



NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY / PROJECT TIGER

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

Palamau Tiger Reserve

Palamau Tiger Reserve is located in the western part of the Chotanagpur plateau and is spread over two districts, viz, Latehar and Garhwa. The terrain is undulating with valleys, hills and plains. Three rivers namely North Koyal, Auranga and Burha flow through the valleys. The area is draught prone with Burha being the only perennial river. The geological formation consists of gneiss and includes granite and limestone. The area is very rich in minerals like Bauxite and Coal.

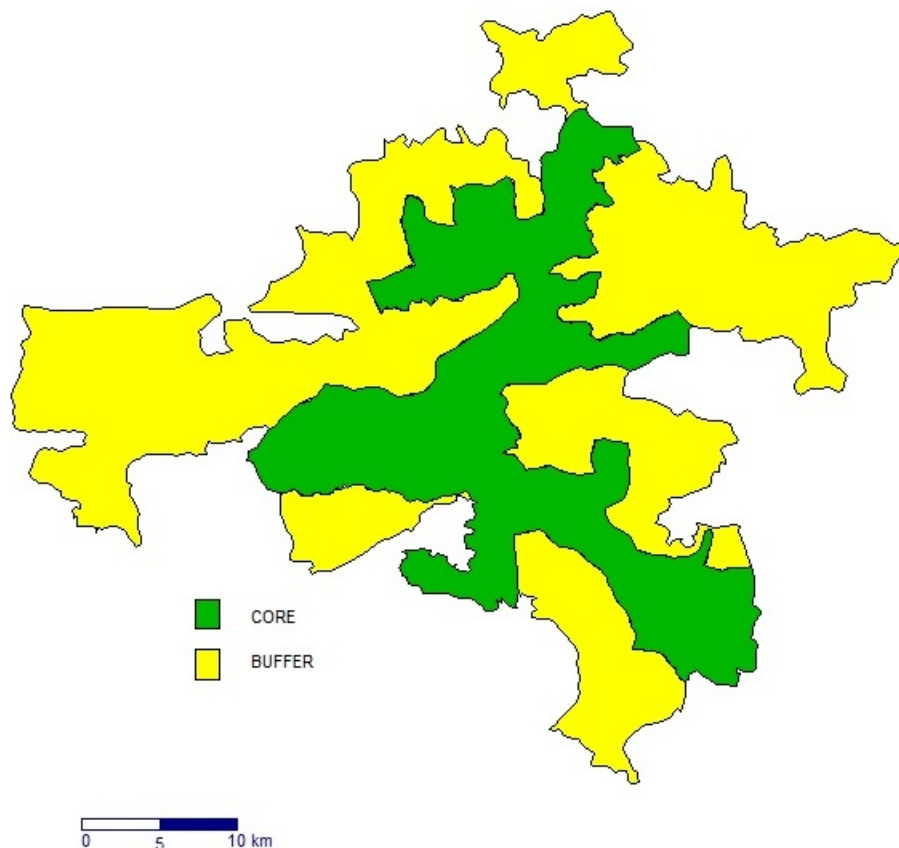
Area of the tiger reserve

Core/Critical tiger habitat	:	414.08 Km ²
Buffer/peripheral area	:	715.85 Km ²
Total	:	1129.93 Km²

Location

Latitudes	:	23 ⁰ 25'N to 23 ⁰ 55'N
Longitudes	:	83 ⁰ 50'E to 84 ⁰ 36'E

Map



Habitat Attributes

Flora

The habitat is primarily dominated by Northern Tropical Dry Deciduous Sal (*Shorea robusta*) forest and its associates. Smaller patches of Northern tropical Moist Deciduous forests exist too, apart from five sub-types, i.e., (i) Moist peninsular Sal (ii) Dry peninsular Sal (iii) Northern Dry Mixed Deciduous (iv) *Aegle* and (v) Dry Bamboo Brake. *Phoenix sylvestris* is noted growing along smaller streams. At places, the common associations are *Butea*, *Carissa*, *Capparis* and *Salvadora*.

Fauna

The Palamau Tiger Reserve is rich in faunal diversity. Some keystone and principal species found in the reserve include Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Asiatic Elephant (*Elephas maximus*), Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Grey wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*), Wild dog (*Cuon alpinus*), Gaur (*Bos gaurus*), Sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*) and Four horned antelope (*Tetracerus quadricornis*). The documented species include 39 mammals, 170 birds and 8 reptiles.

Tiger Status

The tiger has a wide distribution within the reserve. However, due to ongoing disturbance on account of left wing extremism, the day to day monitoring does not extend to the entire reserve area. A mean population of 10 adult tigers has been reported in the 2010 country level assessment. DNA analysis from scats also indicate a minimum population of 10 tigers in an area of 429 sq.km.

Core

The core/critical tiger habitat has 8 forest villages which have considerable biotic pressure on the habitat. Illegal grazing and firewood removal is a major problem. These villages require voluntary relocation on a priority basis under Project Tiger.

Buffer

The Buffer area is under the administrative control of tiger reserve. Owing to left wing extremism, there are no forestry operations. As many as 191 villages are present in and around the reserve.

Corridor

Palamau has good corridor connectivity with other tiger habitats in the Central Indian Tiger Landscape, and the important ones include its linkages with Bandhavgarh, Sanjay-Dubri, Achanakmar and Kanha Tiger Reserves. Bulk of these corridors fall in the State of Chhattisgarh.

I. Palamau-Sanjay-Bandhavgarh: This corridor represents one of the largest contiguous tiger habitats in the Central Indian Landscape. The entire Bandhavgarh-Guru Ghasidas-Palamau complex forms a 12,580 km² tiger habitat. Palamau Tiger Reserve is connected to Sanjay Tiger Reserve in the north-eastern part of Madhya Pradesh. Habitat contiguity extends onwards to Panna Tiger Reserve through stepping stone corridor forests in Balrampur, Surajpur and Surguja districts of

Chhattisgarh. Many important protected areas of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh are part of the Palamau-Sanjay contiguous landscape, viz. Semarsot, Tamor-Pingla Wildlife Sanctuaries, Guru Ghasidas National Park, Sanjay and Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserves.

II. Palamau-Badakhhol-Achanakmar-Kanha: Corridors to the southwestern side of Palamau Tiger Reserve connect it to the Achanakmar Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh and onwards to Kanha Tiger Reserve of Madhya Pradesh. This encompasses forests of Jashpur, Surguja, Korba and Bilaspur districts of Chhattisgarh.

Corridors within the state of Jharkhand include the following:

I. Palamau-Lawalong-Hazaribagh-Gaya: Palamau Tiger Reserve is connected to Lawalong Wildlife Sanctuary, Hazaribagh Wildlife Sanctuary and Gautam Buddha Wildlife Sanctuary through intervening territorial forests. Occasional movement of tigers is reported from these areas.

II. Palamau-Garhwa-Kaimur: Palamau tiger reserve is connected to the Kaimur landscape at the tri-junction of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand. There are two large protected areas in this landscape viz. the 1342 km² Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary in Bihar and the adjoining 501 km² Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh.

III. Palamau-Gumla-Palkot-Saranda: On its southern and southeastern sides, the Palamau Tiger Reserve is connected to the territorial forests of Gumla and Lohardagga Divisions. These forests in turn, through a narrow corridor of territorial forests running west of Gumla town, are connected to the only protected area in southeast Jharkhand, the Palkot Wildlife Sanctuary (183.18 km²).

Managerial Issues

Palamau tiger reserve is facing the problem of left wing extremism since 1990. The livelihood dependency of local people on forests is very high. There are managerial issues like paucity of frontline staff. The local workforce is deployed to assist the field staff in day to day protection and tiger monitoring.

Good practices

Effective fire detection / control, innovative water harvesting / storage and initiatives taken for eliciting local public support are good practices.