



## NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY / PROJECT TIGER

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

### INDRAVATI TIGER RESERVE

Indravati Tiger Reserve is in the Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh. The perennial river 'Indravati' forms the boundary of the reserve on the Northern and Western side, which also happens to be the inter-state boundary between Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra. The habitat is large rich with a good potential, being contiguous with the forests of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. It has a good biodiversity and also has a small population of the endangered wild buffalo. In general, the landscape is conflict ridden owing to the left wing extremism.

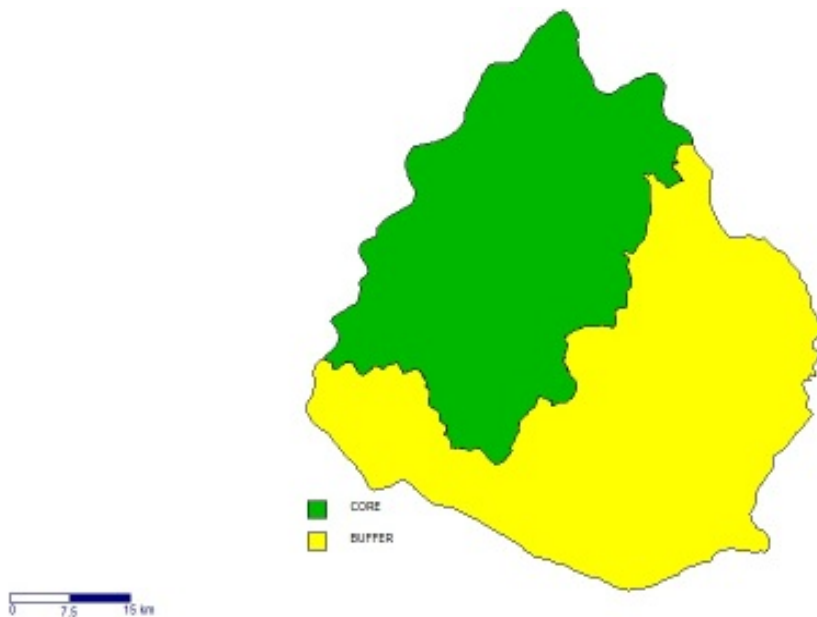
#### Area of the tiger reserve

Core / critical tiger habitat	:	1258.37 sq.km.
Buffer / peripheral area	:	1540.70 sq.km.
TOTAL	:	2799.07 sq.km.

#### Location

Latitude	:	18 <sup>0</sup> 51'N to 19 <sup>0</sup> 24'N
Longitude	:	80 <sup>0</sup> 16'N to 80 <sup>0</sup> 44'E

#### Map



## Habitat Attributes

The reserve has considerable floral diversity with several species: trees (102), climbers (28), shrubs and herbs (46), grasses (32) alongwith bamboo (2), ferns, bryophytes and algae. It has variety of wild animals, which comprises of mammals, amphibians, birds and fish, insects and butterflies.

## Flora

Indravati has a good floral diversity and the following forest types (Champion and Seth, 1968) are found:

(i) Southern tropical moist mixed deciduous forests without teak (3B/C2)

(ii) Southern tropical dry deciduous forests (5A)

(a) Mixed forests without teak (5A/C3)

(b) Mixed forests with teak (5A/C1)

(c) Dry evergreen forests (confined along river banks)

(iii) Grasslands

The tropical moist mixed deciduous forests are along lower hill slopes and the common tree species are: *Dillenia pentagyna*, *Gmelina arborea*, *Haldina cordifolia*, *Lannea coromandelica*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Schlichera oleosa*, *Terminalia alata*, *Terminalia bellirica*, *Antidesma acidum*, *Bridelia bemiltoniana*, *Cassia fistula*, *Dendeocalamus strictus*, *Embllica officinalis*, *Gardenia latifolia*, *Grewia tiliifolia* and *Syzygium cumini*. The common shrubs are: *Flemingia bracteata*, *Grewia hirsuta*, *Petalidium barlerioides*, *Rhinacanthus nasuta* and *Sesamum indicum*.

The tropical dry deciduous forests are found in upper hill slopes and plains and the common species are: *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Alangium salvifolium*, *Boswellia serrata*, *Butea monosprma*, *Buchnanian lanzan*, *Careya arborea*, *Cleistanthus collinus*, *Cassia fistula*, *Dolochandrone falcata*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Semecarpus anacardium* and *Terminalia bellirica*. In some areas, these forests are mixed with teak.

The common species of grasses are: *Apluda mutica*, *Aristida setacea*, *Bothriochloa intermedia*, *Chrysopogon fulvus*, *Digitaria ciliaris*, *Heteropogon contortus*, *Imperata cylindrical* and others.

## Fauna

The major faunal species include: tiger, leopard, striped hyena, wolf, common mongoose, sloth bear, fox, hare, common langur, flying squirrel, chital, sambar, barking deer, nilgai, wild boar and gaur. The wild buffalos are found in grassy areas in Pilloor, Gandapuri and in the northwest corner of the reserve. During summer, they are seen near river courses. The common reptiles are: freshwater crocodile, common monitor lizard, chameleon, common krait, cobra, and Russell's viper. The amphibians include turtle, Indian bull frog and the common tree frog. Several species of fishes are found, viz. Padhan, bodh and rohu. The avifauna comprises of herons, white-necked stork, black-necked stork, white ibis, black ibis, whistling teals, pintail duck, brahmny duck, kites, crested hawk eagle, fishing eagle, honey buzzard, shikra, vultures, partridges, quails, pigeons,

doves, parakeets, cuckoos, koel, owls, nightjars, kingfishers, bee-eaters, common grey hornbill, woodpeckers, mynas and flycatchers.

## **Tiger Status**

The reserve has a low tiger status on account of low prey base and biotic disturbance.

## **Core**

The core/critical tiger habitat has a large number of revenue villages which require voluntary relocation on a priority basis. Further, the basic protection infrastructure and communication is wanting owing to disturbances. Special interventions are required both for tiger as well as the endangered wild buffalo.

## **Buffer**

An aggressive inclusive agenda to benefit local people is important for eliciting public support, in view of left wing engineered disturbances. This seemingly passive approach to protection through ecocodevelopment would go a long way in strengthening conservation in the area.

## **Corridor**

The tiger reserve, together with Bhairamgarh and Pamed Wildlife Sanctuaries constitute the Indravati landscape. It has connectivity with several tiger reserves, viz. Kawal (Telangana), Tadoba (Maharashtra) and Kanha (Madhya Pradesh). The linkages with other forest divisions (Bijapur, Narayanpur, Kondagaon, Kanker) are equally important.

## **Managerial Issue**

The reserve and its surround have suffered on account of extremist engineered disturbances since long. Hence, ensuring ecologically sustainable livelihood options to local people with incentives for protecting wildlife and its habitat are of utmost importance.