



STATUS REPORT

Thajwas - Baltal Wildlife Sanctuary



**Department of Wildlife Protection
Jammu & Kashmir Government**

Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary

A Status Report

Introduction:

The Thajwas Baltal Wildlife Sanctuary was established in 1990 with an area of around 219.19 Km². The main faunal attraction of this area is the Musk deer. The sanctuary is connected with other important wildlife areas, like Aru, Upper Dachigam and the Sind forest.

Thajwas Baltal WLS is flanked by the large snow laden peaks of 'Sonamarg' and the Sindh River as well, which is famous for its trout and mahseer population. One of the main attractions of Thajwas is the Thajwas glacier, which is visited by tourists in the summer months.

Historical accounts of the wildlife sanctuary and adjoining areas document the presence of several wild species including the Hangul.

Description of the Tract:

Geographical coordinates/compartamental details/G. T. Sheet No.

Geographical Coordinates:

The sanctuary lies between 34° 37' N Latitude and 74° 29' to 74° 36' E Longitude and covers an altitudinal range of 3,015 M to 5,466 M.

Forest compartment NOs from 56/S to 62/S.

G.T. Sheet No's: 43 N/7

Location/Topography/Boundary/Area:

Thajwas Baltal Wildlife Sanctuary is located at a distance of 21 km North - East of Srinagar. Nearest Airport and Railhead stand 32 and 120 kms away respectively, in the Zaskar mountain range of North -West Himalayan Biogeographical zone. The mountain ranges enclosing Dachigam National Park and parts of the great Zaskar range, which forms the North-West branch of the Central Himalaya axis.

Boundary

North.....Sindh River
South.....Lidder Forest Division
East..... Zojila Pass
West..... Forest Division Sindh.

Area: 219.19 Km² (as Notified Vide S.R.O 156 dated 19-03-1987)

Climate and Rainfall:

The area experiences an irregular temperature climate with large inter-yearly variations in the precipitation amount, length of dry periods and their occurrences. Moderate temperature during summer and very low temperature during winter is experienced. The major part of precipitation in winter is mainly in the form of snow.

The temperature varies considerably depending upon the elevation and proximity to the hills. The moth wise distribution of rainfall at Prang is detailed below.

Month	Average rainfall (MM)
January	129.00
February	142.00
March	134.16
April	91.20
May	81.40
June	42.81
July	84.36
August	118.80
September	62.40
October	43.40
November	52.68
December	62.90
Total	1045.33
Average	87.11

Legal Status:

Thajwas WLS was declared vide Notification S.R.O 156 dated 19-03-1987.

Biodiversity:

Flora

The natural vegetation of Thajwas was found to be dominated mostly by a thick ground cover, constituted by numerous shrubs and herbs. Owing to the fact that most of this area is covered under thick snow, almost year round, very few tree species constitute the major assemblage. Of the one's present in the areas, *Abiespindrow*, *Betulaultilis*, *Juglansregia* and *Picea* sp. constitute the larger bulk of the tree assemblage. Among shrubs, several varieties of shrubs such as *IndigoferaHetranth*, *BerberiesLycicum*, and *Rosa Webbiana* constitute the shrub cover of the area.

Trees		Shrubs		Herbs	
Vernacular Name	Botanical Name	Vernacular name	Botanical Name	Vernacular name	Botanical Name
Budal / Fir	<i>Abiespindrow</i>	Kanthi	<i>Indigoferahetranth</i>	Beren	<i>Perseaduthiei</i>
Burza	<i>Betulaultilis</i>	Chanch	<i>Rubusfruticocus</i>	WapalHak	<i>Dipsacusinermis</i>
Rie	<i>Piceasmithiana</i>	Arwal	<i>Rosa webbiana</i>	Nora	<i>Skimmiaarborescens</i>
Kuchal	<i>Piceasmithiana</i>	Kaw dachh	<i>Berberislycicum</i>	Kouth	<i>Saussurea Costa</i>
		Kulmanch	<i>Viburnum grandiflorum</i>	Chit patri	<i>Thalictrumfoliolosum</i>
				Muskhala	<i>Valerianawallichii</i>
				Sochal	<i>Malvaparviflora</i>
				Watakram	<i>Lychniscoronaria</i>
				Mori	<i>Aconitum cashmanthum</i>
				Hand	<i>Cichoriumintybuslinn</i>
				Patis	<i>Aconitum heterophyllum</i>
				Kahzaban	<i>Arnebiabethamii wall</i>
				Guchies	<i>Morchellaesculenta</i>
				Morin/Tethwan	<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>
				jungliTethwan	<i>Artemisia moorcroftiana</i>
				Pamb-chalan	<i>Rheum emodi</i>
				Poodina.	<i>Menthaarvensis</i>
				Guri-dud	<i>Euphorbia wallachii Wall.</i>
				Sheethkar	<i>Fritillariaroylei Hook.</i>
				Dhupa	<i>JurineaCetoatocairBenth.</i>
				Mazarmund	<i>Iris hookeriana</i>
				Soi	<i>Urticadioica</i>
				Anjeer	<i>Ficuscarica</i>
				ladar/Drab	<i>Polygonumalpinum</i>
				Patar/Barru	<i>Skimmialaureola</i>
				Bazar Bang	<i>Hyoscyamus Niger linn</i>
				Ratijadi	<i>Ajugaparviflora</i>
				Rohun	<i>Allium Sativum</i>
				Uzm posh	<i>AndrosaceRotundifolia</i>

				HapatMakia	<i>Arisaema Jacquemontii</i>
				Bhang	<i>Cannabis sativa</i>
				Heleon	<i>Asparagus filicinus</i>
				GuriSochal	<i>Euphorbia Helioscopia</i>
				Bedmew	<i>Fragaria Nubicola</i>

Fauna

S.No.	Name	Scientific Name	Status
1	GreyLangur	<i>Semnopithecus ajax</i>	Occasional
2	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macacamulatta</i>	Common
3	Common Leopard	<i>Pantherapardus</i>	Occasional
4	Snow Leopard	<i>Unicaunica</i>	Rare
5	Leopard Cat	<i>Felisbengalensis</i>	Occasional
6	Golden Jackal	<i>Canisaureus</i>	Common
7	Red fox	<i>Vulpesvulpes</i>	Common
8	Himalayan Brown Bear	<i>Ursusarctos</i>	Occasional
9	Asiatic Black Bear	<i>Ursusthibetanus</i>	Common
10	Yellow throated Martin	<i>Martesflavigula</i>	Occasional
11	Long tailed Marmot	<i>Marmotacaudate</i>	Common
12	Royle'sPika	<i>Ochotonaroylei</i>	Common
13	Asiatic Ibex	<i>Capra sibirica</i>	Rare
14	Kashmir Musk Deer	<i>Moschuscupreus</i>	Rare

Ecological Sensitivity Primary Criteria.

Endemism (Particular Geographical Area):

Both rare and threatened species are endemic to the area and among the important faunal species; it includes the Musk Deer, Black Bear, Snow Leopard and Asiatic Ibex.

Rarity (presently not endangered or vulnerable)

Under this category animals include Asiatic Black Bear, Common Leopard, Himalayan yellow throated Marten, Himalayan Marmot, Koklas and Monal

Endangered Species (Facing High Risk of Extinction)

This mainly includes Himalayan Musk Deer, Serow, The Himalayan Brown Bear, The Snow Leopard, The Leopard Cat, Ibex, and The Red Fox.

Ecosystem based sensitivity

Specialized Eco-Systems (Complex and highly diversified):

Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary is highly diversified as highly specialized eco-systems and landscape are diversified habitats. These mainly comprise evergreen forests Scrub forests meadows are ecologically sensitive areas for protecting the fauna of the area.

Special Breeding Sites (Species Specific Areas):

The special breeding sites involving species specific are special eco-systems (Niches) within a broad spectrum of Thajwas- Ecosystem. These highly specialized niches are breeding sites of Ibex, Asiatic Black Bear, Himalayan Musk Deer, Brown Bear, Ibex snow Leopard and variety of Pheasants like Koklas and Monal etc.

Frontier Forests (Virgin forests with rich Bio-diversity)

This mainly includes areas highly rich in Biodiversity especially in the Sindh forests in the Zanskar Range and adjacent forests of Overa and Aru Wildlife Sanctuary.

Areas with intrinsically low Resilience

(Area susceptible to irreparable damage with minor disturbance)

This includes the area which remain under the occupancy of local nomadic grazers Which is a source of continued biotic interferences and minor disturbances.

Wildlife Corridors (Connecting Wildlife habitats for gene flow

The only Wildlife Protected Area connecting the Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary is Overa Aru Wildlife Sanctuary which encompasses an area of 511 Sq. km.

Steep Slopes: (Gradient nomenclature:0-3Flat/3-8 Gently sloping/8-15 sloping/15-25 Moderate steep/25-50 Steep/50-100 very steep/>100 extremely steep):

The topography of Thajwas wildlife Sanctuary is mostly Hilly, Cliffy

Origins of Rivers (Source-Glacier mountain, Hill or Spring):

The main Thajwasnallah drains into sindh River originates from Thajwas Glacier, besides perpetual glaciers do exist in the Wildlife Sanctuary Thajwas.

Species based Sensitivity:

IUCN Acceptance(Global Concern)/IWLPA/JKWLPA Acceptance (National Concern)

The Following animals found in Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary are of global concern and categorized as per IUCN Red Data Book.

S.No.	Species	Status	
		(IUCN)	JKWLP
1	Snow Leopard	Endangered	Schedule I
2	Himalayan Brown Bear	Least Concerned	Schedule I
3	Asiatic Ibex	Low Risk	Schedule I
4	Golden Eagle	Least Concerned	Schedule I
6	Himalayan Serow	Near threatened	Schedule I
7	Kashmir Muskdeer	Endangered	Schedule I
8	Common Leopard	Vulnerable	Schedule I

Risk/extinction/endangered/vulnerable:

The same as above 5(a).

Areas harboring Wild relatives or progenitors of domestic species:

Thajwas harbor important Wildlife Species and important wildlife corridors in the Sindh forest Division and Kashmir forest Division.

The Domestic species include the live stock populations reared by the local communities in the adjoining and fringes of the Sanctuary.

Auxiliary Criteria:

Centre's for less known food plants (Wild Progenitors of less known plants of potential food and horticultural value):

The Wildlife Sanctuary possess a variety of plants especially medicinal and a large number of fungi etc are yet to be inventoried and explored.

Grassland(Grassland eco-systems supported grass family-gaminoids and forbs)

Grasslands largely supporting the family gaminoids and forbs are confined in the lower and mid portions of the Wildlife Sanctuary.

Upper Catchment areas (Upper reaches where water is absorbed by the soil or drains into the river):

The upper catchment areas where water is absorbed by the soil or drains into the ThajwasNallah and Sindh River are Dubban, Hapathgund, Nowkan, Doomnar, Burzdook, Gadkote, sari path.

Slopes ranging between 10-20% are mainly seen in lower belt of the area likely Suthkery, Munkath, Wundaj and Serbal.

High rain fall areas (Area experiencing precipitation above 200cm/year).

The high rainfall areas are the upper portion of the Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary as compared to the lower areas. The major part of precipitation in winter is mainly in the form of snow.

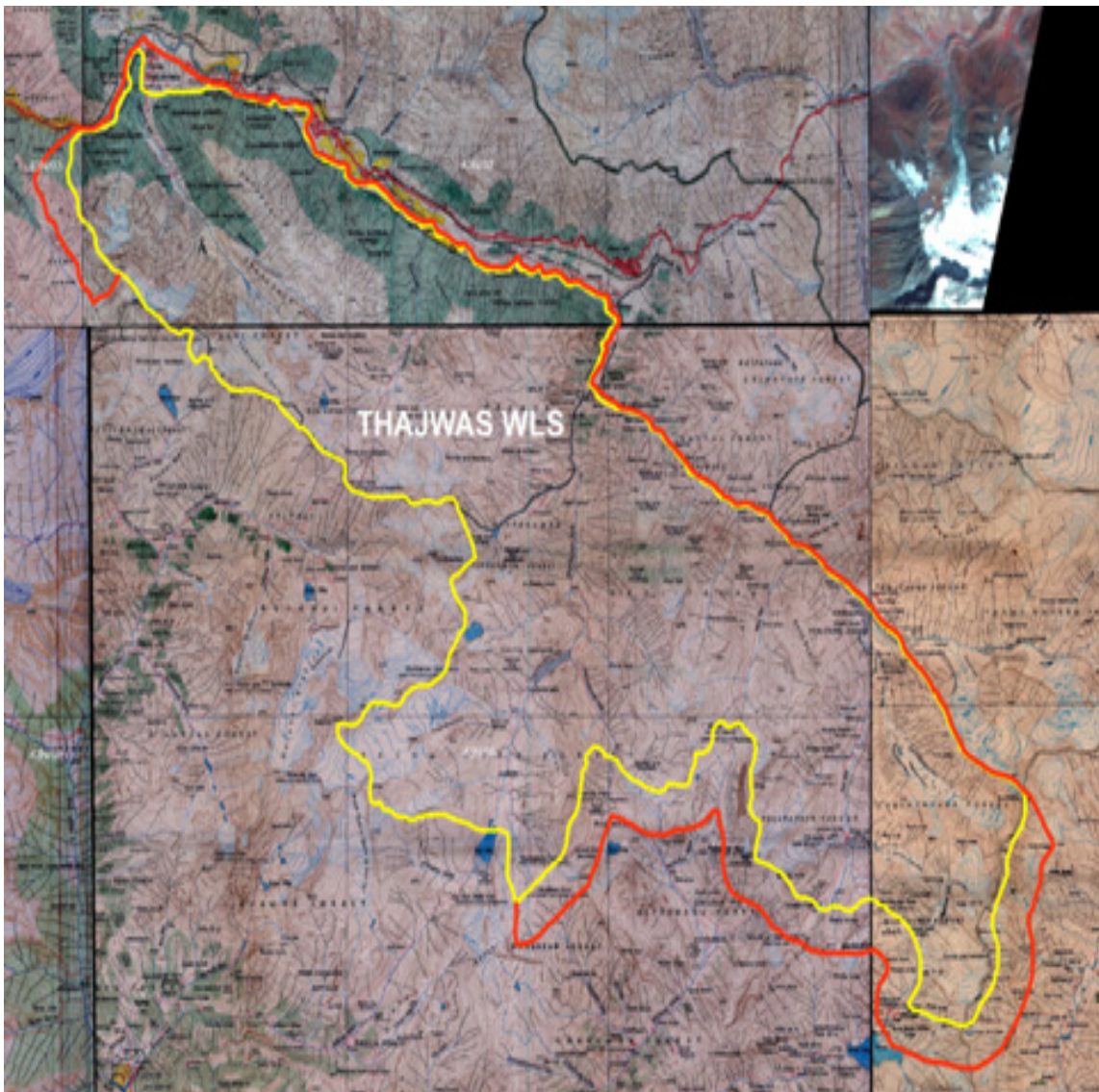
Ecological Significance:

Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary is the most important heritage representing a great biodiversity of flora and fauna. Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary is famous for harbouring a wide variety of animals such as Asiatic Black Bear, Brown Bear, Snow Leopard, Common Leopard, Musk Deer, Ibex, Serow. Birds like Monals, Koklas, Partridges, and Snow Cock etc. The famous tourist destination of Sonamarg is located on the fringe of the said Wildlife Sanctuary which also adds to its importance.

The Wildlife Sanctuary is a place of nature lovers, bird watchers, ecologist's researchers, and tourists from country and abroad. There are several glaciers in the area which attracts the local and non- local tourists. The Physiographical and topographical terrain of the Wildlife Sanctuary supporting a mesophytic vegetation of temperate conifers ,broad leaves are arranged in an altitudinal sequence up to alpine habitats makes it more unique for such a biological and ecological heritage and therefore calls upon its effective Conservation, Preservation and better propagation of Wildlife species to protect it for future generations.

Total Wildlife Area

S.No.	Name of Protected area	Area
1	Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary	219.19 Sq. Km
	Total	219 .19 Sq. Km



ECOSENSITIVE ZONES OF THAJAWAS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY WITH GEO-CORDINATES

