



Periyar Tiger Reserve

Why in News

For the first time in the country, the **Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Kerala** has taken up training of a [tiger](#) cub to equip it to naturally hunt in the forest environment.

Key Points

▪ Location:

- It falls in the districts of Idukki and Pathanamthitta in Kerala (saddled in the southern region of Western Ghats).

▪ Formation:

- Declared a Sanctuary during 1950 and declared as Tiger Reserve during 1978. It gets its name from the River Periyar which has its origin deep inside the reserve.

▪ Drainage:

- The major rivers through the reserve are **Mullayar and Periyar**.

▪ Flora:

- The sanctuary comprises **tropical evergreen, semi evergreen, moist deciduous forests and grasslands**.
- About **1966 species of flowering plants** grow in the sanctuary.
 - Of this about 516 are endemic to the Western Ghats.
- The sanctuary is a repository of medicinal plants numbering to about 300.
 - Some are endemic to the region like **Syzygium periyarensis (a tree)**, **Habenaria periyarensis (an orchid)** and **Mucuna pruriense thekkadiensis (a climber)** etc.

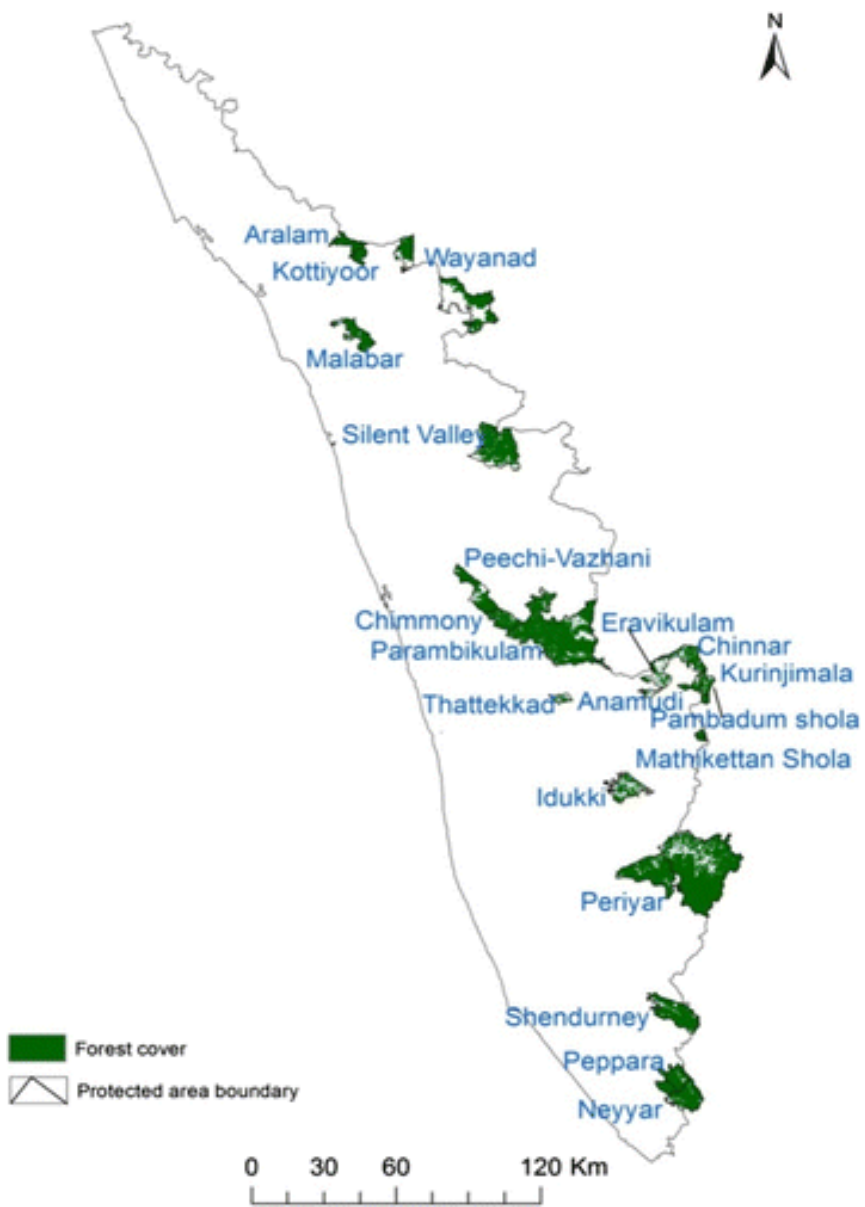
▪ Fauna:

- **Mammals:** Tiger, [Elephant](#), [Lion-tailed macaque](#), [Nilgiri Tahr](#) etc.
- **Birds:** Darters, Cormorants, Kingfishers, the great Malabar Hornbill and racket-tailed Drongos.
- **Reptiles:** Monitor Lizards, Python, King Cobra etc.

▪ Tribals:

- There are **six tribal communities** nestled inside the reserve such as **Mannans, Paliyans, Malayarayans, Mala Pandarams, Uralis and Ulladans**.

▪ Protected Areas in Kerala:



[Source:TH](#)

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