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## Tourism Raised Problems in the Corbett National Park, Ramnagar, Uttarakhand, India

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### **Abstract:**

*Corbett National Park is the symbol of protective area of wild life especially endangered species. Definitely tourism in Corbett National Park is a very important source of income for our government but unfortunately it causes negative impact on park as well. In last 10 years, the number of tourists are increasing very fast. As the number of tourists are increasing in the Corbett National Park revenue is also increasing. Tourists and their activities create pressure on Corbett National Park. Corbett National Park is facing many problems like littering, soil pollution, noise pollution, garbage problem, habitat loss, etc. This research paper will highlight the negative impact of tourism in the Corbett National Park.*

**Keywords:** Corbett National Park, Tourism, Negative impact, Protective area, Pollution.

### **1. Introduction**

In 1936, Corbett National Park, the first national park was established in our country. Corbett National Park is our oldest national park and rich in biodiversity. National parks are protected areas that are known for conserving and protecting wildlife. Corbett National Park is very rich in faunal and floral diversity in all over world, especially for Tiger, Leopard, and Elephant. Due to rich in biodiversity, Corbett National Park is home of, flora like Sal, Shisham, Khair, Bamboo etc. Every year a number of tourists come in Corbett National Park for viewing wild life and play an important role in Indian economy. As tourism is a most important source of income for our government in one hand, and on other hand it create many problems for wild life, especially endangered animals of Corbett National Park.

### **2. Review Literature**

National parks and other protected areas are popular tourist destinations. Managers of these sites need to balance visitor needs with conservation objectives [1, 2 & 3]. While tourism provides business opportunities for both site managers and local entrepreneurs, on the one hand, it might also negatively impact the local environment, on the other. A large number of visitors drive to or through the nature area and this traffic might negatively affect both natural and recreational values [4, 5 & 6].

If visitation is uncontrolled or visitors overuse the land, landscapes, historic sites can degrade. Crowding can also produce large amounts of stress, annoyance, anger and other attitudes that will lessen the peaceful experience that tourists seek in national parks [7]. Crowding can minimize the ability to enjoy these scenic areas and also lessens the quality of the parks natural resources [8]. Nesting patterns of birds change, the numbers of animals begin to reduce and in worst case scenarios species can become extinct [9]. Vegetation is being trampled, soil is being compacted, and ecosystems are being destroyed because of the growing amounts of tourists coming into these areas [8]. Direct impacts on wildlife include disruption of behavior such as feeding, breeding, and mother-offspring interaction; poaching; killing (usually accidentally); and the disruption of predator-prey relationships. [10] Indirect impacts on wildlife include changed habitats and feeding patterns, due for example to the attraction of wildlife to litter [11]. Anthropogenic disturbance may reduce the use of some habitats by limiting animal movement or because animal avoid areas with high human activities (such as road or trails) [12, 13, 14, 15 & 16].

### 3. Material and Methodology

#### 3.1. Study Area

The Corbett National Park is the oldest and first national park of India. It is situated in the foothills of Himalaya in the Uttarakhand state. The Corbett National Park's area lies between 29°25' to 29°40'N latitude and 78°5' to 79°5'E longitude. The elevation range of Corbett National Park lies from 1300 to 4,000 ft. Total area of the Corbett National Park is 520.82 sq. km. The Corbett National Park was established in 1936. At that time it was known as Hailey National Park. In 1954 it was renamed as Ramganga National Park. After two years in 1956, its name again changed and till now known as Corbett National Park. With the thought of protecting and conserving the tigers, in 1 April 1973 Corbett National Park launched Project Tiger and thus Corbett National Park become the first park of India to launch Tiger Reserve.

#### 3.2. Methodology

This study is based on secondary data and descriptive in nature. In secondary data we collected 10 years tourism data from Corbett National Park authority. 10 year's data was from 2005-2014.

##### 3.2.1. Tourism in Corbett National Park-

In this research paper, I want to explain the impact of tourism in Corbett National park. So first of all it's very important to know the tourist number in Corbett National Park. For this I am showing 10 years tourism data from 2005 to 2014.

Year	Number of Indian tourist	Number of foreign tourist	Total number of tourist
2005-06	121520	8523	130043
2006-07	130724	8333	139057
2007-08	162601	8794	171395
2008-09	193892	8757	202649
2009-10	189988	8217	198205
2010-11	182019	7774	189793
2011-12	202528	7734	210262
2012-13	200656	6654	207310
2013-14	206413	5262	211675
2014-15	239681	6192	245873

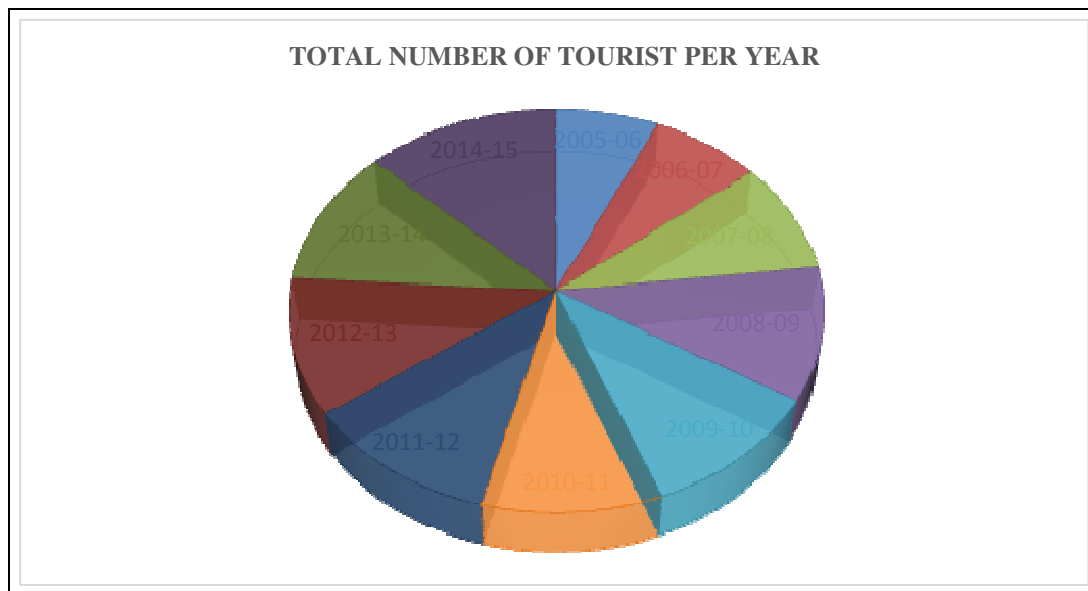
Table 1

Source-Corbett national park office, Ramnagar.

For better explanation I am representing my data with the help of bar chart and pie chart.



Figure 1



*Figure 2*

From above table and graph it is clear that in recent years tourists are growing very fast.

### 3.2.2. Tourism Raised Problem in Corbett National Park

Corbett National Park is heaven of different type of flora and fauna. Its biodiversity always attract tourists toward it. Every year a number of tourists come here to enjoy its beauty. When tourists come in Corbett National Park, they affect park's biodiversity. Corbett National Park are known for tiger, elephant leopard etc. when tourists come in Corbett National Park, they affect Corbett National Park's environment. Crowding due to tourists become a very big problem for wild animals of the Corbett National Park. Crowding effect animal's health and their behavior as well. When a number of tourists come in the Corbett National Park for visitation, they change this peaceful environment and create crowding environment.

The presence of human as tourists in the Corbett National Park cause littering problem. Corbett National Park provide the two times visitation in a day, so the number of vehicles enter in the park are increasing, which cause noise pollution and soil pollution. Trampling by tourists in the park also cause the loss of biodiversity. As the tourist numbers increase, their impact are also increase in the Corbett National Park. Tourism's impact (negative) on national park is growing as a very big problem in all over world. National park is home of wild life with peaceful environment.

Sometimes many hikers spend a big time in Corbett national park. In this duration they carry food material and also other material with them in the park. When they left park, they left food wrappers, plastic cups etc. In each year number of tourists visit the Corbett national park and other parks of world. So for these tourists a number of resorts and hotel are also constructed surrounding the parks. These hotel and resorts also negatively impact environment of parks. These hotels and resorts provide many facilities to tourist bur create many problems for the wild life of national park.

### **4. Result and Discussion**

Tourism has been referred to as a "goose that not only lays a golden egg, but also fouls its own nest" [17]. In Corbett National Park, tourists damage the vegetation of park and also create the soil related problems as soil pollution. Vegetation is being trampled, soil is being compacted, and ecosystems are being destroyed because of the growing amounts of tourists coming into these areas [8]. Visitors cause littering in park. Littering is also a big problem of wild life and it impact environment badly. Sometimes many hikers spend a big time in Corbett National Park. In this duration they carry food material and other material with them. When they left park, they left food wrappers, plastic cups etc. The fauna of the Corbett National Park may suffer from health related problems when they come in contact with this garbage.

Crowding by the tourists cause distress in wild life of Corbett National Park. Corbett National Park is a peaceful area for wildlife but due to tourism crowing it cause stress and anger in wild life and change the natural behavior. Hiking, vehicle use, camping etc. activities damage the vegetation of the Corbett national park. As the result their regeneration process becomes very slow. Due to trampling soil of Corbett National Park also effect and the process of soil erosion occur.

As the tourists are come in large number in the Corbett National Park, the construction of resorts and hotels are also increasing in surrounding area especially in Dhikuli. For the construction of hotels and resorts a large area of national parks is used. As the result the habitat of park's animals are decreasing day by day. These resorts and hotel not only damage the habitat of wild animals but also cause air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution, noise pollution, garbage problems etc. In many national parks these resorts and hotels are responsible for the blockage of corridor.

## 5. Conclusion

Now it is clear that tourism is a big cause of disturbance in Corbett National Park. Corbett National Park is protective area for wild life especially endangered species, but unfortunately this park is facing many problems due to human, and tourism is an important cause of it. So to conserve the biodiversity of Corbett National Park it is important to start some awareness program for tourists. Along these program, with the help of stick rules and regulations are important to minimize the disturbance by tourism in Corbett National Park.

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