

## Chapter - 01

### INTRODUCTION OF THE AREA

#### 1.1 Name, Location, Constitution & Extent

##### 1.1.1 Name:

The Core area of Pench Tiger Reserve consists of Indira Priyadarsini Pench National Park and Mowgali Pench Sanctuary.

##### 1.1.2 Location:

The Indira Priyadarsini Pench National Park is located in Seoni and Chhindwara districts & The Pench Mowgali Sanctuary is confined to Kurai block of Seoni district. The buffer area includes part of Reserve and Protected Forests of South Seoni Division in Seoni district and East and South Chhindwara Divisions of Chhindwara district. The Core Area / Critical Tiger Habitat of Pench Tiger Reserve is situated at the following geographical coordinates:

Longitude	79 <sup>0</sup> 08' 51" to 79 <sup>0</sup> 31' 55" E
Latitude	21 <sup>0</sup> 38' 55" to 21 <sup>0</sup> 53' 52" N

##### 1.1.3 Constitution:

The Core Area of Pench Tiger Reserve is comprised of Indira Priyadarshini Pench National Park and Pench Mowgli Sanctuary. The management of Pench Mowgli Sanctuary was assigned to the Pench Tiger Reserve in the year 1995 vide the Govt of M P Forest Department's Notification F – 14/176/94/10/2, Bhopal, dated 29-03-95. The area of National Park and Sanctuary is declared as Core of PTR Seoni in 2007. vide MP Government Forest Department notification No. F 15-31-2007-X-2 dated 24.12.2007. The buffer area of 768.300 sq. kms. has been finally notified by MP Government Forest Department notification no. F-15-8/2009/10-2 dated 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010. The buffer zone is under the direct control of three territorial divisions like South Seoni division, East Chhindwara division and South Chhindwara division. The process is on to give this area under control of Field Director, Pench Tiger Reserve.

##### 1.1.4 Extent (Area Statement & Legal Status)

###### Area Statement:

The Total Core Area of Pench Tiger Reserve, Seoni is 411.330 sq. km., the detail is as following –

S.No.	Status	Area in sq. km.
1	Indira Priyadarshini Pench National Park	292.857
2	Pench Mowgli Sanctuary	118.473
<b>Total</b>		<b>411.330</b>

The district wise break up of Core area is as below:

Status	District Seoni (Area in sq. km.)	District Chhindwara (Area in sq. km.)	Total (Area in sq. km.)
National Park	145.568	147.289	<b>292.857</b>
Sanctuary	118.473	-	<b>118.473</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>264.041</b>	<b>147.289</b>	<b>411.330</b>

### Legal Status :

The Indira Priyadarshini Pench National Park and Pench Mowgli Sanctuary forming Core area of Pench Tiger Reserve are finally notified National Park & Sanctuary. The legal status of the Core Area is as following -

S. No.	Protected Area	Reserved Forest (in ha)	Protected Forest (in ha)	Revenue Land (in ha)	Total (in ha)
1	Indira Priyadarshini Pench National Park	28381.100	626.500	278.100	29285.700
2	Pench Mowgli Sanctuary	11847.300	-	-	11847.300
<b>Total</b>		<b>40228.400</b>	<b>626.500</b>	<b>278.100</b>	<b>41133.000</b>

The compartment wise detail is given in **Annexure No. – 01.**

### Submergence Area:

The Pench river has been dammed at Totladoh, near the border of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra for hydro-electric project. A vast tract of 76 sq. km forest/revenue area has come under submergence, out of which 54.517 sq. km is in Pench Tiger Reserve, Seoni M.P. The detail of submergence in PTR M.P. is as below.

S.No.	District	Area in sq. km.
1	Seoni	17.246
2	Chhindwara	37.271
<b>Total</b>		<b>54.517</b>

The compartment wise detail of submergence area is given in **Annexure No. – 12.**

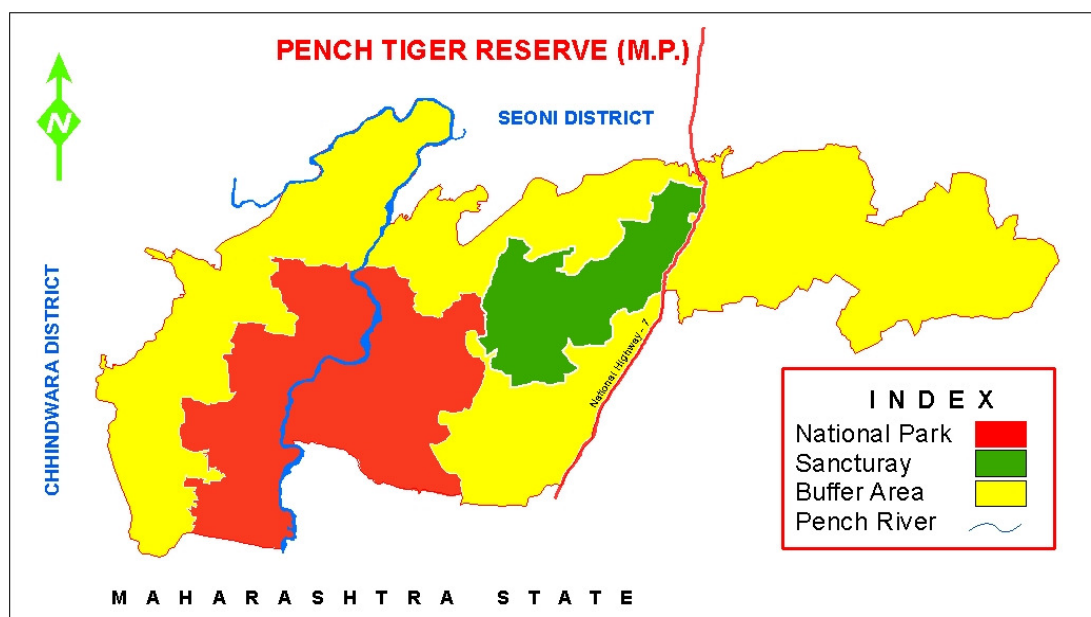
The Total Buffer Area of Pench Tiger Reserve, Seoni is 768.300 sq. km., the detail is as following –

Division (Buffer Zone)	Range	R.F. (ha)	P.F. (ha)	Total Ft. Area	Rev. Area (ha)	Total Area	F.V. Area	No. of Vill.
S.Seoni	Ghatkohka	4446.770	785.110	5231.880	6270.350	11502.230	449.760	21
	Khawasa	3155.650	3131.300	6286.950	5581.790	11868.740	119.500	24
	Rukahd	11076.850	589.040	11665.890	783.830	12449.720	1087.530	7
	Ari	12630.250	759.370	13389.620	854.750	14244.370	672.640	8
<b>Total</b>		<b>31309.520</b>	<b>5264.820</b>	<b>36574.340</b>	<b>13490.720</b>	<b>50065.060</b>	<b>2329.430</b>	<b>60</b>
E./S. Chhindwara	Kumbhpani	5684.312	2090.665	7774.977	9349.750	17124.727	610.450	24
S. Chhindwara	Khamarpani	2076.796	580.172	2656.968	6983.470	9640.438		23
<b>Total</b>		<b>7761.108</b>	<b>2670.837</b>	<b>10431.945</b>	<b>16333.220</b>	<b>26765.165</b>	<b>610.450</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>G. Total</b>		<b>39070.628</b>	<b>7935.657</b>	<b>47006.285</b>	<b>29823.940</b>	<b>76830.225</b>	<b>2939.880</b>	<b>107</b>

The compartment wise detail of Buffer area is given in **Annexure No. – 01 A**

## Core and Buffer Area:

S. No.	Protected Area	Reserved Forest (in ha)	Protected Forest (in ha)	Revenue Land (in ha)	Total (in ha)
1	Core Area	40228.400	626.500	278.100	<b>41133.000</b>
2	Buffer Area	39070.628	7935.657	29823.940	<b>76830.225</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>79299.028</b>	<b>8562.157</b>	<b>30102.040</b>	<b>117963.225</b>



### 1.1.5 Notifications

In the year 1977, 449.392 sq. km of area had been notified as "Pench Sanctuary" vide the Govt. of M.P. Forest Department Notification no. 15/11/77-10/3, Bhopal dated 30-09-1977. (**Annexure No. – 02**)

In the year 1983, from the initially notified Sanctuary; Govt. of M.P. has declared its intention to declare an area of **292.857** sq. km as Pench National Park; vide the Govt. of M.P. Forest Department's Notification no. 5-15-82-10-(2) Bhopal dated 01-03-1983. (**Annexure No. – 03**)

Out of the remaining portion of **156.530** sq. km, an area of **118.473** sq. km. was retained as Pench Sanctuary, while the remaining area of **38.223** sq. km. was excluded from the umbrella of the PA.

The Pench Sanctuary was finally notified by vide the Govt. of M.P. Forest Department's Notification no. F.15-65-96-X-2 Bhopal dated 21-8-1998. (**Annexure No. - 04**)

In the year 2002 the National Park & Sancturay were renamed as Indirapriya dirsini Pench National Park and Pench Mowgali Sancturay by vied Govt of M.P. Forest

Department's Notification no. F. 15-5-2002-10-2 Bhopal dated 15-11-2002  
(**Annexure No. - 05**)

The National Park was finally notified by vied Govt of M.P. Forest Department's Notification no. F.15-11-05-X-2. Bhopal dated 16-12-2005 as Indira Priyadarshini Pench National Park. (**Annexure No. - 06**)

An area 757.850 sq. km, including 346.520 sq. km. area of the adjoining Forest Division was included and named as Pench Tiger Reserve (19<sup>th</sup> Tiger Project) in the Year 1992 under Centrally Sponsored Scheme Project Tiger vide the Govt. of India Ministry of Environment and Forests Project Tiger's order no 1-2/92-PT (Part II) Dated 23 November 1992 (**Annexure No. - 07**)

An area of 411.330 sq. km. of Indira Priyadarshini Pench National Park & Pench Mowgli Sanctuary was declared as Core Area of Pench Tiger Reserve, Seoni vide Govt. of M.P. Forest Department's Notification no. F.15-31-2007-X-2 dated 24-12-2007. (**Annexure No. – 08**)

The buffer area of 768.300 sq. kms. has been finally notified by MP Government Forest Department notification no. F-15-8/2009/10-2 dated 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010. (**Annexure No. – 08 A**)

## 1.2 Approach and Access

The Pench Tiger Reserve is approachable by rail and road from Jabalpur, Chhindwara, Seoni and Nagpur. The road distances from above places are as below:

**Table No. - 01**  
**Approach and Access of PTR**

Place	Major Route	Approach	Entry Point	Distance (in km)
Nagpur	Nagpur- Jabalpur NH- 7	Khawasa	Turiya	92
Chhindwara	Chhindwara- Seoni	Seoni-Sukhtara on NH 7	Karmajhiri	120
Chhindwara	Chhindwara – Jamtara	Tansara, Bichhuawa	Karmajhiri	85
Jabalpur	Jabalpur-Seoni on NH 7	Seoni-Sukhtara on NH 7	Karmajhiri	195
Mandla	*Mandla-Seoni-Sukhtara-Karmajhiri via Keolari	Seoni-Sukhtara on NH 7	Karmajhiri	165

\*- Tourists from Kanha follow this route to visit Pench.

The headquarters of the Pench Tiger Reserve is located at Seoni, which is situated at 70 Km from Chhindwara, 128 km from Nagpur and 145 km from Jabalpur. The nearest Airports are at Nagpur and Jabalpur.

Petrol & Diesel Pumps are available at Khawasa and Panchdhar about 12 & 17 Km from Turiya gate of National Park. Tourist lodges and Resorts are available at Turiya,

Awarghani & Kohka for about 175 beds. Forest rest houses are available at Karmajhiri for about 34 beds & at Ghat kohka for 4 beds. The nearest medical facility is available at Kurai and Dewalapar, which are about 27 and 28 Km from Turiya gate. Telephone Mobile connectivity is available in almost all the hotels near Turiya gate and many PCO near Khawasa & Turiya. Fax and Internet facilities are also available in the hotels near the Turiya gate. Nearest Post Office is at Turiya village about 2 Km from the Turiya gate. From Khawasa, local Taxies are available for transportation up to Turiya. The private Gypsies are available for Park round at Turiya and Karmajhiri gates.

### **1.3 Statement of Significance**

The Pench Tiger Reserve has its importance in the natural history of central India. Many eulogies of its natural beauty and its richness in fauna & flora have appeared in numerous literatures dating back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Books, pertaining to 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, by famous naturalists like caption J. Forsyth (High lands of central India), R.A. Sterndale (Camp life in Seoni, and Mammals of India:), Dunbar Brander (Wild animals in Central India) and Rudyard Kipling (Jungle book) explicitly present the detailed panorama of nature's abundance in this tract of Satpura hill Ranges.

The area of Pench Tiger Reserve is also popularly known as Mowgli Land. A boy named Mowgli, brought up by a herd of wolves was found in the Sant Bawadi village by Leut. John Moor under the guidance of Col. Villiam Sleeman in 1831. Kipling got this flamboyant description of things both from the pamphlet titled, "An account of wolves nurturing children in their dens" by Sir William Henry Sleeman and a book on 'Camp Life of Seoni' by R. A. Sterendale. The Jungle Book mentions a place where Sher Khan was killed. This place is in fact the Valley of Benganga River, near Kanhiwada village. At the present time, these places of historical significance are falling under the famous Pench National Park.

Central Highlands of India is one of the most important habitats in the world for the conservation of highly endangered great cat "Tiger". The Pench Tiger Reserve is centrally located in these highlands. It is connected to Kanha by forest of Seoni, Balaghat and Mandla districts and southern side is contiguous with Pench Tiger Reserve of Maharashtra.

The wetlands of PTR are of great significance in the context of conservation of avian fauna, as it not only provides suitable habitat for the residential birds; but also provide wintering grounds for many waterfowls. The islands in Totaladoh reservoir provide nesting grounds to many island nesting birds like River Tern, Small Pratincol & Little Tern. That's why this area is included in IMPORTANT BIRD AREA.

PTR is a Representative of a large tract of Central Indian Teak dominated Tropical Dry deciduous Forests habitat of Tiger, which are very suitable for herbivores. Hence some part of PTR harbours high ungulate density of 90.3 animals per sq. km. & second highest biomass density of 6013.25 kg per sq km. after Nagarhole. (M.K.S. Pasha & Areendran). This high prey base along with different ideal habitat conditions is ideal condition for the sustenance and growth of the Tiger, the top consumer of the natural Ecosystem of the forest.

Forest of PTR falls in the catchments of the Bawanthari & Pench River. The huge mass of water collected in Totaladoh reservoir, run the Pench Hydroelectric project for electricity generation & drinking water supply to Nagpur city. The Bawanthari Reservoir used for irrigation purpose is totally dependent on it.

Pench Tiger Reserve displays all the intricacies of natural ecosystem in the form of various ecosystem pyramids of different producer-consumer chains, geological history, river orientation, management of wild habitat and watershed development and management. Besides the highly endangered Indian Tiger, the reserve also harbors a wide range of faunal species some of which figure prominently in the IUCN Red List. These species include *Cuon alpinus*, *Vulpes benghalensis*, *Melursus ursinus*, *Lutra perspicillata*, *Panthera pardus*, *Bos gaurus* and *Python molurus*. Among vertebrate 58 species of mammals, 325 species of birds, 37 species of reptiles & 50 species of fishes have been reported so far. Hence it is an ideal site to impart nature education. In invertebrate 100 species of butterfly, 100 species of moth, 50 species of dragonfly and damselfly, 30 species of spiders and almost 250 species of other insects have been identified. The floral diversity comprise of about 1000 species of angiosperms, about 10 species of pteridophytes, 10 species of bryophytes and about 35 species of fungi. The inventories are not exhaustive and there is still scope for intensive floral, faunal and entomological surveys.

A very good population of about 100 highly endangered Vultures are found in PTR, which comprises of *Sarcogyps calvus*, *Aegyptius monachus*, *Gyps indicus*, *Gyps* sp (Slednder billed vulture), *Gyps bengalensis*, *Neophron percnopteru* & *Griffon* sp.

Tremendous scenic beauty of dense forest, a number of open meadows, massive reservoir, picturesque beauty of sunrise at Kalapahad and sunset view from Alikatta provide a real feeling of the wilderness. Habitation free area miles together with least biotic disturbance allows the different life form to play in their natural form in the wilderness of this PA.

Representative biological diversity of Central Indian Highlands including many rare and endangered flora of great medicinal, educational, scientific and conservation values are efficiently conserved in Pench Tiger Reserve.

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