



NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY / PROJECT TIGER

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

RANTHAMBHORE TIGER RESERVE

Ranthambhore is located at the junction (great boundary fault) of Aravalis and Vindhyan ranges. There are several water bodies located in the park, which provide relief during extreme heat in summer for the forest inhabitants. A huge fort, after which the park is named, towers over the park atop a hill. There are many ruins of a bygone era scattered all over the jungle, which give a unique, wonderful and mixed flavor of nature, history and wildlife. Viewing tiger in its natural setting is a star attraction.

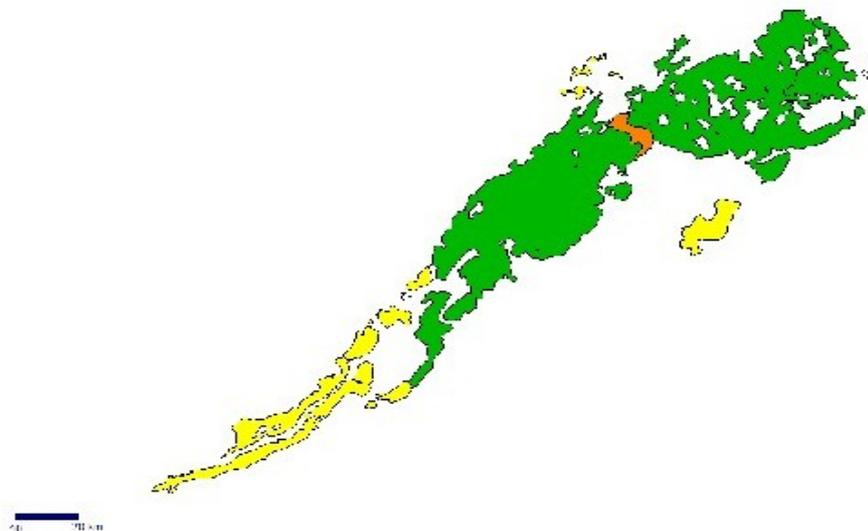
Area details

Core/critical tiger habitat	:	1113.36 sq.km.
Buffer/peripheral area	:	297.92 sq.km.
Total	:	1411.28 sq. km

Location

Latitudes : 25⁰52'071" N to 26⁰ 33'713" N
Longitudes : 75⁰85'84.0" E to 77⁰02'48.0" E

Map



Habitat Attributes

Flora

The forests of are mainly of edaphic climax and belong to the sub group 5B- *Northern Tropical Dry Deciduous forests* and subgroup 6B -DS1-Zizyphus scrub. The degradation stages found here are DS1-Dry deciduous scrub and SS4 -Dry Grass lands (Champion & Seth, 1968) according to the vegetation map prepared by French Institute, Pondicherry. The area is representative of dry deciduous *Anogeissus* Forests sub type in association with *Acacia*, *Capparis*, *Zizyphus* and *Prosopis* species.

Fauna:

Ranthambhore consists of 315 species of birds (resident and migratory), 38 species of mammals, 11 species of reptiles, 10 species of fish besides arthropods and a few of amphibians. It is one of the best places in the country to monitor the tiger because of climatic and vegetational features. Other carnivorous mammals are leopard, caracal, jungle cat etc. Ungulates are represented by sambar, chital, chinkara and wild boar. Ursids are represented by the sloth bear. Canids comprise of Indian fox, jackal and wolves. The other species are: Viverrids- small Indian civet; Herpestids-common and small Indian mongoose; Hyenids-stripped hyena; Reptiles- python, banded krait, desert monitor lizard, cobra, gangetic soft shelled turtle, fresh water crocodile, north Indian flap-shelled turtle etc.

Despite the high prey abundance, tigers also predate on nearby domestic livestock leading to human-tiger interface problems.

Tiger Status

The tiger is the main predator along with Leopard. The others (carnivores and scavengers) include hyena; jungle cat, caracal, Jackals and Wolves. Tiger is mainly distributed in the old national park and Sawai Mansingh WLS areas. As many as 24 adult tigers have been photo captured.

Core

The CTH/ Core area is divided into the following zones for management:

- A) Strict Natural Zone
- B) Habitat Restoration Zone-Overlapping area
- C) Tourism Zone- overlapping area

The zones are overlapping and segregation has been described only for management purposes. The Strict Natural zone comprises inviolate areas. The Habitat restoration zone includes areas of

relocated villages requiring management interventions in a limited manner for improving the habitat, with special emphasis on maintaining these areas as grasslands and to increase the prey base which will support predator population as per the carrying capacity. The Tourism Zone includes area permitted for tourism as per guidelines of the NTCA.

The administrative zone includes the official buildings and campus with staff quarters.

Buffer

The forest patches close to the core constitute the buffer. To its south, Ranthambhore is connected to the Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary through the buffer area. The contiguous areas are potential conduits for prey and predators. Low protection level and high biotic pressure have caused degradation of these areas and their inclusion in the buffer would ensure better protection with habitat improvement. The forests of the buffer have been divided in three blocks which are contiguous to the Critical tiger Habitat area of Ranthmbhore Tiger Reserve.

Corridor

Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve has the potential to act as a source for tigers to other neighbouring forested areas such as Kuno-Palpur to the east, in the adjoining state of Madhya Pradesh, Van vihar Dholpur to the North and Gandhi sagar, in Madhya Pradesh (through Mukundra – Ramgarh Vishdhari) to the south.

There are 3 corridors which require restoration.

1. Ranthambhore – Keladevi WLS – VanVihar WLS (Dholpur)
2. Ranthambhore – Kuno –Palpur WLS (M.P.)
3. Ranthambhore – Ramgarh Vishdhari – Mukundra hills

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Managerial Issues

The ongoing M-STrIPES and Phase-IV monitoring needs to be mainstreamed in adjoining divisions with creation of camera trap tiger ID data base and periodic tallying. The most important issue of Ranthambhore is to strengthen the linkage Keladevi and improving the habitat status of the said area through voluntary village relocation and effective protection. The other issues are intelligence based enforcement, anti-poaching operations, voluntary relocation of villages, special monitoring of tigers, regulation of tourism as per the guidelines issued by the National Tiger Conservation Authority, eco-development in buffer areas to enlist local public support, for reducing forest resource dependency, prompt payment of ex-gratia / compensation for depredation due to wild animals, safeguards on roads and areas having electrical transmission lines, besides coordination with the adjoining State of Madhya Pradesh and forest divisions within the State for keeping track of moving tigers.

Good Practices

Day to Day monitoring of tigers, creating inviolate space for wildlife through voluntary village relocation, effective protection, smart patrolling using M-STripes, Phase-IV monitoring and creation of camera trap photo ID database of tigers