

Himalayan brown bear

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In news

A recent study on the Himalayan Brown Bear massive habitat decline by year 2050 due to climate change

Key findings of the study

- The **study carried out in the western Himalayas by scientists of the Zoological Survey of India**, predicted a massive **decline of about 73% of the bear's habitat** by the year 2050.
- A publication titled '*Adaptive spatial planning of protected area network for conserving the Himalayan brown bear*' with the details of the study has recently been published in an international science journal
- According to this study, these **losses in habitat will also result in loss of habitat from 13 protected areas (PAs)**, and eight of them will become completely uninhabitable by the year 2050, followed by loss of connectivity in the majority of PAs
- It recommends that the suitable habitats were mapped outside the PAs and are closely placed to PAs; such areas may be prioritized to bring them into the PA network or enhanced protection

About Himalayan Brown bear

- It is one of the largest carnivores in the highlands of the Himalayas.
- It **occupies the higher reaches of the Himalayas** in remote, mountainous areas of **China, Nepal, Pakistan and India**, in small and isolated populations, and is extremely rare in many of its ranges.
- It is the largest mammal in the region, males reaching up to 2.2 m (7 ft) long while females are a little

smaller.

- Himalayan brown bears exhibit sexual dimorphism
- IUCN status: While the brown bear as a species is classified as Least Concern by the IUCN, this subspecies is highly endangered and populations are dwindling. It is Endangered in the Himalayas and Critically Endangered in Hindu Kush.