

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1019
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2025

Protected areas and protection of wildlife

1019. DR. K. LAXMAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the manner in which the number of Protected Areas and Community Reserves in India have grown since 2020, and the role community participation has played in this expansion;
- (b) the measures Government has undertaken to enhance conservation efforts through the establishment of tiger reserves and elephant reserves across the country; and
- (c) the manner in which India expanded its network of Ramsar sites, the significance it holds for wetland conservation on a global scale?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) The details of protected areas declared in the country since the year 2020 is given at **Annexure I**. As per the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the Conservation Reserves are declared after consultations with the local communities. Further, Community Reserves are declared by the State Government on private or community lands, where an individual or community has volunteered to conserve wild life and its habitat.
- (b) Important tiger habitats have been notified as tiger reserves which are governed as per the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. So far, 57 tiger reserves have been notified in the country.

Critical elephant habitats are notified as 'Elephant Reserve' for focus and synergy in elephant conservation and to reduce conflict. So far 33 Elephant Reserves have been established.

The Ministry provides financial and technical assistance to States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme- Project Tiger & Elephant (CSS-PT&E) for protection of elephants and tigers, their habitats in the country.

- (c) The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance is the intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. India became party to the Convention in February, 1982. The Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP) meets every three years to decide on common global priorities, and promotes policies and guidelines to advance the objectives of the Convention. By protecting and expanding Ramsar Sites, India strengthens its commitment to global climate goals and biodiversity conservation efforts.

A total of 89 wetlands have been designated as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) as of January, 2025. Out of these, 26 wetlands were designated till 2014 and 63 more wetlands have been designated as Ramsar Sites since 2015. In addition, Indore and Udaipur have been designated as Wetland Cities under the Convention.

Annexure I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1019 due for reply on 13.02.2025 regarding “Protected areas and protection of wildlife”.

Cumulative number of protected areas notified since 2020

Year	National Park	National Park Area (sq.km.)	Wildlife Sanctuary	Wildlife Sanctuary Area (sq.km.)	Community Reserve	Community Reserve Area (sq.km.)	Conservation Reserve	Conservation Reserve Area (sq.km.)
2020	104	43,746.68	562	1,25,759.65	216	1,370.20	94	4,275.67
2022	106	44,402.94	570	1,26,904.08	220	1,455.15	107	5,290.82
Till July, 2023	106	44,402.94	573	1,27,197.55	220	1,455.15	123	5,585.05