

**FOREST  
BIODIVERSITY  
IN INDIA**

## **FOREST BIODIVERSITY IN INDIA**

To provide insight into the unique treasure of India's forest biodiversity, a coffee table book on "Forest Biodiversity in India" has been prepared by ICFRE. The book presents spectacular visual work and successfully highlights the message of biodiversity conservation for the human well being. It also looks beyond the data to understand the human expectations, demands and contributions to conserve, protect and nurture our treasure of biodiversity. This coffee table book comprising twelve chapters is a humble effort to bring out the different facets of Indian Forest Biodiversity.

The book is first of its kind in India in the field of Forest Biodiversity depicting various dimensions through photographs and will be of tremendous value to the readers in understanding the unique heritage of our country. The book has been developed in easy to understand language on the complex biological features of the country and was released by the Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India during COP-11 at Hyderabad.

Copies of the book can be obtained on payment basis from ICFRE @ Rs. 2000/- (Rs. Two Thousand) per book. The orders may be conveyed to following address:

Assistant Director General,  
Biodiversity and Climate Change,  
Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education,  
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun-248006.  
Phone: 0135-2224823, 0135-2750296

## Excerpts from the book



### Western hoolock gibbon

(*Hoolock hoolock*)

The western hoolock gibbon is found in broad-leaved, wet evergreen and semi-evergreen forests of northeast India. The Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary or Hollongapar Reserve forest, an isolated protected area of evergreen forest located in Assam, India, is famous for the Gibbons. They are diurnal and arboreal, brachiating through the trees with their long arms. The species is an important seed disperser. Their diet consists mainly of fruits, flowers, leaves and shoots. Over the last four decades their numbers have dropped from more than 100,000 to less than 5,000 individuals. Their habitat is threatened by illegal logging, encroachment of human settlements, and habitat fragmentation. It is considered to be one of the 25 most endangered primates globally.

### Lion-tailed macaque

(*Macaca silenus*)

A rare macaque, it is found only in a few forests of the southern Western Ghats and the Annamalai hills. It is black in colour, has long hair, a grey mane and a tuft at the end of its tail that looks like a lion's tail. It is an upper canopy dweller in the rain-forests. The lion-tailed macaque is an endangered species as per the IUCN Red List having a high risk of extinction in the wild, with no more than 3,000-3,500 individuals left in the world.

### Leopard/ Panther

(*Panthera pardus*)

The leopard is more adaptable than the tiger, and lives both in thick forests and degraded forest areas. It is elusive and extremely varied in appearance. These large cats may be pale yellow in deserts and deeper yellow in grasslands. Their beautiful ring-like markings perfectly camouflage them in their surroundings. The leopard is a solitary animal and hunts alone. It is largely nocturnal, and rests by day on the branches of a tree or remains hidden in dense vegetation. Because of its declining population, it is listed as a 'near threatened' species on the IUCN Red List. It is very agile and capable of running at speeds approaching 58 kilometres per hour.





### Sambar

(*Rusa unicolor*)

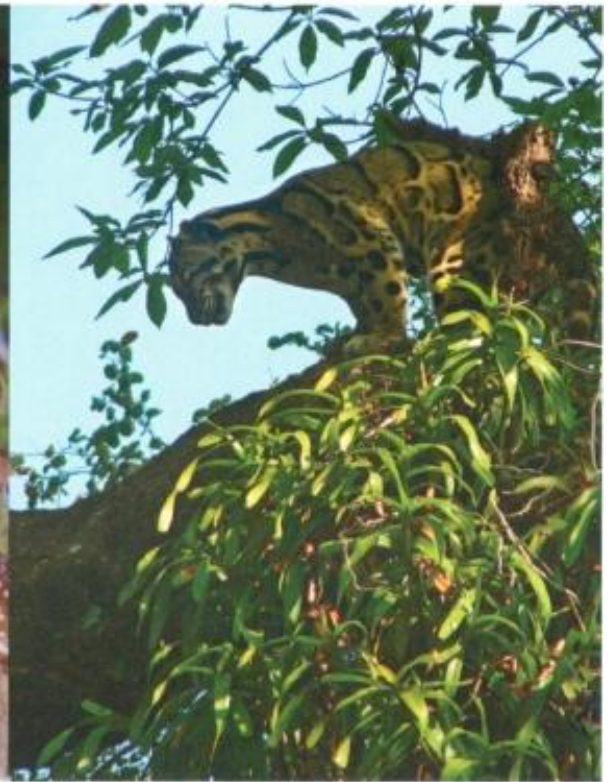
The sambar lives in small family parties, especially in hilly forested areas and feeds mainly on shrubs and leaves of low branches. They often congregate near water, and are good swimmers. They are dark brown in colour and have large thick antlers, each having three branches. As with most deer, only the males have antlers. Their shaggy coat is usually uniform in colour. They are a favourite prey for tigers and Asiatic lions.



### Chital

(*Axis axis*)

Chital or spotted deer live in large herds in dense deciduous or semi-evergreen forests and open grasslands. They are primarily grazers and feed on short, sprouting grasses. They have a rust brown body with white spots which camouflages them in the forest. Each antler has three branches called tines. The lifespan is around 8-14 years.



### Clouded leopard

(*Panthera longibanda*)

The clouded leopard is named after the distinctive cloud-like spots on its coat. Its tail has black ring markings and is extremely long for excellent balancing. It is more at home in the trees than on the ground, and can move nimbly through the dense forests of the eastern Himalayas. The clouded leopard is the smallest of the big cats with proportionately the largest canine teeth compared to all other members of the feline family. They are believed to be in decline due to habitat loss and poaching.