

The Thorangtlang Wildlife Sanctuary (THWLS) was notified as a Reserve Forest in 1982 vide Government of Mizoram No.FOR, 169/79/130 dt 11.3.1982 and a preliminary notification to declare an area of 50 sq.km of these Reserve Forests as Thorangtlang Wildlife Sanctuary has been issued by the Government vide No.B.12012/17/2001-FST dt.4.9.2001. The final notification was issued by the Government Wildlife Sanctuary in 2002 covering an area of 50 Sq.Km vide Government No.B.12012/17/2001-FST dt 23.4.2002. The Sanctuary is situated about 245 Kms South of Aizawl, the State Capital of Mizoram between 23°17'20"N – 23°11'30"North and 92°30'35"E- 92°37'12" East falling in Lunglei District. This Sanctuary lies close to the Indo-Bangladesh border.

### General Significance :

The Thorangtlang Wildlife Sanctuary is significant because of its unique natural feature of Evergreen & Semi-Evergreen forests and quite rich in Wildlife both in variety and numbers in the past. Unfortunately, the traditional practice of hunting and jhumming system (shifting cultivation) from the nine surrounding villages lead to high biotic pressure on the flora and fauna has resulting into a dwindling population of Wildlife. Tiger, Leopard, Sambar, Barking Deer, Serow were earlier quite common but now their numbers have unfortunately dwindled due to the appearance of guns in large numbers. However, the wildlife is still available in a fair number inside the core area of the Sanctuary.

### Significance at International and National level :

Significance of Thorangtlang Wildlife Sanctuary in the International and National context lies in the fact that it provides shelter and protection to **Six rare and endangered species** of wildlife mentioned in the Red Data Book (R.D.B) of IUCN, the Appendices of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (WPA).

**Table I RDB listing, CITES Appendix & WPA schedule Species**

Sl.No.	Species	R.D.B Listing	CITES Appendix	WPA Schedule Listing
1	Tiger	Endangered (E)	I	I
2	Clouded Leopard	Threatened (T)	I	I
3	Leopard cat	Endangered (E)	II	I
4	Hoolock gibbon	Endangered (E)	II	I
5	Leaf monkey	Endangered (E)		I
6	Serow	Threatened (T)		I

Name of District : Lunglei District Mizoram  
Name of Forest : Thorangtlang Wildlife Sanctuary  
Area : 50 Sq.Km

The boundary description of Tawi Wildlife Sanctuary will be as follows :

**NORTH** : Starting from river Tuicharlui it follows R.Tuicharlui and crossing Vaawk saddle thence, following Mualseilui downstream eastward upto R.Tut.

**EAST** : From Mualseilui outlet the boundary follows R.Tut upstream till it meets outlet of Zotuilui

**SOUTH** : From the outlet of Zotuilui it follows Zotuilui upstream till it meets deserted footh path of Dampui village at the junction of Kawnpui village foothpath and then it meets R.Kau it follows R.Kau downstream upto R.Saithah stream outlet and then follows R.Saithah upstream upto upper portion of Bamboo supply reserve area.

**WEST** : From Bamboo supply reserve area it goes towards North along the virgin Forest upto the North boundary starting point – Tuicharlui.

#### **Vegetation :**

##### **The biogeography classification :**

According to the biogeography classification (Rodger & Panwar), the area comes under the southern part of the Naga-Mizoram mountain region of biotic province 8B, the Assam hills of the North East Indian Zone.

#### **The Forest types :**

Floristically, the area has the following plant communities based on Champion and Seth classification of Forest types :

#### **Tropical Semi Evergreen forest :**

This type of forest occupies hill area of south, Central & Western region of sanctuary from 400 mts to 1800 mts. The important tree species consists of *Litsea monopetala* (*Nauthak*), *Mesua ferrea* (*Herhse*), *Ficus rigida* (*Sehsen*), *Dryptes lancifolia* (*Khawitur*), *Schima wallichii* (*Khiang*), *Castanopsis tribuloides* (*Thingsia*), *Morinda angustifolia* (*Lum*), *Artocarpus nitiden* (*Tatte*) and foun few Bamboos & Rattans species at the lower valley.

**Shrubs** : Mainly it is *Bridelia monoica* (*Phaktel*), *Tabernaemontana divarcaita* (*Keltebengbeh*), *Gnetum gnemon* (*Pelh*), *Maesa indica* (*Arngeng*), *Leeca indica* (*Kawlkar*) etc.

**Herbs :** Mainly it is *Elatostema sessile* (Suanglung-an), *Solanum nigrum* (Anhling), *Microlepidia strigosa* (Katchat), *Gleichenia linearis* (Arthladawn), *Solanum viarum* (Athlohling) etc.

**Communities and species of conservation importance :**

The important plants communities which found at higher elevation such as *Quercus species*, *Betula species*, Wild orchids, a few clumps of *Chimnobambusa collasa* are rare species which need proper conservation.

**Animals :**

**Upper form of fauna :**

**Identification of significant upper form of fauna population in the Sanctuary by bionics & niches are given below :**

**Herbivores** : Sambar (Sazuk), Barking deer (Sakhi), Serow (Saza) & Goral (Sathar)

**Carnivores** : Tiger (Sakei), Leopard (Keite), Clouded leopard (Kelral), Jungle cat (Sauak), Leopard cat (Sanghar), Common Civet (Zawbuang)

**Primate** : Hoolock gibbon (Hauhuk), Rhesus macaque (Zawng), Assamese macaque (Zawng) & Slow loris (Sahuai)

**Omnivorous** : Himalayan Black Bear (Savawm), Wild boar (Sanghal), Civet cat (Sazaw), Binturong (Zamphu) etc.

**Reptiles** : Common Indian Rat Snake (Rulhlai), Green pit viper (Rultuha) etc.

Detailed list of wild animals distribution with status is highlighted in systematic scientific order at Annexure No. 16

**Avifauna** : Scientific study of the Birds has not yet been carried out systematically in this Sanctuary. However, the common birds found in this Sanctuary are as follows:

Partridges, Res Jungle fowl, Kaleej Pheasant, Woodpecker, Barbet, Hornbill, Cuckoo, Parakeet, Owl, Dove, Eagle, Pitta, Leafbird, Magpie, Minivet, Warbler etc.

**Other form of Fauna :** Fish, Amphibians & Reptiles

Scientific study of the lower form of fauna has not yet been carried out systematically in this Sanctuary. As per record available, the lower form of fauna found in this Sanctuary river / streams are Flat fish, Eel, Common Asian toad, Cricket frog, Green Lizards, Common India Rat snake.

**Lower form of fauna (Invertebrate) :** No record is available. Proper study & inventory involving expert to generate field data is a priority for the Sanctuary.