



Awards for Tiger Conservation

Why in News

The **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR - Uttar Pradesh)** has bagged international award **TX2** for doubling the number of tigers in the past four years.

- Also, the **Transboundary Manas Conservation Area or TraMCA (India-Bhutan border)** has received the **Conservation Excellence Award for 2020**.
- Earlier, **India's 2018 Tiger census** (once in every four years) had set a **Guinness record** for being the largest camera-trap wildlife survey.

Key Points

- **About the Awards:**
 - Launched recently, these awards **were open to submissions from any site in a tiger range country** that has achieved remarkable measurable progress since 2010.
 - **Site:** An area having a functional tiger population, legally designated as a "site" under national legislation.
 - Award winners were announced on 23rd November 2020 - the **10 year anniversary for the global TX2 goal**.
 - Sites **will receive a small financial grant** to be used to further tiger conservation.
 - **TX2 Award:** It goes to **one site that has achieved remarkable and measurable increase in its tiger population** since 2010.
 - **Conservation Excellence Award:** This award recognises one site that has achieved excellence in **two or more of these five themes:**
 - Tiger and prey population monitoring and research (tiger translocation/prey augmentation),
 - Effective site management,
 - Enhanced law enforcement & protection & ranger welfare improvement,
 - Community based conservation, benefits and human-wildlife conflict mitigation and
 - Habitat and prey management.

TX2 Goal

- The TX2 goal is a **global commitment to double the world's wild tigers by 2022**.
- The goal has been **set by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF)** through the **Global Tiger Initiative, Global Tiger Forum** and other critical platforms.
- All **13 tiger range governments** came together for the first time at the **St Petersburg Summit** (Russia -2010) where they committed to double the number of wild tigers by 2022.
- **Tiger Range Countries include** India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam.
 - **Tiger (*Panthera Tigris*)** is categorised as '**Endangered**' under the **IUCN Red List** and is listed under **Appendix I** of **CITES**.

- **Global Tiger Day** is observed on **29th July** across the world.
- **India's Project Tiger was launched in 1973** with 9 tiger reserves. Tiger has been listed under '**Schedule I**' of the [Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#).

▪ **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve:**

- **Location:** Pilibhit district, Lakhimpur Kheri District and Bahraich District of **Uttar Pradesh**
 - The northern edge of the reserve **lies along the Indo-Nepal border** while the southern boundary is marked by the **river Sharada and Khakra**.
- **Declaration:** PTR was declared in **2014-15** on the basis of its special type of ecosystem with vast open spaces and sufficient feed for the elegant predators.
 - PTR is one of the finest examples of the exceedingly diverse and productive **Terai ecosystems** (low-lying land at the foot of the Himalayas).
- **Features:**
 - The study done by [Wildlife Institute of India \(WII\)](#) shows that **Dudhwa-Pilibhit population has high conservation value** as it represents the only tiger population with the ecological and behavioral adaptations of the tiger unique to the Terai region.
 - It is **home to** a habitat for over 127 animals, 326 bird species and 2,100 flowering plants.
 - Wild animals include tiger, swamp deer, Bengal florican, hog deer, leopard, etc.
 - It has high sal forests, plantation and grasslands with several water bodies.
- **Bagged TX2 Award:** The number of tigers in the reserve area **has gone up to 65 from 25** in the period of just four years (2014-18).
- **Other Protected Areas in Uttar Pradesh:**
 - [Dudhwa National Park](#)
 - Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary
 - Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary
 - Sur Sarovar (Keethan) Bird Sanctuary

▪ **Transboundary Manas Conservation Area:**

- **Formation:** It was **conceptualized in 2011** with the vision to jointly develop and manage a transboundary conservation area between Bhutan and India, for the benefit of people and wildlife.
- **Features:**
 - The TraMCA landscape with an area of over 6500 sq. km forms a vital mosaic of conservation spaces **across the Eastern Himalayas**, and covers the entire Manas Tiger Reserve in India, four protected areas in Bhutan and also two biological corridors.
 - The **Manas Tiger Reserve in India and Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan** form the core of this biologically outstanding trans-boundary region that is **home to** tigers, [elephants](#), [rhinos](#) and more than 1,500 species of mammals, birds and vascular plants.
 - The **Manas River** flowing through Royal Manas National Park and Manas National Park also **makes both parks an important watershed area** in the region.
 - The landscape and its surroundings **support over 10 million people** in India and Bhutan with its services.
- **Bagged Conservation Excellence Award:** For **efforts** to increase the tiger population. The **recognition** was for the TraMCA comprising the 500 sq. km. **Manas National Park in Assam** and the 1,057-sq. km. **Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan**.

- The number of Tigers in the Indian Manas **increased from 9 in 2010 to 25 in 2018** while that in the **Bhutan Manas more than doubled from 12 in 2008 to 26 in 2018.**

[Source: TH](#)

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