

Achanakmar-Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve in UNESCO list

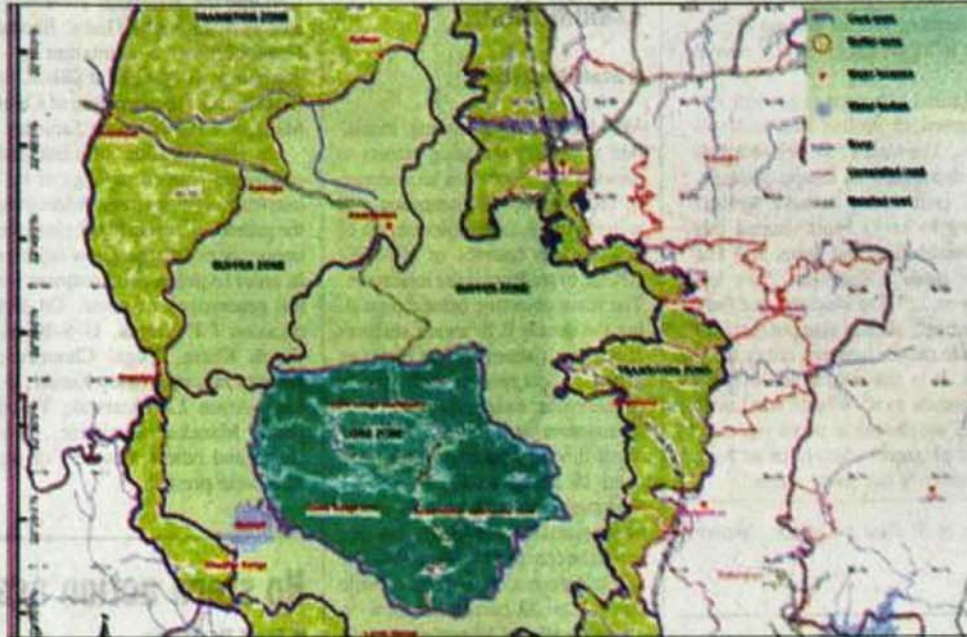
■ Staff Reporter

FOR achievements of studies conducted on part of Tropical Forest Research Institute (TFRI), Jabalpur, under Indian Council of Forestry and Research (ICFRE), the International Council of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) has declared Achanakmar-Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve under World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR).

It was in the recent meeting of MAB held in Paris, that this declaration was made.

On the basis of this declaration, TFRI has been appointed as the lead institute for Achanakmar-Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve by the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF), Government of India.

TFRI in close association with Chhattisgarh Forest Department has been conducting extensive studies in Achanakmar-Amarkantak



Map of Achanakmar-Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve declared as WNBR during MAB ICC 2012.

TFRI made nodal agency; Director Dr Prakasham expresses happiness

EXPRESSING happiness on this achievement of TFRI, Dr U Prakasham, Director, said, "The Biosphere Reserve harbours a rich biodiversity of great conservation value. So far, 1,527 species of flora and 324 species of fauna have been recorded from the site. Moist deciduous forests consisting 63 per cent of the area dominate the biosphere reserve and provide diverse habitat to various flora and fauna. It supports animals like tiger, bison, bear, spotted deer, barking deer, panther, wild-cat, fox, wild dog, sambhar, four horned antelope, mouse deer etc. different types and methods of forest management are practiced inside this site. The research findings are documented and applied to continue improving management of the site."

Biosphere Reserve for last six years.

As a result, the MoEF filed nomination with UNESCO, Paris, to declare this biosphere reserve under the World Network of Biosphere Reserve (WNBR). The studies conducted by TFRI epitomised the vast significance of this biosphere

reserve. Considering the studies in detail, UNESCO made declaration for Achankmar-Amarkantak as WNBR on July 11, 2012. This is the only biosphere reserve from India included under WNBR during this MAB ICC session.

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Achanakmar-Amarkantak Biosphere...

It may be stated that WNBR of the MAB consists of a dynamic and interactive network of sites of excellence. It fosters integration of people and nature for suitable development through participatory dialogue, knowledge, sharing, poverty, reduction and human well-being improvements, respect for cultural values and society's ability to cope with change, thus contributing to the Millennium Development Goals. With this recognition from UNSECO, this biosphere reserve has entered into new realm of developmental activities which will usher in biodiversity, conservation and social economic improvement of nearby tribal and open up for international scientific co-operation and funding. Dr S A Ansari, Group Co-ordinator, said that contributions of scientist team headed by Dr N Roychoudhary deserve special mention for this achievement.