

## Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary

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### Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has proposed that the Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary, adjacent to the Bandipur Tiger Reserve, should be officially designated as a core critical tiger habitat, emphasizing its importance for tiger conservation.



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### **About Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary:**

- Nugu was declared as a **Wildlife Sanctuary in 1974**.
  - During the year 2003-2004, the area of Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary was added to the **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve**.
- Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in **Heggadadevanakote Taluk of Mysore district of Karnataka** and comprises of **Lakshmanapura State Forest**.
- It is situated **north of Bandipur National Park**.
- On the **southwest side**, the Nugu forest area borders **Alaganchi State Forest** which comes under **Bandipur National Park** and is situated just north of Bandipur.
- The northwestern part of the sanctuary is occupied by the **Nugu Reservoir**.
  - It is built across the **Nugu River**, a **tributary of the Cauvery**.
- The **backwaters of Nugu dam** forms the part of the Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary and lies on the **western side of the sanctuary**.
- The forests comprise of southern **mixed deciduous** trees and **dry deciduous scrubs**.
- The Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary has been designated as an **eco-sensitive zone**, ensuring that no commercial or industrial activities, including mining, are allowed in this area.

### **Species:**

- The Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary supports a **diverse ecosystem** with a high-density population of **elephants**, including adult tuskers.
- It is also home to **tigers, leopards, wild dogs, striped hyenas**, sloth bears, gaurs, sambars, chitals, four-horned antelopes, **smooth-coated otters**, and **marsh crocodiles**.

### **About Bandipur Tiger Reserve:**

- The Bandipur Tiger Reserve, situated in the heart of the **'5 B Western Ghats Mountains**

**Biogeography Zone,** is a biodiversity hotspot.

- It is located in **Chamarajnagar district** in the state of **Karnataka**.
- It was established as a tiger reserve under **Project Tiger in 1973**.
- Bordered by the **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve** in the South, **Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary** in the South West, and separated from **Nagarahole Tiger Reserve** by the **Kabini Reservoir** in the North West, it forms a crucial part of India's rich ecological landscape.
- It is part of the **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve since 1986**.
- The **Northern side** of the Tiger Reserve is surrounded by human dominated landscape with villages and agricultural lands.
- Bandipur National Park harbours the Asian elephant, gaur, **Bengal tiger**, sloth bear, four-horned antelope, golden jackal and dhole.