



NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY / PROJECT TIGER

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

KAZIRANGA TIGER RESERVE

Kaziranga Tiger Reserve (KTR) is located in the flood plain of the Brahmaputra River, on the foot hills of Karbi-Anglong district, spread across the civil districts of Golaghat, Nagaon and Sonitpur.

The terrain of the reserve is, by and large, flat with gentle slope from east to west. The habitat comprises of alluvial deposits from the Brahmaputra River system. The river Difalu, a tributary of the Brahmaputra, flows through the National Park area (core/critical tiger habitat), while another tributary Moradifalu flows along its southern boundary. Biogeographically, Kaziranga belongs to the North East Brahmaputra Valley Province.

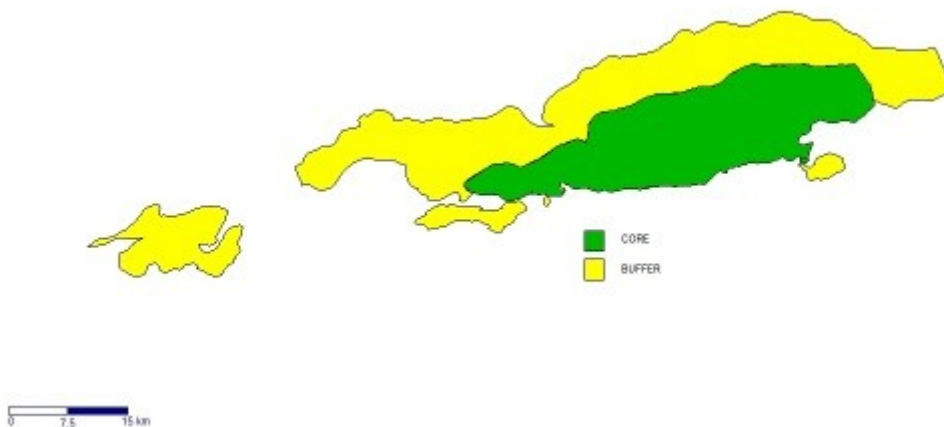
Area of the Tiger Reserve

Core area : 482.0385 sq km
Buffer area : 573.8555 sq km
Total : 1055.894 sq km

Location

Latitudes : 26.797750 to 26.471837 N
Longitudes : 92.594317 to 93.691783 E

Map



Habitat Attributes

Flora

The floristic composition of Kaziranga comprises of the following forest types and biomes (Champion and Seth, 1968):

- Eastern Wet alluvial grasslands-----4D / 2S2
- Assam Alluvial plains Semi-evergreen forests -----2B/C1a
- Tropical moist mixed deciduous forests-----3C3
- Wetlands
- Sandy “chaurs”

A total of 550 plant species have been recorded which includes several medicinal plants. The tree forests occupy a comparatively higher ground along the central portion of the reserve and on its eastern portions. Along the bank of the Brahmaputra, scattered and sparse growth of *Simul*, *Koroi* and *Bhelkor* are seen in patches, indicating new colonization by such species with grasses. The progress of woodland formation is affected by fires and periodic floods.

The important flora species include: *Bombax ceiba*, *Albizzia procera*, *Albizzia odorotissima*, *Albizzia lucida*, *Careya arborea*, *Premna latifolia*, *Lagerstroemia parviflora*, *Dillenia pentagyna* and, *Zizyphus jujuba*. The undergrowth comprises of grasses like *Erianthus ravaneae*, *Saccharum spontaneum*, *Saccharum procerum*, *Imperata cylindrical* and species like *Clerodendron*, *Alpinia allughas* and *Leea*. There are patches of *Barringtonia acutangula* and *Creteva religiosa* in the low-lying marshy area along with *Lagerstroemia flosreginae* in slightly higher grounds.

In general, the forests comprise of several species such as *Bombax ceiba*, *Albizzia*, *Crataeva religiosa*, *Aesculus pandana*, *Premna latifolia*, *Premnabengalensis*, *Lagerstromia parviflora*, *Lagerstroemia speciosa*, *Trewia nudiflora*, *Tetrameles nudiflora*, *Stereospermum chelonoid*, *Alstonia scholaris*, *Spondias mangifera*, *Vitex peduncularis*, *Vitex trifoliata*, *Dysoxylum procerum*, *Eugenia*, *Ehretia acrominata*, *Chikrasia tabularis*, *Ficus cuneata*, *Ficus glomerata*, *Ficus religiosa*, *Ficus bengalensis*, *Bischofia javanica*, *Dillenia indica*, *Pterospermum acerifolium*, *Cedrela toona*, *Anthocephalus chinens*, *Bridelia retusa domatorum* and *Erythrina indica*.

Fauna

Kaziranga has rich faunal diversity. The recorded species include: 35 of mammals, 480 of birds, 17 of turtles, 35 of snakes, 24 of frogs and 42 of fishes. Many endangered and threatened species like Rhino, Tiger, Eastern swamp deer, Elephant, Buffalo, Hoolock gibbon, Capped langur and Gangetic river dolphin are commonly found in the habitat.

Tiger Status

The reserve has a high tiger density and is a very important source area in the entire North Eastern landscape. According to the 2010 country level assessment, the Kaziranga landscape has the single largest population of tigers (125) in the North East, which is contiguous through the island systems of the Brahmaputra to the Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park.

Core

The core habitat has an exclusive wildlife agenda with a focus on tiger and rhino. Poaching of rhinos for its horns is a serious threat and hence field protection is given the topmost priority. The habitat is prone to annual flooding during which special initiatives are taken to protect wildlife.

Buffer

There are human settlements with considerable livestock population in the buffer and the proposed additions to the Kaziranga National Park. Addressing the human-wildlife interface issues, providing ecologically sustainable livelihood options to local people, monitoring of wild animals and protection are thrust areas.

Corridor

The reserve has corridor connectivity through the island systems of Brahmaputra with the Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park and the Nameri Tiger Reserve. The latter is important for maintaining gene flow between the plains and the hill population of tigers in Arunachal Pradesh. Further, there are three linkages with the forested areas of Karbi Anglong Hills. These corridors require monitoring, protection and an aggressive inclusive agenda to elicit local public support.

Managerial Issues

Day to day protection of rhino and tiger are given topmost priority. Other thrust areas include: special strategy during periodic floods, limited habitat interventions and fostering ecodevelopment through an inclusive agenda in the buffer and peripheral areas.