

CONSERVATION VALUE OF PAKHAL WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Name of the PA : Pakhal
Division : Guduru Wildlife Management Division, Mahabubabad District.
State : Telangana.

The Pakhal Wildlife Sanctuary is rich in both floristic and faunal biodiversity harbouring endangered and endemic species. There are Five contiguous forest Blocks having an area of 59,845 Ha. constitutes Pakhal Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the District of Mahabubabad. This sanctuary is marked with different order of habitat diversity as well as biodiversity. Undulating terrain interspersed with valleys are covered with mixed deciduous forests. It harbours a variety of herbivorous and carnivorous animals. A number of seasonal and perennial streams and nalas such as Vattivagu, Pakhal Lake, Laknavaram Lake, Pulusu Vagu, Chakalippa Vagu, Musali Madugu, Ramagundala, Manchinila madugu flow across the area and feed into the as a major river Godavari river. The Pakhal Wildlife sanctuary acts watershed of Godavari River.

The Pakhal Wildlife Sanctuary is a natural habitat for many larger mammals including endangered species such as Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Spotted deer (*Axis axis*), Slothbear (*Meursus ursinus*), Neelagai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), Porcupine (*Hystrix indica*), Python (*Python mourois*), Wild Dogs (*Cuon alpinus*), Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*), Chowsinga (*Tetracerus quadricornis*), India Gaurs (*Bos gaurus*), Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Indian giant squirrel (*Ratufa indica*), etc., Pakhal Wildlife Sanctuary is famous for Wildboar, Spotted Deer, Hare, Peacock, Sambar Population. Further, the Sanctuary acts as a corridor for Tiger movement. There have been movements of tigers in the sanctuary since 2020. Further, any spillover population of tigers from Etumagaram Tiger reserve will find home in Pakhal Wildlife sanctuary.

The sanctuary faces various threats in form of developmental activity of building roads leading to heavy fragmentation of the habitat; granting of individual rights under Forest Rights Act, 2006; illegal extension of farm lands and RoFR area, illegal encroachments, illegal habitations of Guthikoyas deep within the forest, repeated

The Sanctuary consisting of dense mixed deciduous forests, is extremely important for maintenance of ecological balance and soil and moisture conservation

Values of Pakhal Wildlife Sanctuary:

a) Biological values:-

- (i) Presence of endangered animals such as Tiger, Leopard, India Gaurs, Sloth Bear, Indian giant Squirrel, Four Horned Antelope, Spotted Deer, Wild Dogs, Marsh Crocodile, etc.
- (ii) Presence of endangered birds such as Jungle Owlet, Horn Bills, Osprey or Fish Eating Eagle, Dusky Eagle owl.
- (iii) Presence of endangered plants.

b) Ecological Processes & Functions:-

- (i) It is the catchment of the River Godavari.
- (ii) Checks soil erosion and siltation in agricultural lands.
- (iii) The existing vegetation cover checks the soil erosion over the area.
- (iv) The Sanctuary has the potentiality to perform the carbon sink.

c) Economic values:-

- (i) Supplies drinking water as well as irrigation facility to the people living inside & outside the P.A.
- (ii) Provides NTFP to the inhabitants for their consumption.

d) Scientific Values:

- (i) Provides research opportunity on endangered animals such as Tiger, Leopard, India Gaurs, Sloth Bear, Indian giant Squirrel, Four Horned Antelope, Spotted Deer, Wild Dogs etc.,

e) Paleo-botanical Value:

- (i) Pakhal Wildlife sanctuary hosts rare tree fossils.

f) Cultural Value:

- (i) Bheemunipadam and Gunjedu Musalamma Jatara which houses tribal people abuts the Wildlife Sanctuary.


District Forest Officer
Mahabubabad.