

PARSA WILDLIFE RESERVE

Parsa Wildlife Reserve with an area of 499 km², forms a contiguous protected landscape with the eastern boundary of Chitwan National Park. The Reserve is dominated with the Churiya Hills where soil is erodible. Water is scarce resulting in poor habitat conditions for wildlife. Of biodiversity, wild elephant population is estimated between 35-40 animals, a few tigers, a stable population of gaur and some nilgai. Other common wildlife species are leopard, sloth bear and several ungulate species.

Tourism is insignificant, despite a close neighbour to Chitwan. Also, the reserve faces weak linkages in cross-sectoral development. Crop damage by elephants around Rambhori Bhata, Sunbarsa and Amelkgunj is significant. Rhinos also cause crop damage in Ramauli Pratappur. In addition, wild pigs, chital and sambar also add to the problem for the settlements. Livestock depredation by large carnivores such as tiger and leopard are frequent. Although cattle grazing is prohibited, over grazing in the eastern section of the reserve is quite serious.

