



Misuse of Surveillance Technology at Corbett National Park

Why in News?

According to a study published in the journal **Environment and Planning F**, forest rangers at [Corbett Tiger Reserve](#) deliberately **used drones to monitor local women** and deter them **from gathering natural resources**, even though they were legally entitled to access these resources.

Key Points

- **Significance of the Study:**
 - The study revealed that **surveillance technologies negatively affect the mental health of local women** who depend on forests for daily activities.
 - This study highlights the intersection of technology, conservation, and social equity, urging stakeholders to adopt more inclusive approaches.
- **Issues Faced by Women:**
 - It was highlighted that while technologies like **camera traps are common in wildlife monitoring**, they can **unintentionally invade privacy and alter human behavior**.
 - These findings underscore the **need to ensure such tools do not harm local communities**.
- **Recommendations:**
 - In northern India, women's identities are deeply tied to their daily forest activities, making it crucial to consider their perspectives in conservation efforts.
 - Conservation strategies must strike a **balance between wildlife monitoring and safeguarding the dignity, safety, and rights of local communities**.

Corbett Tiger Reserve

- **About:**
 - It is located in the **Nainital district of Uttarakhand**. The [Project Tiger](#) was launched in 1973 in **Corbett National Park (first National Park of India)**, which is part of Corbett Tiger Reserve.
 - The national park was **established in 1936 as Hailey National Park** to protect the endangered [Bengal tiger](#).
 - It is named after Jim Corbett who played a key role in its establishment.
 - The **core area** forms the **Corbett National Park while the buffer contains** reserve forests as well as the Sonanadi Wildlife Sanctuary.
 - The entire area of the reserve is mountainous and falls in the [Shivalik](#) and Outer Himalaya geological provinces.
- **Flora:**
 - Dense moist deciduous forests are found. According to the [Botanical Survey of India](#), Corbett has 600 species of plants - trees, shrubs, ferns, grass, climbers, herbs, and bamboo. Sal, Khair, and Sissoo are the most visible trees found in Corbett.
- **Fauna:**
 - Apart from tigers, Corbett also has [leopards](#). Other mammals such as jungle cats, [barking deer](#), [spotted deer](#), [sambar deer](#), sloth etc. are also found there.

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