

Kali Tiger Reserve (KTR) - Karnataka

1. Overview

- **Location:** Uttara Kannada (North Canara) district, Karnataka
- **Former Name:** *Dandeli-Anshi Tiger Reserve* (Renamed in 2015 to **Kali Tiger Reserve**)
- **Total Area:** ~1,100 sq. km
- **Core Area:** ~600 sq. km
- **Buffer Area:** ~500 sq. km
- **Established:** Declared a **Tiger Reserve in 2007** under **Project Tiger**
- **Managed by:** Karnataka Forest Department

2. Geography and Location

- Lies in the **Western Ghats**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and one of the **world's 8 biodiversity hotspots**.
- Spread across **Haliyal, Karwar, and Joida taluks** of Uttara Kannada district.
- **Rivers flowing through the reserve:**
 - **Kali River** (main river, lifeline of the region)
 - Tributaries: **Pandri, Tattihalla, Kaneri, Vaki, Nagzari**
- **Altitude Range:** 100 m to 600 m above sea level.
- **Climate:** Tropical and humid with heavy monsoon rains.

3. Name and Significance

- The reserve is named after the **Kali River**, which flows through its heart.
- "Kali" means "**black**" in Kannada, referring to the **dark waters** of the river.
- The river is central to the ecosystem — providing water to forests, wildlife, and nearby human settlements.

4. Vegetation and Ecosystem

- Lies in the **Moist Deciduous and Evergreen Forest zones** of the Western Ghats.
- **Major forest types:**
 - *Tropical Semi-evergreen Forests*
 - *Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests*
 - *Riparian Forests* along riverbanks
- **Dominant flora:**
 - Teak (*Tectona grandis*)
 - Bamboo
 - Terminalia, Eugenia, Lagerstroemia, and Syzygium species.
- The dense canopy and high rainfall make it one of the richest ecosystems in southern India.

5. Fauna (Wildlife Diversity)

Flagship Species:

- **Tiger (*Panthera tigris*)** – apex predator and symbol of the reserve.
- **Black Panther (Melanistic Leopard)** – rarely sighted, but photographed here.

Other Mammals:

- Leopard, Elephant, Sloth Bear, Gaur (Indian bison), Wild Dog (Dhole), Sambar Deer, Spotted Deer, Barking Deer, Malabar Giant Squirrel, and Indian Pangolin.

Avifauna (Birds):

- Over **300 bird species** recorded, including:
 - Malabar Pied Hornbill
 - Great Hornbill
 - Crested Serpent Eagle

- Emerald Dove
- Drongos, Flycatchers, and Woodpeckers

Reptiles and Amphibians:

- King Cobra, Indian Python, Malabar Pit Viper, and several endemic frog species.

Aquatic Life:

- Rich in freshwater fish and aquatic insects due to the Kali River ecosystem.

6. Tribal and Local Communities

- Home to indigenous communities such as **Kunbi, Siddis, and Gowli tribes**.
- These communities depend on the forest for non-timber forest produce (NTFP) like honey, fruits, and medicinal plants.
- Eco-development programmes are underway to reduce human-wildlife conflict and promote sustainable livelihoods.

7. Tourism and Attractions

- **Key Tourist Spots within and around the reserve:**
 - *Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary* (forms part of the reserve)
 - *Anshi National Park* (merged to create Kali TR)
 - *Syntheri Rocks* – massive limestone monolith on the Kali River
 - *Sathodi Falls, Magod Falls* – scenic waterfalls nearby
 - *Kavala Caves* – limestone caves with natural rock formations
- Activities include **eco-tourism, birdwatching, jungle safaris, and river rafting on the Kali River**.
- Managed by **Jungle Lodges & Resorts**, under Karnataka Tourism.

8. Conservation Importance

- **Part of the Western Ghats Landscape Complex**, crucial for maintaining

ecological connectivity between **Goa, Maharashtra, and Karnataka** forests.

- Acts as a **corridor** for wildlife movement between **Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary (north)** and **Sharavathi Wildlife Sanctuary (south)**.
- Important for the survival of **endemic species** and **Western Ghats biodiversity**.
- Helps in **carbon sequestration, water conservation, and climate regulation**.

9. Threats and Challenges

- **Hydroelectric projects** on the Kali River (like Supa, Kodasalli, and Kadra dams) have altered river flow and submerged forest areas.
- **Mining and quarrying activities** in nearby regions affect wildlife corridors.
- **Roads and rail lines** fragment habitats.
- **Poaching and human-wildlife conflict** pose continuing risks.
- **Tourism pressure** needs sustainable management to prevent ecological degradation.

10. Conservation Measures

- Declared as a **Tiger Reserve (2007)** under **Project Tiger**, ensuring legal protection.
- Eco-development committees (EDCs) established for community participation.
- **Anti-poaching camps** and **camera traps** installed to monitor wildlife.
- **Relocation of forest-dependent villages** from the core zone to reduce human interference.
- Continuous habitat improvement and corridor protection initiatives.

11. Administrative Structure

Component	Details
Headquarters	Dandeli
Managing Authority	Karnataka Forest Department
Field Director	Appointed under the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)
Core Zone	Former Anshi National Park

Component
Buffer Zone

Details
Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary area

12. Exam-Oriented Key Facts (For Quick Revision)

Parameter	Details
State	Karnataka
District	Uttara Kannada
Established as Tiger Reserve	2007
Former Name	Dandeli-Anshi Tiger Reserve
Renamed	2015 as Kali Tiger Reserve
Core Area	~600 sq. km
Buffer Area	~500 sq. km
Main River	Kali River
Major Animals	Tiger, Black Panther, Elephant, Gaur, Sloth Bear
Major Birds	Malabar Pied Hornbill, Great Hornbill
Flora Type	Moist Deciduous & Semi-Evergreen Forests
Eco-Region	Western Ghats (UNESCO Heritage Site)

13. UPSC Prelims Practice Questions

1. Consider the following statements about Kali Tiger Reserve:

1. It is located in the Eastern Ghats region of Karnataka.
2. The reserve is named after the Kali River.
3. It was formerly known as Dandeli-Anshi Tiger Reserve.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. The Kali River, after which the Kali Tiger Reserve is named, flows through which of the following?

- (a) Uttara Kannada district
(b) Shimoga district
(c) Udupi district
(d) Chikmagalur district

Answer: (a) Uttara Kannada district

14. Mains-Oriented Question

Q. Discuss the ecological and conservation significance of Kali Tiger Reserve in the context of Western Ghats biodiversity and sustainable eco-tourism in India.

Answer Structure:

- Introduction – location and background
- Biodiversity and ecological importance
- Role in sustaining the Western Ghats ecosystem
- Eco-tourism and livelihood aspects
- Challenges and conservation measures
- Conclusion – Need for balancing conservation and development

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