

- ✓ India has a **network of 987 Protected Areas**, covering a total of 1,73,053.69 km² of geographical area of the country which is approximately **5.26%**.

Category	Number	Area
National Parks	106	1.35
Wildlife Sanctuaries	564	3.73
Conservation Reserves	99	0.14
Community Reserves	218	0.04
Total	987	5.26

Apart from these protected areas, India also has the following:

- Biodiversity Reserves
- Tiger Reserves
- Elephant Reserves
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries**
 - ✓ Protection and conservation of wildlife or its environment
 - ✓ **Certain rights of people living inside are permitted** as long they don't harm the wildlife. Such activities include harvesting of timber, collecting minor forest products, livestock grazing, and ownership of private land.
- **National Parks**
 - ✓ National parks are given highest level of protection.
 - ✓ Unlike wildlife sanctuaries **no human interference in any form.**
- **Conservation Reserves**
 - ✓ They are **declared by the State Governments** in any area owned by the Government.
 - ✓ They act as **buffer zones** between established national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and reserved and protected forests of India.
 - ✓ **Rights of people living inside a Conservation Reserve are not affected.**
 - ✓ *Examples:* Bankapur Peacock Conservation Reserve (Karnataka), Beas River Conservation Reserve (Punjab).

[Notes](#)