

Biodiversity of Sikkim

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Agenda


- Introduction
- Flora of Sikkim
- Fauna of Sikkim





Introduction ³

Sikkim is a state in northeastern India. It borders the Tibet Autonomous Region of China on the north and northeast, Bhutan in the east, Nepal in the west, and West Bengal in the south. Sikkim is also close to India's Siliguri Corridor near Bangladesh. Sikkim is the least populous and second smallest among the Indian states. A part of the Eastern Himalaya, Sikkim is notable for its biodiversity, including alpine and subtropical climates, as well as being a host to Kanchenjunga, the highest peak in India and third highest on Earth. Sikkim's capital and largest city is Gangtok. Almost 35% of the state is covered by the Khangchendzonga National Park – a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

A scenic view of the Eastern Himalayan region, featuring snow-capped mountain peaks and a river valley. The image is split vertically by a white, torn-paper-like line. The left side shows a landscape with dark, forested mountains and a river valley under a clear blue sky. The right side is a solid black background with white text.

Sikkim situated in the Eastern Himalayan region with an area of 7,096 sq km and altitude ranging from 300 m to 8,586 m above sea level is a wonderful blessed land with natural abundance from icy cold deserts, flowering alpine meadows, to lush green forests and emerald mountain lakes. The crowning glory of this wonderland is undoubtedly the magnificent Mt. Kanchenjunga (8,586 m), the third highest mountain of the world. The mountain is not merely a physical entity but the abode of guardian deity whose benign watchfulness ensures peace and prosperity of the land.



Flora of Sikkim



Sikkim is home to around 5,000 species of flowering plants, 515 orchids, 60 primula species, 36 rhododendron species, 11 oak varieties, 23 bamboo varieties, 16 conifer species, 362 types of ferns and ferns allies, 8 tree ferns, and over 900 medicinal plants.

Orchids, figs, laurel, bananas, sal trees and bamboo grow in the Himalayan subtropical broadleaf forests of the lower altitudes of Sikkim. In the temperate elevations above 1,500 metres there are Eastern Himalayan broadleaf forests, where oaks, chestnuts, maples, birches, alders, and magnolias grow in large numbers, as well as Himalayan subtropical pine forests, dominated by Chir pine. Alpine-type vegetation is typically found between an altitude of 3,500 to 5,000 metres (11,500 to 16,400 ft.). In lower elevations are found juniper, pine, firs, cypresses and rhododendrons from the Eastern Himalayan subalpine conifer forests. Higher up are Eastern Himalayan alpine shrub and meadows and high-altitude wetlands, which are home to a wide variety of rhododendrons and wildflowers.



Flora of Sikkim





Fauna of Sikkim



The fauna of Sikkim include the snow leopard, musk deer, Himalayan marmot, Himalayan tahr, red panda, Himalayan serow, Himalayan goral, muntjac, common langur, Asian black bear, clouded leopard, marbled cat, leopard cat, dhole, Tibetan wolf, hog badger, binturong, and Himalayan jungle cat. Among the animals more commonly found in the alpine zone are yaks, mainly reared for their milk, meat, and as a beast of burden.

The avifauna of Sikkim includes the impeyan pheasant, crimson horned pheasant, snow partridge, Tibetan snowcock, bearded vulture and griffon vulture, as well as golden eagles, quails, plovers, woodcocks, sandpipers, pigeons, Old World flycatchers, babblers and robins. Sikkim has more than 550 species of bird, some of which have been declared endangered.



Fauna of Sikkim





Thank
you

