



NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY / PROJECT TIGER

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

Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

The Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve is located between the Vindhyan and Satpura ranges of Madhya Pradesh. The habitat is characterized by valleys, hills and plains, with the Bandhavgarh fort prominently seen as a major landmark. The habitat consists of tropical moist, deciduous forests with sal, mixed forest and grasslands. The habitat also has several archeological monuments.

Area

Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve		Area
Core/critical tiger habitat	National Park	452.666 km ²
	Panpatha Wildlife Sanctuary	264.235 km ²
Buffer/peripheral area	Buffer zone	820.035 km ²
Total		1536.936 km²

Location

Latitudes : 23⁰ 27' N to 23⁰ 59' N

Longitudes : 80⁰ 44' E to 81⁰ 16' E

Habitat Attributes

Fauna:

Bandhavgarh is famous for its tigers. Dense forests interspersed with grasslands and perennial streams provide an ideal habitat for this predator. The fauna is typical for central India with more than 35 species of mammals. The other wild animals include: leopard, wild dog, wolf, Indian fox, Jungle cat, common langur, hyena, wild pigs, sloth bear, ready mongoose, grey mongoose, ratel, porcupine, *Rhesus macaque*, spotted deer, barking deer, chital, sambar, nilgai, chousingha and

chinkara.

The Gaur, which became locally extinct since 1998, have been successfully reintroduced from Kanha.

Bandhavgarh has a rich avifauna, and around 240 avifaunal species are found here, which include: vultures, grebes, cormorants, ducks, kingfishers, herons, egrets, storks, hornbills, barbets, woodpeckers and flycatchers. The Sarus cranes is seen during monsoon till the month of November. Other important birds of the habitat are: Lesser Adjutant Stork (*Leptoptilos javanicus*), Cliff nesting Long-billed vulture, tree nesting White-backed vulture, Peafowl, Indian Roller, Red-wattled Lapwing, White-breasted Kingfisher, Asian Paradise Flycatcher, **Crested Serpent Eagle** (*Dogra cheel*), Red Jungle Fowl, Oriole, Purple sunbird, Indian Grey hornbill, Malabar Pied Hornbill, Oriental Magpie Robin and Tree Pie.

Reptiles and Amphibians:

The common reptiles include: Indian Rock Python, **Common Vine Snake**, Indian Rat Snake, Russell's viper, Common Indian Krait, Indian Cobra, Bengal monitor lizard, Indian garden lizard, Fan-throated lizard, Indian Chameleon, Common Skink, Geckos, Indian softshell turtle and Indian flapshell. The common amphibians are: Marbled balloon frog, Common Indian toad, Common tree frog and the Indian bullfrog.

Butterflies and Moths:

Bandhavgarh harbours more than 75 species of butterflies. The common moths are the Moon moth and the Owl moth.

Spiders:

Several species of spiders are found in Bandhavgarh. They build different types of fascinating webs. The **giant wood spiders** with their enormous webs are a beautiful sight especially in early winter mornings when they sparkle with dew.

Flora

The forest of the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve can be grouped into the following forest types in accordance with the classification of forest types of India by Champion and Seth (1964):

- (i) 3c/C2a (ii)- Moist peninsula low level Sal
- (ii) 3c/ C3a- West Gangetic moist mixed deciduous forest.

The tropical moist deciduous forest type is dominated by sal trees. Lofty Saja and Arjun (*Terminalias*), Lendia (*Lagerstroemia species*), Salai (*Boswelia species*), Bija (*Pterocarpus species*), Mahua (*Madhuca species.*) and the like contribute to the floral diversity. Over 520 plant species have been recorded in the habitat. Bamboos are found throughout the tract. Dhaora (*Anogeissus latifolia*), Tendu (*Diospyros melanoxylon*), Amla (*Embllica officinalis*), Mango

(*Mangifera indica*) and **Jamun** (*Syzygium cumini*) are other common tree species.

The fruits of Jamun, Pipal (*Ficus religiosa*), Banyan (*Ficus bengalensis*), Gular (*Ficus glomerata*) and **Pakad** (*Ficus insectoria*) are relished by wild animals. The habitat also has large number of Palash trees (*Butea monosperma*), with spectacular orange flowers in summer. The Sehra Dadra meadow of Bandhavgarh harbours the Sundew (*Drosera indica*), an insectivorous plant.

The lowlands and river flood plains form grasslands during dry months and marshes in the rains. This diverse mix of habitats is a very special feature of Bandhavgarh. The open marshy grasslands or 'Vahs' have abundance of many species of grasses which support a rich herbivore population and hence, carnivores frequent these areas. It is believed that these swamps were once the home of swamp deer which gradually got eliminated owing to the change in habitat.

Grassy patches or meadows/vahs occur all along the park. Chakradhara, Bathan, Sehra, Raj Behra, Bhitri Vah, Jobi Vah, Kudra Kherwah and Barwah are the important grasslands of the reserve. Some of these patches are marshy in nature abounding in aquatic plants. Woody climbers such as *Butea superba* and *Bauhinia vahlii* and lianas such as Gulheri (*Spatholobus roxburghii*) are found picturesquely twining through the stately Sal.

Tiger Status

The 2010 population estimate of tiger in the reserve is 37, with a considerable spatial occupancy, in an effective trapping area of 228 sq.km.

Managerial issues

Stepped up protection with intelligence based enforcement, day to day monitoring of tigers, addressing livelihood dependency of local people and human-wildlife conflict are important thrust