

NAMDAPHA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Namdapha National Park is a 1,985 km² (766 sq mi) large protected area in Arunachal Pradesh of Northeast India.

- With more than 1,000 floral and about 1,400 faunal species, it is a biodiversity hotspot in the Eastern Himalayas.

- The national park harbours the northernmost lowland evergreen rainforests in the world at 27°N latitude.

- It also harbours extensive dipterocarp forests, comprising the northwestern parts of the Mizoram–Manipur–Kachin rain forests ecoregion.

- * It is the fourth largest national park in India.

History

- ▶ Namdapha was originally declared a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1972, then a National Park in 1983 and became a Tiger Reserve under the Project Tiger scheme in the same year.
- ▶ Its name was combination of two Singpho words "nam" means water and "dapha" means origin (river which originates from Dapha Bum glaciers).

Geography and vegetation

- ▶ The national park is located in Changlang district of the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, near the international border with Myanmar.
- ▶ It is located between the *Dapha bum* range of the Mishmi Hills and the Patkai range with a wide elevation range between 200 and 4,571 m (656 and 14,997 ft).
- ▶ It is crossed from east to west by the Noa Dihing River that originates at the Chaukan Pass, located on the Indo-Myanmar border.

Fauna

▶ Mammals

- ▶ The red giant flying squirrel is often seen in this park
- ▶ The Namdapha flying squirrel was first collected in the park and described. It is endemic to the park and critically endangered. It was last recorded in 1981 in a single valley within the park.
- ▶ Because of the elevation range from 300 to 4,500 m (980 to 14,760 ft) the park is home to a great diversity of mammal species. Four pantherine species occur in the park: leopard (*Panthera pardus*), snow leopard (*P. uncia*), tiger (*P. tigris*) and clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*).

- ▶ Other predators present in the protected area are dhole, Malayan sun bear, Indian wolf and Asiatic black bear.
- ▶ Smaller carnivores include red panda, red fox, yellow-throated marten, Eurasian otter, Oriental small-clawed otter, spotted linsang, binturong, Asian palm civet, small Indian civet, large Indian civet, masked palm civet, marbled cat, fishing cat, Asian golden cat, and two mongoose species.
- ▶ Large herbivores are represented by Indian elephant, wild boar, musk deer, Indian muntjac, hog deer, sambar, gaur (methon), goral, mainland serow (deo Chagali), and bharal. Non-human primates present include stump-tailed macaque, slow loris, hoolock gibbon, capped langur, Assamese macaque and rhesus macaque.

Birds

- ▶ The park has about 425 bird species with many more to be recorded from work in the higher areas.
- ▶ There are five species of hornbills recorded from the area. Several species of rare wren-babblers have been recorded in Namdapha.
- ▶ Other bird groups include laughing thrushes, parrotbills, fulvettas, shrike babblers and scimitar babblers. The snowythroated babbler is a rare species of babbler found only in the Patkai and Mishmi Hills and nearby areas in Northern Myanmar, is found in Namdapha.
- ▶ Other rare, restricted range or globally endangered species include the rufous-necked hornbill, green cochoa, purple cochoa, beautiful nuthatch, Ward's trogon, ruddy kingfisher, blue-eared kingfisher, white-tailed fish eagle, Eurasian hobby, piebald falconet, white-winged wood duck, Himalayan wood-owl, rufous-throated hill-partridge, and whitecheeked hill partridge.
- ▶ Several leaf warblers and migrants such as amur falcon and several thrushes can be seen here.

Butterflies and moths

- ▶ The region is very rich in Lepidoptera species. Both butterflies and moths are found in equal abundance here, along with a variety of other insects. These include the koh-i-noor, naga treebrown, red caliph, cruiser, wizard, fluffy tit, East Himalayan purple emperor.

Thank You

