



**GUIDELINES TO ESTABLISH  
TIGER SAFARI  
IN  
BUFFER AND FRINGE AREAS OF TIGER RESERVES**



**NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE**

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**2016**



1. **Title:** Guidelines to establish Tiger Safari in buffer and fringe areas of Tiger Reserves.
2. **Subject:** Dealing with establishment, management and administration of Tiger Safari in the buffer (not falling in notified National Parks and/or Wildlife Sanctuary) and fringe areas of Tiger Reserves.
3. **Reference:** Revised Guidelines for the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger notified by the gazette notification No. 15-31/2012-NTCA dated 15<sup>th</sup> December 2012.
4. **Purpose:** Tiger Safari may be considered for establishment in the buffer and fringe areas of tiger reserves to reduce pressure of tourism from core/critical tiger habitats and to foster awareness for eliciting public support.
5. **Short Summary:** These guidelines provide the basic criteria, and procedure required in the buffer and fringe areas of tiger reserve for dealing with establishment, management and administration of Tiger Safaris' following due procedure prescribed under the law and guidelines issued by the NTCA vide gazette notification no. 15-31/2012-NTCA dated 15.10.12 and the CZA guidelines for establishment of new zoos under section 38 H (1A) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, in this context.
6. **Scope:** These guidelines apply to those tiger reserves which experience 100% utilization of their carrying capacity in the core / critical habitat.
7. **Responsibilities:** The Field Director shall be overall responsible for establishment, management and administration of the tiger safari with inputs from the Local Advisory Committee (LAC). The overall responsibility of the Tiger Safari at the State level would rest with the Chief Wildlife Warden of the concerned State along with oversight of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi.
8. **Assessment of tourism pressure:** The tourism activities in the tiger reserves are regulated by the normative guidelines on tourism issued by the National Tiger Conservation Authority as well as by the prescriptions on eco-tourism as contained in the tiger conservation plans of the tiger reserves. The last three years average visitation shall be taken into consideration while determining the need for a tiger safari. If the carrying capacity is 100% utilized, then proposal for establishing a tiger safari can be placed to the NTCA
9. **Selection of animal:** No tiger shall be obtained from a zoo exhibit. Wild tigers which are from the same landscape as that of the area where the tiger safari is established, falling under the following categories shall be selected;
  - a. Injured tigers (after suitable treatment).
  - b. Conflict tigers
  - c. Orphaned tiger cubs which are unfit for re-wilding and release into the wild

However, no visibly injured or incapacitated tiger shall be put in the safari. Recovered/treated animals shall be put on display only after assessment by the NTCA. Further, no healthy wild tiger or any other animal shall be sourced from the wild as per provisions of the National Zoo Policy.

10. **Criteria and procedure for establishment of a Tiger Safari:** The location of tiger safari shall be identified preferably in the buffer (not falling in notified National Parks and/or

