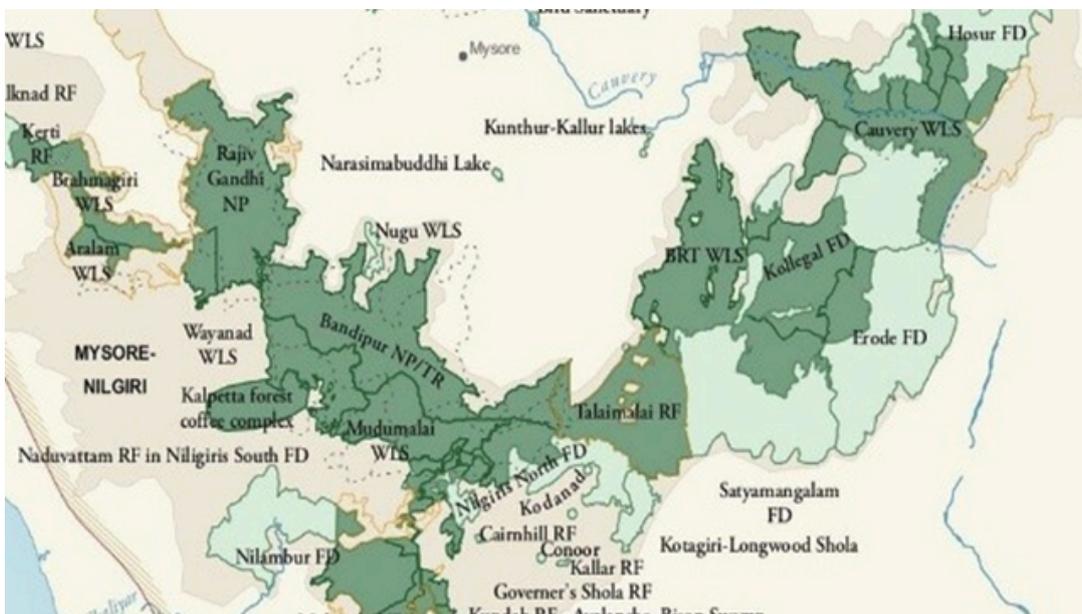


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Context: In Karnataka's Male Mahadeshwara (MM) Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, five tigers – a mother and her four cubs – were discovered deceased, prompting significant concerns regarding poisoning, wildlife conflicts, and deficiencies in tiger conservation efforts.



About Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary:

- Ø Situated in the Chamara Nagar district of Karnataka, close to the tri-junction of the Eastern Ghats encompassing Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.
- Ø Designated as a Wildlife Sanctuary in 2013, it is managed by the MM Hills Wildlife Division, which was previously known as the Kollegal Forest Division.

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Geography and Ecosystem:

- Encompasses an area of roughly 906 square kilometers.

Geographically connected to:

- BRT Tiger Reserve
- Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve

Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary

- The terrain features hill ranges, rolling valleys, and variations in altitude, resulting in diverse microhabitats.

Flora:

- Characterized by dry and moist deciduous forests, which transition to scrub at the edges.
- There are areas of semi-evergreen, evergreen, and shola forests at higher elevations.

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Fauna:

The sanctuary boasts a rich array of megafauna, including:

- Tigers, elephants, leopards, gaur, and wild dogs (dhole).
- Herbivorous species include sambar, barking deer, spotted deer, and four-horned antelope.
- Omnivores and other species present are sloth bears, wild boars, honey badgers, and langurs.
- Since 2013, the sanctuary has experienced a consistent increase in its tiger population.

Tiger Reserve Proposal:

It has yet to be officially designated as a Tiger Reserve, despite its ecological appropriateness.