



A REVIEW PAPER ON ECOTOURISM OF KALASUBAI HARISHCHANDRAGAD WILDLIFE SANCTUARY IN AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT, MAHARASHTRA

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Introduction:

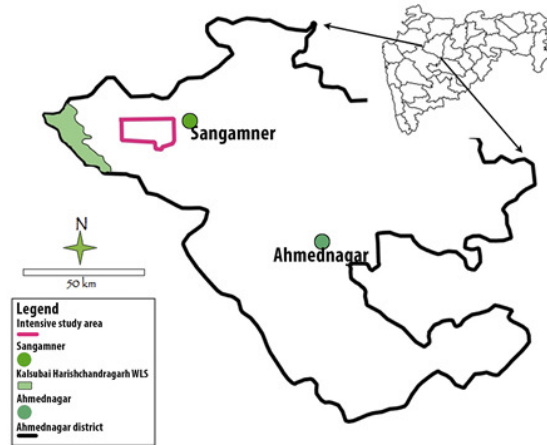
The tourism is a chief and fast growing industry of the world and has tremendous potentialities for earning foreign exchange, tax revenue, providing ancillary industries and development of industrially backward regions. There is a great stress on environmental resources due to tourist influx. Tourists in general need to be educated through official guides to avoid activities which are detrimental to ecosystem. Ecotourism or Ecological tourism implies travel to natural biodiversity rich areas having monuments of historical importance and cultural heritage sites which should help in conservation of environment and improvement in the financial status of the local people along with their welfare without disturbing the natural resources and environment.

Humans have historically tended to separate civilization from wildlife in a number of ways including the legal, social, and moral sense. Some animals, however, have adapted to suburban environments. This includes such animals as domesticated cats, dogs, mice, and gerbils. Religions have often declared certain animals to be sacred, and in modern times concern for the natural environment has provoked activists to protest the exploitation of wildlife for human benefit or entertainment. The global wildlife population has decreased by 52 percent between 1970 and 2014, according to a report by the World Wildlife Fund.

Study Region:

The peak of Kalasubai is situated in Nagar district. This is apex, highest peak of the mountain range of Sahyadri. It is a dream of every sincere mountaineer to climb it at least once. Its height is almost 5,500 feet.

The Legend: It is said, that in the ancient times, a lady named "Kalsu" came to nearby Indorey village to work. However, somebody forced her to clean utensils and clean up the residence by force. So she left the place and eventually died at this spot. So comes the name, Kalasubai. A small temple is built here, in her memory.



Objective:

- To study the potentiality of tourism in the study region

About the Sanctuary

The sanctuary area spreads from Kalasubai to Harishchandragad in Akole Tehsil of Ahmednagar district. The area is part of Sahyadri hill ranges. The Kalsubai sanctuary is challenge to trekkers as it is most rugged, hilly area and difficult to get accessibility. Kalasubai is the highest (1646 m) peak of Western Ghats in Maharashtra. It is also a paradise for nature lovers.

The vegetation type is southern moist mixed deciduous. The part of Sahyadri that is close to West Coast is semi evergreen forest and semi deciduous shrub savanna. The main tree species that are seen in this area are Hirda, Jambhul, Chandawa, Bahava, Kumbhal, Gulchavi, Kudal, Siras, Kharvel, Karap, Avali, Aashind, Lokhandi, Beheda and character worth noticing.

Species that are undergrowth are Mandar, Kadipatta, Ghaneri, Chilhar, Parjambhual, Karvi, Karwand, Ber, Dhaiti, and Rametha. There are large patches of grasslands mostly of Marvel, Dongari, Pawanya, Ber, Surad,

Harali etc. You can also see Bamboo in this region but rarely. Fauna Tourists can find wide variety of mammals, reptiles and birds. The mammals found here are Leopard, Jungle cat, Palm civet, Mongoose, Hyena, Wolf, Jackal, Fox, Wild Boar, Barking Deer, Sambar, Hare, and Bats etc. The most attractive animals are Indian Giant Squirrel and Porcupine.

The reptiles found in this sanctuary are Monitor Lizard, Fan-Throated Lizard, Turtles and many species of snakes. Among the birds are the common hill and grass land birds. One can also spot water birds such as White Necked Storks, Black Ibis, Herons, Egrets, Cormorants, Water hen's, etc

Main Attraction: Adventure Spot for Trekkers

Other Attractions: The hilly terrain of sanctuary has many peaks, forts and temples such as Kalasubai, Harischanragad, Ratangad, Ajoba, Kulaggad, Alang, Madangad, Bahiroba, etc. Because of these peaks it is considered as Trekker's paradise.

Bhandardara dam is constructed across Pravara River in 1926 and is one of the oldest dams and is famous for its Umbrella fall. The architecture of Shiva temple at Amritheshwar is worth seeing. Randha fall cascading 45m down in Pravara riverbed is the splendid spot.

Best Time to Visit: August To December

(By Road: The nearest bus station is situated at Bhandardara, By Rail: Nearest Railway Station is Ghoti on Mumbai - Bhusaval rail line and is on the Mumbai Agra National Highway No - 3, By Air: Nearest Airports from the sanctuary are situated in Pune and Mumbai.)

There are numerous accommodations are available in the nearby towns/cities of the sanctuary. The options vary from irrigation bungalows, MTDC resorts and private hotels.

Wildlife traditionally refers to non-domesticated animal species, but has come to include all plants, fungi and other organisms which grow or live wild in an area without being introduced by humans. Domesticating wild plant and animal species for

human benefit has occurred many times all over the planet, and has a major impact on the environment, both positive and negative.

Wildlife can be found in all ecosystems. Deserts, forests, rain forests, plains, grasslands, and other areas including the most developed urban sites, all have distinct forms of wildlife. While the term in popular culture usually refers to animals that are untouched by human factors, most scientists agree that wildlife around is affected by human activities. Humans are Destructive to the wildlife environment.

Conclusion:

Wildlife Sanctuaries are the protected areas in which human interference are not allowed. These areas are completely free from the any kind of human renovation. Hunting and other related activities are also not allowed in these reserves. More than 100 national parks and 550 wildlife sanctuaries are spread across the country. A wildlife sanctuary is important because investing in nature has benefits far beyond anything as short sighted as profit. Protecting animals from extinction ensures future generations opportunity to study and view them. Wildlife sanctuaries are here to protect and conserve wildlife, which most of the time is endangered.

These destinations are not only preserving the rich wildlife of the country but also become as one of the major attractions of India tourism. Nature lovers come from all around the world to spend their vacation and enjoying these diverse geographical destinations of the country.

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