

Biodiversity of West Bengal

From the famous Royal Bengal tiger that stalks its prey with legendary cunningness in the Gangetic delta of famous Sundarbans, to the one-horned Indian Rhinoceros grazing in the Terai grassland, the leopards lurking in the foothills of the Himalayas and Red Pandas resting in bamboo groves of Himalayas



The forests of this state has a rich assemblage of diverse habitats and vegetation designated with the help of eight different forest types. The diverse fauna and flora of West Bengal possess the combined characteristics of the Himalayan, sub-Himalayan and Gangetic plain.

Diversity is further reflected in different types of ecosystem available here like mountain ecosystem of the north, forest ecosystem extending over the major part of the state, freshwater ecosystem, semiarid ecosystem in the western part, mangrove ecosystem in the south and coastal marine ecosystem along the shoreline.



Number of Faunal species recorded in West Bengal

Ref. Sanyal, A. K., Allfred, J. R. B., Venkataraman, K. Tiwari, S. K. and Mitra, Sangita, 2012. *Status of Biodiversity of West Bengal. 1-969* (Pub. Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata).

Group	Number	Group	Number
Protozoa (Free living)	266	Dictyoptera	23
Protozoa { Symbiotic}	126	Isoptera	52
Protozoa (Parasitic)	743	Psocoptera	966
Porifera	16	Anoplula	73
Cnideria	23	Necoptera	3
Ctenophora	2	Coleoptera	1570
Centoda	93	Siphonoptera	13
Trmatoda (Others)	97	Strepsiptera	14
Trmatoda (Fish)	58	Pelaeastracha (Xiphosuz)	2
Rotifera	147	Arachnida (Spider)	409
Gastrotricha	24	Arachnida (Scorpiones)	14
Kinorhyncha	5	Ticks (Metastigmata)	32
Vertebrate Nematode	236	Astigmata (Mites)	33
Plant Nematode	70	Prostigmata (Mites)	282
Acanthocephala	15	Mesostigmata (Mites)	66
Sipuncula	3	Diplopoda	22
Mollusca (Fresh water & Land)	180	Chilopoda	9
Mollusca (Estuarine & Marine)	94	Phoronida	1
Echiura	3	Brachipoda	1
Annelida	68	Diptera	430
Fresh water Oligochaetes	194	Hemiptera	921
Crustacea	251	Bryazoa	9
Thysanura	9	Echnodermata	22
Collembola	15	Hemochordata	1
Diplura	1	Fishes (Marine)	403
Odonata	180	Fishes (Fresh water)	207
Plecoptera	210	Amphibia	39
Dermaptera	45	Reptilia	148
Ephemeroptera	17	Mammalia	188
Mantoda	35	Aves	245
Plasmida	28		

Floral diversity in West Bengal

Sl. No.	Name of Group	Total Number of Species
1	Algae – a. Marine Algae – b. Others –	658 50 608
2	Fungi –	860
3	Lichens –	510
4	Bryophyta –	642
5	Pteridophyta –	530
6	Gymnosperms –	21
7	Angiosperms – a. Monocots – b. Dicots –	4387 3237 1150
8	True Mangroves	32

15 Wildlife Sanctuaries and 6 National Parks, 2 Tiger Reserves- Buxa Tiger Reserve in North Bengal and Sundarban Tiger Reserve in South Bengal and One Biosphere Reserve in South Bengal are spread all over State for proper management of the Wildlife and the Bio-diversity of the State.

Protected Area Network

1.National Park	Area in Sq. Km.	Flagship Species	District
1. Singalila N.P.	78.60	Red Panda	Darjeeling
2. Neora Valley N.P.	88.00	Red Panda	Darjeeling
3. Buxa N.P.	117.10	Tiger	Alipurduar
4. Gorumara N.P.	79.45	Rhinoceros	Jalpaiguri
5. Sundarban N.P.	1330.10	Tiger	South-24 Parganas
6. Jaldapara N.P.	216.34	Rhinoceros	Alipurduar
2. Wildlife Sanctuary			
1. Jorepokhri W.L.S.	0.04	Salamander	Darjeeling
2. Senchal W.L.S.	38.88	Himalayan Black Bear	Darjeeling
3. Chapramari W.L.S.	9.60	Gaur	Jalpaiguri
4. Mahananda W.L.S.	158.04	Elephant	Darjeeling
5. Raiganj W.L.S.	1.30	Birds	North Dinajpur
6. Bethuadahari W.L.S.	0.6686	Spotted Deer	Nadia
7. Ballavpur W.L.S.	2.021	Spotted Deer	Birbhum
8. Ramnabagan W.L.S.	0.145	Spotted Deer	Bardhaman
9. Bibhutibhusan W.L.S.	0.64	Spotted Deer	North-24 Parganas
10. Chintamoni Kar Bird Sanctuary	0.07	Birds	S. 24 Parganas
11. Sajnakhali W.L.S.	362.40	Tiger	South-24 Parganas
12. Halliday Island W.L.S.	5.95	Crocodile	South-24 Parganas
13. Lothian Island W.L.S.	38.00	Crocodile	South-24 Parganas
14. Buxa W.L.S.	314.52	Tiger	Jalpaiguri
15. Pakhi Bitan (Bird Sanctuary)	14.09	Bird	Jalpaiguri