

# Wildlife Tourism and Stakeholder Livelihoods in Corbett Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand: A Secondary-Data Assessment (2015–2025)

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**Abstract:** Wildlife tourism has emerged as a major driver of regional development in Uttarakhand, with Corbett Tiger Reserve functioning as one of India's flagship wildlife destinations. While rising visitor numbers create livelihood opportunities for local communities and tourism-service providers, they also generate ecological pressures and governance challenges. This paper uses secondary data for 2015–2025 to examine trends in tourist arrivals to Corbett Tiger Reserve and discusses their implications for stakeholder livelihoods and sustainable wildlife-tourism development. Annual domestic and foreign visitor statistics are compiled from official tourism data, and descriptive statistics, growth rates and trend analysis are applied. Total visitors increased from 199,848 in 2015 to a peak of 361,891 in 2024, implying an approximate compound annual growth rate of 6.7% over 2015–2024, despite substantial volatility associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and other shocks. Domestic tourists account for the overwhelming share of visitors, while foreign arrivals remain modest but non-negligible. The sharp contractions observed in 2020 and 2025 illustrate the vulnerability of tourism-dependent livelihoods, whereas years of rapid growth raise concerns about pressure on ecological carrying capacity. Building on these findings, the paper outlines a conceptual Sustainable Wildlife Tourism Index that integrates economic, social, environmental and institutional dimensions to guide future empirical work. The study underscores the need to move beyond simple visitor counts towards a multidimensional evaluation of how wildlife tourism contributes to inclusive stakeholder benefits and conservation outcomes in India's protected areas.

**Keywords:** Corbett Tiger Reserve; Wildlife Tourism; Stakeholder Livelihoods; Sustainable Tourism; Secondary Data; Uttarakhand; India.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Uttarakhand possesses rich natural and ecological resources, including national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and tiger reserves that underpin a growing wildlife-tourism economy. Among these, Corbett Tiger Reserve is one of India's best-known protected areas and a flagship destination for tiger conservation and wildlife viewing. Located in the foothills of the Himalayas and spread across parts of Nainital, Pauri Garhwal and Almora districts, the reserve covers over 1,300 km<sup>2</sup>, with a designated core critical tiger habitat surrounded by a buffer area. The landscape is accessed through multiple tourism gates and zones, such as Dhikala, Bijrani, Jhirna, Dhela, Durgadevi and Pakhro, with Ramnagar functioning as the primary gateway town. These gates

channel visitors into specific safari zones, shaping the spatial distribution of tourist pressure, the organisation of jeep and canter safaris, and the location of resorts and ancillary services along key corridors leading up to the reserve.

Wildlife tourism in and around Corbett supports a wide range of activities—accommodation, safari operations, guiding, transport, handicrafts and other services—thereby contributing to local and regional livelihoods. For many households in gateway villages and settlements along the main approach roads to the park gates, tourism provides seasonal or year-round employment, diversification away from agriculture, and opportunities for small enterprise development, while also shaping land use and patterns of investment in the local economy. National policies and

guidelines, such as those issued by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), seek to regulate tourism in tiger reserves, but the effectiveness of these frameworks depends on how tourism growth, governance and conservation are aligned on the ground.

This paper uses secondary data for 2015–2025 to

analyse visitor trends in Corbett Tiger Reserve and to interpret their implications for stakeholder livelihoods and sustainable wildlife tourism. Rather than focusing solely on the number of tourists, the study emphasises how trends in visitor arrivals can be linked conceptually to economic, social, environmental and institutional dimensions of sustainability.

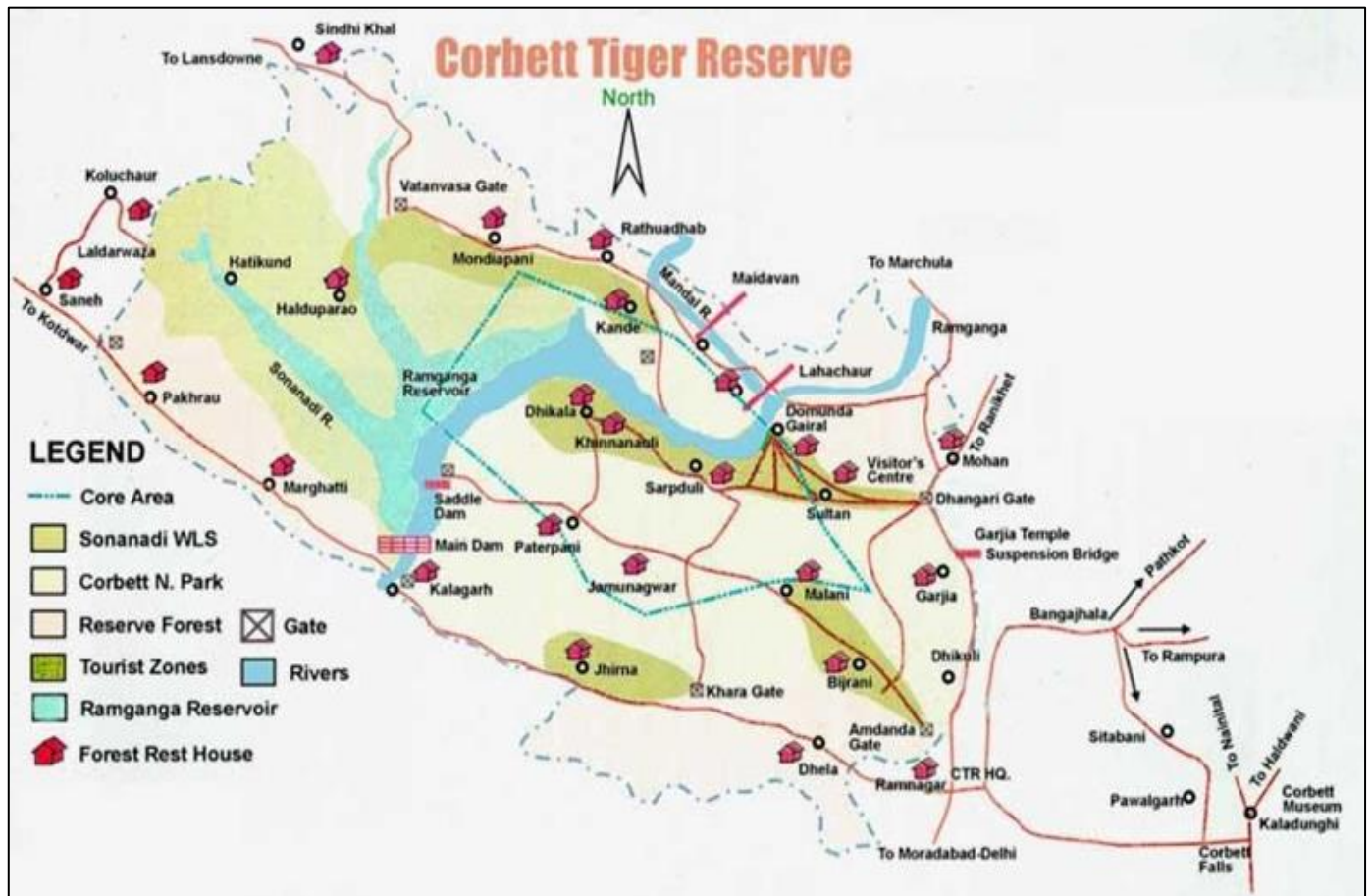


Fig 1 Corbett Tiger Reserve

Source: [https://www.jimcorbettnationalpark.co.in/corbett\\_national\\_park\\_map.html](https://www.jimcorbettnationalpark.co.in/corbett_national_park_map.html)

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

### ➤ *Wildlife-Tourism Trends in Protected Areas and Corbett Tiger Reserve*

International research on nature-based tourism in protected areas documents sustained growth in visitor numbers driven by rising incomes, improved accessibility and the marketing of charismatic wildlife, alongside pronounced sensitivity to policy changes and external shocks (Karanth & DeFries, 2011). Time-series analyses of protected-area visitation typically reveal medium-term upward trends interspersed with sharp declines linked to court-ordered restrictions, disease outbreaks and economic downturns, underlining the importance of examining both average growth and year-to-year volatility.

In the Indian context, tiger reserves such as Corbett, Ranthambhore and Bandhavgarh have experienced rapid expansion of wildlife tourism since the early 2000s, with increases in safari operations, resort capacity and associated

services (Karanth & DeFries, 2011). For Corbett specifically, empirical work has documented substantial growth in visitor numbers and tourism infrastructure, highlighting its status as one of India's busiest tiger reserves and a key node in Uttarakhand's tourism economy (Badola et al., 2010; Rastogi et al., 2015). However, much of this work relies on single-year data or short time frames; systematic analysis of trends across a full decade using consistent secondary data remains limited, particularly for the period after the COVID-19 pandemic. This gap justifies the present study's focus on long-term patterns of domestic, foreign and total tourist arrivals and their growth dynamics in Corbett.

### ➤ *Tourism and Stakeholder Livelihoods*

A substantial body of literature argues that wildlife tourism can diversify rural livelihoods through wage employment, self-employment and micro-enterprise development in accommodation, guiding, transport and handicrafts (Scheyvens, 1999). In the Corbett landscape, village-level studies show that tourism has become an

important source of cash income, particularly for households engaged in homestays, small hotels, safari vehicle operations and guiding services (Badola et al., 2010; Rastogi et al., 2015). These studies report positive associations between tourism activity and indicators such as employment, non-farm income and investment in housing and education, suggesting that wildlife tourism can contribute to local development when linkages with nearby communities are strong.

At the same time, benefit distribution is often highly unequal. Households with land near access roads or park gates, higher education and capital are more likely to own tourism enterprises, while poorer households typically participate as casual labourers or remain largely excluded from higher-value segments (Rastogi et al., 2015). Comparative analyses from African protected areas echo this pattern, showing that better-off households capture a disproportionate share of tourism-related wages and business opportunities, and that tourism benefits alone seldom lift the poorest out of poverty (Archabald & Naughton-Treves, 2001; Snyman, 2019). Against this backdrop, the present study interprets trends in visitor numbers as a proxy for the intensity of tourism-linked livelihood opportunities and associated livelihood risks in the Corbett region.

#### ➤ *Environmental and Institutional Dimensions of Wildlife Tourism*

Wildlife tourism affects protected-area ecosystems through vehicle traffic, noise, crowding around wildlife sightings, waste generation and increased demand for water and other resources. Research on Indian tiger reserves warns that when visitor numbers grow faster than regulatory capacity and infrastructure, tourism can undermine habitat quality and disturb wildlife behaviour (Karanth & DeFries, 2011). Ecosystem-service assessments in Corbett show that the reserve provides significant regulating, supporting and cultural services, but also emphasise that intensive tourism can erode these services if not managed within ecological limits (Badola et al., 2010).

Institutionally, NTCA's guidelines on tourism in and around tiger reserves stress carrying-capacity assessment, zoning, limits on vehicle entries and mechanisms for ploughing back tourism revenue into conservation and community development (NTCA, 2012). The latest national tiger-status report likewise highlights the role of tourism revenues and institutional arrangements in financing habitat management, anti-poaching and community outreach (NTCA, 2023). However, implementation is uneven across reserves, with persistent concerns about overcrowding in popular zones, inadequate waste management and limited transparency in the use of tourism revenues. The present study therefore situates Corbett's tourism trends within this broader debate on how visitor growth interacts with environmental pressure and governance quality.

#### ➤ *Composite Indices and Sustainable Wildlife Tourism*

Recent scholarship contends that single indicators, such as visitor numbers or tourism revenue, are inadequate for assessing sustainability; instead, multidimensional frameworks and composite indices are recommended to

capture trade-offs among economic, social, environmental and institutional goals. Global reviews of nature-based tourism in protected areas show growing use of indicator systems and indices that combine variables such as employment, income distribution, local participation, waste management, biodiversity status and governance quality into synthetic measures of sustainability performance.

In India, critical analyses of wildlife tourism in tiger reserves highlight unsustainable production and consumption patterns, including overcrowding, infrastructure sprawl and weak benefit-sharing arrangements, and call for monitoring tools that integrate livelihood and conservation dimensions in a single framework. Index-based approaches have been proposed to evaluate sustainable tourism at destinations, but few have been tailored specifically to wildlife tourism in individual tiger reserves using official secondary data. The present study responds to this methodological gap and aligns Corbett-focused research with emerging international practice on composite sustainability assessment.

#### ➤ *Policy Implications and Benefit-Sharing*

Policy-oriented literature on wildlife tourism in India emphasizes that realizing tourism's potential for conservation and livelihoods requires deliberate strategies to strengthen local linkages, ensure fair benefit-sharing and control ecological impacts (Karanth & DeFries, 2011; Rastogi et al., 2015). Case studies from Corbett show that when local communities receive visible benefits—wage employment, enterprise opportunities, improved infrastructure—and when they participate in decision-making, support for tiger conservation increases, whereas exclusion and perceived inequity fuel conflict (Badola et al., 2010; Rastogi et al., 2015).

International evidence from revenue-sharing programmes in eastern and southern Africa similarly indicates that transparent allocation of tourism revenues, meaningful community involvement and attention to marginalised groups can strengthen conservation attitudes, even though benefits rarely fully offset the costs of living with wildlife (Archabald & Naughton-Treves, 2001; Munanura et al., 2016, 2022; Snyman, 2019). These findings point to a set of recurring policy themes: formalizing benefit-sharing arrangements; enhancing local ownership and participation; investing in skills and small enterprises; enforcing carrying-capacity-based regulations; and ensuring that a share of tourism income is reinvested into conservation and community development. The present study's policy discussion builds directly on this literature.

#### ➤ *Research Gap*

Despite Corbett's prominence as a wildlife-tourism destination, systematic analyses that integrate tourism trends with livelihood and sustainability considerations using secondary data are scarce. Existing discussions often focus on how many tourists visit, but pay less attention to whether tourism growth translates into inclusive stakeholder benefits, improved conservation financing and effective environmental management.

• *Specifically, there is a Gap in:*

- ✓ Time-series analysis of visitor trends in Corbett using consistent official data, including the period before and after COVID-19.
- ✓ Linking visitor dynamics to an explicit conceptual framework of economic, social, environmental and governance outcomes.
- ✓ Proposing an index-based approach that can be operationalized in future research when additional secondary or primary data become available.

This paper addresses these gaps by analyzing visitor trends and outlining an integrated sustainability framework tailored to Corbett.

➤ *Objectives and Research Questions*

- To analyse trends in domestic, foreign and total tourist arrivals to Corbett Tiger Reserve during 2015–2025 using secondary data.
- To interpret these trends in terms of potential implications for stakeholder livelihoods and tourism-dependent economic activities.
- To discuss how visitor dynamics intersect with environmental pressures and conservation concerns.
- To propose a conceptual Sustainable Wildlife Tourism Index framework for Corbett that integrates economic, social, environmental and institutional dimensions.

➤ *Conceptual Framework*

The conceptual framework for this study links four main elements:

- **Wildlife resources:** Core ecological assets of Corbett, including tiger populations, other wildlife species, forests and ecosystems.
- **Wildlife tourism:** Visitor flows, safari activities, accommodation occupancy and associated tourism services that monetise the wildlife resource base.
- **Stakeholder livelihoods:** Economic activities, employment and entrepreneurship among local communities, tourism workers, transport providers and artisans whose livelihoods are directly or indirectly linked to wildlife tourism.
- **Sustainable wildlife-tourism development:** A multidimensional outcome determined by how tourism growth affects:
  - ✓ Economic benefits (income, employment, diversification).
  - ✓ Social inclusion (community participation, equity, gender dimensions).
  - ✓ Environmental integrity (conservation, waste management, carrying capacity).
  - ✓ Governance and institutions (policies, regulations, revenue-sharing, community-based tourism).

Visitor numbers form one of the main “pressure” variables in this framework: higher visitor volumes can generate more economic opportunities but also greater

ecological and social pressures, depending on the capacity and governance of the system.

➤ *Study Area: Corbett Tiger Reserve*

Corbett Tiger Reserve, located in Uttarakhand, is India’s oldest national park and a core part of the Terai–Arc landscape. It is internationally recognised for its tiger population, high biodiversity and varied habitats. The reserve is surrounded by a mosaic of villages, small towns and tourism nodes that host accommodation, safari operators and other tourism-related services.

Corbett is accessible from major urban centres and is actively promoted as a wildlife-tourism destination. Its landscape offers jeep safaris, birdwatching, nature walks and other nature-based activities that attract both domestic and international tourists. The concentration of tourism around Corbett makes it an ideal case study for understanding how changes in visitor numbers relate to livelihoods and sustainability concerns.

### III. DATA AND METHODOLOGY

➤ *Data Sources*

The study uses secondary data on tourist arrivals to Corbett Tiger Reserve for the period 2015–2025, compiled from official tourism statistics (e.g., state tourism reports and related government publications). The dataset includes annual domestic visitors, foreign visitors and total visitors for Corbett as a destination.

The focus is on 2015–2025, for which consistent annual figures for Corbett are available.

➤ *Variables*

- **Domestic tourists:** Number of Indian residents visiting Corbett in a given year.
- **Foreign tourists:** Number of international visitors to Corbett in a given year.
- **Total tourists:** Sum of domestic and foreign visitors.
- **Year-on-year (YoY) growth rate:** Percentage change in total visitors relative to the previous year.

These variables allow basic descriptive, trend and growth analysis of visitor dynamics.

➤ *Methods*

- Descriptive statistics are used to summarise annual visitor levels and growth rates.
- Trend analysis is applied to visually and numerically examine changes in domestic, foreign and total visitors over time.
- Growth analysis includes calculation of year-on-year growth rates and an approximate compound annual growth rate (CAGR) for total visitors over 2015–2024, excluding the sharp 2025 contraction to characterise the medium-term underlying trend.
- Interpretive analysis links quantitative findings to

potential implications for livelihoods and sustainability, drawing on the conceptual framework.

In future extensions of this work, additional secondary variables (e.g., tourism revenue, employment proxies,

conservation expenditure) and primary data (e.g., surveys) can be incorporated, along with correlation or regression analysis and an operational Sustainable Wildlife Tourism Index.

#### IV. RESULTS

##### ➤ Tourist Arrivals to Corbett, 2015–2025

Table 1 Tourist Arrivals to Corbett Tiger Reserve, 2015–2025

| Year | Domestic tourists | Foreign tourists | Total tourists | YoY growth in total visitors (%) |
|------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 2015 | 194,590           | 5,258            | 199,848        | —                                |
| 2016 | 182,676           | 4,043            | 186,719        | −6.57                            |
| 2017 | 248,526           | 5,972            | 254,498        | 36.30                            |
| 2018 | 255,218           | 6,062            | 261,280        | 2.66                             |
| 2019 | 275,521           | 7,760            | 283,281        | 8.42                             |
| 2020 | 165,461           | 2,617            | 168,078        | −40.67                           |
| 2021 | 287,324           | 6,813            | 294,137        | 75.00                            |
| 2022 | 349,746           | 3,537            | 353,283        | 20.11                            |
| 2023 | 328,372           | 4,721            | 333,093        | −5.72                            |
| 2024 | 351,771           | 10,120           | 361,891        | 8.65                             |
| 2025 | 128,290           | 1,829            | 130,119        | −64.04                           |

Note. Figures compiled from official destination-level tourism statistics for Corbett Tiger Reserve.

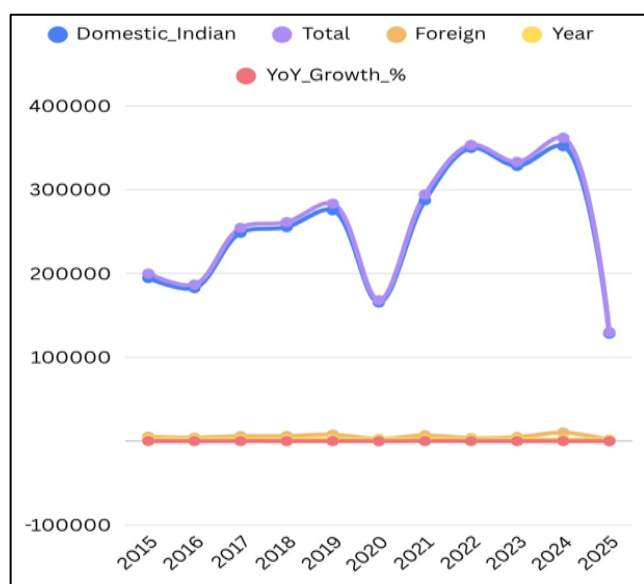


Fig 2 Tourist Arrivals to Corbett, 2015–2025

##### ➤ Overall Trends and Growth

Between 2015 and 2024, total tourist arrivals to Corbett increased from 199,848 to 361,891. Excluding the 2025 contraction, the approximate compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of total visitors over 2015–2024 is about 6.7 per cent per year, indicating a robust medium-term upward trend in wildlife-tourism demand.

The trajectory is not linear. A modest decline in 2016 (−6.57 per cent) is followed by a strong rebound in 2017 (+36.30 per cent), and subsequent years (2018–2019) show more moderate but still positive growth (+2.66 per cent and +8.42 per cent, respectively). These pre-pandemic dynamics suggest growing popularity of Corbett as a wildlife-tourism

destination, supported by broader growth in domestic tourism and improved connectivity.

The onset of COVID-19 is clearly visible in 2020, when total visitors fall by 40.67 per cent relative to 2019. In 2021, visitor numbers rebound strongly (+75.00 per cent), surpassing the 2019 level, and growth continues into 2022 (+20.11 per cent). A modest correction occurs in 2023 (−5.72 per cent), followed by another increase in 2024 (+8.65 per cent), when total visitors reach their decade-high of 361,891. The severe drop in 2025 (−64.04 per cent) reflects another major contraction, likely associated with a combination of policy, market or reporting changes.

Collectively, these fluctuations indicate an underlying growth trajectory that is periodically disrupted by pronounced negative shocks, with important implications for the stability of tourism-dependent livelihoods and the reliability of tourism-derived conservation finance.

##### ➤ Domestic and Foreign Tourism Patterns

Domestic tourists dominate visitor flows throughout the period. Domestic arrivals rise from 194,590 in 2015 to 351,771 in 2024 before falling to 128,290 in 2025. Foreign arrivals, while small in absolute terms, show some variation: from 5,258 in 2015 to a high of 10,120 in 2024, then dropping sharply to 1,829 in 2025.

##### • Several Observations Follow:

- ✓ Domestic market dominance: Domestic visitors account for the vast majority of total tourists each year, implying that Corbett's wildlife-tourism economy is primarily driven by domestic demand.
- ✓ Foreign niche segment: The presence of several thousand

foreign visitors annually suggests a niche international wildlife-tourism segment that may be important in terms of higher per-capita spending, branding and international visibility.

- ✓ Sensitivity of foreign segment: Foreign arrivals appear particularly sensitive to global shocks and travel restrictions, as indicated by pronounced declines in 2020 and 2025.

From a livelihood perspective, domestic tourists likely provide the bulk of employment and income opportunities for local stakeholders, while foreign tourists may contribute disproportionately to higher-value segments such as high-end accommodation and specialised guiding.

#### ➤ *Volatility, Shocks and Livelihood Implications*

The year-on-year growth column in Table 1 highlights the volatility of tourism to Corbett. Two major negative shocks stand out: 2020 (–40.67 per cent) and 2025 (–64.04 per cent). The former can be linked to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated travel restrictions. The latter may reflect renewed disruptions, changed regulations, reporting issues or competition from other destinations; identifying the precise drivers would require supplementary qualitative or policy data.

#### • *These Fluctuations have Important Implications:*

- ✓ Livelihood vulnerability: Households and enterprises dependent on tourism (e.g., homestays, small hotels, safari vehicle owners, guides, local restaurants and shops) face income instability when visitor numbers collapse.
- ✓ Business risk: Fixed investments in accommodation and vehicles may be under-utilised during slump years, raising financial risk for operators.
- ✓ Conservation financing: Sudden declines in visitor numbers can reduce park-fee revenues, potentially constraining conservation budgets unless alternative funding sources exist.

Conversely, years of very rapid growth (e.g., 2017, 2021) may strain existing infrastructure and management systems, leading to congestion, environmental pressures and potential conflict between tourism operations and conservation goals.

#### ➤ *Implications for Sustainable Wildlife Tourism*

Although this study does not include direct employment or income data, the scale and pattern of visitor flows provide a useful proxy for the intensity of tourism-linked livelihood opportunities around Corbett. Periods of sustained growth (2017–2019, 2021–2022, 2024) likely correspond to expanded demand for accommodation, safaris, transport and ancillary services, thereby improving employment and business opportunities for local stakeholders.

#### • *At the Same Time, Sustainability Concerns Arise:*

- ✓ Growing visitor numbers can increase pressures on waste management, water use and wildlife habitats.
- ✓ If tourism benefits are captured primarily by external

investors, local communities may receive limited economic gains relative to the ecological and social costs they bear.

- ✓ Regulatory frameworks (e.g., limits on vehicle entries, zoning of tourism activities) need to keep pace with growth to safeguard conservation objectives.

#### ➤ *Towards a Sustainable Wildlife Tourism Index for Corbett*

To move beyond descriptive statistics, a future extension of this work can develop a Sustainable Wildlife Tourism Index (SWTI) for Corbett, structured along four dimensions:

##### • *Economic Dimension*

Indicators: tourism revenues, local employment in tourism, number of local enterprises, diversification of income sources.

##### • *Social Dimension*

Indicators: community participation in tourism planning, share of benefits accruing to local households, women's entrepreneurship, support for local culture and heritage.

##### • *Environmental Dimension*

Indicators: conservation expenditure, waste-management systems, adherence to carrying-capacity norms (e.g., limits on safari vehicles), indicators of habitat quality and wildlife disturbance.

##### • *Institutional and Governance Dimension*

Indicators: existence of community-based tourism arrangements, revenue-sharing mechanisms, transparency in park-fee utilisation, alignment with NTCA and state tourism policies.

Visitor numbers from 2015–2025, as analysed in this paper, would feed into the economic and environmental dimensions as a “pressure” variable, while complementary data would be needed to populate the other indicators. Normalisation and weighting procedures (e.g., min–max scaling and equal or expert-assigned weights) could then be used to construct an overall SWTI for Corbett across years and, in comparative work, across different tiger reserves.

## V. DISCUSSIONS

The findings highlight a paradox typical of wildlife tourism in protected areas. On one hand, the strong positive trend in visitor numbers over 2015–2024—despite major shocks—underscores Corbett's significance as a wildlife-tourism destination and its potential to support livelihoods in surrounding communities. On the other hand, volatility and sharp downturns illustrate the vulnerability of tourism-dependent households and businesses, as well as the risks of relying heavily on tourism-generated revenues for conservation financing.

#### ➤ *From a Policy Perspective, the Dominance of Domestic Tourism Suggests that:*

- Marketing strategies and product development should

remain closely aligned with the preferences and budgets of domestic visitors, including family groups and nature-oriented domestic tourists.

- Efforts to diversify markets, including appropriate international segments, can enhance resilience but should be pursued within ecological limits.

➤ *The Analysis Also Reinforces the Need for:*

- Livelihood diversification: Encouraging complementary income sources (e.g., agriculture, non-tourism enterprises) alongside tourism to reduce vulnerability.
- Community-based models: Strengthening local ownership and participation in tourism enterprises to enhance benefit-sharing and build local support for conservation.
- Adaptive management: Adjusting visitor-management strategies in response to growth and shocks, including revisiting carrying-capacity assessments and enforcement mechanisms.

## VI. LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH

➤ *The Study is Subject to Several Limitations:*

- Limited variable scope: The analysis is based solely on visitor statistics. Direct data on employment, income, tourism revenues and conservation expenditure were not available in the compiled dataset.
- Data quality and consistency: Official statistics may be affected by changes in definitions, coverage and reporting practices over time. The sharp drop in 2025, for example, might partially reflect definitional or methodological changes.
- Lack of spatial detail: The data are aggregated at the destination level, without village-level or zone-level breakdowns that could reveal spatial patterns of tourism impacts.
- No direct ecological indicators: The study does not include direct measures of habitat quality, wildlife populations or ecological disturbance.

➤ *Future Research Can Address these Gaps by:*

- Incorporating additional secondary data on tourism revenue, employment proxies, conservation expenditure and environmental indicators.
- Conducting primary surveys with households, tourism enterprises, guides and park authorities to generate detailed livelihood and governance data.
- Developing and empirically implementing the Sustainable Wildlife Tourism Index for Corbett (and, in comparative work, for other tiger reserves).

## VII. CONCLUSION

The analysis of wildlife tourism trends in Corbett Tiger Reserve during the period 2015–2025 highlights the growing importance of the reserve as one of India's leading wildlife tourism destinations. The steady increase in visitor numbers,

reflected in an approximate compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6.7 percent between 2015 and 2024, indicates a strong and sustained demand for wildlife-based recreational experiences. Domestic tourists continue to constitute the primary share of visitors, while international tourists contribute an important supplementary segment that enhances the reserve's global visibility and tourism revenue. At the same time, the observed fluctuations in tourist arrivals, particularly the sharp declines in 2020 and 2025 and the subsequent recovery periods, demonstrate the vulnerability of wildlife tourism to external disruptions and changing environmental and socio-economic conditions. These fluctuations directly affect local livelihoods, tourism-related enterprises and conservation funding mechanisms.

The findings underscore the need to move beyond conventional measures of tourism success based solely on visitor growth and revenue generation. Sustainable wildlife tourism requires a balanced approach that integrates economic benefits with environmental conservation, community well-being, and effective governance. The proposed framework for a Sustainable Wildlife Tourism Index offers a multidimensional perspective for assessing tourism performance by incorporating ecological, social, economic, and institutional dimensions. Such an approach can assist policymakers, conservation managers, and local stakeholders in designing strategies that maximize tourism benefits while minimizing adverse environmental impacts. Ultimately, the long-term sustainability of wildlife tourism in Corbett Tiger Reserve depends on ensuring that tourism development contributes to biodiversity conservation, equitable livelihood opportunities, stakeholder participation, and resilient governance systems, thereby supporting both conservation objectives and sustainable regional development.

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