

Natural Heritage of Jhalana Leopard Safari: A Flora and Fauna Survey

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Abstract

Biodiversity, encompassing all forms of life including plants, animals, and microorganisms across terrestrial, aquatic, and marine ecosystems, is a fundamental indicator of ecological health. Measured primarily in terms of species diversity, it reflects the richness and complexity of different habitats, from dense forests to urban landscapes. Each species—whether domesticated or wild—plays a unique role in sustaining ecological processes such as nutrient cycling, hydrological regulation, and food chain stability. For rural communities, biodiversity also serves as a direct source of food, medicine, shelter, and livelihood, while offering immense cultural, aesthetic, and recreational value that transcends monetary evaluation. However, increasing threats such as habitat loss, environmental degradation, and bio piracy highlight the urgent need to recognize, document, and conserve local biological resources. This paper emphasizes the importance of understanding biodiversity at the local level, both to appreciate its ecological and socio-economic significance and to ensure its protection for future generations.

Keywords: Natural Heritage, Jhalana Leopard Safari Park, Flora and Fauna Survey.

Introduction

Jhalana Leopard Safari Park, located in Jaipur, Rajasthan, is a renowned urban wildlife habitat that showcases a rich blend of biodiversity within a relatively small protected area. Spread over approximately 23 square kilometers, the park is home to a thriving population of leopards and supports a wide variety of other fauna, including striped hyenas, desert foxes, jackals, jungle cats, and numerous species of reptiles. Equally significant is its diverse flora, ranging from dry deciduous trees like Dhonk (*Anogeissus pendula*) and Khejri (*Prosopis cineraria*) to a variety of shrubs, grasses, and medicinal plants that form the foundation of the park's ecosystem.

The park serves not only as an important refuge for wildlife but also as a living laboratory for ecological study and conservation awareness. Its location within the Aravalli hills provides a unique mix of rocky outcrops, scrub forests, and grasslands, offering varied habitats that sustain a rich spectrum of life. A flora and fauna survey of Jhalana Leopard Safari Park is vital to understanding its ecological significance, documenting species diversity, and promoting strategies for sustainable management and preservation of this natural heritage. This study aims to systematically record and analyze the plant and animal species present in the park, thereby contributing to the broader understanding of urban biodiversity conservation.

Biodiversity encompasses the entire variety of living organisms, including plants, animals, and microorganisms, found across terrestrial, aquatic, and marine ecosystems. It is most often measured in terms of biological species, which serve as the fundamental unit—or “currency”—of biodiversity. Species occur in all types of landscapes, though their abundance and variety differ significantly. Forest ecosystems typically support a greater number of species compared to farmlands, semi-urban, or urban areas, and the composition of species also varies across ecosystems and ecological zones.

In any given landscape, species may exist as domesticated crop plants or farm animals, or in their wild forms, forming a complex ecological mosaic. These biological organisms are valuable natural resources for both the present and the future, providing food, medicine, shelter, and opportunities for recreation or aesthetic appreciation. For many rural communities, biodiversity forms the backbone of their livelihoods. Beyond its material benefits, biodiversity has immense cultural, aesthetic, and recreational significance, which cannot be quantified in monetary terms. Understanding biodiversity is therefore essential for ensuring the survival and well-being of future generations.

Countless plants and animals around us play critical roles in maintaining nutrient cycles, regulating the hydrological balance, and sustaining food chains through the ecosystem services they provide—often without our awareness. Recognizing the equal importance of all species is crucial, especially in the face of rising global biopiracy. Greater awareness and documentation of the biological resources in our surroundings is an important step towards protecting them and ensuring the continued health of our ecosystems.

Materials and Methods

Study Area

The study was conducted from November 2023 to November 2024 at Jhalana Leopard Safari Park, located between 26°50'13" N, 75°50'13" E at the southern tip and 26°54'05" N, 75°51'03" E in the north; and 516 m above sea level (ASL), in the southeast corner of Jaipur city, India (Figure 1). The Jhalana Leopard Safari Park was declared a reserve forest in 1961 under the Rajasthan Forest Act of 1953, encompassing a total area of 29 km². In 2017, it was designated as a leopard reserve. During the 1980s, *Acacia tortilis* and *A. senegal* were planted in the central valley. Most ephemeral streams flow south-westerly, while higher elevations in the north form low, flat hills. Elevation in the plains ranges from 280 m in the south to 530 m in the northeast. The Jhalana Leopard Safari Park lacks defined buffer or core areas, and a 2-m-high wall with a 3-m-high fence separates the forest area from surrounding neighborhoods and villages. A semi-arid tropical dry deciduous forest characterizes the Jhalana Leopard Safari Park. Tourist access is permitted through Jeep safaris on three designated routes. Due to the continuous interface between the forest and human habitats and its recent designation as a forest reserve, human encroachments into the reserve are common, as are wildlife incursions into adjacent villages and urban areas.

Instruments Used:

The instrument used was the Olympus 8×40 DPS Binoculars. Binoculars are a pair of telescopes that are positioned next to each other and adjusted to face the same direction. The most crucial factor is compactness. The device must possess ergonomic design for ease of handling. All binoculars possess a pair of two digits that indicate their specifications, sometimes preceded by a letter code such as B or GA. The initial figures denote the magnification, typically ranging from 7X to 10X. For general bird watching, smaller magnification binoculars with a power of 7X or 8X are typically employed. As the magnification decreases, the image becomes brighter and the field of view becomes wider.

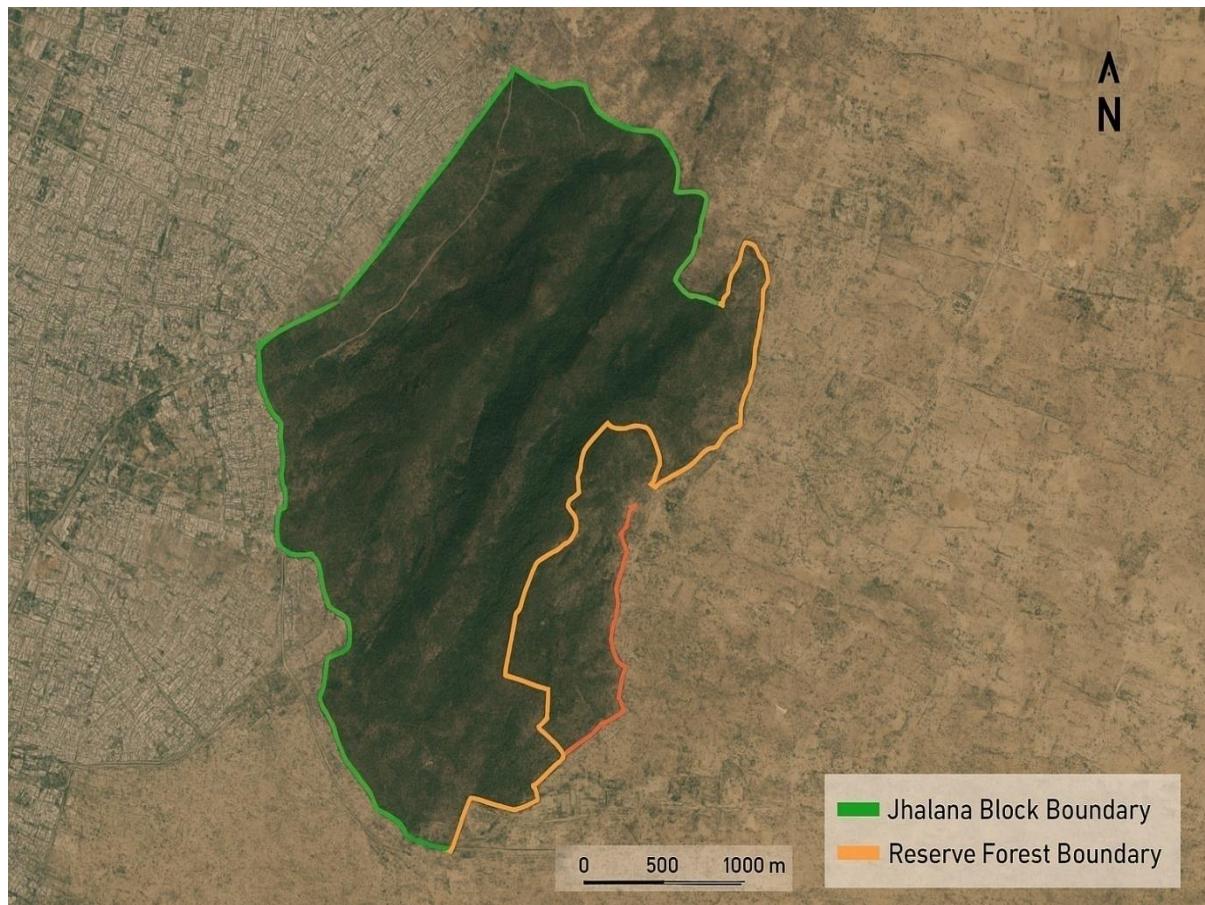


Figure 1: The location of the Jhalana Leopard Safari Park in Rajasthan, India. The red line marks the official boundaries of the Jhalana Leopard Safari Park, and the yellow line marks the fence around the forest areas.

Table 1: Information of Study Area

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Name of the Place | Jhalana Leopard Safari |
| Tehsil | Sanganer |
| District | Jaipur |
| State | Rajasthan |
| Area of the Premise | Approximately 20 square kilometers |
| Geographical Location | 26°53'52.2" N latitude, 75°50'58.6" E longitude |
| Altitude | ~430 meters above sea level |
| Habitat & Topography | Urban forest; Aravalli hills, rocky and scrub terrain |

Methodology

Documenting all forms of life is beyond the scope of the project. Here documentation of only broad groups of floral and faunal diversity has been attempted. To document plants and

animals of the campus format of Peoples Biodiversity Register (PBR) provided by National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) with modification has been followed.

The documentation of species in the present study is based solely on visual observations. The effort has been limited to recording the names of plant and animal species, without any quantitative assessment. For plant documentation, four major categories have been identified based on their utility: ornamental plants, timber-yielding plants, fruit-bearing plants, and medicinal plants. For animals, broad taxonomic groups have been recognized, including mammals, birds, reptiles, and insects.

Regular field surveys were made in the study area during the year 2023 and 2024 in different seasons i.e., rainy, winter and summer to collect the wild plants. Field visits were made with the informants for collection of specimens. Identification of the collected specimens was made with the help of flora of Upper Gangetic plains Duthie (1903-1929), Flora of Indian Desert Bhandari (1990), Flora of Rajasthan-vol. 1-3 Sheety and Singh (1987-93). Ethnobotanical information on wild plants was collected by interviewing local inhabitants based on a structured questionnaire to collect on local plant names, uses, part used and mode of utilization. In case of medicinal plant species, the respondents were also asked about the plant parts used and the local uses of medicinal plant species selected by them as the priority species. All the documentation of species is based on the visual observation. Attempt has been made only to document the names of the plant and animals and not quantify. For documentation of plants, four major categories have been recognized on the utility of plants as ornamentals, timber plants, fruit plants and medicinal plants. For animals broad groups such as mammals, birds, reptiles and insects have been recognized.

Results

1. Floral Diversity:

The Jhalana Leopard Safari Park in Jaipur boasts rich floral diversity, featuring a mix of native and ornamental plants that thrive across its dry deciduous forests, scrublands, and grasslands. The park is home to flowering trees like **Cassia fistula** (Golden Shower Tree) and **Plumeria rubra** (Frangipani), shrubs such as **Hibiscus rosa-sinensis** and **Ixoracoccinea**, climbers like **Bougainvillea glabra**, and herbs including **Amaranthus tricolor**. These plants not only enhance the visual appeal of the landscape with their vibrant colors and fragrances but also provide vital ecological services by attracting pollinators, offering fruits and seeds for birds and small mammals, and supporting insects. This diverse flora forms the foundation of the park's ecosystem, sustaining its rich faunal diversity and maintaining ecological balance.

The study came to document nearly 40 species of wild plants of economic uses (table 2). Analysis of taxonomic group of plants revealed that a total of 40 wild plants species belonging to 33 genera and 21 families are documented (figure 2). Analysis of habits (figure 3) of plants documented shows that trees share the largest proportion with 23 species (57%). Many wild plants are used by the local inhabitants for their day to day requirements of fodder, fuel, timber, agricultural tools and miscellaneous items. Among the 40 species, 26 are

followed by shrub with 6 species (15%), along with herb with 7 species (18%) and climber with 4 species (10%) used as medicinal, 15 species are edible, 6 species used as fodder, 5 species used as fuel and 1 species is used a timber (figure 4).

Table 2: List of Wild Plants of the Study Area

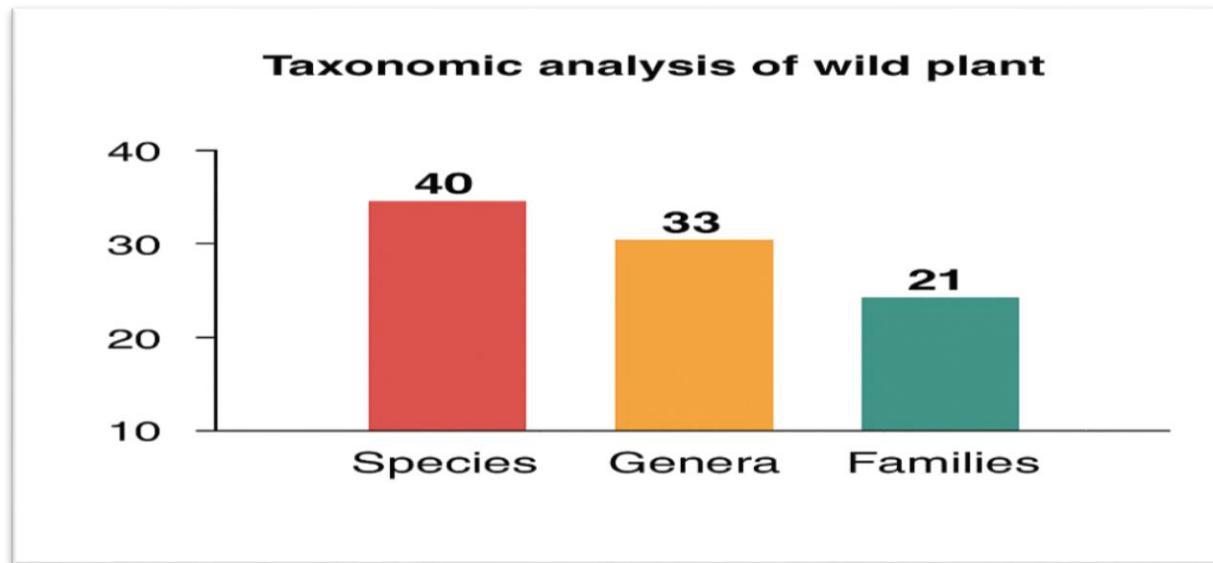
| S. No. | Botanical Name | Local Name | Family | Habit | Uses |
|--------|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-------|---|
| 1 | Acacia catechu Willd. | Khair | Mimosaceae | Tree | Wood – edible; bark – astringent, bactericide, skin infections; leaves and young shoots as fodder |
| 2 | Acacia leucophloea Roxb. | Ronjh | Mimosaceae | Tree | Leaves as fodder |
| 3 | Acacia nilotica Linn. | Babool | Mimosaceae | Tree | Bark and leaf paste for healing wounds and cuts; fuelwood |
| 4 | Acacia senegal Willd. | Khairi | Mimosaceae | Tree | Seeds – edible |
| 5 | Acacia tortilis (Forsk.) Hayne | IsrailiBabool | Mimosaceae | Tree | Used as fuelwood |
| 6 | Anogeissus latifolia Wall. | Dhavada | Combretaceae | Tree | Bark – antifungal, antibacterial, anti-inflammatory; wood as timber and fuel; leaves and young shoots as fodder |
| 7 | Anogeissus pendula Endgew | Dhok | Combretaceae | Tree | Used as fuelwood; leaves and young shoots as fodder |
| 8 | Azadirachta indica L. | Neem | Meliaceae | Tree | Fruits – edible; leaf, flower, bark, stem – antioxidant, antifungal, antidiabetic, antibacterial, |

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|----|--------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|------|---|
| | | | | | blood purification |
| 9 | <i>Bauhinia racemosa</i> Lamk. | Jhinja | Caesalpiniaceae | Tree | Young flower buds as vegetable; good fodder |
| 10 | <i>Bombax ceiba</i> Linn. | Samel | Malvaceae | Tree | Young fruits – edible |
| 11 | <i>Boswellia serrata</i> Roxb. | Salar | Bursaraceae | Tree | Bark, stem, leaves, flowers – anti-arthritic, used in cold and fever, anti-inflammatory, antifungal |
| 12 | <i>Diospyros melanoxylon</i> Roxb. | Tendu | Ebenaceae | Tree | Leaves and young shoot as fodder |
| 13 | <i>Emblica officinalis</i> Gaerth | Awla | Euphorbiaceae | Tree | Fruits – edible, medicinal – used in diabetes, cardiac complications, antioxidant, dental treatment |
| 14 | <i>Holoptelia integrifolia</i> Roxb. | Churel, Papdi | Ulmaceae | Tree | Fruits – edible; leaves – antioxidant, antidiabetic |
| 15 | <i>Mitragyna parviflora</i> Roxb. | Korth Kadam | Rubiaceae | Tree | Leaves – anti-inflammatory, used in liver disorders |
| 16 | <i>Moringa oleifera</i> Lamk. | Shaijana | Moringaceae | Tree | Fruits – edible; roots and stem used in swellings, tumours, and rheumatic pain |
| 17 | <i>Prosopis cineraria</i> Linn. | Khajedi | Mimosaceae | Tree | Leaves, seeds, fruits – used as |

| | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------|--|
| | | | | | vegetable; flowers, bark, leaves – antidiabetic, antibacterial, used in bronchitis, asthma, dysentery; fuelwood |
| 18 | <i>Prosopis juliflora</i> Sw. DC. | Vilayati Babool | Mimosaceae | Tree | Used as fuelwood; good fodder |
| 19 | <i>Salvadora persica</i> Linn. | Jal | Salvadoraceae | Tree | Bark and seeds – gastric troubles, skin infections |
| 20 | <i>Sapindus emarginatus</i> Vahl | Aritha | Sapindaceae | Tree | Fruits used in treatment of asthma, dysentery, and during childbirth |
| 21 | <i>Tamarindus indica</i> Linn. | Imli | Leguminosae | Tree | Fruits – edible |
| 22 | <i>Tecomella undulata</i> G. Don | Rohida | Bignoniaceae | Tree | Roots used in treatment of leucorrhoea in females; bark cures eczema and eruptions |
| 23 | <i>Wrightia tinctoria</i> Roxb. R.Br. | Khirani | Apocynaceae | Tree | Flower – antibacterial, antioxidant |
| 24 | <i>Argemone mexicana</i> Linn. | Satyanashi | Papaveraceae | Herb | Whole plant – antimicrobial, antidiabetic, antioxidant |
| 25 | <i>Cannabis sativa</i> Linn. | Bhang | Papilionaceae | Herb | Aerial part – used for ringworm, analgesic, sedative |
| 26 | <i>Evolvulus alsinoides</i> Linn. | Shankh Pushpi | Convolvulaceae | Herb | Whole plant for treatment of |

| | | | | | |
|----|---|---------------------|----------------|---------|--|
| | | | | | fever, neurological disorders |
| 27 | <i>Achyranthes aspera</i> Linn. | Onga | Amaranthaceae | Herb | Whole plant – antiparasitic, anticancer, anti- inflammatory, anti-depressant |
| 28 | <i>Ocimum americanum</i> L. | Van Tulsi | Lamiaceae | Herb | Leaves for fever, cough, and cold |
| 29 | <i>Solanum nigrum</i> Linn. | Makoi | Solanaceae | Herb | Fruits – edible |
| 30 | <i>Xanthium strumarium</i> Linn. | Aadhashishi | Compositae | Herb | Leaves and roots – anodyne, antirheumatic, appetizer, diuretic |
| 31 | <i>Cactus opuntia</i> Linn. | Thapla, Thor | Cactaceae | Shrub | Fruits – edible |
| 32 | <i>Adhatoda vasica</i> Nees | Adusa | Acanthaceae | Shrub | Leaves, flowers – used for bronchitis and asthma |
| 33 | <i>Calotropis procera</i> Ait. R.Br. | Ankda | Asclepiadaceae | Shrub | Leaves – used for scorpion bite |
| 34 | <i>Rhus mysorensis</i> Don. | Darsan, Dhansale | Anacardiaceae | Shrub | Fruits – edible |
| 35 | <i>Tridax procumbens</i> Linn. | Molya, Mahendi | Compositae | Shrub | Leaves – antifungal, anticoagulant, insect repellent |
| 36 | <i>Zizyphus nummularia</i> Wt. & Arn | Jhadbair | Rhamnaceae | Shrub | Fruits – edible; Leaves – used in treatment of various skin diseases |
| 37 | <i>Cocculus hirsutus</i> Linn. | Peelwani | Menispermaceae | Climber | Leaves to treat skin infections |
| 38 | <i>Cuscuta reflexa</i> Roxb. | Amarbail | Convolvulaceae | Climber | Whole plant for urinary disorders, cough, |

| | | | | | |
|----|---|--------------|----------------|---------|--|
| | | | | | muscle pain, and as blood purifier |
| 39 | <i>Abrus precatorius</i> Linn. | Rati, Chirmi | Papilionaceae | Climber | Seed powder is given to cattle to treat constipation |
| 40 | <i>Tinospora cordifolia</i> Thunb. Miers | Neem Giloy | Menispermaceae | Climber | Stem used for diabetes, rhinitis, and to boost immune system |

**Figure 2: Taxonomic Analysis of Wild Plants****Habit wise Distribution of Wild Plants of Study Area**

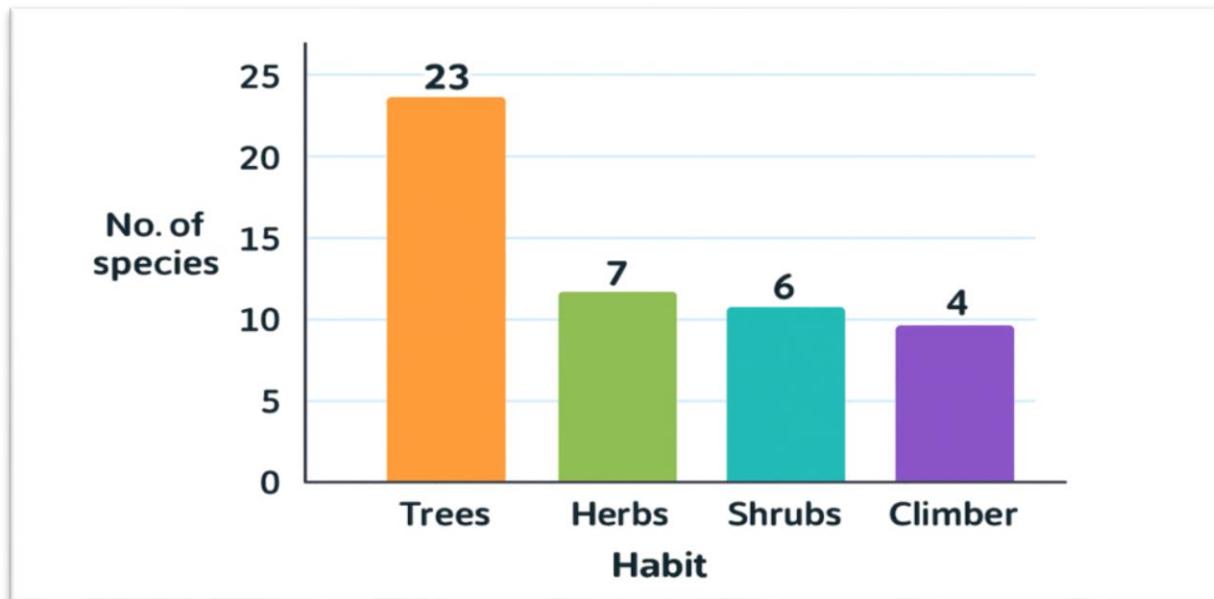


Figure 3: Habit wise Distribution of Wild Plants of Study Area

Multipurpose Utility of Wild Plants in Study Area

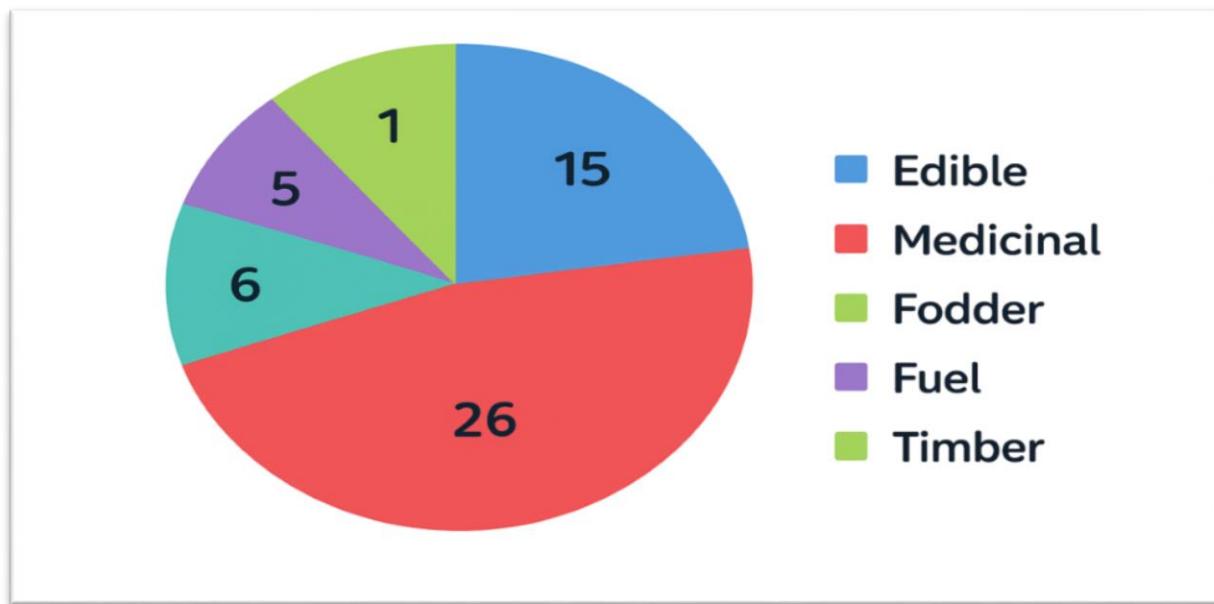


Figure 4: Multipurpose Utility of Wild Plants in Study Area

2. Faunal Diversity:

The Jhalana Leopard Safari Park, Jaipur hosts diverse fauna across mammals, birds, reptiles, and insects. Apex predators like leopards, smaller carnivores, and herbivores such as sambar and nilgai coexist with over 200 bird species, snakes, lizards, turtles, and various insects. These

species maintain ecological balance through predator-prey interactions, pollination, seed dispersal, and nutrient cycling, making Jhalana a key biodiversity hotspot.

Mammals: The Jhalana Leopard Safari Park, Jaipur hosts over 30 mammal species, including apex predators like leopards, smaller carnivores such as jungle cats and jackals, and herbivores like sambar, chital, nilgai, and wild boar. Other mammals like hares, porcupines, and rodents add to ecosystem complexity, playing key roles in predator-prey balance, seed dispersal, and habitat maintenance.

Table 3: Mammals of the Jhalana Leopard Safari Park, Jaipur

| S. No. | Local / Common Name | Scientific Name | Order | IUCN Status | Feeding Habits |
|--------|---------------------|---|-----------|-----------------|--|
| 1 | Leopard | <i>Panthera pardus fusca</i> | Carnivora | Vulnerable | Carnivore — large prey (ungulates, deer, etc.) |
| 2 | Striped Hyena | <i>Hyaena hyaena</i> | Carnivora | Near Threatened | Scavenger / carnivore (carcasses, small animals) |
| 3 | Golden Jackal | <i>Canis aureus</i> | Carnivora | Least Concern | Omnivore — small mammals, birds, insects, fruit |
| 4 | Desert Fox | <i>Vulpes vulpes pusilla</i> | Carnivora | Least Concern | Carnivore & insectivore — small prey, insects |
| 5 | Jungle Cat | <i>Felis chaus</i> | Carnivora | Least Concern | Carnivore — rodents, birds, lizards |
| 6 | Desert Cat | <i>Felis lybica / Felis lybica ornata</i> | Carnivora | Least Concern | Carnivore — small mammals, birds, reptiles |
| 7 | Indian Civet | <i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i> | Carnivora | Least Concern | Omnivore — fruits, small vertebrates, insects |
| 8 | Small Indian | <i>Herpestes auropunctatus</i> | Carnivora | Least Concern | Carnivore / insectivore — |

| | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---|
| | Mongoose | | | | snakes, insects, small rodents |
| 9 | Nilgai (Blue Bull) | <i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i> | Artiodactyla | Least Concern | Herbivore — grasses, leaves, pods |
| 10 | Spotted Deer (Chital) | <i>Axis axis</i> | Artiodactyla | Least Concern | Herbivore — grass, foliage, fruits |
| 11 | Sambar Deer | <i>Rusa unicolor</i> | Artiodactyla | Vulnerable | Herbivore — grasses, leaves, sometimes aquatic plants |
| 12 | Wild Boar | <i>Sus scrofa</i> | Artiodactyla | Least Concern | Omnivore — roots, tubers, small animals, plant material |
| 13 | Indian Hare | <i>Lepus nigricollis</i> | Lagomorpha | Least Concern | Herbivore — grasses, herbs |
| 14 | Hanuman Langur | <i>Semnopithecus entellus</i> | Primates | Least Concern | Herbivore / Frugivore — leaves, fruit, flowers |
| 15 | Porcupine | <i>Hystrix indica</i> | Rodentia | Least Concern | Herbivore — roots, tubers, bark, fruit |
| 16 | Indian Palm Civet | <i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i> | Carnivora | Least Concern | Omnivore — small animals, fruits, insects |
| 17 | Blue Bull (same as Nilgai) | <i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i> | Artiodactyla | Least Concern | Herbivore — grasses, leaves, pods |
| 18 | Golden Jackal | <i>Canis aureus</i> | Carnivora | Least Concern | Omnivore — small mammals |

Birds: The Jhalana Leopard Safari Park in Jaipur is home to more than 200 species of birds, making it a vibrant destination for birdwatchers and nature lovers. Its dry deciduous forests, grasslands, and water bodies attract both resident and migratory birds. Commonly sighted species include peafowl, partridges, doves, woodpeckers, bee-eaters, and rollers, while raptors such as shikras, crested serpent eagles, and owlets add to the park's diversity. Colorful passerines like sunbirds, bulbuls, flycatchers, and drongos are frequently observed, and in winter the park also hosts migratory visitors including wagtails and warblers. This avian

diversity not only enriches the park's ecosystem but also supports ecological functions like pollination, seed dispersal, and insect control.

Table 4: Birds of the Jhalana Leopard Safari Park, Jaipur

| S. N o. | Local / Common Name | Scientific Name | Order | IUCN Status | Feeding Habits / Manners |
|---------|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|---------------|---|
| 1 | Indian Peafowl | <i>Pavo cristatus</i> | Galliformes | Least Concern | Omnivore — grains, seeds, insects, small reptiles |
| 2 | Grey Francolin | <i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i> | Galliformes | Least Concern | Omnivore — seeds, insects, small invertebrates |
| 3 | Jungle Bush Quail | <i>Perdicula asiatica</i> | Galliformes | Least Concern | Granivore/Insectivore — seeds and insects |
| 4 | Rock Pigeon | <i>Columba livia</i> | Columbiformes | Least Concern | Granivore — seeds, grains, human scraps |
| 5 | Eurasian Collared-Dove | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> | Columbiformes | Least Concern | Granivore — seeds, grains, fruits |
| 6 | Laughing Dove | <i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i> | Columbiformes | Least Concern | Granivore — seeds, grains |
| 7 | Little Grebe | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> | Podicipediformes | Least Concern | Piscivore/Insectivore — small fish, aquatic insects |
| 8 | Black Kite | <i>Milvus migrans</i> | Accipitriformes | Least Concern | Scavenger/Carnivore — carrion, small vertebrates, food scraps |
| 9 | White-eyed Buzzard | <i>Butastur teesa</i> | Accipitriformes | Least Concern | Carnivore — small mammals, reptiles, large insects |
| 10 | Shikra | <i>Accipiter badius</i> | Accipitriformes | Least Concern | Carnivore — small birds, rodents, lizards |
| 11 | Eurasian Sparrowhawk | <i>Accipiter nisus</i> | Accipitriformes | Least Concern | Carnivore — small birds |
| 12 | Common Kestrel | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> | Falconiformes | Least Concern | Carnivore — insects, small mammals, reptiles |
| 13 | Peregrine Falcon | <i>Falco peregrinus</i> | Falconiformes | Least Concern | Carnivore — medium-sized birds, sometimes bats |
| 14 | Oriental Honey Buzzard | <i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i> | Accipitriformes | Least Concern | Omnivore — mainly wasp/bee larvae, also small vertebrates |
| 15 | Egyptian Vulture | <i>Neophron percnopterus</i> | Accipitriformes | Endangered | Scavenger — carrion, bone fragments, eggs |

| | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---|
| 16 | Long-billed Vulture / Indian Vulture | <i>Gyps indicus</i> | Accipitriformes | Critically Endangered | Scavenger — carrion |
| 17 | White-rumped Vulture | <i>Gyps bengalensis</i> | Accipitriformes | Critically Endangered | Scavenger — carrion |
| 18 | Red-headed Vulture | <i>Sarcogyps calvus</i> | Accipitriformes | Critically Endangered | Scavenger — carrion |
| 19 | Crested Serpent Eagle | <i>Spilornis cheela</i> | Accipitriformes | Least Concern | Carnivore — snakes, lizards, small mammals |
| 20 | Osprey | <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> | Accipitriformes | Least Concern | Piscivore — fish (seen near water bodies) |
| 21 | Indian Roller | <i>Coracias benghalensis</i> | Coraciiformes | Least Concern | Insectivore — large insects, small vertebrates |
| 22 | White-throated Kingfisher | <i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i> | Coraciiformes | Least Concern | Carnivore — fish, frogs, insects, small reptiles |
| 23 | Pied Kingfisher | <i>Ceryle rudis</i> | Coraciiformes | Least Concern | Piscivore — fish |
| 24 | Common Kingfisher | <i>Alcedo atthis</i> | Coraciiformes | Least Concern | Piscivore — small fish |
| 25 | Hoopoe | <i>Upupa epops</i> | Bucerotiformes | Least Concern | Insectivore — ground insects, larvae |
| 26 | Indian Grey Hornbill | <i>Ocyceros birostris</i> | Bucerotiformes | Least Concern | Frugivore/omnivore — figs, fruits, insects |
| 27 | Coppersmith Barbet | <i>Psilopogon haemacephala</i> | Piciformes | Least Concern | Frugivore/insectivore — fruits (figs), insects |
| 28 | Brown-headed Barbet | <i>Psilopogon zeylanicus</i> | Piciformes | Least Concern | Frugivore — fruits, figs, insects |
| 29 | Common Sandpiper | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> | Charadriiformes | Least Concern | Insectivore/piscivore — aquatic insects, small fish |
| 30 | Little Stint | <i>Calidris minuta</i> | Charadriiformes | Least Concern | Invertebrate feeder — small aquatic invertebrates |
| 31 | Little Ringed Plover | <i>Charadrius dubius</i> | Charadriiformes | Least Concern | Insectivore — aquatic and shoreline invertebrates |
| 32 | Black-headed Gull | <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> | Charadriiformes | Least Concern | Omnivore — fish, invertebrates, human food scraps |
| 33 | River Tern | <i>Sterna aurantia</i> | Charadriiformes | Near Threatened | Piscivore — small fish |

| | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| 34 | Little Cormorant | Microcarbo niger | Suliformes | Least Concern | Piscivore — fish |
| 35 | Indian Cormorant | Phalacrocorax fuscicollis | Suliformes | Least Concern | Piscivore — fish |
| 36 | Spot-billed Pelican | Pelecanus philippensis | Pelecaniformes | Near Threatened | Piscivore — fish (in flocks in wetlands) |
| 37 | Painted Stork | Mycteria leucocephala | Ciconiiformes | Near Threatened | Piscivore — fish, amphibians |
| 38 | Asian Open bill | Anastomus oscitans | Ciconiiformes | Least Concern | Molluscivore — snails, aquatic prey |
| 39 | Common Teal | Anas crecca | Anseriformes | Least Concern | Herbivore/omnivore — aquatic plants, invertebrates |
| 40 | Northern Shoveler | Spatula clypeata | Anseriformes | Least Concern | Filter-feeder — aquatic invertebrates and seeds |
| 41 | Garganey | Spatula querquedula | Anseriformes | Least Concern | Omnivore — aquatic invertebrates, seeds |
| 42 | Ruddy Shelduck | Tadorna ferruginea | Anseriformes | Least Concern | Herbivore/omnivore — plants, small aquatic animals |
| 43 | Spot-billed Duck | Anas poecilorhyncha | Anseriformes | Least Concern | Omnivore — aquatic plants, invertebrates |
| 44 | Little Egret | Egretta garzetta | Pelecaniformes | Least Concern | Piscivore/Insectivore — fish, amphibians, insects |
| 45 | Cattle Egret | Bubulcus ibis | Pelecaniformes | Least Concern | Insectivore — insects stirred up by cattle |
| 46 | Great Egret | Ardea alba | Pelecaniformes | Least Concern | Piscivore — fish, amphibians |
| 47 | Grey Heron | Ardea cinerea | Pelecaniformes | Least Concern | Piscivore — fish, amphibians, crustaceans |
| 48 | Indian Pond Heron | Ardeola grayii | Pelecaniformes | Least Concern | Piscivore/Insectivore — fish, insects |
| 49 | Night Heron (Black-crowned) | Nycticorax nycticorax | Pelecaniformes | Least Concern | Carnivore — fish, crustaceans, insects |
| 50 | Purple Heron | Ardea purpurea | Pelecaniformes | Least Concern | Piscivore — fish, amphibians |
| 51 | Grey-headed Lapwing | Vanellus cinereus | Charadriiformes | Least Concern | Omnivore — invertebrates on ground |
| 52 | Red-wattled Lapwing | Vanellus indicus | Charadriiformes | Least Concern | Insectivore — insects, invertebrates |
| 53 | Yellow- | Vanellus | Charadriiformes | Near | Insectivore — ground |

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|----|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| | wattled Lapwing | malabaricus | | Threatened | insects, termites |
| 54 | Kentish Plover | Charadrius alexandrinus | Charadriiformes | Least Concern | Invertebrate feeder — small crustaceans, insects |
| 55 | Common Sandgrouse | Pterocles exustus | Pterocliformes | Least Concern | Granivore — seeds, dry grasses |
| 56 | Painted Sandgrouse | Pterocles indicus | Pterocliformes | Least Concern | Granivore — seeds |
| 57 | Indian Peafowl (female/peahen) | Pavo cristatus | Galliformes | Least Concern | Omnivore — seeds, insects, small animals |
| 58 | Rose-ringed Parakeet | Psittacula krameri | Psittaciformes | Least Concern | Frugivore/Herbivore — fruits, seeds, buds |
| 59 | Alexandrine Parakeet | Psittacula eupatria | Psittaciformes | Near Threatened | Frugivore/Herbivore — seeds, fruits |
| 60 | Plum-headed Parakeet | Psittacula cyanocephala | Psittaciformes | Least Concern | Herbivore — fruits, seeds, nuts |
| 61 | Indian Scops Owl | Otus bakkamoena | Strigiformes | Least Concern | Carnivore — insects, small mammals, birds |
| 62 | Spotted Owlet | Athene brama | Strigiformes | Least Concern | Carnivore — insects, small mammals, reptiles |
| 63 | Jungle Owlet | Glaucidium radiatum | Strigiformes | Least Concern | Carnivore — insects, small vertebrates |
| 64 | Barn Owl | Tyto alba | Strigiformes | Least Concern | Carnivore — small mammals (rodents) |
| 65 | Common Swift | Apus apus | Apodiformes | Least Concern | Insectivore — aerial insects |
| 66 | Little Swift | Apus affinis | Apodiformes | Least Concern | Insectivore — aerial insects |
| 67 | Indian Palm Swift | Cypsiurus balasiensis | Apodiformes | Least Concern | Insectivore — aerial insects |
| 68 | House Swift | Apus nipalensis | Apodiformes | Least Concern | Insectivore — aerial insects |
| 69 | Barn Swallow | Hirundo rustica | Passeriformes | Least Concern | Insectivore — aerial insects |
| 70 | Wire-tailed Swallow | Hirundo smithii | Passeriformes | Least Concern | Insectivore — aerial insects, over water |
| 71 | Red-rumped Swallow | Cecropis daurica | Passeriformes | Least Concern | Insectivore — aerial insects |
| 72 | Rock Martin | Ptyonoprogne fuligula | Passeriformes | Least Concern | Insectivore — aerial insects |

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|----|---|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---|
| 73 | Sand Martin / Bank Swallow | <i>Riparia riparia</i> | Passeriformes | Least Concern | Insectivore — aerial insects over water |
| 74 | Pied Bush Chat | <i>Saxicola caprata</i> | Passeriformes | Least Concern | Insectivore — ground and aerial insects |
| 75 | Indian Robin | <i>Copsychus fulicatus</i> | Passeriformes | Least Concern | Insectivore — insects, small invertebrates |
| 76 | Oriental Magpie-Robin | <i>Copsychus saularis</i> | Passeriformes | Least Concern | Insectivore/omnivore — insects, fruits |
| 77 | White-browed Wagtail / Large Pied Wagtail | <i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i> | Passeriformes | Least Concern | Insectivore — insects picked from ground/near water |
| 78 | Grey Wagtail | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> | Passeriformes | Least Concern | Insectivore — aquatic insects, larvae |
| 79 | Yellow Wagtail | <i>Motacilla flava</i> | Passeriformes | Least Concern | Insectivore — ground and aerial insects |
| 80 | Blyth's Pipit | <i>Anthus godlewskii</i> | Passeriformes | Least Concern | Insectivore — ground insects, seeds occasionally |
| 81 | Olive-backed Pipit | <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i> | Passeriformes | Least Concern | Insectivore — insects, small invertebrates |
| 82 | Paddyfield Pipit | <i>Anthus rufulus</i> | Passeriformes | Least Concern | Insectivore/omnivore — insects, seeds |
| 83 | Long-billed Pipit | <i>Anthus similis</i> | Passeriformes | Least Concern | Insectivore — ground insects |
| 84 | Common Myna | <i>Acridotheres tristis</i> | Passeriformes | Least Concern | Omnivore — fruits, grains, insects, human scraps |
| 85 | Bank Myna | <i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i> | Passeriformes | Least Concern | Omnivore — fruits, grains, insects, human scraps |

Reptile: The Jhalana Leopard Safari Park in Jaipur hosts about 20–30 reptile species in its forests and rocky habitats. Key species include the Bengal Monitor, Indian Rock Python, and venomous snakes like the Cobra, Krait, Russell's viper, and Saw-scaled Viper. Non-venomous snakes such as Rat Snakes, Keelbacks, and smaller Kukri, Wolf, and Blind Snakes are also present. Lizards like the Garden Lizard, Fan-throated Lizard, geckos, skinks, and turtles such as the Indian Flap-shell add to this diversity. These reptiles play crucial roles in controlling insects, rodents, and other prey, helping maintain ecological balance in the park.

Table 5: Reptiles of the Jhalana Leopard Safari Park, Jaipur

| S. No . | Local / Common Name | Scientific Name | Order | IUCN Status (global) | Feeding Habits / Manners |
|---------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---|
| 1 | Bengal Monitor Lizard | <i>Varanus bengalensis</i> | Squamata (Lacertilia) | Near Threatened (NT) | Carnivorous, opportunistic — insects, eggs, small mammals, birds, carrion. Diurnal, basks on rocks. |
| 2 | Indian Rock Python | <i>Python molurus</i> | Squamata (Serpentes) | Near Threatened (NT) | Large constrictor — takes mammals and birds; nocturnal/crepuscular; near water/rocky refuges. |
| 3 | Spectacled Cobra / Indian Cobra | <i>Naja naja</i> | Squamata (Serpentes) | Least Concern (LC) | Venomous; diurnal/nocturnal flexible; preys on rodents, frogs, other snakes. |
| 4 | Common Krait | <i>Bungarus caeruleus</i> | Squamata (Serpentes) | Least Concern (LC) | Highly venomous; nocturnal; feeds on other snakes, small mammals. |
| 5 | Russell's Viper | <i>Daboia russelii</i> | Squamata (Serpentes) | Least Concern (LC) | Venomous ambush predator; feeds on rodents, frogs, lizards. |
| 6 | Saw-scaled Viper | <i>Echis carinatus</i> | Squamata (Serpentes) | Least Concern (LC) | Small, highly defensive; feeds on rodents, lizards, insects; crepuscular/nocturnal. |
| 7 | Red Sand Boa | <i>Eryx johnii</i> | Squamata (Serpentes) | Least Concern | Burrowing constrictor; eats |

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| | | | | (LC) | rodents; fossorial and nocturnal/crepuscular. |
| 8 | Oriental Rat Snake / Indian Rat Snake | <i>Ptyas mucosa</i> | Squamata (Serpentes) | Least Concern (LC) | Large, active diurnal snake; feeds on rodents, birds, eggs, frogs. |
| 9 | Common Wolf Snake | <i>Lycodon aulicus</i> | Squamata (Serpentes) | Least Concern (LC) | Small nocturnal predator; eats other small reptiles and geckos. |
| 10 | Bronzed/Striped Bronzeback | <i>Dendrelaphis pictus</i> (or <i>Dendrelaphis</i> spp.) | Squamata (Serpentes) | LC (varies by species) | Diurnal, arboreal; feeds on frogs, lizards, small vertebrates. |
| 11 | Checkered Keelback (Pond Snake) | <i>Xenochrophis piscator</i> (now <i>Fowlea piscator</i>) | Squamata (Serpentes) | Least Concern (LC) | Semi-aquatic; feeds mainly on fish and amphibians near waterholes. |
| 12 | Striped Keelback | <i>Amphiesma/Herpeto reas stolatum</i> | Squamata (Serpentes) | Least Concern (LC) | Non-venomous; feeds on frogs, toads, small fishes. |
| 13 | Kukri Snake (Common) | <i>Oligodon arnensis</i> (or related <i>Oligodon</i>) | Squamata (Serpentes) | LC / Data varies | Diurnal; feeds on eggs, small reptiles; secretive. |
| 14 | Brahminy Blind Snake | <i>Indotyphlops braminus</i> | Squamata (Serpentes) | Least Concern (LC) | Small fossorial wormlike snake; eats ants/termite larvae. Often found in urban/anthropogenic soils. |
| 15 | Indian Flap-shell Turtle / Ferruginous Softshell (pond) | <i>Lissemys punctata</i> | Testudines | Least Concern (LC) | Omnivorous — aquatic plants, small fish, carrion; slow-moving water bodies. |
| 16 | Ganges Softshell Turtle (possible) | <i>Nilssonia gangetica</i> (or related softshell) | Testudines | Vulnerable (VU) | Highly aquatic carnivore — fish, molluscs; needs larger waterbodies. |
| 17 | Indian Star Tortoise | <i>Geochelone/Chersina elegans</i> | Testudines | Vulnerable (VU) | Herbivorous — grasses, succulents, |

| | | | | | |
|----|--|---|-----------------------|--------------------|---|
| | | | | | fruits. Terrestrial; prefers scrub/grassland. |
| 18 | House Gecko | <i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i> (and <i>Hemidactylus</i> spp.) | Squamata (Lacertilia) | Least Concern (LC) | Nocturnal insectivores; commonly associated with human habitations and rocks. |
| 19 | Brook's / Wall Gecko | <i>Hemidactylus brookii</i> (or similar) | Squamata (Lacertilia) | Least Concern (LC) | Small nocturnal gecko; insectivorous. |
| 20 | Oriental Garden Lizard / Changeable Lizard | <i>Calotes versicolor</i> | Squamata (Lacertilia) | Least Concern (LC) | Diurnal insectivore; ambushes insects; displays territorial head-bobbing. |
| 21 | Fan-throated Lizard | <i>Sitana ponticeriana</i> (and allied species) | Squamata (Lacertilia) | Least Concern (LC) | Diurnal insectivore; males display with fan-throat during breeding. |
| 22 | Snake-eyed Lizard | <i>Ophisops elegans</i> | Squamata (Lacertilia) | Least Concern (LC) | Fast diurnal insectivore on open ground / rocks. |
| 23 | Bronze / Spotted Grass Skink | <i>Eutropis (Mabuya) macularia</i> (or <i>E. dissimilis</i>) | Squamata (Lacertilia) | LC | Diurnal insectivore; lives in grassland/rocky ground. |
| 24 | Indian Kangaroo Lizard / Sitana spp. (other species) | <i>Sitana</i> spp. | Squamata (Lacertilia) | LC (species vary) | Small insectivorous lizard, ground-dwelling; males show throat fan. |
| 25 | Painted Bronzeback / Collared Bronzeback | <i>Hemorrhois/Platyce ps</i> spp. | Squamata (Serpentes) | LC (varies) | Diurnal, slender racer; feeds on lizards and small vertebrates. |
| 26 | Indian File Snake / File Snake (rare) | <i>Acrochordus/other</i> spp. | Squamata (Serpentes) | varies | Aquatic snake feeding on fish — <i>only if</i> larger water present. |
| 27 | Common Skink / Sand Skink | <i>Scincella</i> / regional skink spp. | Squamata (Lacertilia) | LC / varies | Small ground/insectivorous skinks found |

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|----|--|---|----------------------|--------|--|
| | | | | | under stones/leaf litter. |
| 28 | Rat / Small ground snake species (aggregate) | <i>Trachischium</i> / small colubrid spp. | Squamata (Serpentes) | varies | Small carnivorous snakes feeding on invertebrates, small vertebrates; secretive. |

Insects: The Jhalana Leopard Safari Park in Jaipur hosts a wide variety of insects supported by its dry deciduous forests and scrublands. Prominent among them are butterflies like the Common Mormon, Lime Butterfly, Plain Tiger, and Jezebel, which serve as pollinators. Dragonflies and damselflies help control mosquitoes, while beetles, mantids, and lacewings act as natural pest regulators. Termites and ants aid in decomposition and soil aeration, and honeybees enhance pollination. Together, these insects play vital roles in pollination, pest control, nutrient cycling, and maintaining ecological balance in the park.

Table 6:Insects of the Jhalana Leopard Safari Park, Jaipur

| S. No. | Local / Common Name | Scientific Name | Order | IUCN Status | Feeding Habits / Manners |
|--------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------|---|
| 1 | Common Mormon | <i>Papilio polytes</i> | Lepidoptera | Least Concern | Nectar-feeding butterfly; caterpillars feed on citrus plants. |
| 2 | Lime Butterfly | <i>Papilio demoleus</i> | Lepidoptera | Least Concern | Adults feed on flower nectar; larvae are pests on citrus trees. |
| 3 | Common Tiger (Danaid) | <i>Danaus genutia</i> | Lepidoptera | Least Concern | Adults feed on nectar; toxic to predators due to host plant alkaloids. |
| 4 | Plain Tiger | <i>Danaus chrysippus</i> | Lepidoptera | Least Concern | Migratory butterfly; adults nectar on flowers; larvae feed on milkweed. |
| 5 | Common Jezebel | <i>Delias eucharis</i> | Lepidoptera | Least Concern | Nectar-feeding butterfly; caterpillars feed on mistletoe. |
| 6 | Crimson Rose | <i>Pachliopta hector</i> | Lepidoptera | Least Concern | Adults feed on nectar; larvae feed on Aristolochia; unpalatable to predators. |
| 7 | Common | <i>Melanitis leda</i> | Lepidoptera | Least | Nocturnal butterfly; |

| | | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|---|
| | Evening Brown | | | Concern | feeds on nectar; larvae feed on grasses. |
| 8 | Common Dragonfly | <i>Orthetrum sabina</i> | Odonata | Not Evaluated | Predatory; feeds on mosquitoes, flies, and other small insects. |
| 9 | Ground Beetle | <i>Carabus</i> spp. | Coleoptera | Not Evaluated | Nocturnal predators feeding on small invertebrates. |
| 10 | Ladybird Beetle | <i>Coccinella septempunctata</i> | Coleoptera | Not Evaluated | Beneficial predator feeding on aphids and scale insects. |
| 11 | Praying Mantis | <i>Mantis religiosa</i> | Mantodea | Not Evaluated | Ambush predator; feeds on grasshoppers, crickets, and other insects. |
| 12 | Green Lacewing | <i>Chrysoperla carnea</i> | Neuroptera | Not Evaluated | Adults feed on nectar and pollen; larvae are voracious predators of aphids and mites. |
| 13 | Termite (White Ant) | <i>Odontotermes obesus</i> | Blattodea | Not Evaluated | Social insect; feeds on cellulose in wood and leaf litter; important decomposer. |
| 14 | Honeybee (Indian) | <i>Apis cerana indica</i> | Hymenoptera | Not Evaluated | Pollinator species; feeds on nectar and pollen; forms colonies in tree cavities. |
| 15 | Ant (Black Ant) | <i>Camponotus compressus</i> | Hymenoptera | Not Evaluated | Omnivorous; feeds on honeydew, plant matter, and small insects; important scavenger. |

Conclusion:

This study documented the floral and faunal diversity of Jhalana Leopard Safari Park, Jaipur, through year-long seasonal surveys (2023–2024). Using visual observations and a modified People's Biodiversity Register (PBR), the survey recorded 23 medicinal plants, numerous ornamental, timber, and fruit species, over 30 mammals, more than 200 birds, 20–30 reptiles, and diverse insects. These findings highlight the park's significance as a biodiversity hotspot within an urban setting.

The methodology, combining field observations with ethnobotanical interviews, integrated scientific and traditional knowledge, especially on medicinal plant uses. Although quantitative measures were not attempted, the inventory offers a valuable baseline for

ecological research and conservation planning. Results reveal a balanced ecosystem with apex predators, vulnerable herbivores, endangered raptors, and essential pollinators. Despite its small area and urban pressures, Jhalana remains a vital refuge. Future research should adopt quantitative approaches to enhance monitoring and guide effective conservation strategies for long-term biodiversity preservation.

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FAUNAL DIVERSITY OF JHALANA LEOPARD SAFARI PARK, JAIPUR



Leopard



Striped Hyena



Jungle cat



Nilgat



Chital



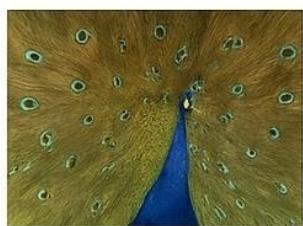
Sambar



Wild boar



Blackbuck



Indian peafowl



Shikra



Spotted owl



Green bee-eater



White-throated



White-throated kingfisher



Great hornbill



Brown-headed barbet



Common krait



Sand lizard



Indian rock python



Asian blackcobra



Rock pigeon



Indian palm squirrel



Common palmfly



Common crow