



Fishing Cat Sighting in Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve









Why in News?

The **first-ever sighting** of a **Fishing Cat** in **Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve (RVTR)** marks a significant addition to its small cat population, underscoring the reserve's ecological importance and the health of its wetland habitats.

Key Points

- **About:** The Fishing Cat was captured on camera during routine tiger monitoring by RVTR's biologist and Dalepura tracking team in the Ramgarh Range, Bundi, confirming its presence.
- **Existing Species:** Before this discovery, RVTR was home to **four small cat species**, namely, Jungle Cat (*Felis chaus*), Rusty-spotted Cat (*Prionailurus rubiginosus*), Asiatic Wildcat (*Felis lybica ornata*), and Caracal (*Caracal caracal*).
 - The addition of the Fishing Cat brings the total to five small cat species, further enriching the **reserve's carnivore population**.
- **Habitat:** Typically found in **wetlands and riverine environments**, its presence in RVTR highlights the health of the reserve's aquatic ecosystems, essential for the species' survival.
- **Diet:** The **Fishing Cat primarily preys on fish and aquatic invertebrates, making wetlands essential for its survival.**
- **Protection Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable
 - **CITES:** Appendix II
 - **Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I
- **Significance:** The discovery contributes to the growing recognition of RVTR as a **biodiversity hotspot** in Rajasthan, home to **apex predators** such as tigers and leopards, as well as smaller carnivores that play a crucial role in maintaining ecosystem balance.



Region  South and Southeast Asia	IUCN Listing  Vulnerable
Aquatic Adaptations  Partially-webbed feet  Long, protruding claws  Can fully submerge underwater	Threats  Human encroachment into habitat  Human-conflict due to food competition  Overfishing and pollution to aquatic habitats

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/fishing-cat-sighting-in-ramgarh-vishdhari-tiger-reserve>

