

CONSERVATION VALUE OF DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Recognising the area to be of adequate ecological, faunal, zoological and floral significance, and for the purpose of protecting, propagating and developing wildlife and its environment the U.T of Dadra & Nagar Haveli vide notification no 7-2/30-FD/WL/133 dated 23rd November, 2000 declared an area of 92 sq kms out of the total forest area of 203.2152 sq kms declared as Reserved Forests (u/s 20 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927), as Dadra & Nagar Haveli Wildlife Sanctuary.

Location:- Dadra and Nagar Haveli wildlife sanctuary is located between latitude between 20°0 and 20°25'N and longitude between 72°50' and 73°15'E longitude. The area is bounded by Thane and Valsad district of Maharashtra and Gujarat states respectively.

North :- Pardi and Dharampur Taluka of Valsad district, Gujarat.
East :- Dharampur Taluka of Valsad district, Gujarat.
South :- Dahanu Taluka of Thane district Maharashtra.
West :-Dahanu Taluka of Thane district, Maharashtra and Umbergoan Taluka of Valsad District, Gujarat.

Classification of Forest: - According to the classification of Champion and Seth forests of the territory falls under group 3BC2, South Indian Tropical Moist (Mixed) Deciduous Forest. Floristic Composition however, indicates its nearness semi-moist Dry teak types of forests, perhaps due to less of moisture retention capacity of the soil, further, also change is observed in the original character of vegetation due biotic interference. The Wildlife sanctuary area is considered to be of adequate ecological, faunal, zoological and floral significance.

Flora: The main trees are *Teak*, *Sadad*, *Khair*, *Bamboo* and its associates, with undergrowth of *Nirgudi*, *Helicteris isora*, *Caloptropis*, *Carrisa caronda*, *Holarrhena* etc, with ground cover of *Ranbhendi*, *Ranambadi*, *Desmodium pulchelum*, and many grasses of

general *Andropogon* and *Ischaemum* belonging to family of Gramineae, Climbers like, *Bokarvel*, *Palasvel*, *Garvel*, *Nandanvel*, *Chilhar* etc

Fauna: The major fauna of DNH Wildlife Sanctuary are ungulates such as Spotted Deer, Nilgai, Indian Fox, Wild Boar, Black Naped Hare, Civet cat, Snakes such as Cobra, Common Krait, Python, Saw Scaled Viper, Monitor Lizard, Toads etc, large number of birds including River Tern, Forest Owlet, Spotted Owlet, White Throated Kingfisher, Greater Coucal, Common Iora, Indian Paradise Flycatcher etc.

Conservation concerns: With 41 % percent of the land area in Dadra & Nagar Haveli being under forest including wildlife sanctuary protection of forest and wildlife is given priority. Dadra & Nagar Haveli has more than 50 % tribal population and the DNH Wildlife Sanctuary and the Reserve Forest Area are not contiguous and interspersed by habitations and hamlets. Further post the enactment of The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, large number of rights (cultivation rights) have been recognised in the Forest area of Dadra & Nagar Haveli including Wildlife Sanctuary Area.



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Dadra & Nagar Haveli