

Dalma Forest Biodiversity Report

1. Introduction

Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the East Singhbhum and Seraikela-Kharsawan districts of Jharkhand, India, spans approximately 195 sq. km across the Dalma Hills. Notified in 1976, the sanctuary is one of the key ecological landscapes of eastern India, primarily known for its rich biodiversity, elephant movement corridors, and mixed dry deciduous forests.

2. Physical and Ecological Features

2.1 Geography

- Located northeast of Jamshedpur
- Altitude ranges from 300 to 900 meters
- Terrain: rocky slopes, plateaus, dense forest, and seasonal streams

2.2 Climate

- Summer: 28–42°C
- Winter: 8–22°C
- Monsoon rainfall: ~1200 mm

3. Flora Diversity

3.1 Major Tree Species

Sal, Bamboo, Teak, Mahua, Jamun, Piasal, Palash, Semal

3.2 Shrubs and Herbs

Kendu, Ber, Dhawai, and medicinal herbs

3.3 Grasslands

Grass patches support deer, hares, and porcupines.

4. Faunal Diversity

4.1 Mammals

Indian Elephant, Leopard, Barking Deer, Sloth Bear, Giant Squirrel, Wild Boar, Porcupine, Jungle Cat

4.2 Birds

Peafowl, Drongo, Oriole, Parakeets, Hornbills, Owls, Eagles, Woodpeckers

4.3 Reptiles

Python, Monitor Lizard, King Cobra, Rat Snake

4.4 Amphibians

Frogs and toads

4.5 Invertebrates

Butterflies, bees, beetles, spiders

5. Aquatic Biodiversity

Seasonal streams and Dimna Lake support fish, frogs, plants, and migratory birds.

6. Ecosystem Services

Groundwater regulation, soil protection, carbon storage, pollinator habitat, conflict buffer.

7. Threats

Habitat loss, conflict, poaching, fires, climate change.

8. Conservation Initiatives

Anti-poaching, waterholes, fire lines, afforestation, community programs, technology use.

9. Recommendations

Protect corridors, promote eco-tourism, strengthen community roles, habitat restoration.

10. Conclusion

Dalma is a vital ecological hotspot that must be protected for future generations.