Protection Issues in Corbett Tiger Reserve

Sub Group 10

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Topics

Grassland Management
Poaching
Human Wildlife Conflict
Forest Fires
Resources
Geographical Aspects

1. Issue - Grassland Management

Importance of Grassland Concerns

Steps taken

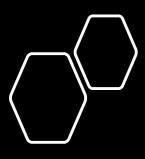
2. Issue - Poaching



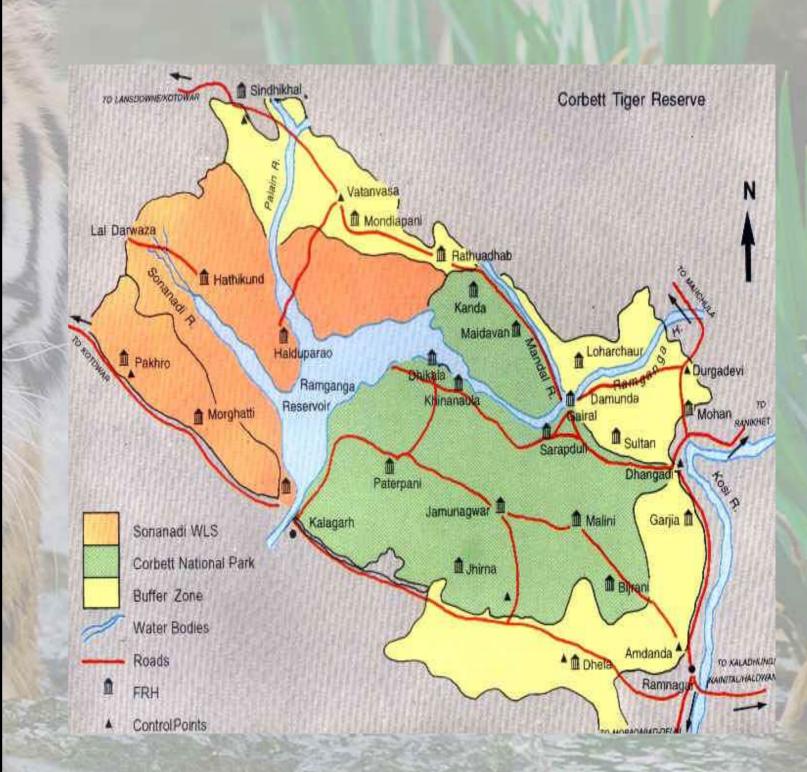
Around 20 tigers poached in Corbett national park in last two years: wildlife warden

The number of confirmed cases of tiger poaching in Uttarakhand has been the highest in the country

REASONS



Issues in SOUTHERN BOUNDARY of CTR with Uttar Pradesh



Anthropogenic

Villages around CTR

Bawariya Community



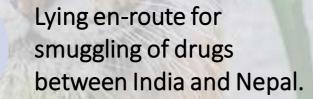
Geographical



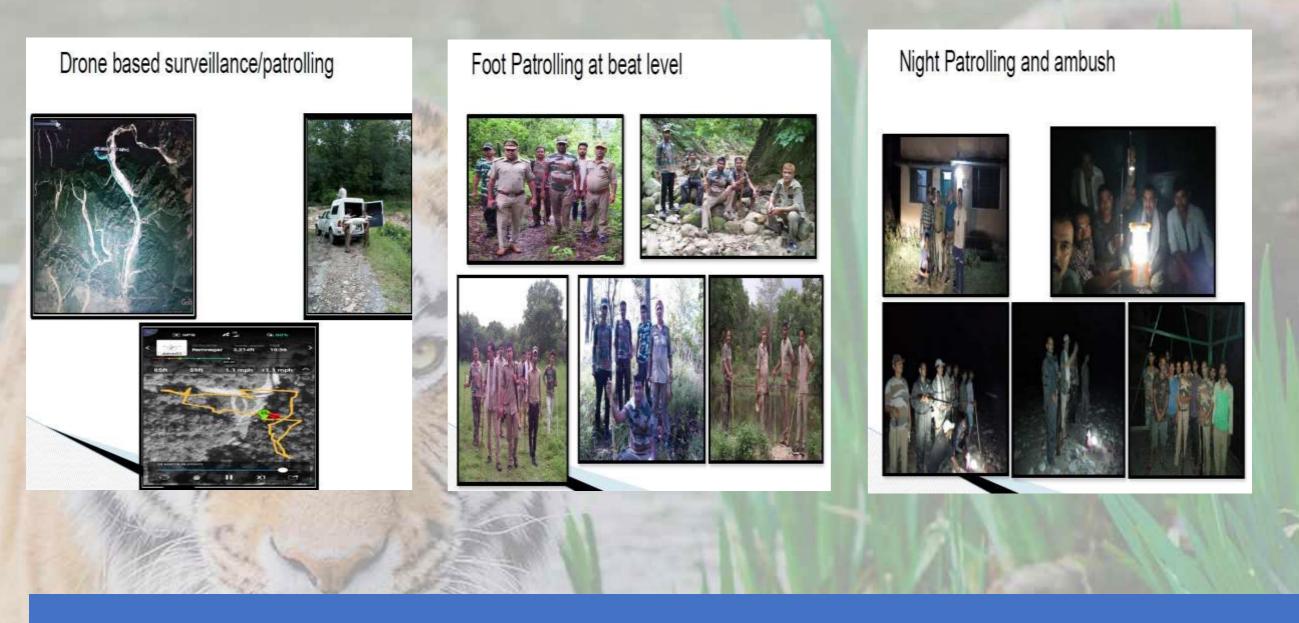
Vast area 1288 square Km



Diverse landscape- a hiding place for poachers



STEPS TAKEN



- GPS based foot patrolling daily
- Long distance patrolling of 80 Km (in 5-6 days)
- Night patrolling and ambush
- Drone based surveillance

Other Steps-

- Installation of thermal cameras on watch towers.
- Inter State joint patrolling with CTR and Amangarh Tiger reserve staff.
- Dogs squad and elephant based surveillance (inaccessible areas)

Suggestions-

- 2Cs approach- Coordination and Co-operation- UP-UK, India-Nepal, Forest department and police/armed forces, Forest department and NGOs- WWF, WCS, TRAFFIC etc.
- Better intelligence through WCCB and local people use.
- Public outreach programs.
- Better arms and equipment. Regular training and mock drills.

3. Issue – Human Wildlife Conflict

Humans Entering Animal Habitat

- Firewood Collection
- Constriction of Corridors Illegal Settlements (Sunderkhal)
- Eco-Tourism

Animals Entering Human Habitations

- Kalagarh Dam Ramganga Reservoir
- Fragmentation of Habitat
- Sugarcane loving Elephants and Maneaters

Steps Taken by CTR

- Technology
 - Drone, Camera Trap, E-eye
- Habitat Management
 - Grassland, Water Resources
- Eco-tourism
- Village Relocation Dhara

Steps to be Taken

- Targeted Delivery of Ujjwala Scheme
- WWF India's interim relief scheme
- Community managed insurance NCF

Integrated Management of HWC

Understanding HWC

Monitoring

Prevention

Mitigation

Response

4.Issue - Forest Fire

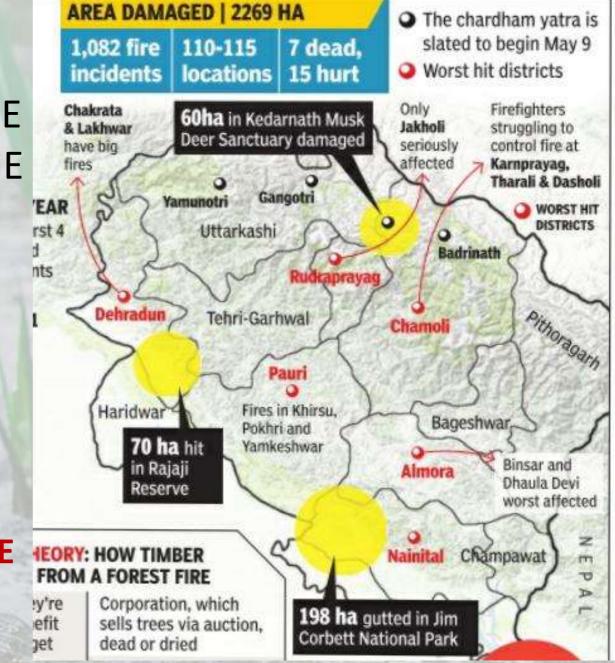
Areas prone to forest fire in Corbett Tiger Reserve

1. Highly Sensitive Areas : DHELA RANGE ZIRNA RANGE

2.Moderately Sensitive Areas: KALAGARH RANGE

3.Sensitive Areas : BIJRANI RANGE

MONTHS MOST SENSITIVE :FEBRUARY TO JUNE



Factors causing Forest Fires

1.CLIMATE : Extreme dryness due to high temperature and low rainfall. Lack of April Showers

2. Burning by locals to get fresh grass

3.CHIR PINE FOREST : High resin content causing flammable material accumulation



Factors causing Forest Fires cont.

4. Migration reducing livestock rearing hence reduced demand for grass causing less cutting of grass

5. TIMBER MAFIA : Dried and dead trees permitted for sale.

6. Mismanagement by forest department.

Consequences of Forest fires

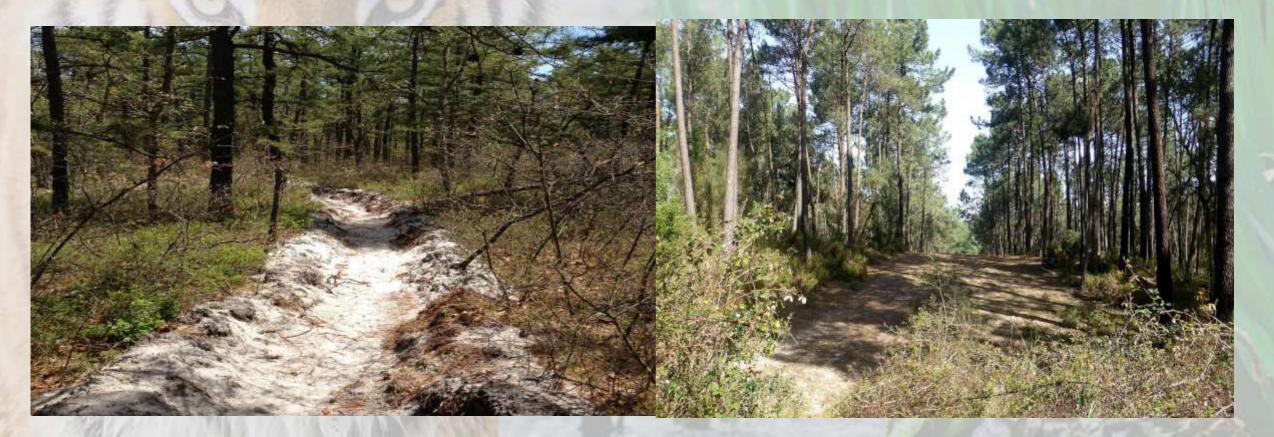
- 1. Biodiversity loss
- 2. Adds carbon to atmosphere and enhances global warming



- 3. Soil Erosion.
- 4. Flora and Fauna Vulnerability increase.

Solution

- 1. Controlled Burning
- 2. Fire Lines



• 3.DRONE SURVEILLANCE



- 4.CAMERAS
- 5.PATROLLING AND CONTROL ROOM
- 6. INVOLVEMENT OF LOCALS.

5. ISSUE -RESOURCES

Financial

Main Sources









Issues

- CTR used to receives only 20% of the revenue generated from tourism activities which has been increased to 50% in last two years.
- Budget allocation erratic.
- NTCA funds decreasing.
- Need for new tech , effective protection



Human

• Hierarchy

Field Director
Deputy Director
ACF
Range Officers
Lower staff

Challenges

- Paucity of staff
- Not adequately trained
- Not adequately armed
- Difficult working conditions

Name of rank	Total sanctioned	In position	Vacancy
ACF	5	3	2
Range Officers	19	13	6
Forestors	65	69	+4
Forest Guard	229	101	128

Management

- Proper Planning
- Technology
- Contract Labour

6. Issue - Geographical aspects

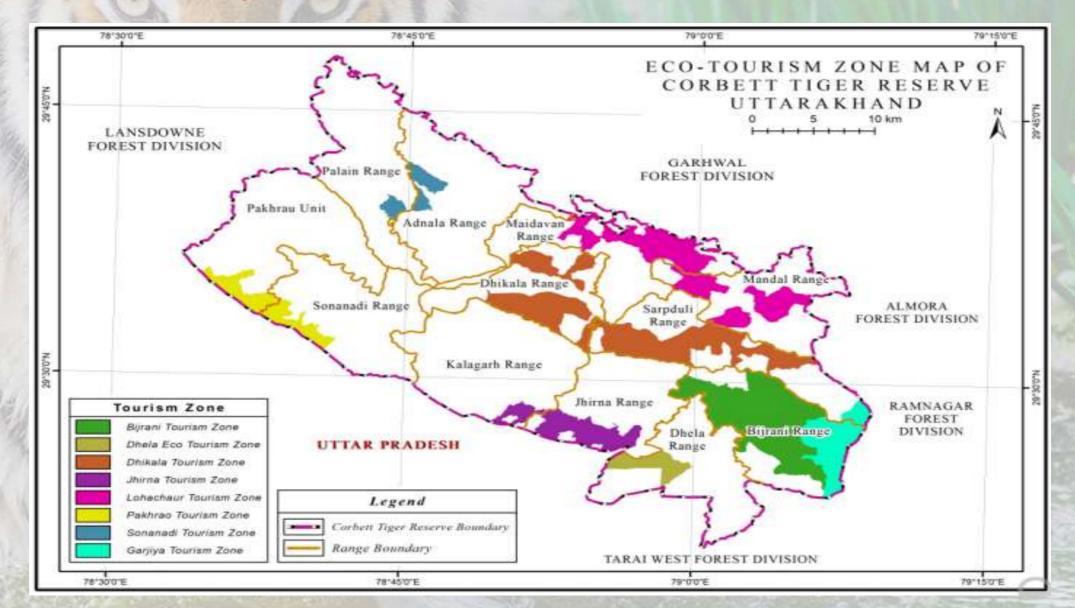
Geographical aspects : Intro

- Corbett National Park is located between 2925' to 2939'N latitude and 7844' to 7907'E longitude.
- The average height of the region ranges between 360 m (1,181 ft) and 1,040 m (3,412 ft).
- It has various ravines, ridges, minor streams and small plateaus with degrees of slopes and changeable aspects.
- The park covers the Patli Dun valley formed by the Ramganga river.
- The reserve, situated factually along a valley between the minor Himalaya in the north and the Siwaliks in the south, has a sub-Himalayan belt shape.

Dhikala zone –Situated on the edges of the valley Patli Dun, Dhikala Zone is dotted with picturesque natural vistas and is considered a good site to spot herds of elephants, chitals and deer as well as Bengal Tiger. Jhirna zone – The zone is mainly noted for its bamboo vegetation and wonderful bird watching experiences.

Durga Devi Zone –The hilly topography and deep dark woody vegetation of Durga Devi Zone is quite favorable for witnessing several distinct species of birds

Sonanadi Zone, Bijrani zone



Protection issue : Terrain

- The lesser Himalayas are made up of crystalline rocks.
- The Ramganga River forms the most prominent hydrological resource, supplemented by tributaries, most prominent of which are the Sonanadi, Mandal and Palain rivers. The river Kosi runs proximate to the Park and is also a significant water resource for nearby areas.
- Mountain habitats reflect definite character of flora and fauna in terms of altitude. The downstream areas of the Corbett consist of Saal forest while we go up we find progressive belts of mixed forests of Chir Pine, Oak and Rhododendron.

Protection issue : Terrain (Contd)

- Kalagarh Dam Submergence of low lying areas affecting herbivores
- Protection systems have weakened, and poachers have infiltrated into this park.
- Monitoring of wild animals in the prescribed format has not been followed.
- Elephant based patrolling ,Dog Squad based patrolling
- Sensitive southern boundary: Corridors facing threat due growth of resorts, traffic on highways

Protection issue : Climate

- Temperature: Maximum 420 C
 - Minimum 40 C
- Rainfall 1200 to 2800 mm
- It has humid subtropical and raised ground weather.
- The habitat of the reserve faces threats from <u>invasive species</u> such as the exotic weeds, lantana, Parthenium, Cassia, cannabis, Marijuana.
- fire control
- Drone surveillance/ Unmanned aerial vehicles
- E-eye surveillance
- Flooding and erosion- is replete with water bodies and gets inundated by the flood waters every year, due to incessant rains and upwelling of the water streams

Protection issue : Demography

 The overwhelming popularity of Jim Corbett National Park is indeed its biggest threat. Excessive tourist influx in this area leaves an adverse impact on the ecosystem. Noise pollution is also a major cause of concern for the national park

• Rising incidents of poaching.

- Rising incidents of man-animal (tiger & elephant mainly) conflicts.
- The increase in tourist activities, among other problems, continues to present a serious challenge to the park's ecological balance.

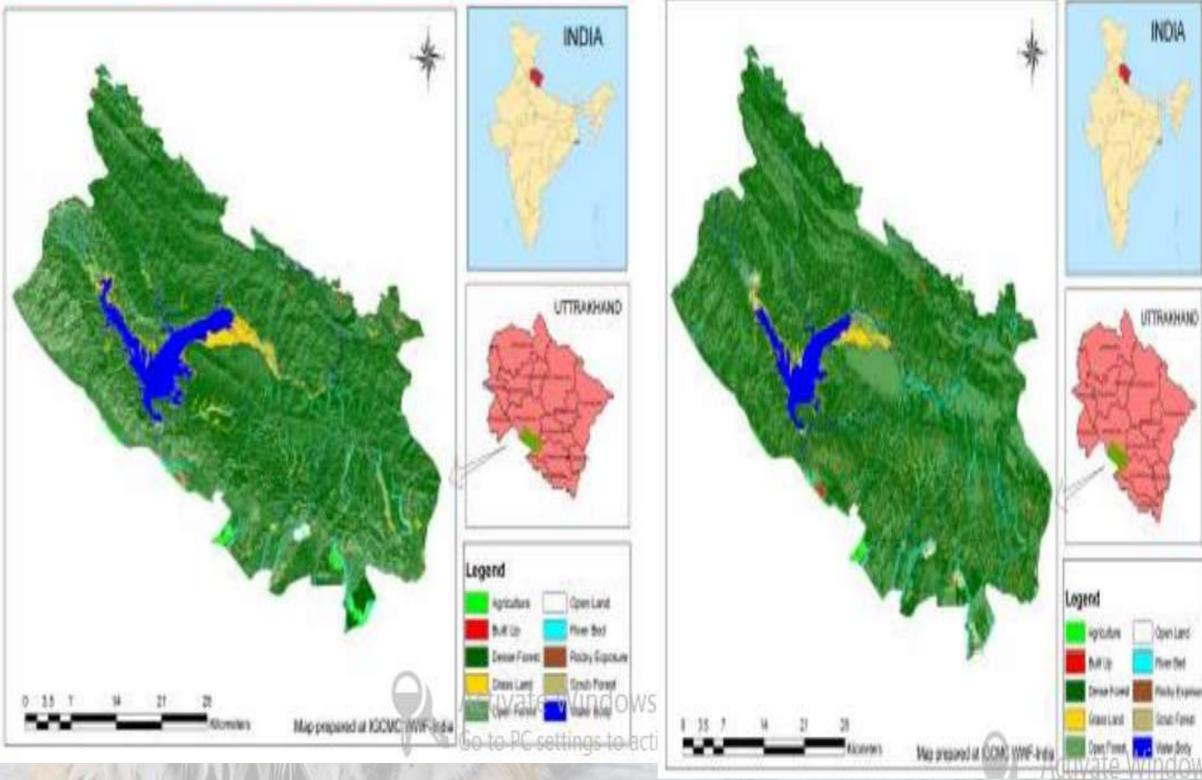
Protection issue : Anthropogenetic

- Encroachment by local people.
- Diversion of land was started just to accelerate the development activities like irrigation, hydro-electric projects, road/rail construction.
- Natural resources like trees and grasses are exploited by the local population while encroachment of at least of 13.62 ha (0.05 sq mi) by 74 families has been recorded
- Constantly increasing vehicle traffic on this road is affecting the wildlife of crucial ranges like Jhirna, Kotirau and Dhara

Protection issue : Anthropogenetic (Contd)

- The issue of 'relocation'
- The 'grazing' dilemma
- Road and rail kills
- The villages in the interior of the forest affected the forest less than villages present at the periphery.

LAND USE/ LAND COVER OF JIM CORBETT NATIONAL PARK, UTTRAKHAND (2000)



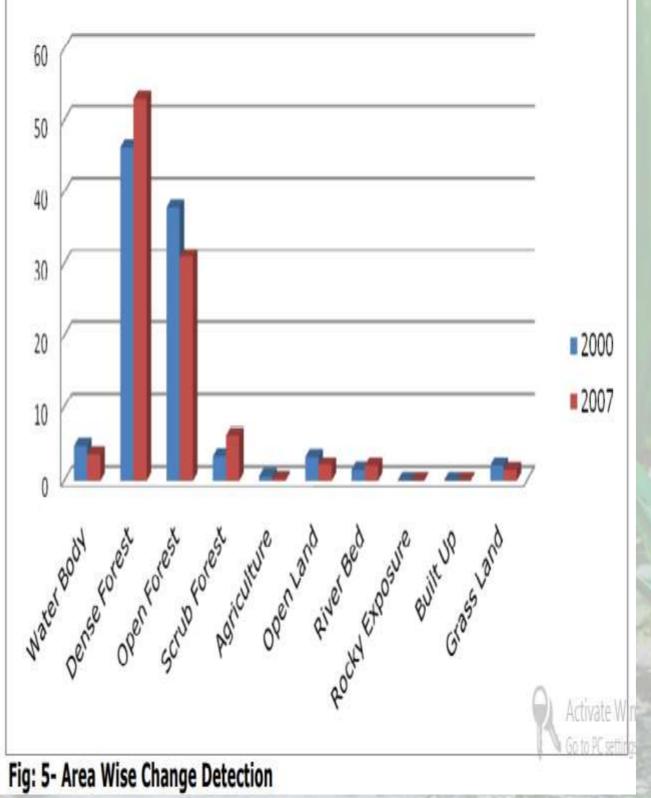
LAND USE/ LAND COVER OF JIM CORBETT NATIONAL PARK, UTTRAKHAND (2007)

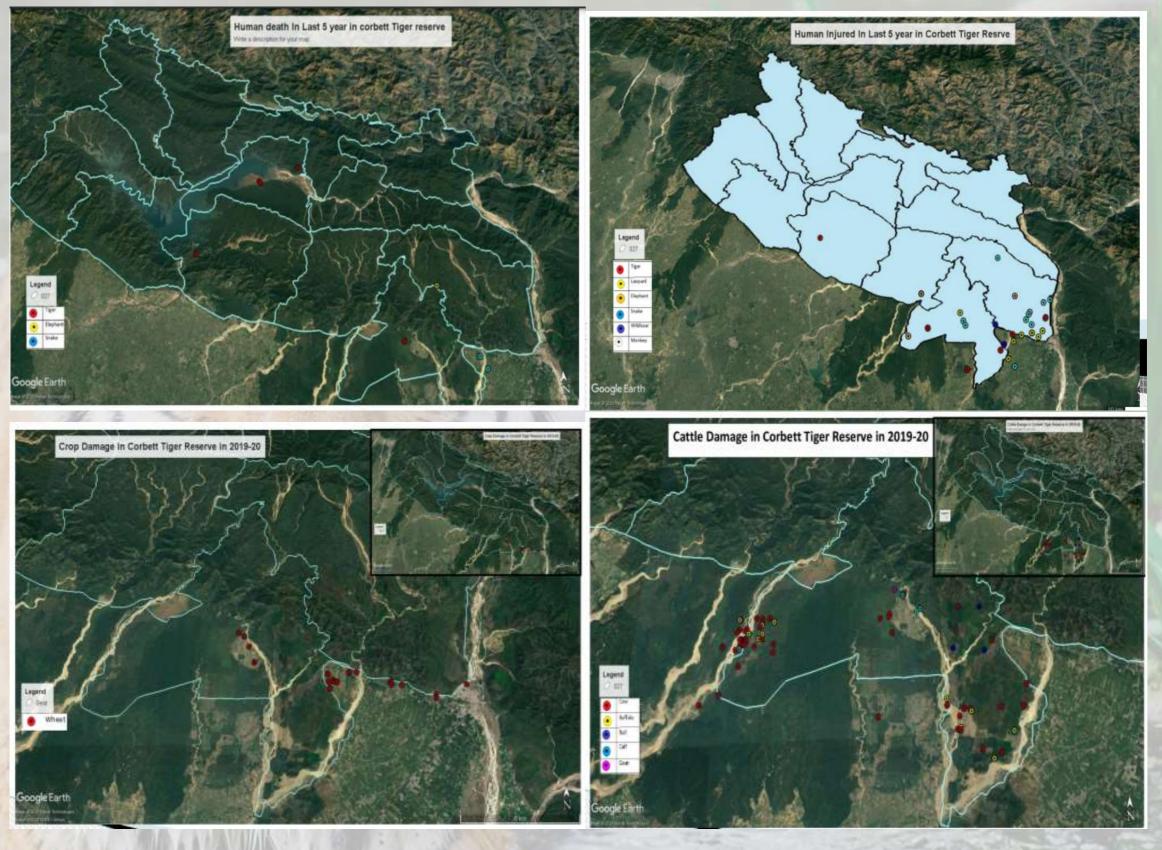


INDIA

CLASS NAMES	NET CHANGE (sq.km)	Gain/ Loss
Water Body	-14.79	Loss
Dense Forest	90.35	Gain
Open Forest	-90.55	Loss
Scrub Forest	36.26	Gain
Agriculture	-4.49	Loss
Open Land	-15.52	Loss
River Bed	7.24	Gain
Rocky Exposure	-0.22	Loss
Built Up	0.15	Gain
Grass Land	-8.34	Loss

AREA WISE CHANGE DETECTION





Martin Contraction

CONCLUSION