



NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY / PROJECT TIGER

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

Sahyadri Tiger Reserve

The Sahyadri Tiger Reserve is located in the Sahyadri Ranges of Western Ghats in Maharashtra. These ranges form a common boundary between Maharashtra, Karnataka and Goa, and comprise of rich evergreen, semi-evergreen and moist deciduous forests. It is the first Tiger Reserve of Western Maharashtra and the fourth Tiger Reserve of the State spreading over two Protected Areas of Koyana Sanctuary (KWLS) and Chandoli National Park (CNP).

Area of the Tiger Reserve

Core Area	: 600.12 sq.kms.
Buffer Area	: 565.45 sq.kms.
Total	: 1165.56 Sq.Kms.

Location

Latitudes	: 16° 58' N to 17° 49' N
Longitudes	: 73° 33' E to 73° 55' E

Habitat Attributes

The habitat of Sahyadri is composed of woodlands, grasslands and plateau, the latter locally referred to as “Sadaa”, which are lateritic in nature with considerable habitat value.

Fodder species such as karvi, bamboo, kumbal are few, but fruit species such as *Zizyphus rugosa*, *Ficus racemosa*, *Sideroxylon tomentosa*, *Ficus arnottiana*, *Acacia concinna*, *Terminalia chebula*, *Terminalia bellerica*, *Vangueria spinosa*, *Emblica officinalis*, *Carissa conjesta* are abundant.

The slopes in the Chandoli National Park habitat are less steep, with small water bodies and a number of ecotone areas.

Flora

Western (Montane) Subtropical Hill Forests – (8A/C2)

These types of forests are found on the higher ridges of Sahyadris where altitude exceeds 1000 mtrs. The growth is usually stunted, without distinct canopies and large blanks.

West Coast Semi evergreen Forests - (2A/C2)

These forests are confined to the valleys where the general height of the trees in the top canopy varies from 12 to 20 mtrs. The density ranges from 0.5 to 0.7. These forests harbor rich fauna and flora.

Southern Moist Mixed Deciduous Forests (3B/C2)

This type of forest is seen all along the lower slopes of Sahyadris. The forest is fairly dense with density ranging from 0.5 to 0.8.

The area falls in biogeographic province 5 b of Western Ghats along the crest of Sahyadri Range. The total area of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve is undulating with steep escarpments along western boundary. The most distinct feature of the Tiger Reserve is the presence of numerous barren rocky and lateritic plateaus, locally called "Sadas", with less perennial vegetation and over hanging cliffs on the edges along with numerous fallen boulders with dense thorny bushes. Sahyadri Tiger Reserve is the only place where climax and near-climax vegetations are plentiful and prospects of adverse anthropogenic influence in the future are minimal.

Fauna

The Tiger Reserve is home to the endangered species of top carnivores such as Tiger, Wild dog, and Leopard. The herbivores include Gaur, Sambar, Four Horned Antelope, Mouse Deer and Giant Squirrel. As many as 30 species of mammals have been recorded. In addition, the area is home to Vultures and Crocodiles. The habitat also supports Hornbills, and many other endemic Birds. The breeding grounds of the Indian River Tern are found in Chandoli National Park and Koyana Sanctuary area. There are 58 varieties of snakes. The Blue finned Mahasheer fish is present in the Koyana waters. The Atlas Moth, Moon Moth and many endangered Butterflies have been documented in the area and the Indian long billed Vulture has been noticed on the crest line.

Tiger Status

The habitat has a good potential to support tiger and is linked to the Radha Nagri Wildlife Sanctuary.

Core

Presence of 5 to 7 tigers has been noticed, at Shirshinge, Pali, Mhalunge, Navaja, Takavli, Ghatmatha, Male, Rundiv, Siddheshvar, Dhakale areas.

Buffer

An area of 141.11 sq km of the buffer (out of 424.34 sq km) is under the control of the Tiger Reserve management.

Corridor

The tiger population in northern Western Ghats is connected with that of Goa through the Radhanagari WLS, and further southwards with that of Anshi - Dandeli in Karnataka through the Western Ghat ridges.

In this landscape between STR Buffer(Amba) and Radhanagari WLS, 5 patches of forests have been identified 'mini-core' areas. From north to south they are Gelavade dam to Anuskura (51 km²), Barki (27 km²), Vashi – Padshali (43 km²), Kode – Asalaj – Wesraf (57 km²) and Gaganbawada – Padamsatti (70 km²). The width varies from place to place. It also covers upper ridges of 4 villages from Ratnagiri district - Sangameshwar Tahsil (Ozare, Kolavan, Bamnoli and Dakkhan) and 3 villages from Sindhudurg district – Vaibhavwadi Tahasil (Dhone, Dindavade and Taliye).

Managerial Issues

Protection, tiger monitoring and voluntary village relocation