



NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY / PROJECT TIGER

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

MUDUMALAI TIGER RESERVE

Mudumalai Tiger Reserve lies on the North eastern and North Western slopes of Nilgiris, descending to the Mysore plateau, at the tri-junction of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The reserve has a rich floral and faunal diversity and is a good source area for tigers, co-predators and prey species. The terrain is undulating with the elevation ranging from 960m to 1266m.

Area of the tiger reserve

Core / critical tiger habitat	:	321.00 km ²
Buffer / peripheral area	:	367.59 km ²
Total	:	688.59 km²

Location

Latitudes : 11° 31' 54.9" to 11° 42' 18.5" North

Longitudes : 76° 21'28.9" to 76° 45' 21.5" East

Habitat Attributes

Flora

The floral diversity of the habitat ranges from semi-evergreen, moist deciduous, dry deciduous to scrub forests. There are several wild relatives of cultivated plants, viz. wild rice, ginger, turmeric, cinnamon, solanum, guava, mango and pepper which serve as a gene pool for the cultivated varieties. The habitat also has swampy areas (Vayals) and grasslands.

Fauna

The faunal assemblage include: elephant, gaur, sambar, four homed antelope, spotted deer, barking deer, blackbuck, wild pig, mouse deer and predators like tiger, leopard and wild dog.

Status of tiger

The reserve has a good tiger density. The 2010 country level assessment has estimated a density of 11 tigers per 100 sq.km.

Core

The managerial thrust areas include: stepped up field protection, day to day monitoring of tiger and

major wild animals, securing inviolate space for tiger, limited habitat interventions vis-à-vis the carrying capacity of the reserve for tiger, regulated tourism and fire protection.

Buffer

The buffer comprises of forests and human settlements with varied land uses. The managerial agenda include: ecodevelopment to provide ecologically sustainable livelihood options to local people to reduce their forest resource dependency, addressing human-wildlife conflicts, protection, monitoring of wild animals, ensuring retrofitting safeguards for wildlife in heavily used public infrastructure and fostering ecotourism.

Corridor

The reserve is connected to Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary of Kerala and Bandipur Tiger Reserve of Karnataka, besides having linkages through the forested slopes of Nilgiris to the Mukurthi National Park in the South, which is further connected to the Silent Valley in Kerala. Towards the East, the newly created Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve connects with the corridor formed by the Moyar River Valley thereby connecting the Mudumalai-Bandipur complex with the BRT Tiger Reserve and Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary of Karnataka.

Thus, the major corridors are: i) Moyar Valley - Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve - Biligiri Ranganatha Temple Tiger Reserve - Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary and the (ii) Mudumalai - Mukurthi National Park - Silent Valley National Park linkages. Besides, there are four small corridors in the Buffer zone of the reserve along the Moyar Valley-Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary which facilitate seasonal movement of elephants between Western and Eastern Ghats, viz., Singara Mavanallah, Kallahatty-Sigur, Mavanallah-Chemmanatham and Moyar- Averallah.

Of these, the Moyar-Cauvery linkage is fairly secure, as it passes along the Moyar River Valley, traversing the core area of the reserve and subsequently, through the buffer to the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve while connecting the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary through Biligiri Ranganatha Temple Tiger Reserve.

The other corridor from Mudumalai passes through the Gudalur Forest Division (O'valley) and links Mukurthi and Silent Valley National Parks. This linkage is fragmented in the Gudalur area owing to several estates, plantations and habitation.

The corridor linkages require restoration and ongoing monitoring with a strategy as adopted for the buffer area.

Good practices

Field protection, intensive tiger monitoring using camera traps, capacity building of officers and staff and fire protection.