



Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve

Source: [TH](#)

The [Supreme Court](#) has directed the **Central Empowered Committee (CEC)** to carry out a detailed survey of the **Agasthyamalai landscape** to identify any **non-forestry activities** and [encroachments](#).

- **Aim of the Survey:** To identify all instances of non-forestry activities that violate statutory laws like the [Forest Conservation Act, 1980](#) and [Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#).
 - To provide comparative forest cover data to reveal the extent of degradation.
- **Key Areas Under Survey:** [Periyar Tiger Reserve](#)
 - [Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary](#)
 - [Meghamalai Wildlife Sanctuary](#)
 - [Thirunelveli Wildlife Sanctuary](#)
- **Agasthyamalai:** It is part of a 3,500 sq. km biosphere reserve recognised by [UNESCO](#).
 - It **stretches across Tamil Nadu and Kerala** in the southernmost stretch of the Western Ghats.
 - The Neelakkurinji flower, which blooms once every 12 years, grows in this landscape.
 - [Lion-Tailed Macaque](#), [Bengal Tiger](#), Nilgiri Marten, Nilgiri Tahr, Malabar Spiny Dormouse, Great Pied Hornbill, Gaur (Indian bison), [Sloth Bear](#) found in this region.
 - The region is inhabited by indigenous communities, especially the [Kani tribe](#).



FACT FILE

- Established in 2001
- Area **3,500.36 sq km**
- Area in Kerala **1,828 sq km**
- Area in Tamil Nadu **1672.36 sq km**



Between
8° 8' and
9° 10' North Latitude,
76° 52' and 77° 34'
East Longitude

- Home to 2,254 species of higher plants
- About 400 endemic to the area

Population in tribal settlements **3,000**

- **18** biosphere reserves in India
- **9** included in UNESCO network

- Sanctuaries in the reserve
- Shendurney, Peppara, Neyyar wildlife sanctuaries
- Kalakad Mundanthurai tiger reserve

Read More: [Agasthyavanam Biological Park](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/agasthyamalai-biosphere-reserve>