



Gir National Park

 drishtiias.com/printpdf/gir-national-park

- The Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Junagadh district of **Gujarat**.
- The Gir Forests is the **only natural habitat of Asiatic lions**.
It was declared as a sanctuary in 1965 and a national park in 1975.
- The Gir Forests is the largest compact tract of **dry deciduous forests** in the semi-arid western part of India.
- The Gir Forests forms a unique habitat for many mammals, reptiles, birds and insect species along with a rich variety of flora.
- Gir is often linked with "**Maldharis**" who have survived through the ages by having symbiotic relationship with the lion.
Maldharis are **religious pastoral communities** living in Gir. Their settlements are called "nesses".
- **Other National Parks in Gujarat**
 - Black buck National Park
 - Vansda National park
 - Marine National Park

Asiatic Lion

- **Scientific Name:** Panthera leo persica
- **Habitat:** Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary
- **Threats**
 - They are vulnerable to disease, encroachment, forest fire, natural calamities, grazing, collection of fuelwood, Non-timber forest produce (NTFP), poaching, tourism, religious pilgrimage and accidental lion deaths due to human causes.
In 2018, **Canine Distemper Virus (CDV)** was responsible for the death of more than 25 Lions in the Gir forest of Gujarat.
 - Also, there have been indications of poaching incidents in recent years.

- **Protection Status**

- **IUCN Red List:** Endangered
- **CITES:** Appendix I
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972:** Schedule I

Source: TH