

Diurnal Activity Budgets and Activity Patterns of a Reintroduced Gaur Population in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh, Central India

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ABSTRACT

The diurnal activity budgets and activity patterns of a reintroduced gaur population were studied in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Central India from March 2012 to February 2014. We observed that throughout the year feeding was the major activity of gaur followed by moving and resting. The time spent in feeding by gaur was observed to be lower in monsoon as compared to summer and winter which is likely due to the availability of higher quality of forage in monsoon. Throughout the year gaur showed a bimodal feeding pattern with the time spent feeding peaking in the early morning (0600-0800 hrs) and late afternoon-evening (1600-1800 hrs) time frames whereas the time spent resting peaked in the midday hours. Among different age/sex classes of gaur we observed that adult cow spent highest time in vigilance behaviour whereas the time spent by calf in vigilance behaviour was the lowest. The reintroduction of gaur to Bandhavgarh is the first of its kind in the entire distributional range of this species and the information generated through this study will help the park authorities in better management of this reintroduced gaur population.

Keywords: Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Central India, Reintroduced gaur, Activity budgets.