

‘ WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ’



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IMPORTANT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETIES OF INDIA

- Keeping in view the recent human encroachment, the Indian Government did take effective initiatives to conserve wildlife in the country, and amongst it, most commendable initiatives is the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, which prohibits trade of rare and endangered species.
- However, this is not the only laudatory measure taken by the Government of India (GOI), there is so much more that needs to be told about the various Wildlife Conservation Societies that have helped the country maintain its rich wildlife.
- Here is a glance at the important Wildlife Conservation Societies of India :
 - › The Corbett Foundation.
 - › Wildlife Institute of India.
 - › Wildlife Protection Society of India.
 - › Wildlife Conservation Trust.
 - › Wildlife SOS.
 - › World Wildlife Fund (WWF).
 - › Centre for Wildlife Studies.

WHAT DOES WILDLIFE CONSERVATION MEANS ?

- According to the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, wildlife includes any animal, bees, butterfly, crustacean, fish and moth and aquatic or land vegetation, which form part of any habitat.
- Therefore, wildlife refers to living organisms (flora and fauna) in their natural habitats.
- Example: lion, deer, crocodiles, whales, trees and shrubs in dense forests etc.

BENEFITS OF WILDLIFE

- Wildlife is an essential component of various food chains, food webs, biogeochemical cycles and energy flow through various trophic levels.
 - Preserves vitality and health of environment and provides stability to various ecosystems.
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THREATS TO WILDLIFE

- Pollution :

- › Air, water, soil and noise pollution of the magnitude and toxicity never seen before is the major factor.
- › Natural habitats have been destroyed or damaged by activities such as the indiscriminate use of synthetic materials, release of radiations and oil spills in the sea, generation of effluents and wastes of various kinds and toxicity, and their unscientific disposal.



IMPORTANCE OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

- **Beauty**
- **Economic value** : Timber, fur, tusk, ivory, leather, honey etc.
- **Scientific value** : Gene pool for the scientists to carry breeding programmers in agriculture, animal husbandry and fishery.
- **Maintain Ecological Balance.**
- **Eco - Tourism.**



CAUSES OF WILDLIFE DESTRUCTION

- Habitat loss

- › Extensive human demand resulted into Habitat Loss.
- › Rain forests are the main habitats.
- › Tropical rainforests are cleared for wood / timber resources, development of petroleum resources, mineral resources.
- › Second most critical factor in species extinction.
- › Now there are 20% less forest cover than existed 300 years ago.



CAUSES OF WILDLIFE DESTRUCTION

Poaching and Hunting

Another major cause of animal species extinction.

Poaching and illegal trade in animals are of about US \$10 - \$15 million per year worldwide.



National and International wildlife trade

Pet, fur, meat, body parts trade and trade for biomedical research.



Climate change / Global warming

Pollution

Introduced (Invasive) Species

Farmer / Rancher Shootings



EFFECTS OF WILDLIFE DEPLETION

- Unbalance food chain and ecosystem.
- Reduction in rare wild animals.



- Impact on bio-diversity.
- Loss of economic value.

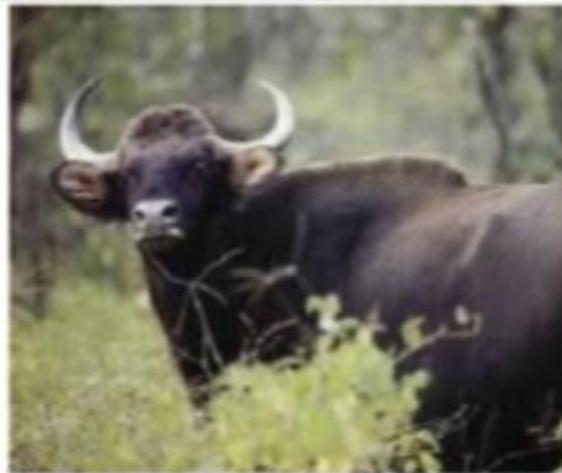
- Danger to human life.
- Loss in genetic information.



ENDANGERED SPECIES OF ANIMALS



**MAJESTIC
ELEPHANTS**



**THE INDIAN
BISON**



HISPID HARE



SWAMP DEER



BLUE WHALE



DESERT CAT



LEAF MONKEY



SNOW LEOPARD

LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN INDIA

- Many people are under the impression that India does not have strong wildlife conservation laws. On the contrary, we have some of the most stringent legislations to protect wildlife and habitats.
- The Government of India has introduced various types of legislation in response to the growing destruction of wildlife and forests. These are:
 - › The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (Last amended in 2006).
 - › National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016).
 - › The Environment (Protection) Act (1986).
 - › The Biological Diversity Act (2002).
 - › The Indian Fisheries Act (1897).
 - › The Indian Forest Act (1927).
 - › The Forest Conservation Act (1980).

1. THE WILDLIFE PROTECTION ACT, 1972 (LAST AMENDED IN 2006)

- The Wildlife (Protection) Act (WLPA), 1972 is an important statute that provides a powerful legal framework for:
 - › Prohibition of hunting
 - › Protection and management of wildlife habitats
 - › Establishment of protected areas
 - › Regulation and control of trade in parts and products derived from wildlife
 - › Management of zoos.

- The WLPA provides for several categories of Protected Areas/Reserves:
 - › National Parks
 - › Wildlife Sanctuaries
 - › Tiger Reserves
 - › Conservation Reserves
 - › Community Reserves

- Apart from protected area establishment, other important aspects of the WLPA include procedures for the appointment of state wildlife authorities and wildlife boards, the regulation of trade in wildlife products and the prevention, detection and punishment of violations of the WLPA.

NATIONAL PARKS

- A national park is protected area of land in which a typical ecosystem with all its wild plants and animals are protected and preserved in natural surroundings.
- As of April 2017, there were 103 national parks comprising a total area of 40,500 sq km.
- Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand, established in 1936, was the first national park in India.

Sr. No.	Name	State	Animal(s) Protected
1.	Jim Corbett National Park	Uttarakhand	Tiger (EN)
2.	Kaziranga National Park	Assam	Rhinoceros (CR)
3.	Hazaribagh National Park	Jharkhand	Tiger (EN)
4.	Kanha National Park	Madhya Pradesh	Tiger (EN), Cheetah (VU)
5.	Sunderbans Tiger Reserve	West Bengal	Bengal Tiger (EN)
6.	Gir National Park	Gujarat	Asiatic Lion (EN)
7.	Bandipur National Park	Karnataka	Elephant (VU), Tiger (EN)
8.	Desert National Park	Rajasthan	Great Indian Bustard (CR)

WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

- A sanctuary is a protected area of land, wetland or sea reserved for the conservation of wild animals, birds and plants.
- As of April 2017, India has 543 wildlife sanctuaries comprising a total area of 1,18,918 sq. km.
- Hunting of any kind is prohibited in sanctuaries. Private ownership rights over sanctuaries and limited human activities may be granted, provided, they do not interfere with the normal activities (feeding, nesting, breeding of wildlife).

SR. NO.	NAME	STATE	ANIMAL(s) / BIRD PROTECTED
1.	Keoladeo Ghana Bird Sanctuary	Rajasthan	Siberian Crane
2.	Chilika Lake Bird Sanctuary	Odisha	Water fowls, Cranes, Ducks
3.	Manas Wildlife Sanctuary	Assam	Panther, tiger, Rhinocerus
4.	Dachigam Sanctuary	J & K	Kashmiri Stag, Musk Snow Leopard
5.	Madhumalai Wildlife Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu	Elephant, Four-horned Antelope
6.	Nagarjuna Sagar Sanctuary	Andhra Pradesh	Tiger, Panther
7.	Periyar Sanctuary	Kerala	Elephant
8.	Balmiki Nagar Tiger Reserve	Bihar	Tiger

BIOSPHERE RESERVES

- Biosphere reserves are a specific category of protected area of land wherein tribal people native to the area are an integral part of the system.
- It's concept was conceived by the UN and was launched in 1975 as a part of UNESCO's "Man and Biosphere" programme.
- In biospheres, various uses of land are permitted by dividing it into 3 distinct zones – core zone, buffer zone and transition zone.

SR. NO.	NAME	STATE	ANIMAL(S) PROTECTED
1.	Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve	Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka	Nilgiri Tahr, Lion-tailed Macaque
2.	Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve	Tamil Nadu	Dugong, Sea-Cow
3.	Sunderbans National Park	West Bengal	Royal Bengal tiger
4.	Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve	Uttarakhand	
5.	Nokrek Biosphere Reserve	Meghalaya	Red Panda
6.	Panchmarthi Biosphere Reserve	Madhya Pradesh	Giant Squirrel, Flying Squirrel
7.	Simlipal Biosphere Reserve	Odisha	Royal Bengal Tiger, Elephant, gaur
8.	Nicobar islands	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Salt water Crocodile

3. THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT (1986)

- It is an important legislation that provides for coordination of activities of the various regulatory agencies, creation of authorities with adequate powers for environmental protection, regulation of the discharge of environmental pollutants, handling of hazardous substances, etc.
- The Act provided an opportunity to extend legal protection to non-forest habitats ('Ecologically Sensitive Areas') such as grasslands, wetlands and coastal zones.

4. THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ACT (2002)

- India is a party to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.
- The provisions of the Biological Diversity Act are in addition to and not in derogation of the provisions in any other law relating to forests or wildlife.

5. THE INDIAN FOREST ACT (1927)

- The main objective of the Indian Forest Act (1927) is to secure exclusive state control over forests to meet the demand for timber. Most of these untitled lands had traditionally belonged to the forest dwelling communities. The Act defined state ownership, regulated its use and appropriated the power to substitute or extinguish customary rights. The Act facilitates three categories of forests, namely :
 - › Reserved forests
 - › Village forests
 - › Protected forests
- ✓ Reserved forests are the most protected within these categories. No rights can be acquired in reserved forests except by succession or under a grant or contract with the government. Felling trees, grazing cattle, removing forest products, quarrying, fishing, and hunting are punishable with a fine or imprisonment.

6. THE FOREST CONSERVATION ACT (1980)

- In order to check rapid deforestation due to forestlands being released by state governments for agriculture, industry and other development projects (allowed under the Indian Forest Act), the federal government enacted the Forest Conservation Act in 1980 with an amendment in 1988.
- The Act made the prior approval of the federal government necessary for de-reservation of reserved forests, logging and for use of forestland for non-forest purposes.
- This powerful legislation has, to a large extent, curtailed the indiscriminate logging and release of forestland for non-forestry purposes by state governments.
- While the federal government imposed such strict restrictions, it did not simultaneously evolve a mechanism to compensate state governments for loss of timber logging revenues.
- The Supreme Court of India has currently imposed a complete ban on the release of forestland for non-forestry activities without the prior approval of the federal government.

PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN THE BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT

FOR WILDLIFE PROTECTION

• Wildlife is an important component of biodiversity. To prevent the extinction of species, various projects have been initiated by the Indian government, such as

- › Project Tiger
- › Project Elephant
- › Indian Rhino Vision 2020
- › Crocodile Conservation Project
- › Sea Turtle Project
- › Vulture Conservation Project



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Love towards mother earth, nature and animals.
- Conservation laws for wildlife should be practiced properly.
- Strict actions against, who do not abide laws.
- Non-bailable arrest to person found accused.
- Non-industrial activities besides reserve forest.

CONCLUSION

Forests and wildlife are the renewable natural resources and if all the planned programmes are effectively executed, in a few decades the flora and the fauna will start flourishing.

