

NEYYAR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

This sanctuary was established in 1958. Although it was declared as a sanctuary in 1958, not much was done about wildlife conservation, until 1985, when a separate wildlife wing was set up and as a result, conservation efforts have gathered momentum.

Location and extent: It covers an area of 128 sq. km. and extends to 77° 8' and 77° 17' East Longitude and 8° 29' and 8° 37' North Latitude.

Topography : Altitude ranging from 90 to 1868m . Highest Peak is Ponmudi (923m)

Temperature: Temperature varies from 16° to 35°C

Rainfall : Annual average rainfall is 2800mm.

Drainage and rivers : Nestled in the southeast corner of the Western Ghats, the Neyyar sanctuary is the drainage basin of the Neyyar river and its tributaries – Mullayar and Kallar. The major rivers passing through the sanctuary are Neyyar and its tributaries, Mullayar and Kallar

Flora : This sanctuary has a substantial natural vegetation cover. The diversity of its flora makes the sanctuary an ideal gene pool preserve. Forest Types include West coast tropical evergreen, Southern hilltop tropical evergreen, Southern moist mixed deciduous forest, Southern tropical hill forests, southern sub-tropical savannahs and Reed brakes. Common tree species like Terminalia paniculata, T.bellerica, Pterocarpus marsupium, Palaquium ellipticum, Mesua ferrea, Hopea parviflora, Bombax ceiba, Syzygium cumini, Lagerstroemia lanceolata, Adina cordifolia, Albizzia procera, Alstoniascholaris etc.

Fauna : There are 39 species of mammals, 176 sp. of birds, 30 species of reptiles, 17 species of amphibians and 40 species of fishes are reported from the sanctuary .The common mammals found are, Tiger , Leopard, sloth bear, Elephant, sambar, barking deer, bonnet macaque, Nilgiri Langur, Nilgiri tahr etc.

A Crocodile farm, set up in 1977 at Neyyar, is home to 44 mugger crocodiles. The Steve Irwin Crocodile Rehabilitation and Research Centre was inaugurated at Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary in May 2007.