



# Coexistence of Tiger and Asiatic Wild Dog

[Source: TH](#)

## Why in News?

In a recent study titled '***Do dholes segregate themselves from their sympatrids? Habitat use and carnivore co-existence in the tropical forest,***' researchers have unveiled fascinating insights into the **coexistence dynamics between dhole or Asiatic wild dog (*Cuon alpinus*), and tigers** within **Assam's Manas National Park**.

- This study delves into the factors that shape this unique carnivore relationship, providing valuable insights into their interactions and habitat preferences.

## What are the Key Highlights of the Study?

- The study conducted in Assam's Manas National Park revealed a **surprising positive relationship between [dholes \(Asiatic wild dogs\)](#) and [tigers](#)**, challenging previous assumptions of **antagonistic interactions**.
- The positive association between dholes and tigers may be attributed to overlapping **prey availability or habitat suitability**, suggesting a more complex ecological dynamic at play and prompting the need for further research.
  - The research found that the activity of dholes had the highest temporal overlap with [leopards](#) and the lowest with [clouded leopards](#) (*Neofelis nebulosa*).
- This study highlights the **Manas National Park's conservation significance**, as dhole populations face fragmentation due to habitat loss, declining prey availability, persecution, disease, and competition with other species.

## Dhole



### ▪ About:

- Dhole (*Cuon alpinus*) is a wild carnivorous animal and is a member of the family Canidae and the class Mammalia.

### ▪ Habitat:

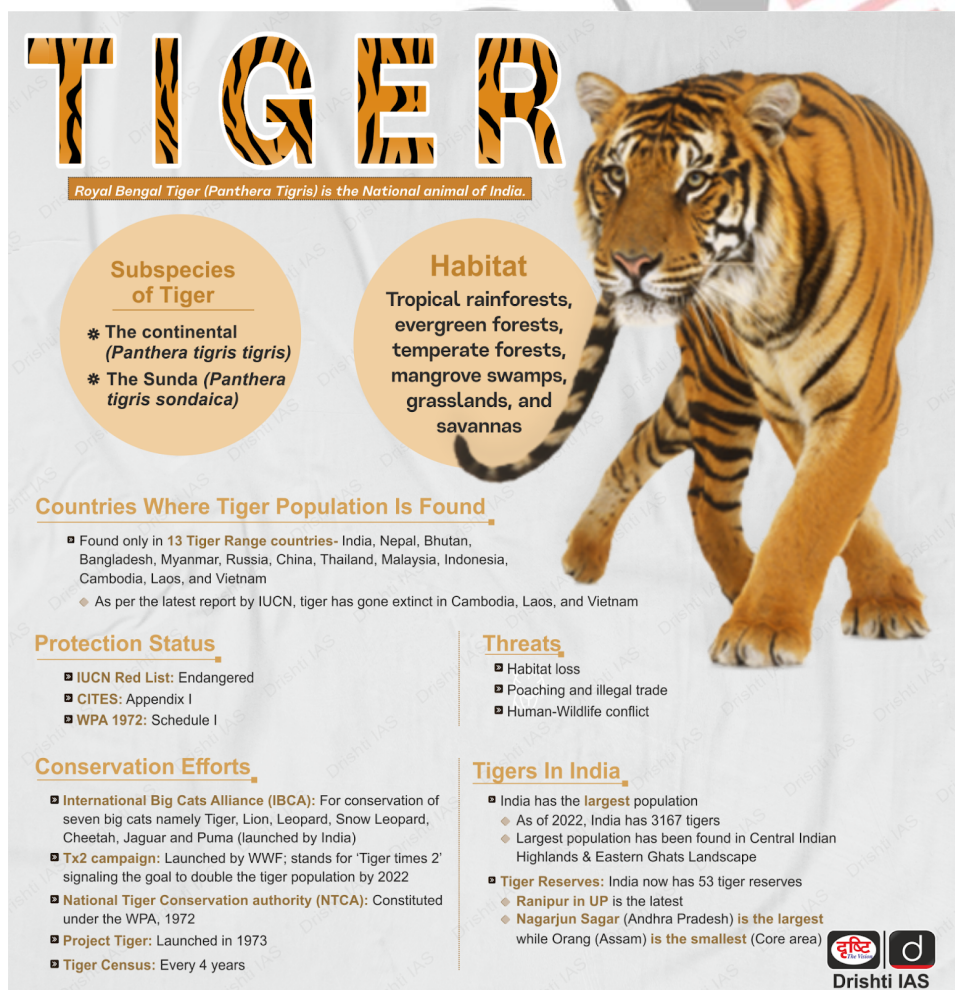
- Dholes, historically widespread across **southern Russia to southeast Asia**, are now mainly found in **south and southeast Asia**, with northern populations in China.
- In India, they are clustered in the **Western and Eastern Ghats, central India, and northeast India**, with Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh playing a crucial role in their conservation, according to a 2020 study.

### ▪ Conservation:

- [Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#): **Schedule 2.**
- [International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List](#): **Endangered.**
- [The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\)](#): **Appendix II.**
- The creation of reserves under **Project Tiger** provided some protection for dhole populations sympatric with tigers.
  - In 2014, the Indian government sanctioned its first **dhole conservation breeding center** at the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park (IGZP) in Visakhapatnam.

## Manas National Park

- It is a national park, **Project Tiger Reserve**, an **elephant reserve** and a **biosphere reserve** in Assam, India. It borders the Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan.
- It was declared a **national park in 1990** and earned the badge of [UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988](#).
- Manas National Park is home to a varied species of Fauna of the likes of the [Indian One Horned Rhinoceros](#), [Asiatic Elephants](#), Tigers, Clouded Leopards, [Hoolock Gibbons](#), etc.



**TIGER**

Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera Tigris*) is the National animal of India.

**Subspecies of Tiger**

- \* The continental (*Panthera tigris tigris*)
- \* The Sunda (*Panthera tigris sondaica*)

**Habitat**

Tropical rainforests, evergreen forests, temperate forests, mangrove swamps, grasslands, and savannas

**Countries Where Tiger Population Is Found**

- Found only in 13 Tiger Range countries- India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Russia, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam
- ◆ As per the latest report by IUCN, tiger has gone extinct in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam

**Protection Status**

- IUCN Red List: Endangered
- CITES: Appendix I
- WPA 1972: Schedule I

**Threats**


- Habitat loss
- Poaching and illegal trade
- Human-Wildlife conflict

**Conservation Efforts**

- **International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA)**: For conservation of seven big cats namely Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma (launched by India)
- **Tx2 campaign**: Launched by WWF; stands for "Tiger times 2" signaling the goal to double the tiger population by 2022
- **National Tiger Conservation authority (NTCA)**: Constituted under the WPA, 1972
- **Project Tiger**: Launched in 1973
- **Tiger Census**: Every 4 years

**Tigers In India**

- India has the **largest** population
  - ◆ As of 2022, India has 3167 tigers
  - ◆ Largest population has been found in Central Indian Highlands & Eastern Ghats Landscape
- **Tiger Reserves**: India now has 53 tiger reserves
  - ◆ Ranipur in UP is the latest
  - ◆ Nagarjun Sagar (Andhra Pradesh) is the largest while Orang (Assam) is the smallest (Core area)

 Drishi IAS

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

**Q1. Consider the following protected areas: (2012)**

1. Bandipur
2. Bhitarkanika
3. Manas
4. Sunderbans

**Which of the above are declared Tiger Reserves?**

- (a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 1, 3 and 4 only  
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only  
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Ans: (b)**

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