



## NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY / PROJECT TIGER

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

### Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve

The Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve (BRT) is located in Chamarajanagar district of Karnataka State. This unique Bio-geographical habitat is in the middle of the bridge between Western and Eastern ghats in South India. The tiger reserve derives its name from '**BILIGIRI**', the white rocky cliff which has a temple of Lord '**VISHNU**' locally known as 'Rangaswamy'. It is also believed that the hill range gets its name due to white mist and silvery clouds which cover these lofty hills for a greater part of the year.

#### Area of the Tiger Reserve

Core Area : 359.10 sq kms

Buffer Area : 215.72 sq kms

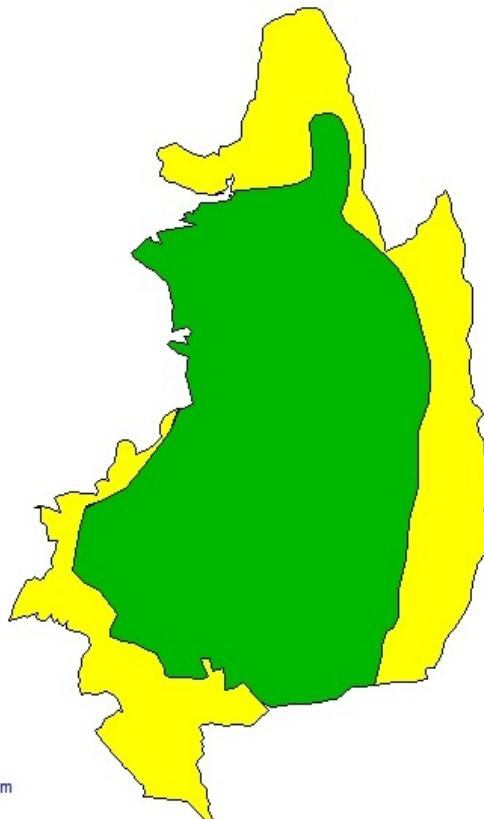
Total : 574.82 sq kms

#### Location

Latitudes : 11°43' and 12°09' N

Longitudes : 77°01' and 77°15' E

#### Map



## Habitat Attributes

### Flora

The major forest types of the reserve as per Champion and Seth's classification (1968) are:

1. Southern Tropical Evergreen forests
2. Southern Tropical Semi-evergreen forests
3. Southern Tropical Moist deciduous forests

The major species include: *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Dalbergia paniculata*, *Grewia teliaefolia*, *Terminalia alata*, *Terminalia bellirica*, *Terminalia paniculata*, *Stereospermum pers-natum* and *Syzygium cumini*. The tree species in the second storey are: *Buchanania lanzan*, *Careya arborea*, *Hymenodictyon excelsum*, *Kydia calycina*, *Schleichera oleosa* and *Sterculia villosa*. The third strata include: *Cassia fistula*, *Phyllanthus emblica*, *Raderma cheraxylocarpa*, *Boswellia serrata*, *Commiphora caudate*, *Givotia rottleriformis*, *Gsyrocorpus asiatica*, *Sterculia urens*, along with *Lagerstromia parviflora*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*.

### Fauna

As many as 26 mammals have been recorded of which Gaur, Sambhar, Spotted deer, Barking deer and Four horned antelope are the major ungulates. Carnivores of the habitat include: Tiger, Leopard, Wild dog, Lesser cat and Civet cat. The arboreal mammals comprise of two primates and three species of Squirrels including the Giant flying squirrel. There are 215 species of birds belonging to 44 families, of which 12 are endemic to the region; the notable ones are: Yellow throated bulbul, Nilgiri wood pigeon, Rufous bellied hawk eagle and Peregrine falcon. As many as 22 reptiles and 11 Amphibians have been also recorded. *Ichthyophis ghytinosus*, is an endangered caecilian reported from tiger reserve.

### Tiger Status

The habitat has considerable tiger presence with a density of 9 per 100 sq.km.

### Corridor

The major corridors of the reserve are:

1. Edayarhalli-Doddasampige (Bekkathur-Arabikere)
2. Chamarajanagar-Talamalai at Punjur (Punjanur-Kolipalya)
3. Chamarajanagar-Talamalai at Mudahalli(Talavadi-Mudahalli)

There are major elephant corridors, viz. Punjur-Sathyamangalam and Bylore-Ediyarahally. These corridors are vital as they help in movement of animals including elephants during pinch period in the forest.

## **Managerial Issues and Good Practices**

Antipoaching operations and stepped up protection are important thrust areas. The tiger reserve management has innovatively developed a software (HULI), which is a foot patrol monitoring system using GPS.