



NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY / PROJECT TIGER

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

PENCH TIGER RESERVE

Nesting in the southern slopes of the Satpura range of Central India, Pench Tiger Reserve comprises of the Indira Priyadarshini Pench National Park, the Pench Mowgli Sanctuary and a buffer. It derives its name from its life line-the River Pench which flows from North to South, splitting the Park into two, while forming the boundary of Seoni and Chhindwara districts. The Meghdoot dam built across Pench River at Totladoh has created a large water body of 72 sq. km. out of which 54 sq. km. falls in M.P. and rest in the adjoining state of Maharashtra.

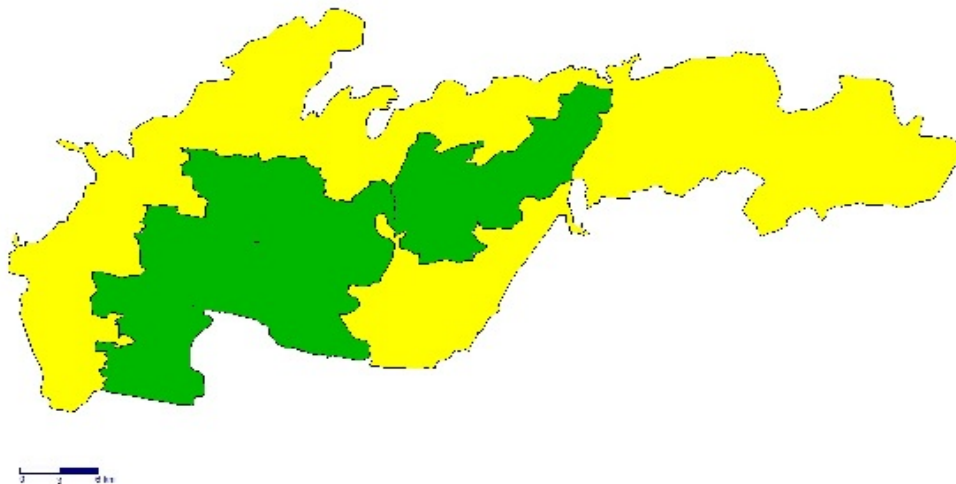
Area of the Tiger Reserve

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Core/critical tiger habitat | : | 411.330 sq.km. |
| Buffer/peripheral area | : | 768.300 sq. km. |
| Total | : | 1179.630 sq. km. |

Location

| | | |
|------------|---|--|
| Latitudes | : | 21 ⁰ 38' 55" to 21 ⁰ 53' 52" N |
| Longitudes | : | 79 ⁰ 08' 51" to 79 ⁰ 31' 55" E |

Map



Habitat Attributes

FLORA

Biodiversity values: Floristically, part of Indo-Malaya realm

Forest Types:

South Indian tropical Moist Deciduous Forest 3B/C

Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest 5A/C

Southern Dry Mixed Deciduous Forest 5A/C3

Boswellia Forest 5E2 –

Biogeographic classification (Rodgers and Panwar 1988):Zone- 6E Deccan Peninsula Central Highland. The undulating topography supports a mosaic of vegetation ranging from moist sheltered valley to open, dry deciduous forest. Over 1200 species of plants have been recorded from the area. This includes several rare and endangered plants as well as plants of ethno-botanical importance.

FAUNA

Zoo-geographically, it is a member of the oriental region. The area has always been rich in wildlife. The high habitat heterogeneity favours good population of Chital and Sambhar. The area is especially famous for large herds of Chital, Sambar, Nilgai, Gaur (Indian Bison) and wild boar. The key predator is the tiger followed by leopard, wild dogs and wolf. Out of the 58 species of mammals, the important ones include sloth bear, chousingha, barking deer, jackal, fox, palm civet, small Indian civet, jungle cat, hyena and porcupine. There are over 325 species of resident and migratory birds including the Malabar Pied Hornbill, Indian Pitta, Osprey, Grey Headed Fishing Eagle, White Eyed Buzzard etc. Other fauna includes 50 species of fishes, 13 species of amphibians, 33 species of reptiles, 105 species of Butterflies, moths and large numbers of other insects. Vultures are also seen in many parts of core area.

Tiger Status

The reserve has a high tiger density and is an important tiger source area of the Central India Landscape. As per the 2010 country level assessment using the refined methodology, the tiger estimate for the Pench landscape is 65 (ranging from 53 to 78) with an increasing trend. The forest divisions surrounding the reserve like South Seoni, East Chhindwara and South Chhindwara divisions also support resident tigers. These areas have been incorporated in the buffer of the tiger reserve.

Core

The Core area constitutes dense forests, open forests with luxuriant ground cover, open forests with weeds, degraded forests, meadows, and wetlands. Grasslands are anthropogenic in nature and there is no human settlement in the core area. Tourism is allowed in 20% of the core area as per guidelines of the NTCA.

Buffer

The buffer area is formed by the reserved and protected forests of South Seoni, East Chhindwara and South Chhindwara Forest Divisions adjoining to the core area. The buffer area in the Chhindwara districts has been brought under the administrative control of the tiger reserve management in the recent past. This area comprises of teak, bamboo and miscellaneous forests and subjected to timber exploitation, regeneration, plantation and bamboo working as per the prescriptions approved in the Working Plan. Tiger reserve management has prepared a Tiger Conservation Plan for this area to mainstream wildlife concerns. There are 107 villages in the buffer, but human wildlife interface issues and conflicts are low. The buffer villages have eco-development committees and the management has succeeded in minimising human wildlife conflicts through involvement of EDC members in its management and protection works.

Corridor

The Central Highlands of India is one of the most important habitats in the world for the conservation of the endangered tiger and the Pench Tiger Reserve is centrally located in these highlands. It is connected to Kanha by forests of Seoni, Balaghat and Mandla districts and the Southern side is contiguous with Pench Tiger Reserve Maharashtra.

It also has corridor connectivity with the Satpura Tiger Reserve. These linkages are ensuring tiger gene flow in the Central Indian landscape. The corridor restoration and its management are addressed in the Tiger Conservation Plan.

Good Practices

Pench Tiger Reserve management is implementing the Phase-IV tiger monitoring protocol provided by the NTCA for continuous monitoring of Tiger, co-predators, prey-base and its habitats. Ecodevelopment committees are in place for garnering local public support. There is arrangement for prompt disposal of compensation cases for crop depredation and cattle kills by wild animals. Insulation of electric lines on the boundary of core area has been undertaken and 24 x 7 monitoring of wild animals is done through well distributed patrolling camps in the area on a daily basis.