Review of Literature:

From among the scholars of various disciplines, disciplinary approach to study Melghat Tiger – Biosphere Reserve, botanist, Zoologists and geographers have displayed greater interest than any other group of natural and social scientist in biological sciences, biogeographical review research is rarely available. Ethnobotanical, anthropological, biological and population studies complied by personal scholars, Institutional and few NGOs; as well as governmental organizations. Among them, Botanical Survey of India (BSI) was involved in preparation Flora of Melghat; Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) completed remarkable works in Tiger population and habitat and ethnological studies. Medicinal plants Conservation area study done by FRLHT, Bangalore. Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has completed research projects on “Management of Biodiversity in Central India” and another is launched on “Integrated Bio-diversity Management in Satpura Hill Range” initiated.

As the subject matter covers the multitudinous forms of plant and animal life which inhabit ‘biosphere’ a relatively shallow but densely populated zone, as well as the complex biological processes which control their activities. The approach of the subject is geographical insofar as it is primarily concerned with the distribution of organisms. However, although, this ‘field of study’ is shared by and is common to, both biological and geography it is not the exclusive preserve of either of these two sciences. By its very character, biogeography is situated at and overlaps the boundaries of a greater number of other disciplines. The geologist, climatologist, pedologist, geomorphologist as well as the botanist, zoologist, genetics and geographers contribute to this very large and varied field. In during so they are, to a greater extent, dependent on an understanding of biogeography. As a result, the approach and development to biogeography in large measure is determined by the interest and objectives of the particular scholar of a specific scientific field. Biogeography is firmly rooted in the biological sciences on whose data, concepts and method the geographers obliged to draw and whose developments have inevitably influenced his particular interest in and approach to the biosphere.


- **Biogeographical Role of Protected Area as Bioreserve**

The change the recognition of the global environment is now urging Protected Areas to play new role. These include the conservation of biological diversity and the contribution of protected areas to the mitigation of global warming. The importance of the conservation of biological diversity has been raised since a few years ago. This concept has integrated the concept of protected areas. UNEP, IUCN and WWF finalized the world conservation strategy under the titled “caring for the world a strategy for sustainability”. Following the first World Conservation Strategy prepared in 1980, the second strategy further emphasized the interdependence of conservation and development taking full account of economic and social as well as ecological requirements of sustainability and thus outlines what individuals and governments can do to satisfy the needs of the people without lessening the earth’s capacity to support the future generations. The documents clarify the importance of protected areas in the context of biological diversity. It suggests completing and maintaining a comprehensive system of national parks and other protected areas like wildlife sanctuaries, biosphere included in protected areas, how they contribute to the human
communities and what is needed to improve the management of protected areas, and strengthening demarcation of biographical zones

In this context Melghat Tiger Reserve is an important Biosphere reserve, as an protected area in the State of Maharashtra with the potential to hold viable population of the tiger. Tiger conservation is a priority for the State. Melghat Forests are dry deciduous forests of Central India. Melghat lies in Central Highland Biotic Province (Province 6E) of the Deccan Biogeographically Zone (ZONE 6). The forest is dominated by deciduous species. Tiger conservation as an apex ecological succession, there is need for monitoring tiger and its prey populations in Melghat for assessing the impact of management interventions and external threats and as a tool for effective management decisions caring the bio-geographical values.