



NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY / PROJECT TIGER

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

PILIBHIT TIGER RESERVE

The Pilibhit Tiger Reserve is situated in the Pilibhit district of Uttar Pradesh, forming part of the Terai Arc Landscape, in the upper Gangetic Plain Biogeographic Province. The river Gomti originates from the reserve, which is also the catchment of several others like Sharda, Chuka and Mala Khannot. The habitat is characterized by sal forests, tall grasslands and swamps, maintained by periodic flooding from rivers. The Sharda Sagar Dam extending upto a length of 22 km. is on the boundary of the reserve.

Area of the Tiger Reserve

| | | |
|--------|---|-----------------|
| Core | : | 602.7980 sq.km. |
| Buffer | : | 127.4518 sq.km. |
| Total | : | 730.2498 sq.km. |

Location

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| Latitudes: | 28° 8' 0" N to 28° 50' 0" N |
| Longitudes: | 79° 53' 02" E to 80° 18' 03" E |

Habitat ATTRIBUTES

Flora

The forest vegetation is of the North Indian moist deciduous type, having the finest sal forests of the country. As per the classification of Champion and Seth (1968), the forest types of the reserve are:

| Type | Name of Type |
|---|---|
| Sub Division 21 Northern Tropical semi Evergreen forest 2/E-1 | Northern Tropical Semi Evergreen |
| Sub Division 3C | Northern Indian Moist Deciduous forests |
| (i) 3C/C-2-B (II) | Dinar sea forest |
| (ii) 3C/C-2-D (I) | Western light alluvium plains Sal forest |
| (iii) 3C/C-2-D (II) | Alluvium Plains Sal forest (Chador Sal) |
| (iv) 3C/1-S-1 | Low alluvial savannah forest |
| 4D/SS3 | Tropical Swamp forest syringing cum in swamp forest |

| | | |
|-------|---------|-------------------------------|
| 5B | | Northern Dry forest |
| (i) | 5B/C-1B | Dry plains Sal forest |
| (ii) | 5B/C-2 | Northern dry Deceivers forest |
| (iii) | 5B/152 | Khair Sissoo forest |

The sal woodland is very dense with good natural regeneration, amounting to almost 76% of the reserve area. The forest patches are interspersed with grass meadows with several species like *Sacchrum*, *Sclerostachya*, *Imperata*, *Themeda*, *Bothriochloa*, *Vetiveria*, *Apluda*, *Dichanthium*, *Digitaria* and *Cyperus*. The grasslands are subjected to seasonal flooding water logging. Broadly, such water logged grasslands and water bodies constitute wetland of the habitat.

Fauna

The habitat has rich faunal diversity, having 5 out of 7 deer species found in the country. Besides, there are some critically endangered species such as the Bengal florican and hispid hare. As many as 13 species of mammals, 9 species of birds and 11 species of reptiles / amphibians found in the reserve are endangered and listed in the Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The major faunal species are: tiger, leopard, fishing cat, leopard cat, swamp deer, spotted deer, hog deer, barking deer, black buck, sambar, sloth bear, giant flying squirrel, flying fox, short nosed fruit bat, Indian common yellow bat, painted bat, rhesus macaque, common langur, porcupine, small Indian civet, jackal, Indian fox, hyena, rattle. As many as 450 species of birds have been observed which includes a large number of residents. The common resident birds include: darter, lesser whistling duck, combed duck, grey partridge, black partridge, swamp partridge, peafowl, red jungle fowl, cormorants, egrets, herons, 3 species of hornbill, 6 species of eagle, saras, crane and several others. Reptiles are well represented with 5 species of lizards, several species of snakes, fresh water crocodile and gharial. The river system harbour around 79 species of fishes.

Tiger Status

The reserve has a good tiger status owing to its connectivity with other tiger habitats like Kishanpur (UP), Lagga-Bagga (UP), Shuklaphanta (Nepal) and Nandaur (Uttarakhand). The tiger density for the landscape, as assessed during the 2010 country level assessment, is 5.4 tigers per 100 sq.km.

Core

The core area is devoid of human settlements, though there are disturbances owing to traffic on roads passing through the habitat and livestock grazing. There is dependency of local people on forest resources, besides movement of livestock from the border villages of Nepal.

Buffer

There are considerable human settlement in the peripheral buffer area and beyond which have considerable impact on the habitat. The human-wildlife co-occurrence agenda is important in this area.

Corridor

Pilibhit is an important habitat for tiger owing to its connection with several tiger habitats within the State and outside. The important linkages are:

1. Surahi range - Corbett
2. Lagga-Bagga - Shuklaphanta National Park (Nepal)
3. Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary – Dudhwa

The corridor linkages are used by tiger and other wild animals, and require monitoring and restoration by fostering a co-occurrence agenda with local people.

Management Issues

Pilibhit is a recent entrant to Project Tiger, notified in June 2014. The managerial thrust areas include: field protection, smart patrolling, strengthening protection infrastructure / communication, day to day monitoring of tiger and major wild animals, addressing human-wildlife conflict, ecocodevelopment in buffer areas and beyond and coordination with the adjoining State of Uttarakhand and the neighbouring country of Nepal for protection.