



Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary

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Context: The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has notified **Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS)** as an **Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)** to regulate activities around the sanctuary and its buffer areas.

Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs)

- **Legal Basis:** Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- **Purpose:** Act as a **transition zone** between highly protected areas (like wildlife sanctuaries and national parks) and areas with lesser protection.
- **Extent:** Usually **10 km from protected area boundary**, but may vary depending on site-specific requirements.

Significance:

- o Controls **pollution and industrial activities**
- o Protects **flora, fauna, and ecosystem services**
- o Promotes **sustainable development in adjoining areas**

About Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary (Established 1971)

- **Location:** Rajasthan
- o Spreads across **Rajsamand, Udaipur, and Pali districts**
- o Surrounds **Kumbhalgarh Fort** (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
- **Area:** 610.5 sq km
- **Topography:** Covers four hill and mountain ranges of the **Aravallis**: Kumbhalgarh Range, Sadri Range, Desuri Range, Bokhada Range

Biodiversity

Wildlife:

- **Mammals:** Leopard, striped hyena, jungle cat, Indian pangolin, blue bull (nilgai), chinkara
- **Significance:** Habitat for endangered and endemic species

Vegetation:

• **Forest Type:** Predominantly dry deciduous

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- **Dominant Trees:** Dhok, Salar, Khair, Churel