



Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary

Source: TOI

A **tigress and her four cubs** were found dead in Karnataka's [Male Mahadeshwara Hills \(MM Hills\) Wildlife Sanctuary](#), suspected to have been **poisoned** amid escalating [human-wildlife conflict](#).

Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary

- **About:** It is located in **Chamarajanagar district, southeast Karnataka**, near the **Tamil Nadu border**, and was **declared a [wildlife sanctuary](#) in 2013**.
 - Its **topography** includes mainly **dry deciduous forests**, along with patches of **moist deciduous, semi-evergreen, evergreen**, and [shola forests](#) at varying altitudes.
- **Ecological Importance:** It is **contiguous with Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve and Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka**, and [Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve](#) in **Tamil Nadu**, forming a **critical [tiger](#) corridor** between the two states.
 - It is home to **tigers, leopards, elephants**, apart from a rich density of prey species.
- **Tiger Reserve Status:** The **proposal to upgrade MM Hills to a [Tiger Reserve](#)** has been **pending for nearly 15 years**. If approved, **Chamarajanagar** will become the **first district in India** to host **3 tiger reserves—Bandipur, BRT, and MM Hills**.
 - **Karnataka** has the **second-largest** tiger population in India (**563 tigers**) after **Madhya Pradesh (785 tigers)**.
- **Human Settlements:** The region is home to two dominant communities: the **Soligas**, indigenous former **hunter-gatherers**, and the [Lingayats](#), **temple priests from Mysore** engaged in **temple management**.

TIGER

Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera Tigris*) is the National animal of India.

Subspecies of Tiger

- * The continental (*Panthera tigris tigris*)
- * The Sunda (*Panthera tigris sondaica*)

Habitat

Tropical rainforests, evergreen forests, temperate forests, mangrove swamps, grasslands, and savannas



Countries Where Tiger Population Is Found

- Found only in 13 Tiger Range countries- India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Russia, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam
- As per the latest report by IUCN, tiger has gone extinct in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam

Protection Status

- IUCN Red List: Endangered
- CITES: Appendix I
- WPA 1972: Schedule I

Threats

- Habitat loss
- Poaching and illegal trade
- Human-Wildlife conflict

Conservation Efforts

- International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA):** For conservation of seven big cats namely Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma (launched by India)
- Tx2 campaign:** Launched by WWF; stands for 'Tiger times 2' signaling the goal to double the tiger population by 2022
- National Tiger Conservation authority (NTCA):** Constituted under the WPA, 1972
- Project Tiger:** Launched in 1973
- Tiger Census:** Every 4 years

Tigers In India

- India has the **largest** population
 - As of 2022, India has 3167 tigers
 - Largest population has been found in Central Indian Highlands & Eastern Ghats Landscape
- Tiger Reserves:** India now has 53 tiger reserves
 - Ranipur in UP is the latest
 - Nagarjun Sagar (Andhra Pradesh) is the largest while Orang (Assam) is the smallest (Core area)



Read More: [Human-Animal Conflict](https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/male-mahadeshwara-hills-wildlife-sanctuary)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/male-mahadeshwara-hills-wildlife-sanctuary>