

# Biosphere Reserves of India : Names and Location

Biosphere Reserves are large areas of bio diversity where flora and fauna are protected. These regions of environmental protection roughly correspond to IUCN Category V Protected areas. The Indian government has established 18 Biosphere Reserves of India, which protect larger areas of natural habitat (than a National Park or Wildlife Sanctuary).

Biosphere Reserves of India often include one or more National Parks or sanctuaries, along with buffer zones that are open to some economic uses. Protection is granted not only to the flora and fauna of the protected region, but also to the human communities who inhabit these regions, and their ways of life.

## List of Biosphere Reserves of India

NB: Those Biosphere reserves in bold are part of World Network of Biosphere Reserves too.

Sl. No	Year	Name	State	Type	Key Fauna
1	2008	Great Rann of Kutch	Gujarat	Desert	Indian Wild Ass
<b>2</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>Gulf of Mannar</b>	<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	<b>Coasts</b>	<b>Dugong or Sea Cow</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>Sundarbans</b>	<b>West Bengal</b>	<b>Gangetic Delta</b>	<b>Royal Bengal Tiger</b>
4	2009	Cold Desert	Himachal Pradesh	Western Himalayas	Snow Leopard
<b>5</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>Nanda Devi</b>	<b>Uttarakhand</b>	<b>Western Himalayas</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve</b>	<b>Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka</b>	<b>Western Ghats</b>	<b>Nilgiri Tahr, Lion-tailed macaque</b>
7	1998	Dihang-Dibang	Arunachal Pradesh	Eastern Himalaya	NA
<b>8</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve</b>	<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	<b>Semi-Arid</b>	<b>Giant Squirrel, Flying Squirrel</b>
9	2010	Seshachalam Hills	Andhra Pradesh	Eastern Ghats	NA
<b>10</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>Simlipal</b>	<b>Odisha</b>	<b>Deccan Peninsula</b>	<b>Gaur, Royal Bengal Tiger, Wild elephant</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>Achanakamar - Amarkantak</b>	<b>Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh</b>	<b>Maikala Hills</b>	<b>NA</b>
12	1989	Manas	Assam	East Himalayas	Golden Langur, Red Panda

13	2000	Khangchendzonga	Sikkim	East Himalayas	Snow Leopard, Red Panda
14	2001	Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve	Kerala, Tamil Nadu	Western ghats	Nilgiri Tahr, Elephants
<b>15</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve</b>	<b>Andaman and Nicobar Islands</b>	<b>Islands</b>	<b>Saltwater Crocodile</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>Nokrek</b>	<b>Meghalaya</b>	<b>East Himalayas</b>	<b>Red Panda</b>
17	1997	Dibru-Saikhowa	Assam	East Himalayas	Golden Langur
18	2011	Panna	Madhya Pradesh	Ken River	Tiger, Chital, Chinkara, Sambhar and Sloth bear

Also read: Urban Heat Islands

## Biosphere Reserves of India in World Network of Biosphere Reserves

Nine of the eighteen biosphere reserves of India are a part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, based on the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme list. They are given in 'bold' in the above list.

### Main differences between Biosphere Reserves, National Park and Wild Life Sanctuaries

Biosphere Reserves are the biggest entity among the three. The level of restriction in the increasing order is Biosphere Reserves, Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks. The Indian government has established **18** Biosphere Reserves of India, roughly corresponding to IUCN Category V Protected areas. India has over **441** animal sanctuaries, referred to as Wildlife sanctuaries (IUCN Category IV Protected Area). The National parks of India are IUCN category II protected areas. As of April 2012, there were **102** national parks in India and more parks on the process of getting commissioned.