

SARISKA TIGER RESERVE



— BRINGING THE GLORY BACK —

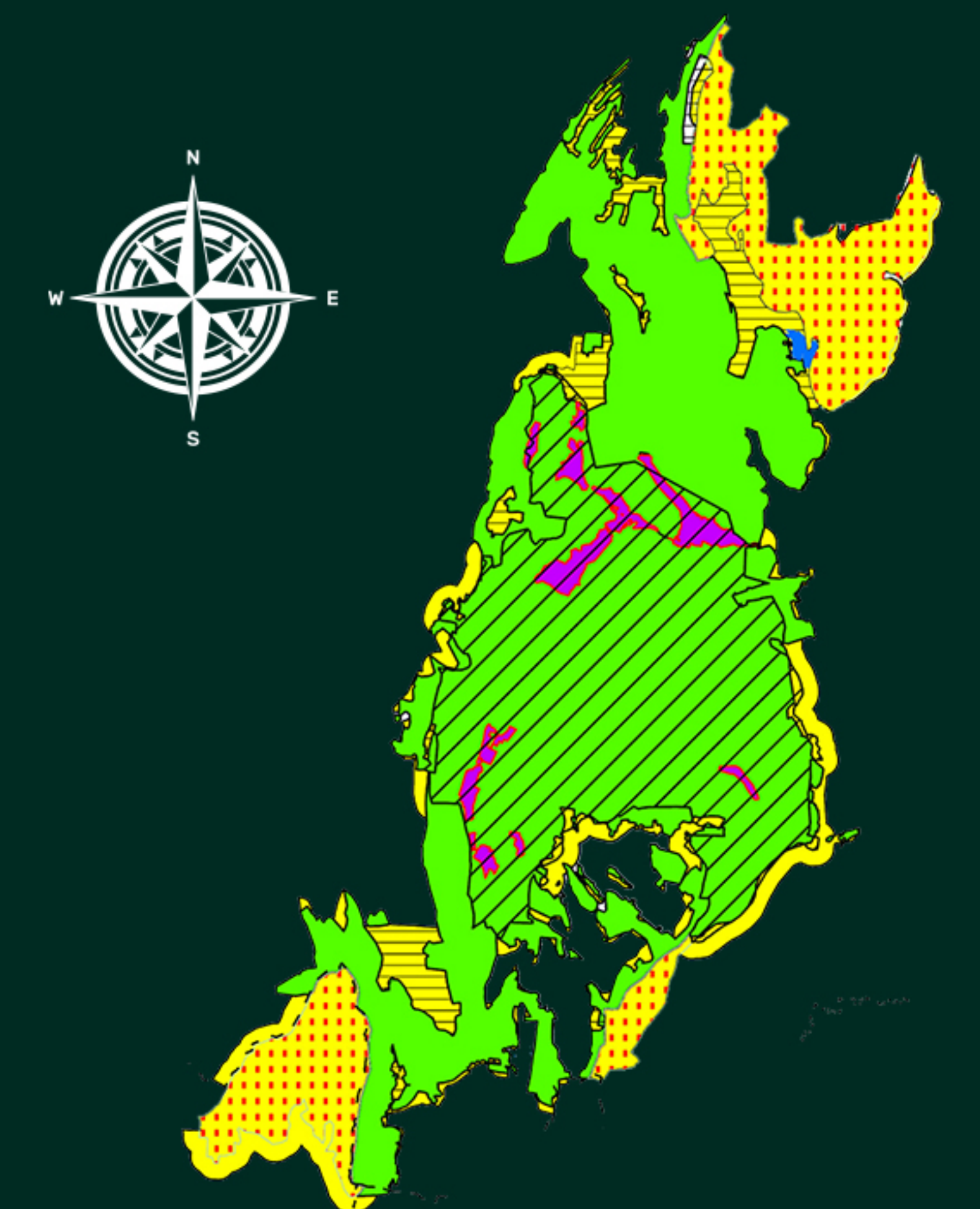
SARISKA TIGER RESERVE

**A Wilderness Gem
in the Aravallis**



Sariska Tiger Reserve, situated in the Alwar district of Rajasthan, is nestled amidst the Aravalli ranges — the oldest hill ranges in the world. The reserve showcases a beautiful blend of tropical dry deciduous and thorn forests and is dotted with numerous valleys and undulating plateaus.

The Tiger Reserve spans an area of 1213.34 Square Kilometres, which includes 881.11 square kilometres of core or critical tiger habitat and 332.23 square kilometres of buffer area.



THE JOURNEY

FROM ROYAL HUNTING GROUNDS TO CONSERVATION

Hunting reserve of
Alwar princely state



**PRE-
INDEPENDENCE
ERA**

Declared as a
reserve area under
Rajasthan Wild
Animals and Birds
Protection Act, 1951

1955

Amendment and
increase in the area
of the reserve

1958

Declared the
11th Tiger Reserve
of India

1978



Preliminary
notification of
Sariska National
Park

1982

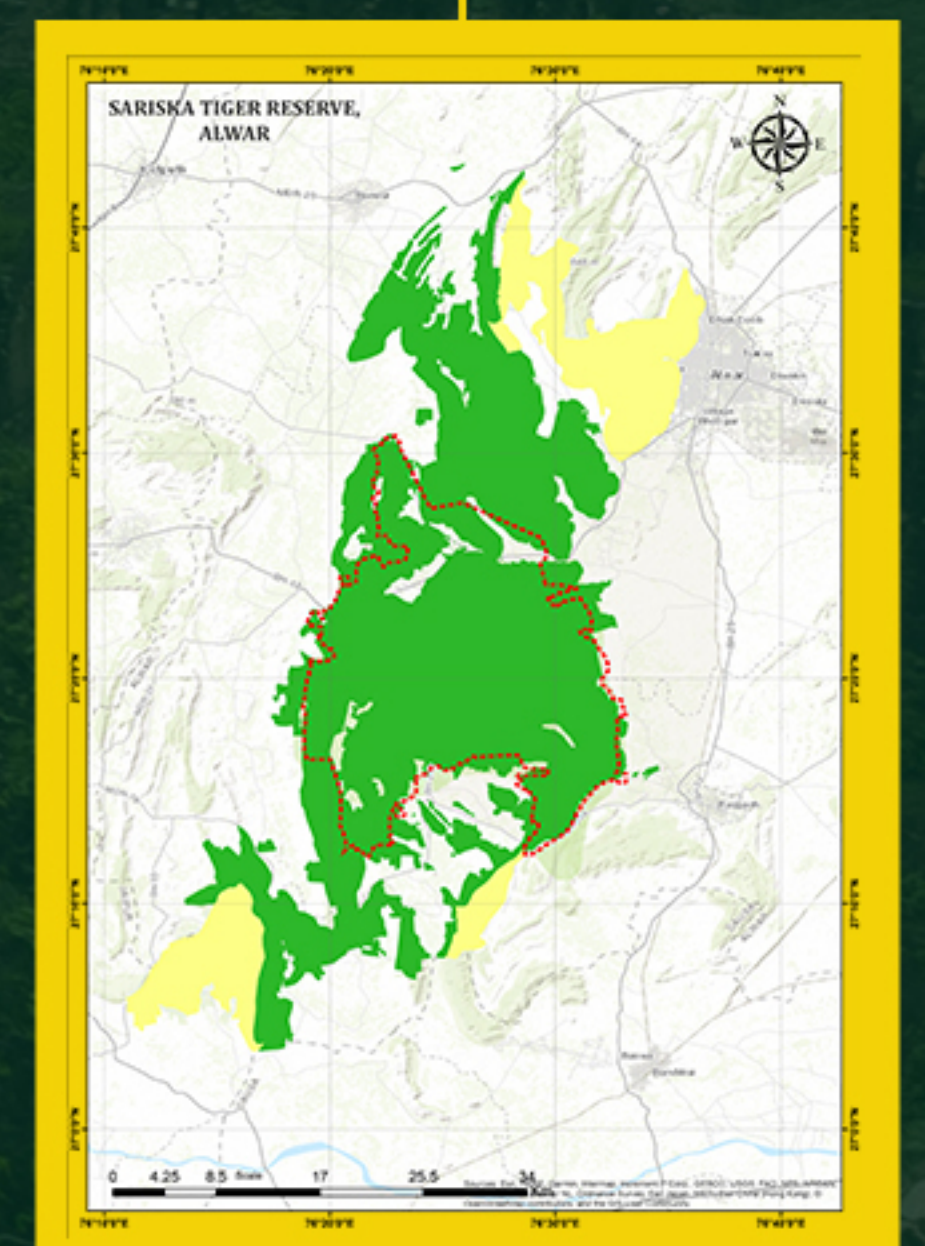
Notification of
critical Tiger
Habitat

2007



Notification of
Buffer Zone

2012



Sariska was once the royal hunting reserve of the Alwar princely state. The erstwhile maharajas frequently used the area for sport hunting. This legacy is still visible in the form of old hunting lodges and trails scattered across the reserve.

After Independence, Sariska was declared as a wildlife reserve in 1955 to protect its rich biodiversity. In 1978, it was designated as a Tiger Reserve under Project Tiger to safeguard its tiger population making it the 11th Tiger Reserve of the country. The transition from a royal hunting ground to a protected area marked a significant shift toward conservation.

THE REVIVAL OF SARISKA

A PIONEERING TIGER REINTRODUCTION EFFORT

Sariska Tiger Reserve lost all its tigers by 2004 due to rampant poaching. This local extinction of tigers in Sariska sparked national outrage. Subsequently, the world's first tiger reintroduction program began in 2008 in Sariska, relocating tigers from Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve. A total of 11 tigers were translocated in the following years.

The tiger reintroduction was followed by intensive monitoring, strong anti-poaching efforts, habitat improvement and village relocation efforts.

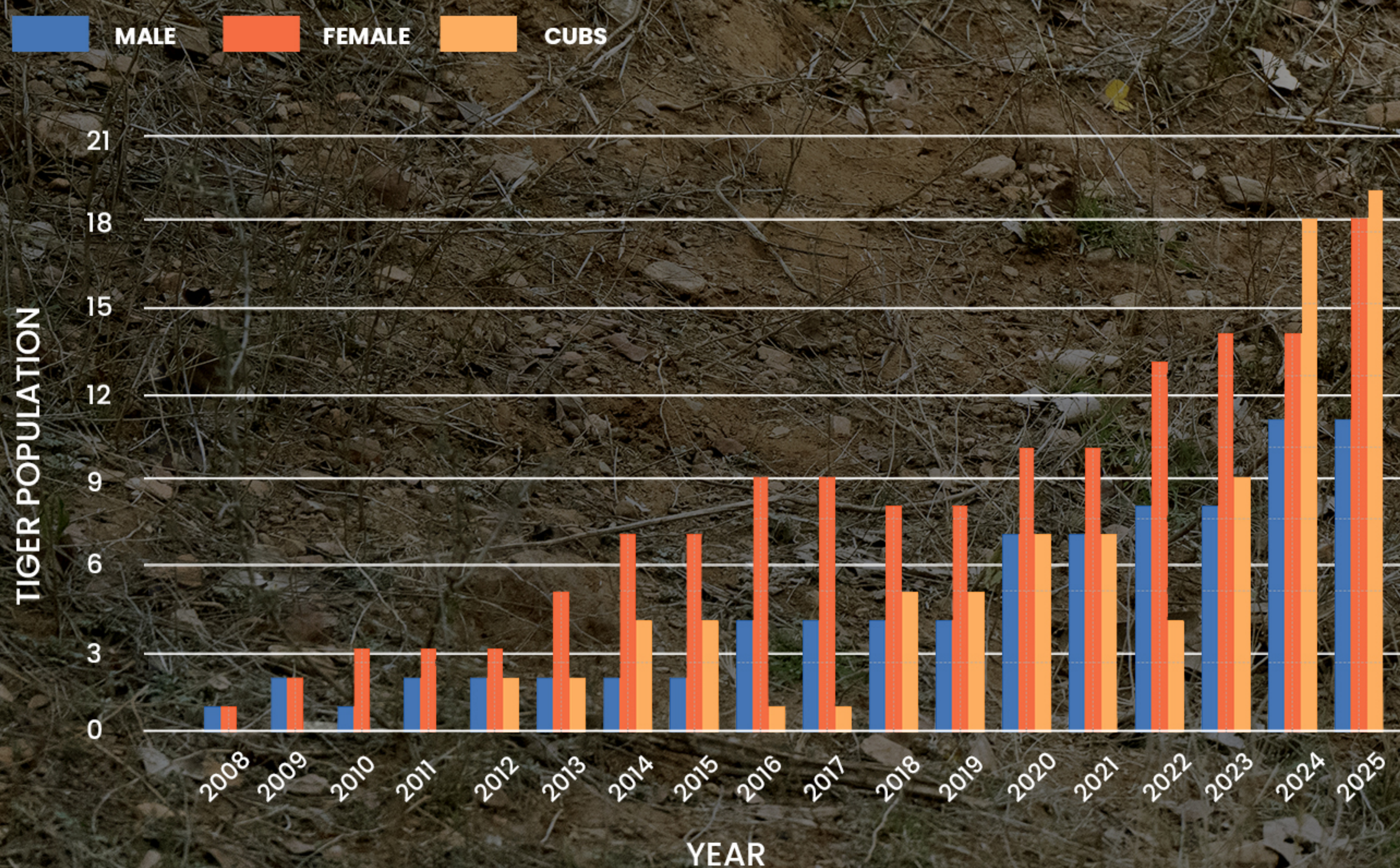


THE SUCCESS STORY OF SARISKA TIGER RESERVE

Being a “Tigerless” tiger reserve in the years between 2004 to 2008, post reintroduction efforts, the tiger numbers in Sariska have risen to 48 by July 2025. Between the two years 2024 and 2025 alone, 20 cubs have been born in Sariska.

This makes it the first successful tiger reintroduction effort anywhere in the world and marks a major global conservation milestone.

**TIGER POPULATION GROWTH IN SARISKA TIGER RESERVE
POST REINTRODUCTION**



The Tiger serves as the apex predator and umbrella species in Sariska Tiger Reserve, playing a critical role in maintaining the ecological balance of the landscape. Apart from the Tiger, Sariska is also home to a healthy population of both large carnivores like leopards, striped hyenas, golden jackals and Indian foxes as well as smaller carnivores like the Ratel, Asian palm civet, Small Indian civet, Jungle cat, common and ruddy mongoose among others.

Carnivores like Caracal and Wild dog have also been previously reported from Sariska.

CARNIVORES OF SARISKA

TIGER AND BEYOND

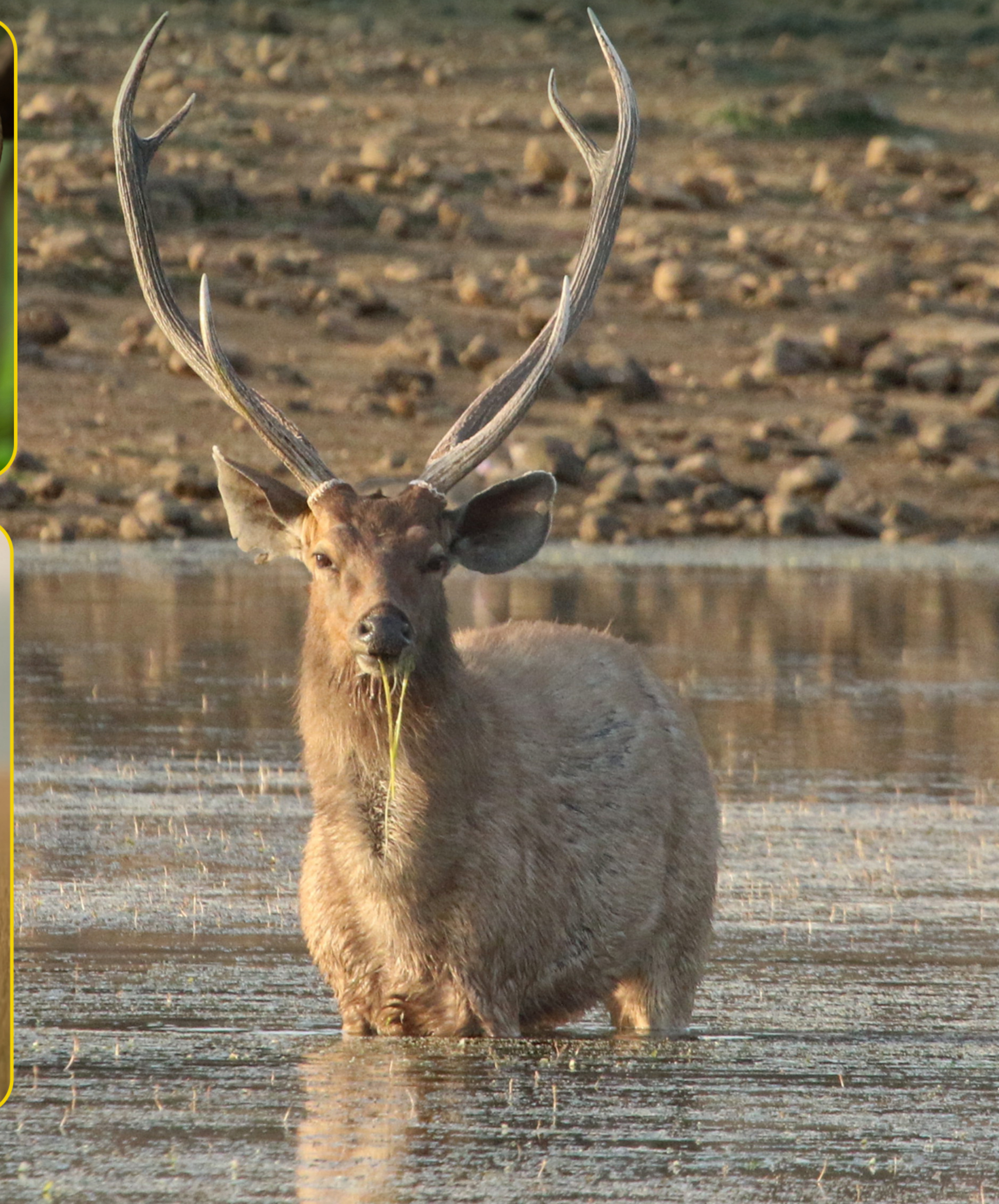


SARISKA'S RICH HERBIVORE DIVERSITY

A FOUNDATION FOR PREDATOR SURVIVAL

Sariska is home to numerous herbivore species including the Sambar, Chital, Nilgai, Wild boar as well as the rare four horned antelope or Chousingha. Primates such as Rhesus Macaques and Langurs are also widespread in Sariska.

Sariska Tiger Reserve boasts a healthy herbivore population density, highest among the Tiger reserves of Rajasthan.



Sariska hosts a diverse array of over 272 bird species, including the winter migrants. Peafowl and Grey Francolin are abundant. Other notable species include the Red-headed Vulture, Peregrine Falcon (world's fastest bird), Crested Serpent Eagle, Indian Pitta, White-eyed Buzzard, Indian Eagle Owl, Paradise Flycatcher, Golden Oriole, Black Francolin, Aravalli Red Spurfowl (Aravalli endemic) and Painted Spurfowl.

AVIAN BIODIVERSITY IN SARISKA





SARISKA'S RICH FAUNAL DIVERSITY

Sariska boasts of a rich Reptilian biodiversity. Various venomous snakes like the Indian Cobra, Common Krait and Russell's Viper as well as non venomous snakes like Rock Python and Sand Boa among others inhabit the area.

The Bengal Monitor Lizard is fairly common around the whole of Sariska. Mugger Crocodiles and Flapshell Turtles can be seen at Karnakabas and Siliserh lakes.

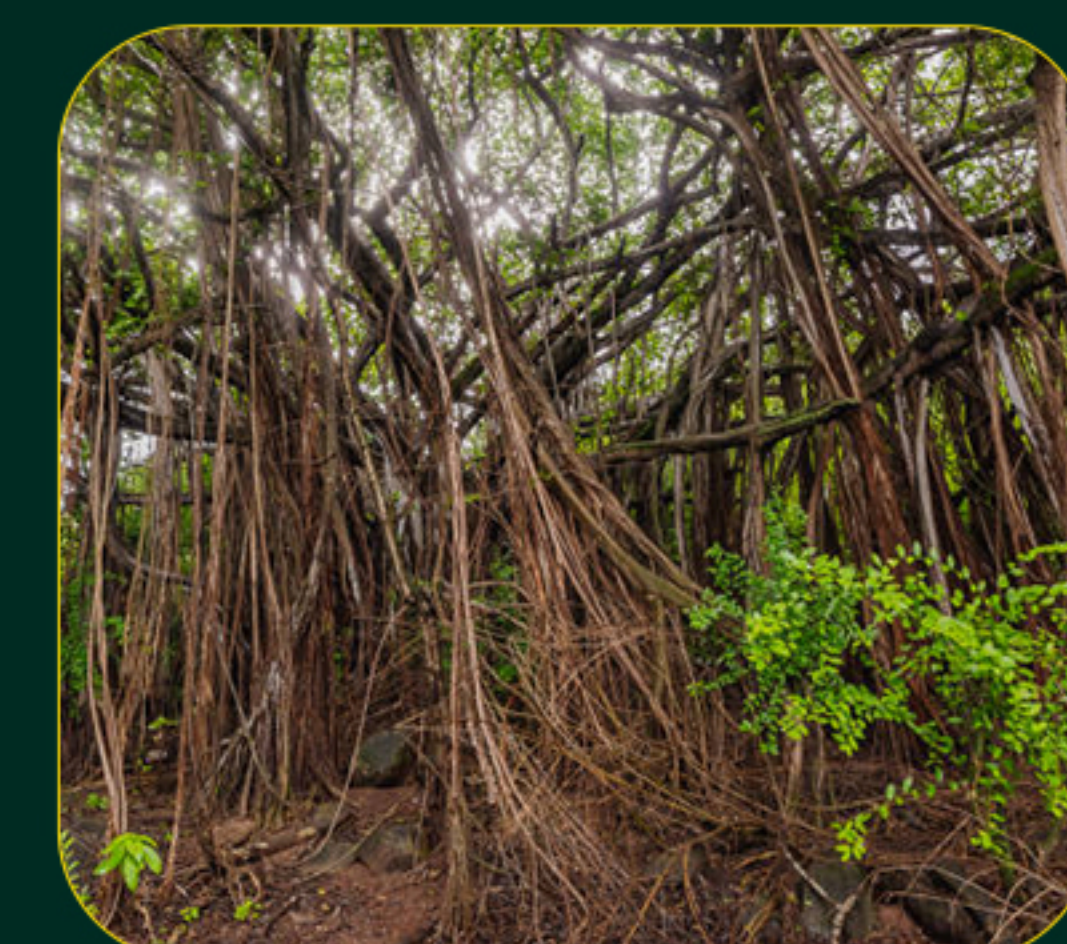
FLORA OF SARISKA

A RICH TAPESTRY OF TREE SPECIES

Sariska Tiger Reserve remains a testament to nature's grandeur, hosting over 404 plant species.

Dhok (*Anogeissus pendula*) is the dominant tree species, covering over 80 percent of the forest area. While *Boswellia serrata* and *Lannea coromandelica* thrive in rocky patches, Kathaa (*Acacia catechu*) Palas (*Butea monosperma*) and Ber (*Zizyphus mauritiana*) are found mainly in the valleys. In moist localities, one can find Siris (*Albizia lebbek*), Tendu (*Diospyros melanoxylon*), Papri (*Holoptelea integrifolia*) and various *Ficus* species. Infact, the name "Sariska" is thought to be derived from the "Siris" tree, known for its beautiful yellow flowers.

Besides these, some noteworthy tree species are Arjun (*Terminalia arjuna*), Gugal (*Commiphora wightii*), Kadaya (*Sterculia urens*), Amla (*Emblica officinalis*), Bahera (*Terminalian bellerica*) and Hingot (*Balanites aegyptiaca*)



SARISKA'S FLORA

THROUGH THE SEASONS



During the monsoons, the reserve comes alive with lush grasses and flowering herbs. These form the primary diet of the herbivores during the rainy season and serve as crucial hotspots for ground-nesting birds and small mammals.

The main shrub species of Sariska are Jaal (*Capparis sepiaria*), Ker (*Capparis decidua*), Chhota Ber (*Ziziphus nummularia*) and Chaprain (*Grewia flavescens*) which serve as valuable food sources for the herbivores as well as sheltering space for many fauna especially during the drier months.



Dendrocalamus strictus has a limited distribution in Sariska Tiger Reserve, found along well-drained stream reaches and in the moist, cooler parts of the hills.

BEYOND THE WILD

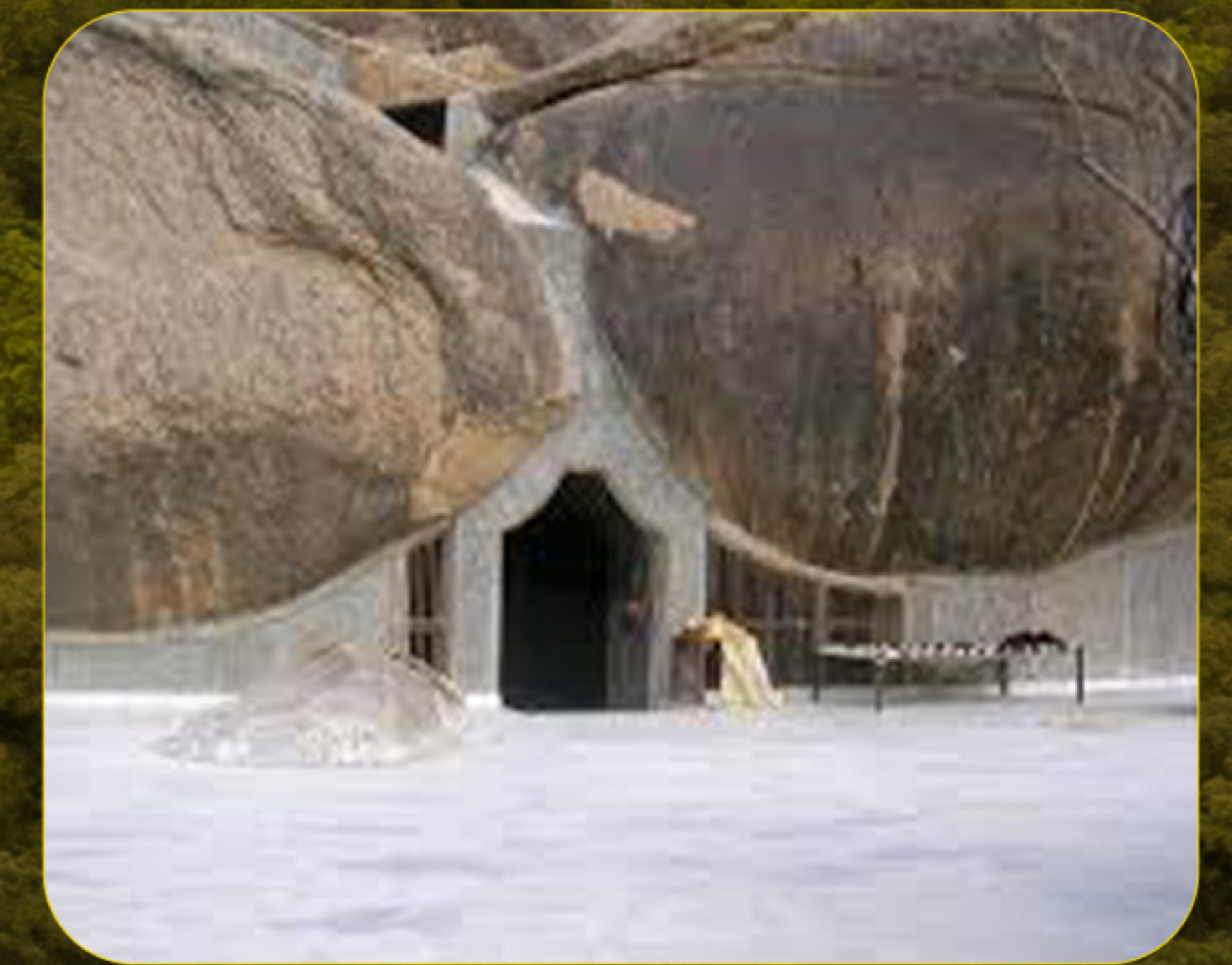
THE ARCHITECTURAL MARVELS OF SARISKA

Apart from its rich biodiversity, Sariska Tiger Reserve is also home to several forts and archaeological sites. Most notable among these are, the ancient Neelkanth Mahadev Temple, famous for its Pratihara-era architecture and carvings, the 15th century Bala Quila Fort, the 17th-century hilltop Kankwadi fort and the 19th century royal hunting lodge- Sariska Palace showcasing a remarkable fusion of Rajasthani and European elements.

The 17th century Bhangarh fort, famed for its grand ruins and legends of haunting is also located close to Sariska Tiger Reserve.



SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL LANDMARKS OF SARISKA TIGER RESERVE



The area of the Sariska Tiger Reserve also holds immense religious significance, rooted in ancient mythology and spiritual tradition. There exists several temples and religious sites in Sariska Tiger Reserve. Some of the major temples being the revered Pandupole Hanuman Temple mythologically linked to the Mahabharata, Bharthari temple, Narayani Mata, Karni Mata, Naldeshwar temple among others.

These revered sites set amid dense forests, offer a blend of heritage, mythology, and scenic beauty, making them key attractions for pilgrims and tourists alike.

REVIVING SARISKA

THE ROLE OF SARISKA'S FOREST DEPARTMENT



The Forest Department in Sariska Tiger Reserve has played a crucial role in the conservation and revival of the area's wildlife, especially tigers. The 24*7 tiger monitoring through the participation of the locals is something unique to Sariska.

The protection function also involves the establishment of Anti-Poaching camps and protection roads throughout the tiger reserve to ensure effective monitoring.

Habitat improvement in terms of weed removal, grassland development and Soil and moisture conservation works are helping improve the habitat of Sariska for its rich faunal diversity.

COMMUNITY AND CONSERVATION

BUILDING HARMONY



Relocation of the villages from the interiors of Sariska is an ongoing effort of the forest department. This remains an imperative to help improve the wildlife habitat and reduce human-wildlife conflict.

Community engagement in terms of employing the villagers as Bagh Mitras and promoting conservation awareness among the younger generations through guided tours and interactions is helping build goodwill for the forests amongst the locals.



Sariska Tiger Reserve, located in Rajasthan's Alwar district amidst the Aravalli hills, is India's only tiger reserve within the NCR region.

Once a royal hunting ground of the Alwar princely state, post-independence Sariska's transition to a protected area marked a significant shift towards conservation. Sariska faced complete tiger extinction by 2004 due to poaching. Subsequently, it became the world's first site for successful tiger reintroduction starting in 2008, with the population rising to 48 tigers by July 2025. Thus, marking a significant global milestone in conservation.

Sariska Tiger Reserve boasts of a rich floral and faunal biodiversity. It also holds historical forts and sacred temples, blending natural and cultural heritage.

**Location:**

190 Kms from New Delhi
110 Kms from Jaipur

**Approach:**

Nearest Railway Station- Alwar
Nearest Airport- Jaipur

**Seasons:**

Summer- April to June
Winter- November to January

**Tourism in Sariska:**

Core and Buffer zone open between 1st October to 30th June
During Monsoon season between 1st July to 30th September only buffer zone open

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