, 19 resorts (24.7%) have conference and banquet halls, and even 20 (25.9%) resorts have swimming pool and 4 (5.1%) resorts have discotheque.

18. 54(70.1%) the resorts organize events such as wedding party, New Year/ Christmas party, concerts or any other party.

A total number of 55 (71.4%) resorts organize camp fire and 60 (78.7%) resorts organize park visits.

8 resorts (10.3%) organized events in hall, 18 resorts (23.3%) in open and 28 resorts (36.3%) organize events in hall and in open as well.

19. These resorts/ hotels own 49 safari jeeps. Out of these 47 jeeps have front facing seats while only 2 have side facing seats.

37 jeeps use petrol while 12 run on diesel.

Out of these only 3 have comprehensive insurance, 8 third party insurance and remaining 38 did not answer the question.

67 (87%) resorts/ hotels hire vehicles as and when they require while only 5 (6.4%) resorts/ hotels never hire vehicles.

20. Only 41 (53.2%) resorts/ hotels have fire extinguishers, 3 (3.8%) have sand buckets to douse fire while 33 (42.8%) resorts/ hotels do not have any fire safety measures.

In the case of only 25 (32.4%) resorts/ hotels the staff is being trained in fire fighting.

37 (48.1%) resorts have more than 1 exit while 40 (51.9%) resorts have only 1 exit.

21. There are 3 (3.8%) resorts/ camps which do not use any electricity while 74 (96.1%) resorts use supply from UESB.

There are 60 (77.9%) resorts which use electricity from UESB and generators both.

Out of the generators used 58 generators are diesel operated while 12 are petrol ones. 42 generators are the noisy and 27 are silent generators.

Only 15 (19.4%) resorts/ hotels use solar energy mostly in heating water.

36 (46.7%) resorts use CFL bulbs in public areas, 49 (63.6%) in rooms and 34 (44.1%) in service areas.

67 (87%) resorts use gas as kitchen fuel and only 20 (25.9%) resorts/ camps use wood as kitchen fuel. Out of which 17 (85%) use their own land for wood.

38 (49.3%) resorts illuminate their buildings regularly during night and 6 (7.7%) occasionally.

22. Maximum number of resorts 42 (54.5%) use bore well as a source of water supply, than 35 (45.4%) from municipal council and 5 (6.4%) use river as a source of water supply.

Only 42 (54.5%) resorts/ hotels use their own water treatment or R.O. treatment otherwise all of them use bottled or mineral water for drinking purposes.

The resorts/hotels filter or chemically treat water to use in swimming pool.

23. Local purchases are done by 75 (97.4%) resorts/ hotels for consumables and by 66 (85.7%) resorts/ hotels for durables.

24. Only 29 (37.6%) resorts/ hotels segregate waste into dry or wet waste and only 27 (35%) into biodegradable or non-biodegradable.

34 (44.1%) resorts/ hotels use municipal body to dispose off their dry or kitchen waste, 24 (31.1%) resorts dump and another 20 (25.9%) resorts even burn the dry waste.

A majority of the resorts i.e. 52 (67.5%) use pits (*soktas*) to dispose off wet waste.

25. There are 185 Managers working in these resorts/hotels. Out of these 125 (67.5%) are locals, 133 (71.8%) trained and 36 (19.4%) have qualification from hospitality institute.

The staff strength of these resorts/hotels is 1779, out of which 1423 (79.9%) are locals, 899 (50.5%) are trained and only 14 (0.78%) are qualified from some hospitality institute.

There are 33 naturalists working with resorts out of which only 02 are qualified.

26. In the case of community service, 19 (24.6%) resorts/ hotels claim that they undertake some conservation projects, 17 (22%) participate in educational projects mostly by giving donations to schools and another 17 (22%) contribute in some of the local projects.
27. Room tariff of these resorts/hotels varies from Rs. 200/- to Rs. 20,999/-. As there is business for 6 months only their rates fluctuate very much.
28. General standards of hygiene, sanitation and upkeep of most of the resorts/ hotels ranges from OK to Good bearing a few.
29. Regarding eco friendliness of these resorts/ hotels/ lodges/ camps/ guest houses situated in and near Corbett National Park-

Only 8 (10.3%) resorts/ hotels claim to have eco friendly building.

19 (24.6%) resorts/ hotels have energy Management System.

Only 4 (5.1%) resorts/ hotels have Water Recycling System.

10 (12.9%) resorts/ hotels use recycled material.

26 (33.7%) resorts/ hotels train their staff for eco friendliness.

Only 20 (25.9%) resorts/ hotels have written guidelines for the tourists or their staff.

AREAS OF CONCERN

There are some camps/ resorts/ hotels e.g. Camp wild Adventure in *Ringoda*, Jim Jungle Retreat in *Dhela*, Camp Fork Tail Creek in *Bhakrakhot* etc. which are operating with no or minimum damage to the environment and wild life. They are taking all eco friendly measures to protect eco system of the area.

On the other hand most of the hotels/ resorts are just operating for commercial purposes and not taking care of the wild life and environment.

After collecting data from hotels/ resorts, observation made by the survey team and having interactions with concerned people, the following areas of concern have been identified by the survey team-

01. Construction of Building

71.4% existing hotels/ resorts are concrete structures and most of the resorts under constructed are also of the same type.

Felling of trees, consuming agricultural or forest land and use of non eco friendly material in the construction of these are causing a serious threat to the environment as well as wild life.

02. Blocking of Corridor area

Mushrooming of resorts from Ramnagar to Mohan has blocked 35 km. stretch of wild life moment from park to Kosi river.

03. Heavy Vehicular Traffic-

As there are almost 100 hotels/ resorts and all of them having their personal and commercial vehicles and most of the tourists coming to the area are also mobile, the vehicular traffic near Corbett National Park is increasing day by day.

According to information provided by resort managers and gypsy/ taxi drivers, there are 250 to 300 private gypsies operating in the area during the season.

These large numbers of vehicles are contributing to

- a. air pollution
- b. noise pollution

- c. hindrance in the movement of animals
- d. invasion of the privacy of animals
- e. increased possibilities of accidents
- f. even over-charging the tourists.

04. No proper Waste Disposal

Majority of the hotels/ resorts (62%) do not segregate waste as dry and wet waste or biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste.

These hotels/ resorts claim that they dispose off dry/ paper/ plastic waste by dumping at Ramnagar Municipal dumping site or by selling it to *kabari-wala* but it is observed by the survey team that most of the hotels are just throwing the waste in any vacant space or corners and some of the hotels even burning this waste near river side.

The hotels/ resorts across Kosi and Ramganga rivers claim that they have pits (*soktas*) / tanks for wet waste but it was observed by the survey team that some of these hotels/ resorts are disposing wet waste into the rivers only. These hotels are disposing even chemically treated water from swimming pool to the river.

This again contributing to

- a. air pollution
- b. water pollution
- c. unhygienic & poor sanitary conditions
- d. health risk for the animals and aquatic life
- e. health risk for the locals.

05. Loud Music/ DJ parties

Barring few hotels and resorts, most of these are organizing parties with DJ or loud music in open. Wood Castle hotel in *Garjia*, for the example, was organizing 3-day music extravaganza during the survey.

This leads to

- a. noise pollution
- b. disturbance to the privacy of wild life
- c. creating panic amongst animals
- d. cultural conflict with the villagers.

06. Lighting during nights

Some of the hotels/ resorts have erected large electronic boards and signages which are illuminated during the night.

The excessive use of lights during night causes

- a. distraction in the movement of the wild life
- b. disturbance in the sleep of the animals & birds
- c. nuisance to natural beauty.

07. Water supply

All of the hotels except which are located in Ramnagar where the Municipal Water supply exists, are depending upon bore well, river or springs as a source of water supply.

The water from bore well and river is being contaminated by the waste water drained into pits (*soktas*) or river.

This may be causing

- a. health risk to wild life
- b. health risk to locals
- c. soil infertile.

08. Licensing

It seems that there is no controlling authority as more and more number of hotels/ resorts are coming up in the area. It is evident with the fact that in last 5 years 50 new hotels or resorts have been started. There are 22 new resorts are being constructed or planned to start operations during 2010.

Looking at the mushrooming of these resorts in the area, it seems that permission for change of land use and clearing of building designs and construction, and licenses from municipal council, police, fire and health department are not being properly used.

09. Wired Fencing

Some of the resorts have wired or cemented fencing which may cause injuries to the wild life during their movement specially across river.

10. Camp Fire

Almost all the resorts are using camp fire for the tourists. The source of wood, as per their claim, is local market, villagers etc. Only one resort (Camp Fork Tail Creek, *Bhakrakhot*) is using wood as fuel in the kitchen which they say buying from forest department.

The burning of wood leads to

- a. air pollution
- b. health hazards
- c. risk of fire
- d. illegal cutting or pruning of trees.

11. Fishing

Illegal fishing and angling is being done in the area. It is found by the survey team that in one resort (Infinity), tourists are being charged Rs. 75/- to show mahasheer fish.

12. Case of Resort at *Jamund*

There is one resort- Hideaway Riverside owned by Leisure group of hotels located at Jamund. The status of this resort is supposed to be controversial.

It is claimed by the resort manager (available at the time of survey) that it is on village land while according to officials this resort is within the park area.

The approach road to the resort is through Durga Devi entrance of the park. The road is up to Ramganga river and after that the resort people have made their own road. Every person or vehicle has to cross river as there is no bridge.

Near the river some area is cleaned and locals say that there is planning to construct a new resort.

13. Case of *Dhikala*

No Smoking Zone

Dhikala, undoubtedly the best place within park for tourism point of view, is a No Smoking Zone but tourists and locals were smoking without any hitch as observed by the survey team.

Garbage Dump

It seems that the park authorities are not taking proper care in garbage disposal. A dump of garbage containing plastic wrappers, bottles etc. was noticed by the survey team near toilet block of dormitory.

Speed of Gypsies

During the stay of survey team at *Dhikala* over speeding of safari jeeps was noticed.

14. No claim for the tourists

One area which has to be looked for tourists' point of view is their safety. Park authority started a scheme to convert private gypsies into taxis few years back but only 15-16 operators converted their vehicles into taxis. Rest of the private gypsies about 250* or so are being used to ferry tourists or for safari purpose.

(* Actual data of this may be collected from concerned state body)

In the case of any accident or mis-happening, no tourists can claim any damages from these private operators.

Secondly, mostly of the resorts across river the tourists are allowed to take bath in the river and resorts organize camp fire and music to entertain the tourist on the bank of river. This is a great risk to the tourists and wild life also.

RECOMMENDATION & SUGGESTIONS

Keeping in mind the objective of audit/ survey, the team gives the following recommendations or suggestions-

01. Ban on Construction of the Concrete Buildings

There must a blanket ban on the construction of cemented buildings in the area.

02. The number of vehicles in the area may be restricted

- a. There must be luxury bus/ Volvo service from Delhi etc. in order to reduce the private cars used by the tourists to reach National Park.
- b. The frequency of train service to Ramnagar and availability of luxury births in trains should be increased.
- c. Private gypsies operating in the area may be counseled to convert their vehicles into taxis with proper license and insurance.
- d. The number of these taxis should be limited.
- e. Some kind of pre-paid system for the taxis/ gypsies should be encouraged.

03. Waste Disposal

- A. Ramnagar Municipal Council or other concerned local authority should develop a system of garbage collection and disposal.
 - a. This body should collect the dry and wet/ kitchen waste from all the resorts/ hotels daily.
 - b. The dry waste may be disposed at one particular dumping site or recycled.

- c. The kitchen waste should be used as fodder or in the preparation of compost/ manure.
 - d. The resorts/ hotels may be charged for garbage collection and recycled material and manure could be sold by the body.
- B.** A drainage system may be developed by the Municipal Body specially on the river side and a water treatment plant can be installed to treat & recycle waste water.

Alternative: The resorts/ hotels may be encouraged to install water treatment plants before disposing. The state bodies may provide technical and financial assistance to the owners.

04. Ban on playing music/ DJ parties

Stringent ban on playing music, organizing concerts, conferences, DJ parties in open should be implemented.

05. Ban on Plastic Bags, Plastic water bottles etc.

06. Ban of Lighting during nights and on Electronic Boards

The illumination of buildings during nights and use of electronic signages/ boards should be stopped. A policy may be framed to use only simple boards and signages.

07. Water Supply

A number of resorts/ hotels are situated on river belt running parallel to the main road (NH 121). A pipe line may be laid by the Municipal body for at least these resorts/ hotels, if possible.

08. Fencing of Resorts

The resorts/ hotels may be asked to use only temporary or fragile or shrub fencing instead of cemented or brick one.

09. Ban on Activities/ Event Management

Activities such as camp fire, angling, concerts etc. should be banned and ban should be implemented strictly.

10. Eco Awareness Drive

Although Forest Department, Uttarakhand Tourism and some NGOs are conducting eco-awareness drives but a little more emphasis should be given to educate locals, people working in tourism sectors in the area and tourists visiting the park in respect of eco-friendliness, protection of environment and conservation of wild life.

The resorts/ hotels may be involved in social, community and environment oriented programmes and may be encouraged to contribute in the service of society, local community and conservation of flora and fauna of the area.

11. Awarding the most eco-friendly resort/ hotel

Some kind of Awards may be announced by Ministry of Tourism (GOI), Uttarakhand Tourism or Forest Department for the most eco friendly resort/ hotel for the contribution in protection and conservation of environment and wild life.

12. Audit / Survey of other National Parks/ Reserves

Similar audit/ survey of other 5 National Parks/ Reserves may also be conducted to frame guidelines.