

Dampa Tiger Reserve

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About Dampa Tiger Reserve

- Dampa Tiger Reserve or Dampha Tiger Reserve is a tiger reserve of western Mizoram, India.
- It covers an area of about 500 km² in the Lushai Hills at an altitude range of 800–1,100 m.
- It was declared a tiger reserve in 1994 and is part of Project Tiger.
- The tropical forests of Dampa Tiger Reserve are home to a diverse flora and fauna.
- It consists of forest interpolated with steep precipitous hills, deep valleys, jungle streams, ripping rivulets, natural salts licks.
- Dampa Tiger Reserve is not easily accessible unlike other parks where you can ride on a four wheeler but one has to walk through the forest if one wishes to sight animals.
- In the tiger census of 2018, no tiger was found in this reserve.

Flora

- Rare floral species have been found in Dampa Tiger Reserve including rare ginger species *Globba spathulata* and *Hemiorchis pantlingii*.

Fauna

- Dampa Tiger Reserve hosts Indian leopard, sloth bear, gaur, serow, barking deer, wild boar, hoolock gibbon, Phayre's leaf monkey, gray langur, Rhesus macaque and slow loris.
- Four Bengal tigers were recorded in 1994 but none were recorded in 2019.
- Dampa Tiger Reserve has one of the highest clouded

leopard populations in South and South East Asia.

- In 2012, tiger presence was confirmed through Scat samples.
- No tiger was recorded in Dampa Tiger Reserve in the years 2018–2019.

Birds

- Bird species sighted in Dampa Tiger Reserve include great hornbill, wreathed hornbill, oriental pied hornbill, scarlet-backed flowerpecker, red-headed trogon, Indian cuckoo, Asian barred owlet, green imperial pigeon, mountain imperial pigeon, emerald dove, crested serpent eagle, Malayan night heron, long-tailed broadbill, Asian fairy bluebird, blue-winged leafbird.

Threat

- It has been reported that there has been an increase in built up , bamboo forest and scrub areas.
- These increases are simultaneously accompanied by decrease in cover area of evergreen/semi evergreen closed forests due to the practice of shifting cultivation by villagers at the border of the reserve.
- A 62-km fence and patrol road along the Bangladesh boundary near the reserve in Mizoram is hindering the free movement of Tigers at Dampa.
- Oil palm and Teak plantations which occupy areas close to the Dampa Tiger Reserve are also reducing habitat of birds and animals and could pose a bigger threat to wildlife than shifting cultivation.
- Reported cases of poaching by different groups including local hunters and insurgent groups like Shanti Bahini and the National Liberation Front of Tripura.

