



Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary

Source: TOI

Public intrusion into the [eco-sensitive zone](#) of Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS) has triggered serious concern among conservationists, highlighting threats to the region's fragile ecosystem and biodiversity.

- **Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs)** are **buffer areas (up to 10 km)** around [national parks and wildlife sanctuaries](#), declared to reduce harmful human activities and are notified under the [Environment \(Protection\) Act, 1986](#) as per the [National Wildlife Action Plan \(2002-2016\)](#).
 - **Prohibited: Commercial mining, polluting industries**, major hydro projects, sawmills, commercial wood use, etc.
 - **Regulated: Tree felling**, construction of hotels/resorts, **commercial water use**, pesticide based farming etc.
 - **Permitted: Traditional farming, rainwater harvesting, organic farming**, use of renewable energy, and **green technologies**.
- **About Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary:** BWS is located in **Belgaum district**, Karnataka near the Goa border. It spans over the [Western Ghats](#) and was declared as a wildlife sanctuary in December **2011**.
 - It is named after **Bhimgad Fort, built by Shivaji** in the 17th century to defend against Portuguese forces.
 - It is home to diverse avifauna including the **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Malabar Grey Hornbill, Imperial Pigeon, Emerald Dove**, and the rare **Malabar Trogon**.
 - It is known as the **only known breeding site** of [Wroughton's Free-tailed Bat](#), found in the **Barapede Caves**.
 - The sanctuary includes the **Vajrapoha Waterfalls** and forms part of the [Mahadayi River](#) 's catchment area.

Read More: [Invasive Species and Food Crisis in Karnataka's Western Ghats](#)

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