

Review of Habitat Restoration Approaches for Keystone Species Conservation in the Tropical Forests

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Abstract: Tropical forests in Alirajpur district of Madhya Pradesh are biodiversity-rich ecosystems supporting keystone species critical for maintaining ecological balance. These forests face habitat degradation due to deforestation, development, and climate-related impacts, threatening key species such as the Indian giant squirrel (*Ratufa indica*), sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*), and fig species (*Ficus spp.*). This review synthesizes habitat restoration strategies such as assisted natural regeneration, enrichment planting, ecological corridor development, and community-based forest management to enhance conservation outcomes. Drawing upon case studies from India and other tropical regions, the paper proposes an integrated, participatory framework for ecological restoration. Recommendations include ecological monitoring, PES mechanisms, and greater community involvement. This review provides a roadmap for policymakers and conservationists working to revive ecosystem health and keystone species viability in Alirajpur.

Keywords: Habitat Restoration, Keystone Species, Tropical Forest