

**Evaluating Integrated
Conservation and Development Projects: A case study from Kalakad-
Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR)**

By

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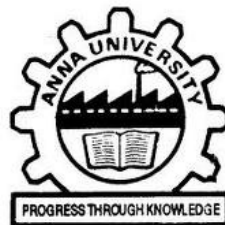
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ABSTRACT

Integrated Conservation and Development Program (ICDP) is the most widespread strategy to link people and parks. Conservationists need to evaluate the success of large conservation strategies particularly in the tropics where biodiversity conservation is fraught with complex challenges. The discouraging results from many ICDPs were attributed to institutional failures, failing in explicitly linking conservation and development and failing to identify the drivers behind biodiversity loss. While conservation outcomes of ICDPs is widely debated and challenged, the impact of the incentives from such programs is implicitly assumed to have a positive impact on development outcomes. The ICDP in Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR), India is one such program which projected to be one of the most successful ICDPs in India and is set to serve as a model for future ICDPs. We use a propensity score matching technique to evaluate the impact of the program on the income and the non-agricultural income of the beneficiaries; and we use the proportion odds model to estimate the impact of the program on the conservation attitude of beneficiaries and on their perception towards ecosystem services. The results show that there was no significant impact of the program on the income, conservation attitude or on the perception towards eco services. While monitoring biological changes to assess the impact of an ICDP is important, it is imperative that the success of the program on poverty alleviation indicators be also measured.