



NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY / PROJECT TIGER

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

NAGARAHOLE TIGER RESERVE

Nagarahole Tiger Reserve is situated in the districts of Mysore and Kodagu in Karnataka. The reserve is named after a small river 'Nagarahole' (literally a snake stream in Kannada), which meanders within the habitat, before joining the river Kabini. The reserve has a good floral and faunal diversity and is flanked by the Bandipur Tiger Reserve on its southeastern side and the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary of Kerala on the southwest. The habitat also forms part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

Area of the tiger reserve

Core / critical tiger habitat	: 643.35 Sq.Km
Buffer / peripheral area	: 200.57 Sq.Km (Forest Area)
	: 361.84 Sq.Km (Non Forest Area)
Total	: 1205.76 Sq.km.

Location

Latitudes	: 11 ⁰ 45' to 12 ⁰ 15' N
Longitudes	: 76 ⁰ 05' to 76 ⁰ 25' E

Habitat Attributes

Flora

The dry eastern limits of the reserve has dry deciduous forests. Towards the west, with the increase in rainfall, the vegetation changes to tropical moist and semi-evergreen forests. The forests are interspersed with swampy fallows called 'hadlu', which are dominated by grasses and sedges, favoured by wild herbivores.

Fauna:

There is good faunal diversity and a large number of species occur, viz. mammals (32), birds (300), reptiles (32), amphibians (13) and fishes (10). The three endangered top carnivores, viz. tiger, leopard and wild dog (dholes) coexist at a higher density.

Tiger Status

Nagarahole has a high tiger density (12 tigers per 100 sq.km.) and is contiguous with other tiger source areas (Bandipur, Mudumalai, Waynad and Biligiri Rangana Betta).

Core

The core area is a National Park and has an exclusive tiger agenda. The managerial thrust areas include field protection, tiger monitoring, minimal habitat interventions and securing inviolate space for tiger through voluntary relocation.

Buffer

The buffer consists of forest areas and community lands. The thrust areas include protection, tiger monitoring, providing ecologically sustainable livelihood options for local people and addressing human-wildlife interface problems.

Corridor

The corridor linkage on the southern side of the reserve with Bandipur (Udumbur-old Kakankote) is important for elephants. The connectivity on the western and north western side link the reserve alongwith Waynad to the Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary. There are several coffee estates in this linkage. The Elephant populations in the Western Ghats along the Brahmagiri are connected to those in the Kodagu plateau only through the northern Waynad region of Kerala. The southern tip of the Brahmagiris extend into the Waynad North Division of Kerala, where the Tirunelli and Kudrakote Reserve Forests provide a narrow connection eastward to the Tholpetty and Kudrokote Wildlife Sanctuary. This is an extremely important corridor to maintain habitat contiguity for elephants in the Western Ghats.

Owing to varied land uses and human presence, the corridors require monitoring and restoration through a strategy as adopted for the buffer.

Managerial Issues

Protection, antipoaching operations, tiger monitoring, regulation of road traffic / tourism, addressing human-wildlife interface and providing ecologically viable livelihood options to people in the buffer are important thrust areas.

Good Practices

Stepped up protection, deployment of Special Tiger Protection Force and tiger monitoring.