

Mammal Diversity Of The Athirapilly Grama Panchayath

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The Vazhachal forest Division covering a major portion of the Athirapilly Grama Panchayath is an important habitat for birds and Animals. The area is having great importance in extent of Evergreen forests especially wet evergreen or rainforest formations and unique habitats like low elevation riparian forests and has record of great diversity of fauna. A total of 71 species of mammals belonging to 25 family were observed. Of these Muridae was the largest family represented by 11 species including Bonhote's Mouse Field Rat, House Mouse, Indian Bush Rat, followed by Sciuridae with 7 species including Dusky Striped Squirrel, Grizzled Giant Squirrel, Indian Giant Flying Squirrel, Indian Giant Squirrel. Among these nine are endemic mammals including Asiatic elephant, Tiger, leopard, Wild guar, flying squirrel, lion tailed macaque, Nilgiri languor. Among the 71 mammals recorded 37 species are included in the least concern category (LC) such as Indian Fox, Bonnet Macaque, Barking Deer, Spotted Deer, Jungle Cat. Two species Rusty-spotted

Cat, Grizzled Giant Squirrel are Near Threatened (NT), ten are Vulnerable (V) Gaur, Sambar, Common Leopard, Asian Small-clawed Otter, Nilgiri Marten, Smooth-coated Otter. Seven are Endangered (E) including Nilgiri Thar, Wild Dog, Asian Elephant, Tiger, Indian Pangolin. Malabar Large-spotted Civet is found to be Critically Endangered (CR).

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