



NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY / PROJECT TIGER

Statutory Body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(Government of India)

DUDHWA TIGER RESERVE

The Dudhwa Tiger Reserve of Uttar Pradesh includes the Dudhwa National Park, and two nearby Sanctuaries, viz. Kishanpur and Katerniaghat, besides forest areas of North Kheri, South Kheri and Shahjahanpur forest divisions in its buffer. The Dudhwa National Park is close to the Indo-Nepal border in the Palia and Nighasan tehsil of district Lakhimpur-Kheri. The Kishanpur Sanctuary is stretched over Gola and Powayan tehsils of Lakhimpur and Shahjahanpur districts respectively. The Katerniaghat Sanctuary is located in the Nanpara tehsil of district Bahraich, with the Indo-Nepal border constituting its Northern boundary.

The area of the park is a vast alluvial plain and is the doab of Mohana and Suheli rivers. The under-lying soil consists of alluvial formation of the Gangetic plains. The area is scoured with channels of numerous large and small water courses. There are a number of rivers and rivulets in the habitat, which include: Suheli, Mohana, Joraha, Nagrol, Nakua and Newra, besides Sharda and Ull.

The Dudhwa National Park is a typical Tarai-Bhabar habitat of the upper Gangetic plains (7a) Biogeographic province. The vegetation of the area is of North Indian Moist Deciduous type.

The Katerniaghat portion has a Terai habitat, having linkages with the Royal Bardia National Park of Nepal to the North and the Dudhwa National Park to its West.

Area of the Tiger Reserve

Dudhwa Tiger Reserve consists of Dudhwa National Park, Kishanpur and Katerniaghat Wildlife Sanctuaries, alongwith forests of North Kheri, South Kheri and Shahjahanpur Forest Divisions.

Core	:	1093.79 sq.km.
Buffer	:	1107.9848 sq.km.
Total	:	2201.7748 sq.km.

Location

Dudhwa National Park

Latitudes: 28° 18'N to 28° 42'N

Longitudes: 80° 28'E to 80° 57'E

Kishanpur Sanctuary

Latitudes: 28° N to 28° 42'N

Longitudes: 80° E to 80° 50'E

Katerniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary

Latitude : 28⁰6N to 28⁰24' N

Longitude : 81⁰2E to 81⁰19' E

Habitat ATTRIBUTES

Flora

The flora is predominantly Sal forest alongwith its associate tree species like *Terminalia alata* (Asna), *Lagerstroemia parviflora* (Asidha), *Adina cordifolia* (Haldu), *Mitragyna parviflora* (Faldu), *Gmelina arborea* (Gahmhar), *Holoptelea integrifolia* (Kanju), *Acacia catechu* (Khair), *Pterocarpus marsupium* (Vija sal), *Kydia calyina* (Poola), *Lannea coromandelica* (Jhigan) and *Toona ciliata* (Toon). Others include: *Murraya koenigii* (Kath neem), *Grewia hirsute* (Van Tulsi), *Malloutus phillipensis* (Rohni) and grasses like -*Phragmites karka* (Narkul), *Cynodon dactylon* (Doob), *Vetiveria zizanioides* (Khaskhas) and *Erianthus munj* (Moonj).

Fauna

The major mammals include: *Panthera pardus* (Guldar), *Panthera tigris* (Tiger), *Felis viverrina* (Fishing cat), *Macaca mulatta* (Monkey), *Presbytis entellus* (Langur), *Herpestes edwardsi* (Mongoose), *Herpestes auropunctatus* (Small Indian Mongoose), *Viverricula indica* (small Indian civet), *Canis aureus* (Jackal), *Mellivora capensis* (Honey Badger), *Lutra perspicillata* (smooth Indian Otter), *Boselaphus tragocamelus* (Blue bull), *Axis axis* (Spotted Deer), *Axis porcinus* (Hog Deer), *Muntiacus muntjak* (Barking Deer), *Cervus duvaceli* (Swamp deer), *Cervus unicolor* (Sambhar), *Sus scrofa* (Wild Boar), *Rhinoceros unicornis* (Great Indian Rhino), *Elephant maximus* (Asian Elephant) and *Lepus nigricollis* (Hare).

Birds include a wide variety of species, which include migratory and resident ones. As many as 423 species have been observed in the habitat, which include: *Podiceps ruficollis* (Dabchick), *Pelicanus philipensis* (spotbilled pelican), *Phalacrocorax carbo* (Large cormorant), *Phalacrocorax niger* (Little cormorant), *Ardea cinera* (Grey Heron), *Ciconia ciconia* (White stork), *Ciconia nigra* (Black storck), *Threskiornis aethiopica* (White Ibis), *Gyps indicus* (India Longbilled Vulture), *Pandion haliatus* (Osprey), *Gallus gallus* (Red jungle Fowl), *Grus antigone* (Sarus Crane), *Amaurornis phoenicurus* (white Breasted water hen) and *Ninox scutulata* (Brown Hawk owl).

Reptiles include: Mugger, Ghariyal, Python, Sandboa, Banded krait, Russel's viper, Rat snake,

Monitor lizard and King Cobra. There are several fishes, which include: Rohu, Singhi and Kacehala.

Tiger Status

The reserve has a good tiger status owing to its connectivity with other tiger habitats like Pilibhit and tiger bearing forests of Nepal. The tiger density for the landscape, as assessed during the 2010 country level assessment, is 5.4 tigers per 100 sq.km.

Core

The Northern and North-Western boundaries of the Dudhwa National Park lie along the Indo-Nepal international border, while its Eastern and Southern borders are surrounded by agriculture land. A railway line and PWD road pass through the National Park. The Katerniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary makes border with Nepal on its North Eastern side, and is bounded by agricultural lands of Bahraich and Kheri Districts on its Western and Southern sides. The National Park area has seven human settlements. The Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary portion of the core is devoid of human settlements, whereas some villages are present in Katerniaghat. Thus, the core area of the reserve is prone to biotic disturbances and requires ongoing vigil and protection, besides mitigation measures to prevent train and road hits of wild animals.

Buffer

The buffer area is subjected to ongoing forestry practices and has considerable biotic pressure. The co-occurrence agenda to benefit people and wildlife is essential here.

Corridor

The linkages between Dudhwa, Katerniaghat and Kishanpur are important owing to movement of wild animals between the protected areas. The Dudhwa-Katerniaghat linkage along the Mohana river is deforested and requires restoration. The connectivity of Dudhwa with Laljhari is crucial for movement of elephants and other wild animals from Nepal. The Kishanpur Sanctuary is linked with the Lagga-Bagga forest of Pilibhit and the Shuklaphanta Sanctuary of Nepal. The Khata corridor along the Girwa river connects Katerniaghat to Berdia and is often used by elephants, tigers and rhinos. The river channels in this landscape also serve as conduit for Gharial, Crocodile and Gangetic river Dolphin. These corridor linkages require monitoring and protection.

Management Issues

Day to day monitoring of tiger, protection, coordination with Nepal, addressing the resource

dependency of peripheral villages and human-wildlife conflicts are important.

Good Practices

Stepped up protection, tiger monitoring, in-situ conservation of rhinos and mitigation strategy during floods.