

### **Protected Areas of India**

Protected areas are those in which human occupation or at least the exploitation of resources is limited. The definition that has been widely accepted across regional and global frameworks has been provided by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in its categorization guidelines for protected areas. There are several kinds of protected areas, which vary by level of protection depending on the enabling laws of each country or the regulations of the international organizations involved. The term "protected area" also includes Marine Protected Areas, the boundaries of which will include some area of ocean, and Transboundary Protected Areas that overlap multiple countries which remove the borders inside the area for conservation and economic purposes.

## Source: National Wildlife Database, Wildlife Institute of India

Note: These data are based on availability of data from Forest Department and Gazette Notification notified by the Ministries.

- Community Reserves and Conservation Reserves have been established in India from 2006 onwards. Hence these values are zero.

### Protected Areas of India (July, 2019)

	No.	Total Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Coverage % of Country
National Parks (NPs)	104	40501.13	1.23
Wildlife Sanctuaries (WLSs)	551	119775.80	3.64
Conservation Reserves (CRs)	88	4356.49	0.13
Community Reserves	127	525.22	0.02
<b>Protected Areas (PAs)</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>165158.54</b>	<b>5.02</b>

Geographical Area of India (<http://knowindia.gov.in/>)

= 32,87,263 km<sup>2</sup>

Forest cover of India (FSI, 2017)

= 7,08,273 km<sup>2</sup>

Percentage Area under Forest cover

= 21.54 % of Geographical Area of India

## What is World Heritage Sites

A UNESCO World Heritage Site is a place that is listed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as of special cultural or physical significance.

## Natural World Heritage Sites in India (As on July, 2016)

Sl. No.	Name of WH Site	State Location	Year of Notification	Area (sq.km)
1	Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area	Himachal Pradesh	2014	905.4
2	Western Ghats	Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala	2012	7,953.15
3	Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks	Uttarakhand	1988	630.00 87.50
4	Sundarbans National Park	West Bengal	1987	1,330.10
5	Kaziranga National Park	Assam	1985	429.96
6	Keoladeo National Park	Rajasthan	1985	28.73
7	Manas Wildlife Sanctuary	Assam	1985	391.00

## Mixed World Heritage Sites in India (As on July, 2016)

**NEW**

Sl. No.	Name of WH Site	State Location	Year of Notification
1	<a href="#">Khangchendzonga National Park</a>	Sikkim	2016

(Source: UNESCO World Heritage Convention:  
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/in-title=World>)

## What is Biosphere Reserve

Biosphere reserves are sites established by countries and recognized under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme to promote sustainable development based on local community efforts and sound science. The programme of Biosphere Reserve was initiated by UNESCO in 1971. The purpose of the formation of the biosphere reserve is to conserve in situ all forms of life, along with its support system, in its totality, so that it could serve as a referral system for monitoring and evaluating changes in natural ecosystems. The first biosphere reserve of the world was established in 1979, since then the network of biosphere reserves has increased to 631 in 119 countries across the world (Read more at <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/biosphere-reserves/>).

Presently, there are 18 notified biosphere reserves in India.

### Biosphere Reserves in India (as on Dec, 2014)

S. No.	Name	Date of Notification	Area (in km <sup>2</sup> )	Location (State)
1	Nilgiri	01.09.1986	5520 (Core 1240 & Buffer 4280)	Part of Wayanad, Nagarhole, Bandipur and Madumalai, Nilambur, Silent Valley and Siruvani hills (Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka).
2	Nanda Devi	18.01.1988	5860.69 (Core 712.12, Buffer 5,148.570) & T. 546.34)	Part of Chamoli, Pithoragarh, and Bageshwar districts (Uttarakhand).
3	Nokrek	01.09.1988	820 (Core 47.48 & Buffer 227.92, Transition Zone 544.60)	Part of Garo hills (Meghalaya).
4	Great Nicobar	06.01.1989	885 (Core 705 & Buffer 180)	Southern most islands of Andaman And Nicobar (A&N Islands).
5	Gulf of Mannar	18.02.1989	10,500 km <sup>2</sup> Total Gulf area (area of Islands 5.55 km <sup>2</sup> )	Indian part of Gulf of Mannar between India and Sri Lanka (Tamil Nadu).
6	Manas	14.03.1989	2837 (Core 391 & Buffer 2,446)	Part of Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon, Barpeta, Nalbari, Kamrup and Darang districts (Assam)
7	Sunderbans	29.03.1989	9630 (Core 1700 & Buffer 7900)	Part of delta of Ganges and Brahmaputra river system (West Bengal).
8	Simlipal	21.06.1994	4374 (Core 845, Buffer 2129 & Transition 1400)	Part of Mayurbhanj district (Orissa).
9	Dibru-Saikhowa	28.07.1997	765 (Core 340 & Buffer 425)	Part of Dibrugarh and Tinsukia Districts (Assam)
10	Dehang-Dibang	02.09.1998	5111.50 (Core 4094.80 & Buffer 1016.70)	Part of Siang and Dibang Valley in Arunachal Pradesh.
11	Pachmarhi	03.03.1999	4926	Parts of Betul, Hoshangabad and Chhindwara districts of Madhya Pradesh.
12	Khangchendzonga	07.02.2000	2619.92 (Core 1819.34 & Buffer 835.92)	Parts of Khangchendzonga hills and Sikkim.
13	Agasthyamalai	12.11.2001	1828	Neyyar, Peppara and Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuaries and their adjoining areas in Kerala.
14	Achanakamar - Amarkantak	30.3.2005	3835.51 (Core 551.55 & Buffer 3283.86)	Covers parts of Anupur and Dindori districts of M.P. and parts of Bilaspur districts of Chhattishgarh State.
15	Kachchh	29.01.2008	12,454 km <sup>2</sup>	Part of Kachchh, Rajkot, Surendra Nagar and Patan Civil Districts of Gujarat State
16	Cold Desert	28.08.2009	7770	Pin Valley National Park and surroundings; Chandratat and Sarchu&Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary in Himachal Pradesh
17	Seshachalam Hills	20.09.2010	4755.997	Seshachalam Hill Ranges covering parts of Chittoor and Kadapa districts of Andhra Pradesh
18	Panna	25.08.2011	2998.98	Part of Panna and Chhattarpur districts in Madhya Pradesh

Source: Wildlife Institute of India