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# Kishenpur, Katerniaghat, Dudhwa in Uttar Pradesh now critical tiger habitats

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IN A major step towards conservation of tigers in the state, the Uttar Pradesh Forests Department has notified the Dudhwa National Park, Kishenpur Wildlife Sanctuary and Katerniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary — a total of 1093.79 sq km — as 'critical tiger habitat'. The notification has been approved by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), which will be evaluating these areas

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along with 38 other critical tiger habitats across the country between August 10 and December 15.

The critical tiger habitat, according to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, is an inviolate space required for conservation of tigers. The no-

tification is a legal action to declare a particular national park or a wildlife reserve as a core area. The critical habitat is marked according to the tiger life history parameters, territory size and population viability analysis. The legal notification means that now the state

will ensure there is no dwelling in the area and will undertake research activities to harbour a viable tiger population.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests B K Patnaik said, "We are all aware that Dudhwa Park and the other two wildlife sanctuaries are an important natural habitat for tiger and it was important for us to notify the area as per guidelines of NTCA. We have got a green signal from the NTCA, which will support us for conservation and management activities in the area."