

## **Conservation Values:**

The Umred-Paoni-Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary is significant for its ecological, environmental, watershed and recreational values in this region. Its significance & value has been described in the following paras:

### **i) ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES:**

It is an important conservation unit in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra state. It acts as the 'Green Lungs' for the adjoining human settlements & helps in maintaining environmental balance & ecological security of this area.

### **ii) ZOOLOGICAL (Wildlife) VALUES:**

It is a home of many species of the central region. The variety of fauna which includes, about 27 species of mammals, 160 species of birds, including migratory species, 25 species of fresh water fishes, 81 species of butterfly beside many species of reptiles & amphibians. It is also an abode of the innumerable insects and ant species. The most important aspect is that it is a breeding ground for the apex animal the **Tiger** and an important part of the corridor between Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve and Navegoan - Nagzira Tiger Reserves which further connect to Pench Tiger Reserve (MS & MP) and Kanha Tiger Reserve MP.

### **iii) BOTANICAL VALUES:**

The UPKWLS is very rich in floral diversity pertaining to this area the forest type is 6- southern tropical dry deciduous forests' and is grouped as 5A/C(i)(a) under the revised classification of forests by Champion & Seth. It serves as a living repository of various economic, medicinal, aromatic and ornamental plant species.

### **iv) GEOLOGICAL VALUES:**

The sanctuary comprises of an area situated on Deccan trap with basalt in a greatly varying formation as the prevailing rocks carry with a variety of soils from clay loam to a hard reddish murum which is often found mixed with boulders of various sizes.

### **v) WATERSHED VALUES:**

The entire sanctuary area forms the catchment of the Wainganga & Maru River. It conserves the rain water & improves the water regime of this area. Its hills, valleys and nallahs constitute the natural drainage having great significance for human development and wildlife conservation.