

Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS)

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About Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS):

- **Location:** It is located in the Shravasti, Balrampur, and Gonda districts of **Uttar Pradesh**.

- The forest of SWS **was owned by Maharaja of Balrampur** before the implementation of the Zamindari Abolition Act 1952 and was known as Balrampur Estate.
 - It was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1988.
 - Sprawling an area of 452 sq km, this sanctuary is a strip of land, approximately, 120 km long from the east to west and 6-8 km wide.
 - The Sohela Wild Life Division is **situated on the Indo-Nepal International Border**.
 - It is one of the important places in the **Bhabar-Tarai Eco-System area**, which is rich in biodiversity.
 - The **Tharu tribe**, having mongoloid features, have been residents of this area since long.
 - **Vegetation:** A **mixture of deciduous and semi-evergreen woodlands** defines the sanctuary.
 - **Flora:** **Bahera, Phaldu, Sal, Teak**, Dhamina, Jamun, Shisham, Jigna, Haldu, Asna, and Khair are some of the most common trees found in SWS.
 - **Fauna:**
 - **Tigers, Leopard**, Cheetal, Bear, Wolfe, Hare, Jackal, Wild Boar, Sambar, Mankey, Langoor, Python, Otters, etc. can be commonly sighted.
 - A number of birds like **Black Partridge**, Quails, Peacocks, Kingfishers, Bulbuls, Mynahs, Eagles, Nightingales, Cuckoo, and Owls, etc. also inhabit the forest area.
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Q1: What is a tiger reserve?

Tiger Reserve is a legally declared protected area dedicated to the conservation of striped big cats. A tiger reserve, on the other hand, could be a national park or wildlife sanctuary. The Sariska Tiger Reserve, for example, is also a national park.

Source: 'Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary to be state's 5th tiger reserve'

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/suhelwa-wildlife-sanctuary/>

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