



Times of India

Buffer zone around Bhadra Tiger Reserve likely to be declared an eco-sensitive zone

Aug 17, 2020, 04.45 AM IST

Mysuru: The Union ministry of environment and forest has issued a draft notification to declare the buffer zone around Bhadra Tiger Reserve as an eco-sensitive zone. As per the notification, the buffer zone is spread over two districts of Chikkamagalur and Shivamogga covering about 740.56 square kilometres.

The move follows widespread concerns about the depleting forest cover in the area, which is the natural habitat to several wildlife animals including many species that face extinction.

As per the draft notification, a 14-member monitoring committee led by regional commissioner, Mysuru will monitor the activities in this zone.

Bhadra Tiger Reserve is situated in Chikkamagaluru, Tarikere and Narsimha Raja Pura talukas of Chikkamagaluru district and Shivamogga and Bhadravathi talukas of Shivamogga district. Initially the area was declared as Jagara Valley Sanctuary in 1951. Later, the area was re-constituted as Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary (Tiger Reserve) in the year 1974. The current area of the sanctuary is 500.16 square kilometres including 87 square kilometres of backwaters of the Bhadra reservoir.

The sanctuary is home to over 42 large mammal species, including Rare, Endangered and Threatened (RET) tigers, leopards, wild dogs, sloth bears, elephants, gaurs, sambars, mouse deer, flying squirrel and otters among others.

It also has about 264 species of birds. The avifauna found in the sanctuary include Malabar pied hornbill, Great pied hornbill, Malabar grey hornbill which is endemic to the Western Ghats and other species. King cobra, marsh crocodile and other reptiles are also found in Bhadra Tiger Reserve.

According to the authorities in the forest department, Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change has invited the public to file objections to the move. "Several locals have raised objection to the move and a final decision on the boundary of this eco-sensitive zone will be taken after considering the objections," explained sources in the forest department.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mysuru/buffer-zone-around-bhadra-tiger-reserve-likely-to-be-declared-an-eco-sensitive-zone/articleshow/77581102.cms>