

KAZIRANGA TIGER RESERVE: ENVIRONMENT

NEWS: Kaziranga in Assam records third-highest tiger density in India after Bandipur, Corbett

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Kaziranga Tiger Reserve (KTR) in Assam has recorded **148 tigers in 2024** with a **tiger density of 18.65 per 100 sq. km**, making it the **third highest globally** in terms of tiger density. This increase is due to **habitat expansion, better monitoring, and anti-encroachment efforts**, as per a report released on **Global Tiger Day 2024**.

Kaziranga Tiger Reserve (KTR), Assam – 2024 Tiger Report Highlights

Tiger Population Status (2024 Report)

- **Total Tigers (2024):**
 - 148 tigers recorded across a **core and buffer area of 1,307.49 sq. km**.
 - Gender-wise breakdown:
 - **83 Females**
 - **55 Males**
 - **10 of Undetermined Gender**
- **Tiger Density:**
 - **18.65 tigers per 100 sq. km**
 - This gives KTR the **3rd highest tiger density** among all tiger reserves globally.
- **Survey Methodology Used:**
 - **Spatially Explicit Capture-Recapture (SECR) method.**
 - A scientific model that uses detection data from passive camera traps.
 - Allows more precise estimation of animal density and spatial distribution.

Tiger Population Trend in Kaziranga Over Time

Year Estimated Tiger Population

1997 80

2019 121

2022 104

2024 148

- **Key Observation:** Despite a **dip in 2022**, the tiger population has rebounded significantly in 2024.

About Kaziranga Tiger Reserve (KTR)

- **Global Importance:**
 - A UNESCO World Heritage Site.
 - Known for high biodiversity and successful conservation of the **one-horned rhinoceros**.
 - Recognized for having both **ecological richness and conservation challenges**.
- **Location:**
 - Situated in **Assam**, Northeast India.
 - Spans across **five districts**:
 - Golaghat
 - Nagaon
 - Sonitpur
 - Biswanath
 - Karbi Anglong
- **Major Rivers:**
 - **Brahmaputra River** – forms the **northern boundary** of the park.
 - Other rivers include:
 - **Diphlu**
 - **Mora Diphlu**
 - **Mora Dhansiri**
- **Declared a Tiger Reserve in: 2007** under **Project Tiger**.
- **Biogeographic Importance:**
 - Lies in the **Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspot**.
 - Contains rich floodplain and grassland ecosystems.

Key Conservation Measures Leading to Population Growth

Habitat Expansion

- **200 sq. km** added to the Tiger Reserve landscape in recent years.
- **12.82 sq. km** of encroachment-free land brought under protection.
- Major habitat expansion in:
 - **Burhachapori-Laokhowa wildlife sanctuaries** in the Nagaon Forest Division.

Improved Protection and Monitoring

- **Anti-encroachment drives** intensified to secure tiger corridors.
- **Improved forest connectivity** facilitated tiger movement.
- **Better documentation and monitoring** using modern technology such as camera traps and GPS collars.

Top 3 Tiger Reserves in India by Tiger Density (2024 Estimate)

Rank	Tiger Reserve	State	Density (Tigers / 100 sq. km)
1	Bandipur	Karnataka	19.83
2	Corbett	Uttarakhand	19.56
3	Kaziranga	Assam	18.65

Top 3 Tiger Reserves in India by Total Tiger Population (2022 Census)

Rank	Tiger Reserve	State	Total Tiger Population
1	Corbett	Uttarakhand	260
2	Bandhavgarh	Madhya Pradesh	173
3	Nagarhole	Karnataka	141

About Global Tiger Day (International Tiger Day)

- **Date Celebrated:** **29th July** every year.
- **Purpose:**
 - Raise awareness on the urgent need for **tiger conservation**.
 - Highlight issues such as **habitat destruction, poaching, and human-wildlife conflict**.
- **Established in:**
 - **2010**, during the **Petersburg Tiger Summit** in **Russia**.

- Attended by **13 tiger-range countries**, including India.
- **Goal of the Summit:**
 - To **double the tiger population by 2022** (TX2 goal).
- **Theme for Global Tiger Day 2025:**
 - *“Securing the Future of Tigers with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities at the Heart.”*

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/kaziranga-has-worlds-third-highest-tiger-density/article69868690.ece>