

India's 30th Elephant Reserve has been declared in the State of Nagaland

Government of Nagaland has declared Singphan Wildlife Sanctuary as "Singphan Elephant Reserve" with the approval of Government of India on 16th August 2018. The Singphan Elephant Reserve is the 30th Elephant reserve in the country and it is the important Reserve in the North Eastern States as it is a huge tract of forest, strategically located in contiguity with the Abhaypur Reserve Forest of Assam, frequented by the moving herds of elephants.

The state of Nagaland shares the international border with the country of Myanmar. The state is bounded by Assam in the North and west by Mayanmar and Arunachal Pradesh in the east and by Manipur in the south. The state is having lush green forests, rolling mountains, enchanting valleys, swift flowing streams and wonderful landscape. The altitude varies from 194 meters in the plains to 3058 meters in the hills. Elephant distribution habitat in the state of Nagaland is a continuous stretch starting from Peren district running all along the foothills north – westerly until it enters Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh. In fact, the elephants were found in great numbers. This stretch which is a traditional elephant bearing area got broken at various points as a result of which only few elephants are found isolated pockets without having permanent corridor. The creation of ER will give better protection and conservation of elephants in the state.

The Singphan Elephant Reserve is located in Mon district of Nagaland and spreads over an area of 5825 acres (2357 hac). It lies in the North-western part of the State of Nagaland, situated within geographical limits between 25^o 18" to 25^o 43" North Latitude and 93^o 15" to 93^o 43" east longitude. Its altitude varies from 200 to 672 m (msl). The Singphan Elephant Reserve is located at about 65 km from Mon, the district capital town of the State. This forms an important forest connecting the fragmented and isolated patches of forests in the States of Nagaland and Assam. With diverse flora and fauna of the State, this part of the forests which comprises both plain and hilly areas is characterized by moist deciduous evergreen vegetations.

The declaration of the Singphan Elephant Reserve in the State of Nagaland will boost the elephant conservation in the country especially north eastern region. As per recent census report (2017) the state of Nagaland has population of around 446 elephants. The creation of new Elephant Reserve will result in protection and conservation of the elephant population and also ensure that this population remains healthy and viable.