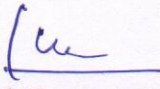


**CONSERVATION VALUE OF THE PROTECTED AREA  
(CHANDAKA-DAMAPARA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY)**

Chandaka-Damapara Wildlife Sanctuary near Bhubaneswar represents the north-eastern limits of Eastern Ghats. This is now an isolated forest, which once formed a part of vast Eastern Ghats forest and Central Indian Elephant range. The Protected Area is located between geographical co-ordinates: 20°12'30" and 20°26'03"N latitude and 85°34'42" and 85°49'35"E longitude. The area of sanctuary is 193.39sq.km. Flora is moderately diverse with intimate mixture of evergreen and deciduous elements. The area comes under semi-evergreen forest zone but the interplay of biotic factors has changed the original character of the vegetation. Species composition is heterogeneous. Thorny bamboo (*Bambusa bambos*) occur pure in valleys and mixed with tree growth on hill slopes.

Elephant is the keystone species in this forest ecosystem. Hanuman Langur, the macaque, three deer species (spotted deer, barking deer and mouse deer), wild pig, porcupine and hare are the herbivores. Among carnivores, hyena, wolf, fox, jackal, mongoose (common, small, ruddy). Civets (small, palm), tree shrew and Pangolins are important. The reptilian fauna include Bengal monitor, mud turtle, the Chameleon, Python, Cobra, Russels viper, Bamboo pit viper, Rat snake, Earth Boa etc. Avifauna can be classified in to four groups viz. waterfowl & waders, raptors, ground nesting birds and song birds.

River Mahanadi flows in the northern part of the Sanctuary. The River system alongwith adjoining marshes is the wintering ground of variety of migratory water birds. This Protected Area is located in the close proximity of State Capital Bhubaneswar. It acts as lungs of the city and other surrounding human habitations. The Protected Area eco-system is instrumental for recharge of ground water which is essential for existence of the civilization. This is a learning centre for students and researchers on various aspects of Biodiversity. Moreover, the Protected Area provides beautiful ambience and wilderness experience to the eco-tourists and visitors.

  
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