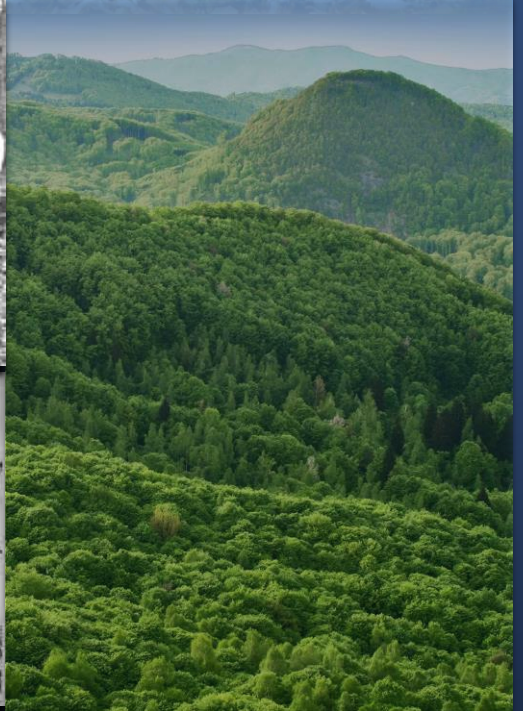
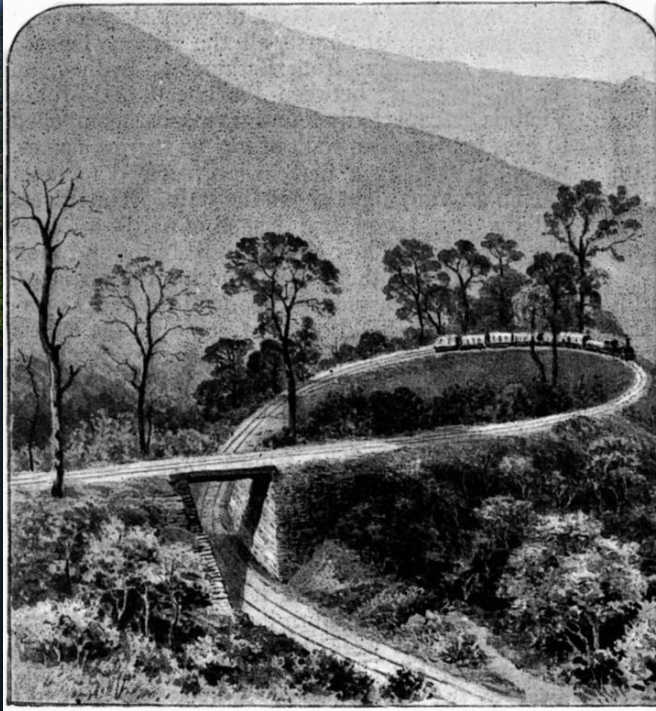
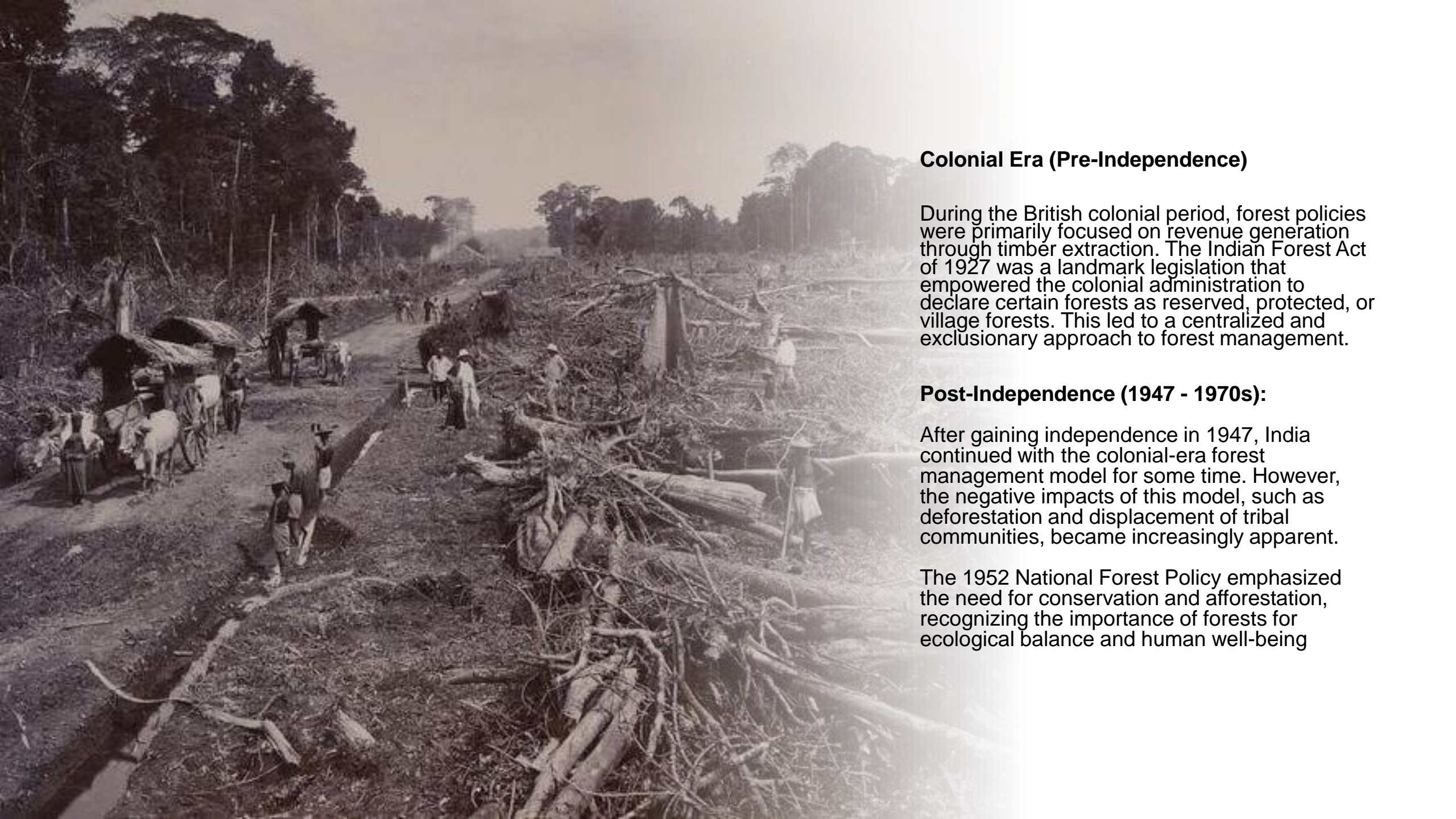


Legal framework and key policies: Forest and Biodiversity Conservation





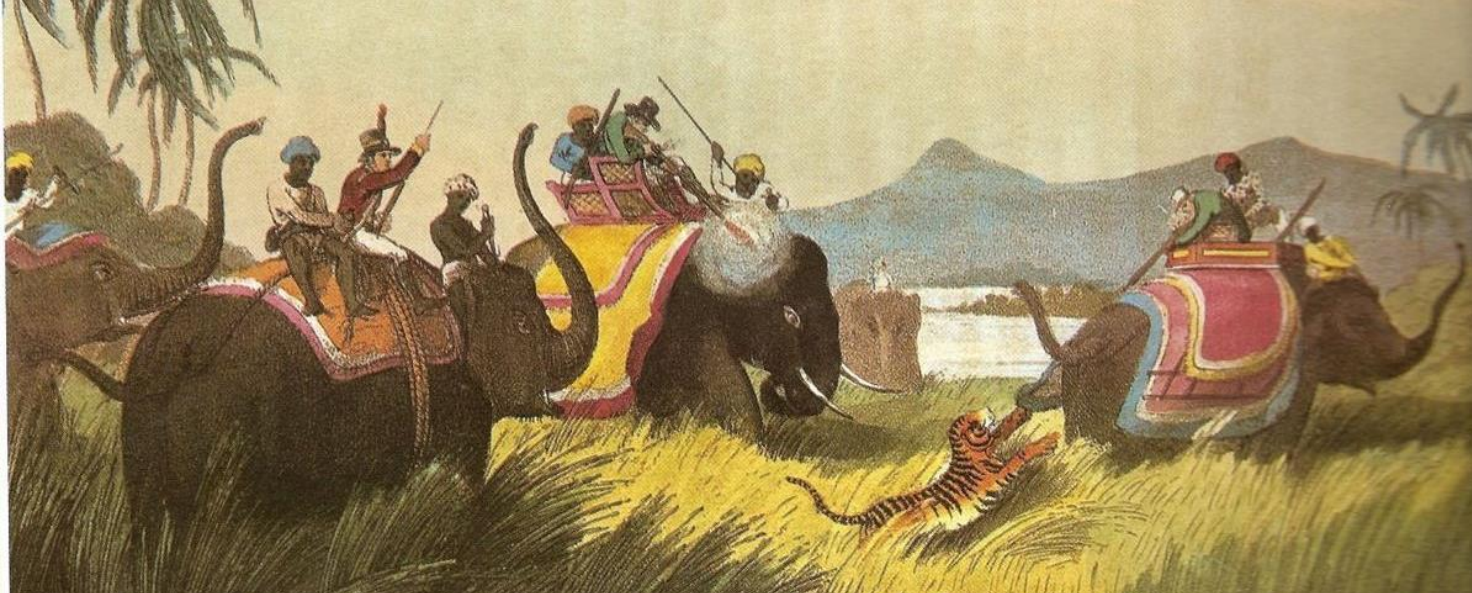
Colonial Era (Pre-Independence)

During the British colonial period, forest policies were primarily focused on revenue generation through timber extraction. The Indian Forest Act of 1927 was a landmark legislation that empowered the colonial administration to declare certain forests as reserved, protected, or village forests. This led to a centralized and exclusionary approach to forest management.

Post-Independence (1947 - 1970s):

After gaining independence in 1947, India continued with the colonial-era forest management model for some time. However, the negative impacts of this model, such as deforestation and displacement of tribal communities, became increasingly apparent.

The 1952 National Forest Policy emphasized the need for conservation and afforestation, recognizing the importance of forests for ecological balance and human well-being.



An aerial photograph of a tea plantation on a hillside. The tea bushes are arranged in neat, curved rows that follow the contours of the land. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky. The overall scene is lush and green.

Green Revolution Era (1960s - 1980s):

The focus on agricultural expansion and the Green Revolution led to further pressure on forests for land and resources. Deforestation continued, leading to concerns about environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity.

The Forest (Conservation) Act was enacted in 1980 to address the increasing diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes. It required the central government's approval for such diversions.

Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980:

This act is a central legislation aimed at the conservation of forests and wildlife. Its primary purpose is to regulate and restrict the diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes. Any non-forest activity that requires the use of forest land needs prior approval from the central government.



Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:

The Wildlife Protection Act is a comprehensive legislation for the protection of wildlife in India. It provides for the prohibition of hunting, poaching, and capturing of specified wild animals. The act also regulates the declaration of wildlife sanctuaries and national parks.



सत्यमेव जयते

1972

THE WILDLIFE PROTECTION ACT
WAS PASSED

Biological Diversity Act, 2002:

The Biological Diversity Act focuses on the conservation of biological diversity in India. It provides mechanisms for the sustainable use of biological resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization. The act establishes the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) for the regulation of activities related to biological diversity.



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Forest Rights Act, 2006:

The Forest Rights Act is aimed at recognizing and vesting the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest-dwelling scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers. It emphasizes the empowerment of local communities and recognizes their rights over forest resources.

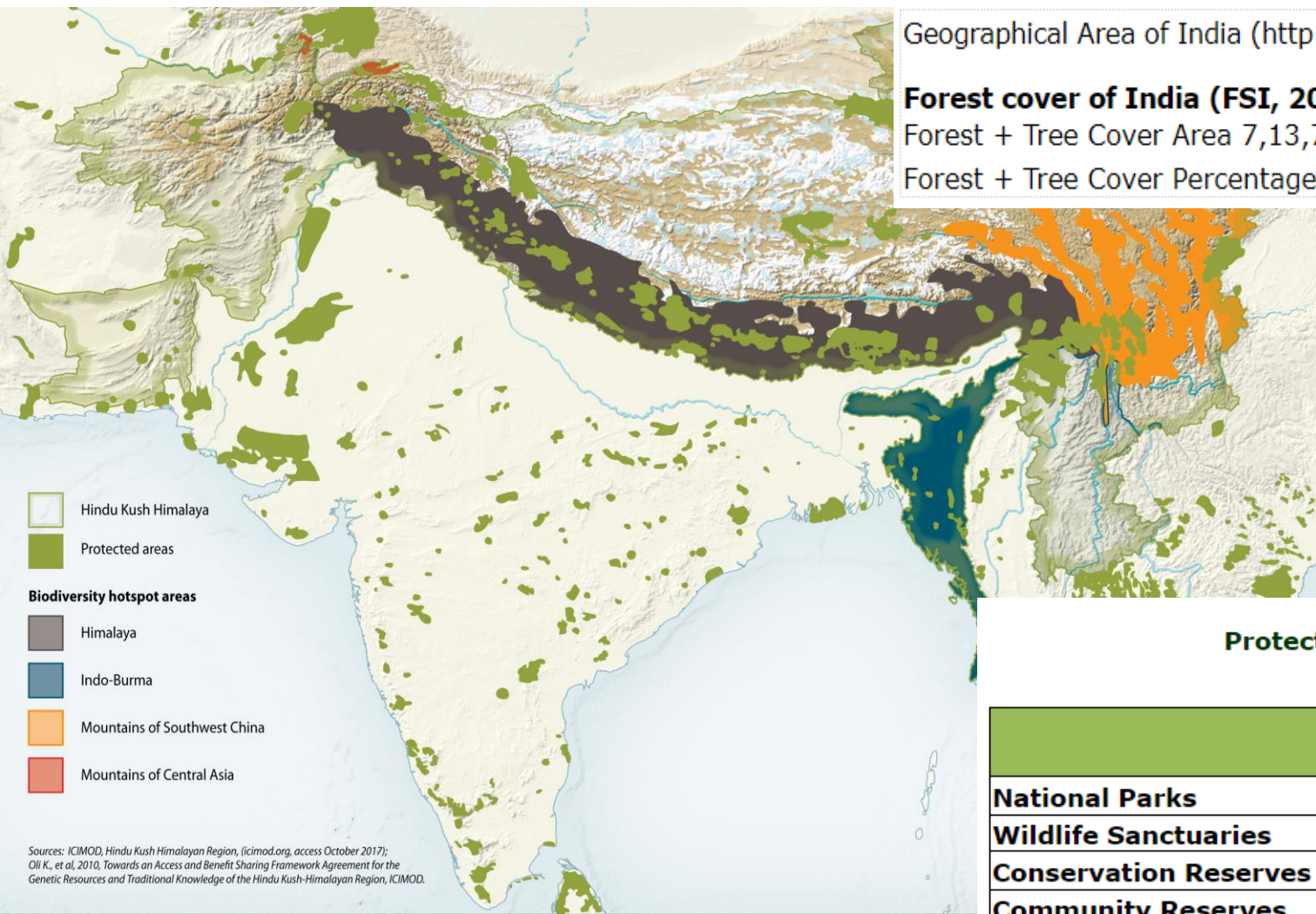


Recent Developments:

In recent years, there has been an increased emphasis on integrating environmental conservation with sustainable development goals. Initiatives such as the Green India Mission and the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture reflect a holistic approach to address issues of deforestation, biodiversity loss, and climate change.

Local Participation and Joint Forest Management (JFM):

Joint Forest Management (JFM) programs were introduced in various states to involve local communities in forest protection and management, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility.



Geographical Area of India (<http://knowindia.gov.in/>) = **32,87,263** km²

Forest cover of India (FSI, 2021)

Forest + Tree Cover Area 7,13,789 + 95,748 = **8,09,537** km²

Forest + Tree Cover Percentage 21.71% + 2.91% = **24.62%** of the geographical area of India

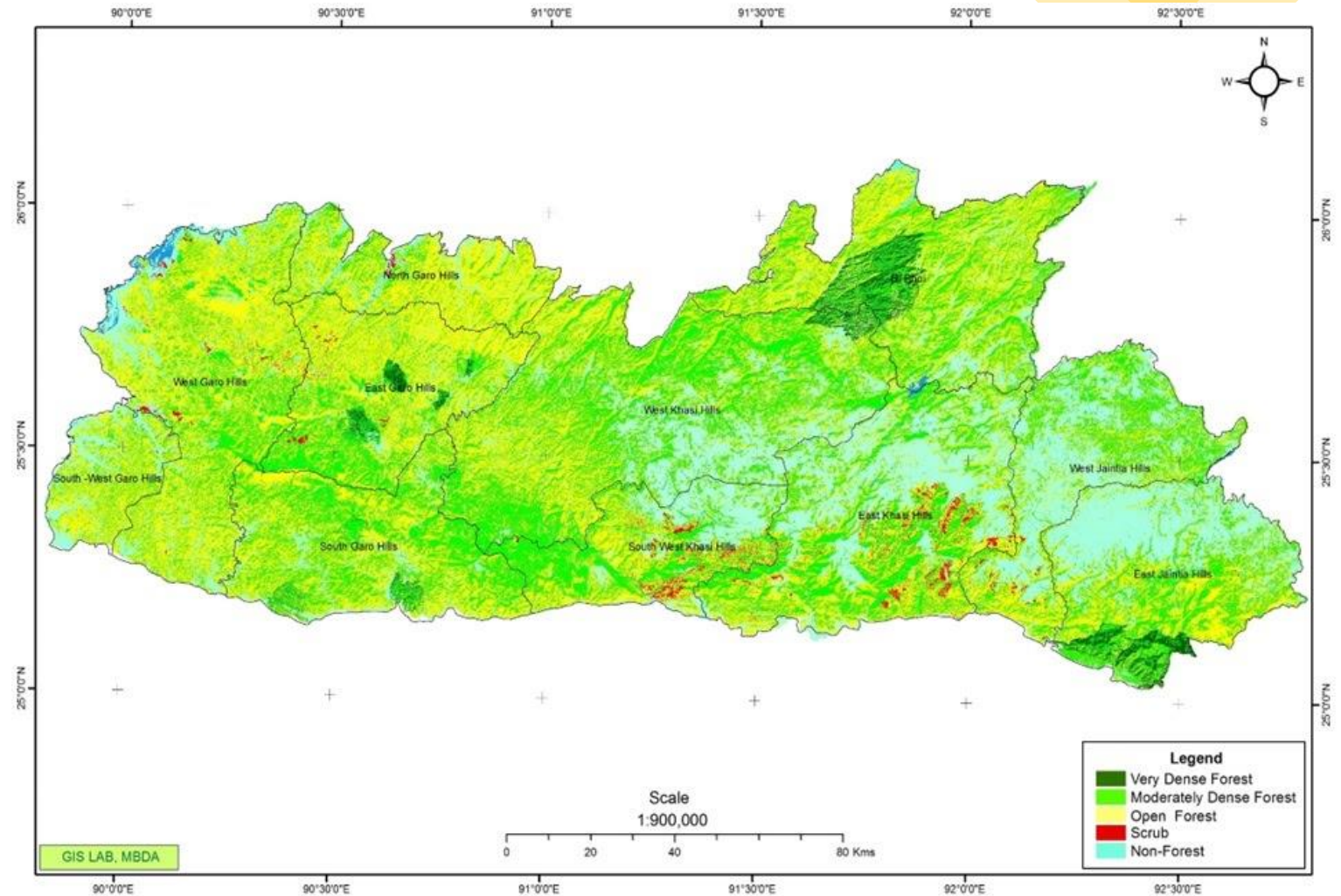
Protected Areas of India (As on December, 2022) NEW

	No.	Total Area (km ²)	Coverage % of Country
National Parks	106	44,402.95	1.35
Wildlife Sanctuaries	567	1,22,564.86	3.73
Conservation Reserves	105	5,206.55	0.16
Community Reserves	220	1,455.16	0.04
Protected Areas (PAs)	998	1,73,629.52	5.28

Source: National Wildlife Database Centre, Wildlife Institute of India

Sources: ICIMOD, Hindu Kush Himalayan Region, (icimod.org, access October 2017);
 Oll K., et al. 2010, Towards an Access and Benefit Sharing Framework Agreement for the
 Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region, ICIMOD.

The protected area network in Meghalaya occupies 1133.9 Sq Km area which constitute about 5.06 % of the State's Geographical Area. The Protected Area Network includes 2 national Parks, 4 wildlife Sanctuaries and 1 Biosphere Reserve playing an important role in in-situ conservation of Biodiversity.





GENESIS OF TIGER MANAGEMENT IN INDIA

1972
Launch of WPA

The wildlife in general and the Tigers in particular were witnessing a rapid decline by the early 70s, and thereby to check this depletion, the Wildlife Protection Act was enacted in 1972 by the Government of India.

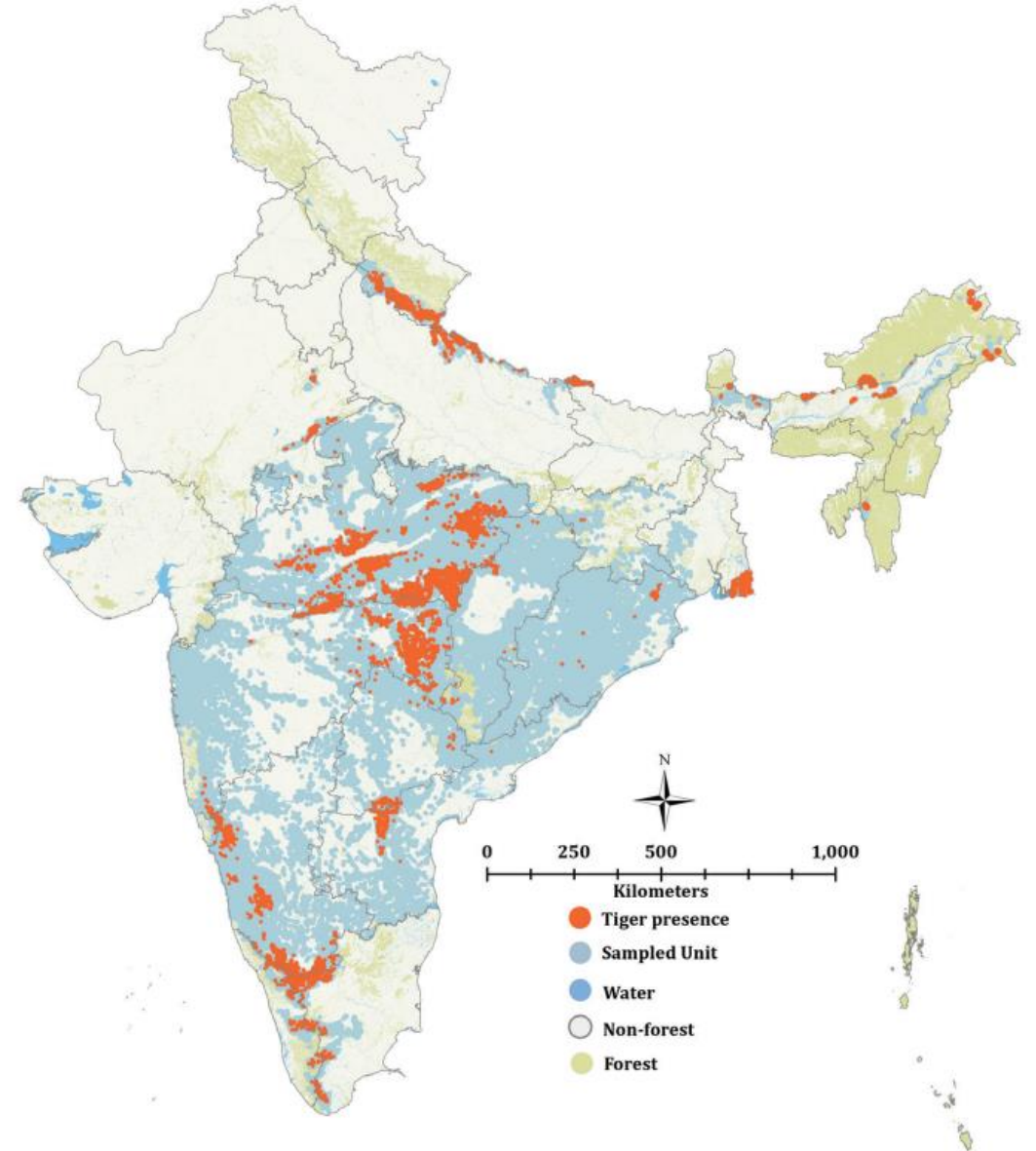
1973
Launch of Project Tiger

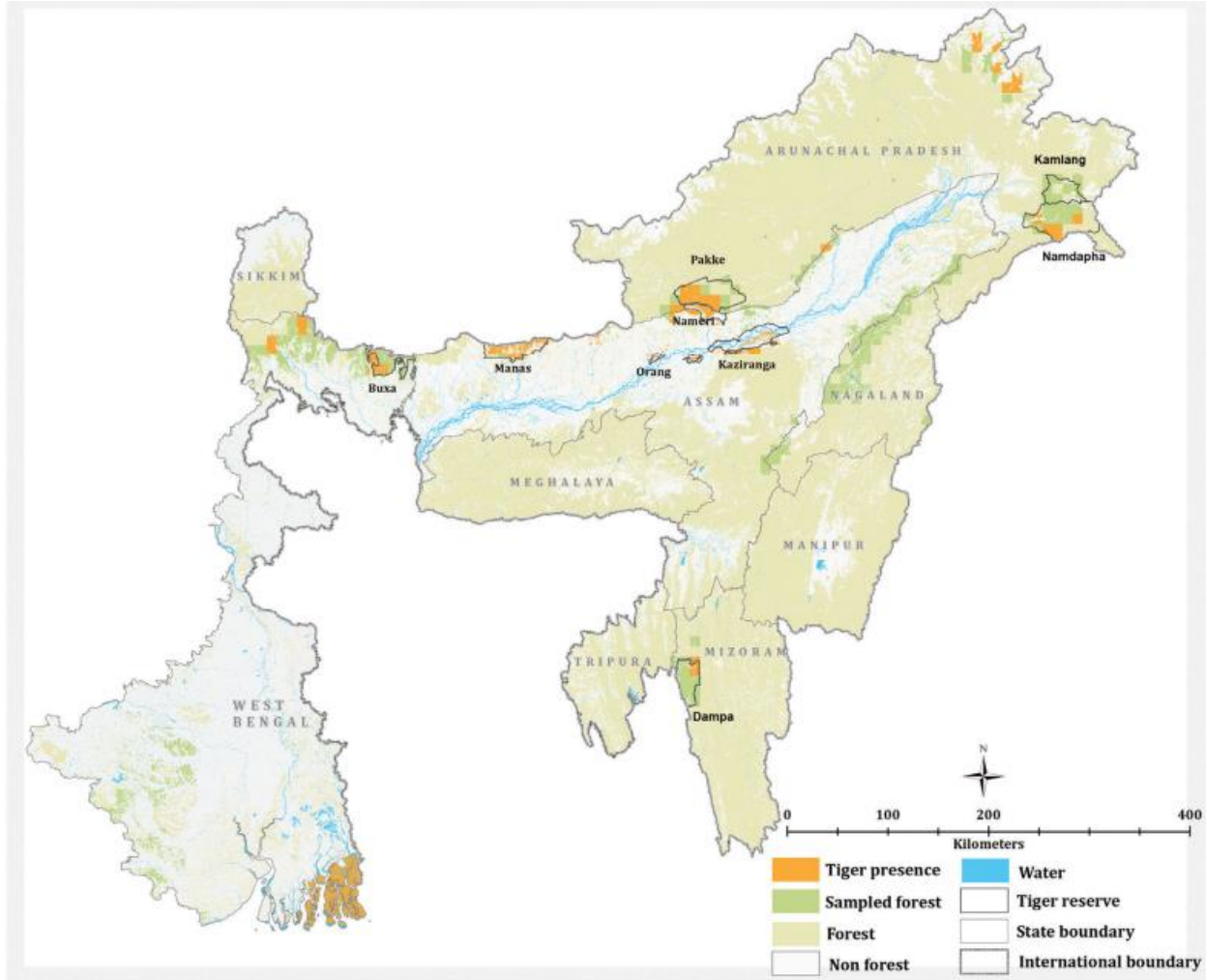
A year after, the Government of India took a pioneering initiative for conserving its national animal, the tiger, by launching the 'Project Tiger' in 1973. The said project is an ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change which provides central financial assistance to the tiger states for tiger conservation.

2006
The Birth of NTCA

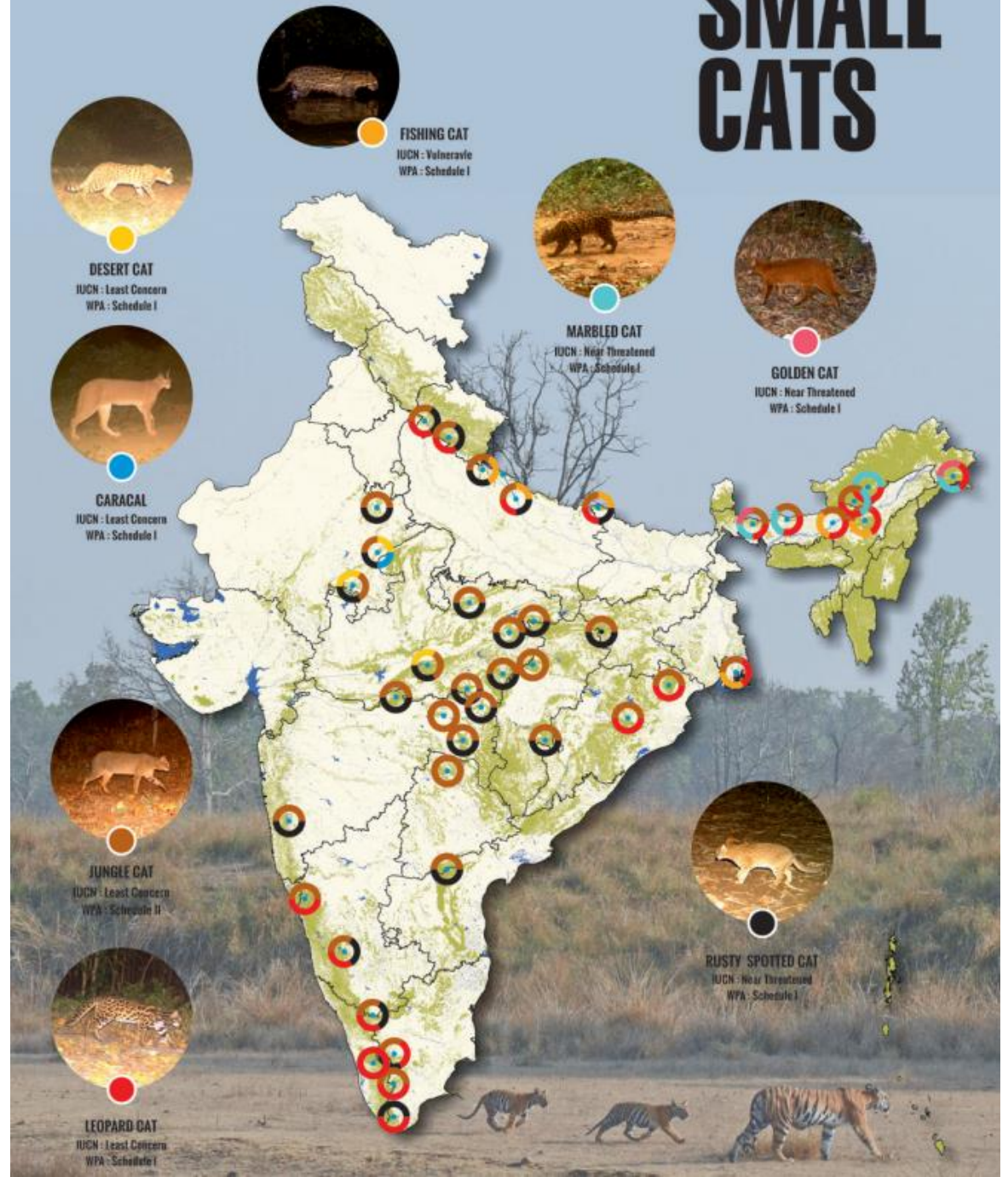
Post 2006, following the Sariska Debacle there was a paradigm shift in the management of Tigers and their habitat. One of such being the creation of the National Tiger Conservation Authority by an amendment of WPA 1972, a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

ROARING SUCCESS: TOTAL UP 161% SINCE 2006





SMALL CATS



Credibility services for communities: village ecodevelopment



Cattle proof trenches



Solar light and pump



Livestock immunization program by forest department

Skill development training programs conducted by forest department



Driving



Furniture making



Hospitality management



Traditional jewellery making



Medical camps run by forest department



Bio gas plant



Village School



Private security guards



Masonry

Income generation activities: sustainable alternative livelihoods



Vermicomposting



Promoting regional crafts from Lantana

https://ntca.gov.in/assets/uploads/Reports/Others/Project_Tiger_Achievement_Book_2023_Final.pdf



On farm activities



Souvenir shop

