The Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra nestling in the lower southern reaches of the Satpuda hills is situated in the northern part of eastern Vidarbha. It was established as Pench National Park in 1975 and it the status of Tiger Reserve in 1999. It gets its name from its lifeline the Pench River. Strategically, the Tiger Reserve is located in the heart of the Central Indian Tiger landscape, which contributes to almost 1/6th of the total Tiger population of the country. It has a good connectivity with Kanha (MP), Pench (MP), Tadoba-Andhari, Navegaon-Nagzira and Bor Tiger Reserve.

The butterflies are one of the most visible and functional species in the ecosystem (Larson et al. 2001). Butterflies belong to Lepidoptera or scalywinged insects (lepidos = scales and pteron = wings in Greek). Butterflies have been used as model organisms for a variety of fields of study, spanning ecology, evolutionary biology, and conservation biology (Boggs et al. 2003). Butterflies play a vital role in the ecosystem. They act as pollinators for various flora species. They prey on insects such as aphids, hoverfly larvae etc. Butterflies also act as a lower member of the food chain. Butterflies provide food for number of animals such as birds, reptiles, amphibians etc. and caterpillars provide an occasional meal for spiders and ants. Nearly two-thirds of all invertebrates can be connected back to the butterfly on the food chain (Webb, K. J. 2008). The loss of this seemingly insignificant insect could, potentially, breakdown entire ecosystems that rely so heavily on them.

Pre and post mansoon citizen science survey carried out during 2023 in association with TINSA has revealed 170 butterfly sp in Pench, Maharashtra which is more than double of list prepared by ZSI.

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www.penchtigerreserve.maharashtra.gov.in





Great Evening

Long Banded Bush-Brown

Peacock

Plain Tiger

Leopard

Lemon Pansy

Small Banded

Striped Tiger

