



NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY / PROJECT TIGER

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

Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve

Nestled in the verdant hill ranges of Nallamalais - an offshoot of *Eastern Ghats*, the Nagarjunasagar - Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR) is one of the biggest tiger reserves in our country. Spread over an area of 5937 Sq. Km. in five revenue districts, this tiger reserve is an abode of rich bio-diversity with many endangered flora and fauna.

The Geo-Morphology of the habitat is interesting, with plateau, ridges, gorges and deep valleys, supporting a tropical dry deciduous forests having an under growth of bamboo and grass.

Area of the Tiger Reserve

Core/ Critical Tiger Habitat : 3721 Sq. Km.

Buffer / Peripheral area : 2216 Sq. Km.

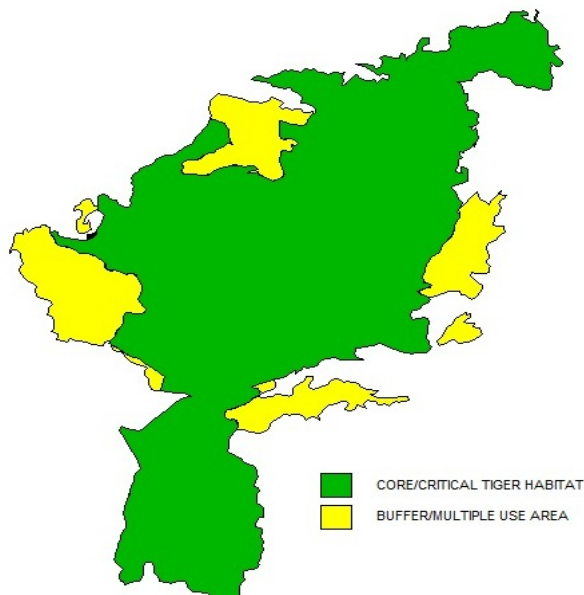
Total : 5937 Sq. km.

Location

Latitudes : N - 78.8744 to N – 79.4238 (North side)
N -78.6337 to N -78.8289 (South side)

Longitudes : E – 16.5557 to E – 16.7101 (North Side)
E -15.4447 to E – 15.3957 (South Side)

MAP



0 15 30 km

Habitat Attributes

Flora

The forests are mostly Southern tropical dry deciduous miscellaneous type 5A/C3 (Champion & Seth 1968), which are further sub-divided into Teak, Miscellaneous and *Anogeissus* types, depending on species preponderance.

The habitat has several endemics like *Andrographis nallamalayana*, *Eriolaena lushingtonii*, *Crotalaria madurensis* Var, *Dicliptera beddomei* and *Premna hamiltonii*. As many as 1581 taxa, spread over 149 families occur in Nallamalai and 29 species of grass and 353 species of medicinal plants have been recorded.

Faunal Diversity

Over 80 species of mammals, 303 species of Birds, 54 species of reptiles, 20 amphibians, 55 fishes, 101 Butterflies, 57 species of Moths, 45 species of Coleopterans, 35 species of Odonata and numerous other forms of insects are found in the area. Top faunal species include: Tiger, Leopard, Wolf, Wild Dog and Jackal. The prey species are represented by Sambar, Chital, Chowsingha, Chinkara, Mouse Deer, Wild boar and Porcupine. The river Krishna has Mugger, Otters and Turtles. Apart from these, there is a wide array of invertebrate fauna.

Tiger Status

As per the 2010 country level assessment using the refined methodology, the tiger estimate of the Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve ranges from 53-67.

Core

The core area largely consists of the Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary (36.62%), with open and closed forests. The southern part of the tiger reserve is dominated by dense forests. The grass savannas are seen mostly along the gorges of river Krishna.

Buffer

The buffer has been brought under the administrative control of the Tiger Reserve Management in the recent past, and comprises of forests subjected to timber working and plantation activities. There are few villages in the buffer zone, besides a large number of abandoned revenue patches. There are numerous villages in the periphery with frequent human-wildlife interface conflicts. Besides, there are heavily used public infrastructure in the form of roads, markets and electrical transmission lines. The tourism is largely confined to the eastern and southern boundary of the reserve.

Corridor

The corridor connectivity with Gundlabrahmeshwaram wildlife sanctuary leading to the Tirupathi wildlife management circle from Srivenkateswara National Park is crucial. The fragmented and disturbed status of this corridor calls for urgent recovery inputs, with a multiple use management

involving local people. The length of the corridor between Srivenkateswara National Park, Tirupathi to Gundlabrahmeshwaram wildlife sanctuary, is about 350 kms. The corridor passes through three Divisions of Tirupati wildlife management circles, viz. Chittoor East Wildlife Division, Rajampeta Wildlife Division and three divisions of Kurnool circle i.e, Kadapa, Proddutur and Nandyala. The total area of the corridor is 2018.35 sq. km. including 538.114 sq. km. of Srivenkateswara National Park and Srivenkateswara Sanctuary area.

The corridor is mostly covered by Seshachalam hill ranges. In the past, there are reports of tiger presence in the region. The corridor from Talakona to Velikondas it is a continuous patch without any fragmentation and habitation, and the Srivenkateswara National Park and Sanctuary are part of this region. The area covering Seshachalam hills was declared as the ‘Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve’ during 2011. This stretch has railway and road network with hardly any settlement except the Tirumala.

Good practices

- Smart patrolling using M-STrIPES protocol.
- Phase IV monitoring and creation of camera trap photo ID database of tigers.
- Effective fire control.
- Effective protection with 60 base camps and involvement of Chenchu tribes.
- Regulating traffic on public highways.
- Nature education and mass movements through forest youth clubs and other voluntary organization.