

The Similipal Tiger Reserve is spread over 2750sq. km. where 65nos. of villages (4 villages and two hamlets in core zone and 57 villages in Buffer zone) are present. 3 villages including two hamlets have already been relocated outside core. Matter is being pursued to relocate the remaining core village of Bakua outside the Similipal Tiger Reserve. Out of the 57 nos. of buffer villages, about 27 villages are virtually situated in center of the Tiger Reserve in northern half of the Reserve facing core areas. These villages still continuous to be deprived from many welfare schemes due to poor communication infrastructure facilities like roads, electricity and irrigation etc. as there cannot be developed inside the Sanctuary of Tiger Reserves area. Ultimately, these inhabitants would be laggard in the process of development in future. From the viewpoint of wildlife management, the influence of these people due to their activities is quite conspicuous and perceivable in the Tiger Reserve which is noticed by poor presence of wild animals in northern half of the Tiger Reserve where 27 no. of villages are situated. These villagers are managing to enter in to forests for grazing cattle, collection of NTFP, honey etc., thus competing with the local wild animals for space, shelter, food and water etc. Due to the genuine difficulty in villages, voluntarily these villagers have been pressing for their relocation outside the Tiger Reserve for better quality of life and development. Considering holistically the interest of these inhabitants, wildlife and habitats, the State Govt. of Odisha has now come up with Relocation policy for villages located in buffer area who voluntarily desire to be relocated outside Tiger Reserve. As per the relocation package each family would be given Rs.10.00lakhs in cash over and above each family would get 10 decimal of homestead land. The Suitable Revenue non-forest land to this extent is not available in the District therefore it is proposed to relocate these families in forest area. By doing it people would also get better opportunity outside for their development at the same time a required undisturbed landscape would be made available for the wildlife and conservations of natural resources including water in future.