



Ratapani Tiger Reserve

Source: PIB

Why in News?

Recently, the **Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary** has been officially declared a **tiger reserve**, becoming the **8th such reserve in Madhya Pradesh** and **57th tiger reserve in India**.

- It was approved by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** through the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**.

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)

What are Some Key Facts About Ratapani Tiger Reserve?

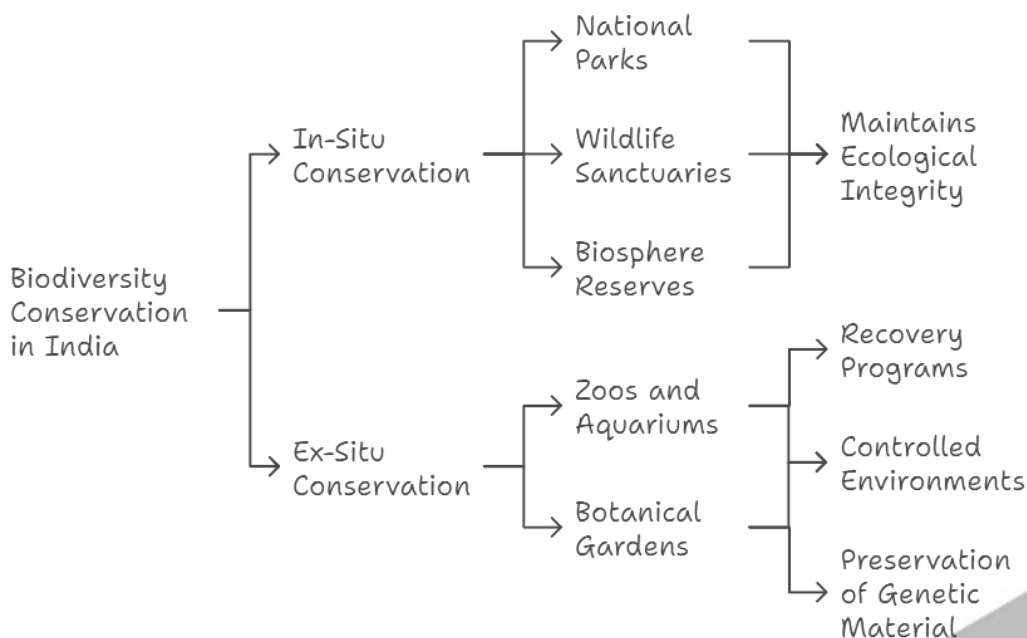
- It is situated near the **Vindhya hills**, the sanctuary encompasses the [Bhimbetka Rock Shelters](#), a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#).
- The **Ratapani Tiger Reserve** encompasses a total area of 1,271.4 square kilometers, with a core area of 763.8 square kilometers and a buffer area of 507.6 square kilometers.
- **Flora and Fauna:**
 - [Dry and moist deciduous](#), with **teak (*Tectona grandis*)** covering **55%** of the area.
 - [Bamboo](#) and **evergreen Saja forests**, enhancing tourist appeal.
 - The sanctuary is home to more than **35 species of mammals**, **33 species of reptiles**, **14 species of fishes** and **10 species of amphibians** and **over 40 Tigers**.

What is the Procedure to Designate Tiger Reserve in India?

- **Initial Proposal:** The **state government proposes a wildlife sanctuary or national park** for designation as a tiger reserve, assessing ecological significance and tiger presence.
 - A **comprehensive plan is prepared**, outlining management strategies and habitat requirements to support a viable tiger population.
- **Approval from NTCA:** The proposal and conservation plan are submitted to the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** for review and evaluation.
- **In-Principle Approval:** The **NTCA grants in-principle approval**, recognizing the area as critical for tiger conservation and eligible for funding.
- **Official Notification:** The **state government issues an official notification** declaring the area as a tiger reserve under **Section 38V the [Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#)**, delineating core and buffer zones.
 - **Initiatives are launched to benefit local communities** and promote sustainable livelihoods while managing the tiger reserve effectively.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Continuous **monitoring by NTCA** and state authorities assesses conservation effectiveness and adapts management strategies as needed.



Different Types of Conservation Methods



Difference Between Wildlife Sanctuary, Tiger Reserve and Biosphere Reserve

Feature	Wildlife Sanctuary	Tiger Reserve	Biosphere Reserve
Definition	An area dedicated to the protection of specific species of flora and fauna , and their habitats owned by the government or private entities.	A protected area specifically designated for the conservation of tigers and their habitats .	A designated area for the conservation of biodiversity , and sustainable development, including flora, fauna, and cultural heritage.
Management Authority	Managed by state governments or private organizations.	Managed by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) under MoEF&CC.	Managed by the MoEF&CC in collaboration with local communities.
Public Access	Generally open to visitors with some restrictions on activities.	Access is regulated to minimize human disturbance; tourism is allowed in designated areas.	Limited public access; primarily for research and education purposes.
Legal Framework	Governed by the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 .	Established under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 with specific provisions for tiger conservation.	Recognized under UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme ; governed by national laws for conservation.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q1. At the national level, which ministry is the nodal agency to ensure effective implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of

Forest Rights) Act, 2006? (2021)

- (a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- (c) Ministry of Rural Development
- (d) Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Ans: (d)

Q2. Consider the following statements: (2018)

1. The definition of "Critical Wildlife Habitat" is incorporated in the Forest Rights Act, 2006.
2. For the first time in India, Baigas have been given Habitat Rights.
3. Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change officially decides and declares Habitat Rights for Primitive and Vulnerable Tribal Groups in any part of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (a)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/ratapani-tiger-reserve>

