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EFFECTS OF HYDROLOGICAL CHANGES ON THE BIODIVERSITY AT KEOLADEO NATIONAL PARK AND THEIR IMPACT ON ECOTOURISM

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ABSTRACT

Rajasthan is playing a vital role in the Indian tourist scene as out of 1.8 million tourists visiting India every year and the state attracts about 30% of the foreign tourists. Keoladeo National Park (KNP) is one of very well known world heritage site (since 1985) and bird sanctuary (since 1956) in Rajasthan state of India. KNP have been the attraction for tourists for long time. Presently the image of this world heritage is adversely affecting due to decreasing number/variety of arriving birds which is ultimately affecting the ecotourism system in KNP. Hence, a study is being carried out on hydrological changes and their effect on ecotourism which is presented in this paper. Presently, the natural water supply resources in the KNP have disturbed (e.g. construction of Panchana dam on Gambhiri River) due to which the wetland of KNP is suffering from improper water supply. As water supply supplements in KNP, Chambal pipe line and Goverdhan project have been developed but still they are not satisfying the needs of KNP ecology. Thereby lowering in the number of migratory species in KNP was examined in last 4years. Formerly, domestic as well as the foreign tourists used to visit KNP for 3-7 days but now-a-days spending commonly 2-4 hours due to loss of suitable habitat. 50% of tourist preferred to visit park in winter months to see numerous migratory birds. Shorter stay of tourist in KNP is ultimately reducing survival of local community of Bharatpur such as rickshaw pullers and hotels.

KEYWORDS: Keoladeo National Park; Water Resources, Hydrological changes; Ecotourism

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