



Tsarap Chu Conservation Reserve

[Source: DTE](#)

Himachal Pradesh (HP) has notified the **Tsarap Chu Conservation Reserve** under **section 36A(1)** of [Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#), to protect **high-altitude biodiversity** and strengthen snow leopard habitats.

Tsarap Chu Conservation Reserve:

- **About:** It is **India's largest conservation reserve (1585 sq km area)**, located in **Spiti Valley**, and the **state's fifth**, joining **Darlaghat, Naina Devi, Potter Hill, and Shilli reserves**.
 - It is bounded by the **UT of Ladakh (north)**, **Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary** and **Malang Nala (east)**, **Kabjima Nala (south)**, and **Chandratal Wildlife Sanctuary (west)**.
- **Significance:** The area is ecologically significant as it lies in the catchment of the **Charap Nala** and serves as a vital **wildlife corridor** between **Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary & Chandratal Wildlife Sanctuary (Himachal Pradesh)**.
- **Flora & Fauna:**
 - It hosts a high density of [Snow Leopard](#) ("Ghost of the Mountains"), and other key fauna include **Tibetan wolf, bharal (blue sheep), Himalayan ibex, kiang (wild ass)** and **Tibetan argali**.
 - Rare birds like **Rose Finch, Tibetan Raven, and Yellow-billed Chough** are also found.

Conservation Reserve:

- Conservation Reserves are [Protected Areas \(PAs\)](#) established on government land that function as **corridors or buffer zones** connecting national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, or other protected regions.
- Notified under **Section 36A** of the [Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#), these reserves are **managed collaboratively** with **local communities, Panchayats, and conservation partners**.

Categories of Protected Areas in India

National Parks	Wildlife Sanctuaries	Conservation Reserves	Community Reserves
A National Park is a form of protected area which is strictly reserved for the betterment of the wildlife and biodiversity, with much higher levels of restriction in terms of human entry and no human activity, such as foraging, grazing, cultivating and collection of firewood from fringe areas is allowed within National Parks. □ Kanha National Park, Kaziranga National Park, Gir National Park, Ranthambore National Park	A Wildlife Sanctuary is a naturally occurring geographic territory that safeguards wildlife and provides the species protection from poaching, hunting, predation etc. Some human activities are allowed inside wildlife sanctuaries such as grazing and collecting forest produce. Technically, a wildlife sanctuary may be a separately existing entity or it can stand within a national park. There have been instances where a wildlife sanctuary have been upgraded into a national park. □ Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary, Indian Wild Ass Sanctuary, Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary	Conservation Reserves are a form of protected areas, which act as buffer zones or migration corridors between established national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and reserved and protected forests of India. □ Jayamangali Blackbuck Conservation Reserve, Sundha Mata Conservation Reserve, Chari-Dhand Wetland Conservation Reserve, Naina Devi Himalayan Bird Conservation Reserve	Community Reserves are declared by the State Government in any private or community land. The land for the Community Reserve should not fall within a National Park, Sanctuary or a Conservation Reserve. It is essentially an area where an individual or a community has volunteered to conserve wildlife and its habitat. □ Abubshehar Community Reserve, Dambuk Attong Community Reserve, Lalwan Community Reserve

Read More: [Conserving Protected Areas in India](#)

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