

Pygmy Hog

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Pygmy Hog Latest News

The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL) has recommended the inclusion of the pygmy hog in the list of critically endangered species under Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH).

About Pygmy Hog

- It is the **smallest and rarest species of wild pig**.
- It is one of the very few **mammals that build its own home**, or nest, complete with a 'roof'.
- It is an **indicator species** as its presence reflects the health of its primary habitat.
- **Habitat:** It prefers **undisturbed patches of grassland** dominated by early succession riverine communities, typically comprising dense tall grass intermixed with a wide variety of herbs, shrubs and young trees.
- **Distribution:** Currently, they survive only in the grasslands of **Assam's Manas and Orang national parks**.

- **Diet:** They **feed on roots, tubers, shoots** and ground vegetation, along with worms and **other invertebrates**.

Ecological Role of Pygmy Hog

- **Enhances Soil Quality:** It digs for roots, tubers, wild fruits, termites, earthworms, eggs and other food sources found in grasslands which **aerates the soil and enhances its quality**.
- **Disperses Seeds:** It also **helps dispersing seeds through** its dietary and foraging habits.

Conservation Status of Pygmy Hog

- **IUCN:** Critically Endangered
- **The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I.

Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats Scheme

- It is a **centrally sponsored scheme that provides financial assistance to states to protect certain species or wildlife areas** through its recovery programme for critically endangered species and habitats.
- **Components of the scheme**
 - Support to Protected Areas (National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves)
 - Protection of Wildlife Outside Protected Areas
 - Recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitat

Source: **TH**

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