

---

## THE CONSERVATION OF WILD ANIMALS AND BIRDS

---

**Dr. Inder singh Meena**

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Zoology

Govt. College Tonk

---

### ABSTRACT

The term "wildlife" refers to the many plant and animal species that are able to survive and thrive in places that are not occupied by humans. It encompasses all animals and plants that are not kept as pets, in addition to a wide variety of other creatures and fungus. Any type of environment, whether it be a forest, plain, grassland, or desert, as well as every other type of ecosystem, contains its own unique and distinct assortment of animals. However, as human civilizations progressed, people began taming wild animals and plants for their own profit, and this had a significant effect on the surrounding ecosystem. Many wild animals have become used to the modifications that people have made to their surroundings and have begun to coexist with humans in residential environments as a result of these alterations. Dogs, cats, cows, buffaloes, goats, rodents, and some types of birds are all examples of creatures that fall into this category.[1] The wild animals and their habitats were observed to be suffering as a direct result of the expansion of human activities and the development that was taking place on a massive scale. It has come to people's attention that there has been an upsurge in the use of wild animals for the benefit of humans as well as for recreational purposes. Wildlife, civilization, domestication, recreation, and exploitation are some keywords to look for.

**Keywords:** *Wildlife, Civilization, Conservation.*

### INTRODUCTION

It is a well-known fact that India is home to 16 percent of the total population of the globe. On the other hand, it is not widely known that this subcontinent is also home to more than 50,000 different plant species, 411 different kinds of mammals, 1,232 different kinds of birds, 456 different kinds of reptiles, 219 different kinds of amphibians, 2,546 different kinds of fish, and 83,436 different kinds of invertebrates. Nature has bestowed to India a priceless treasure in the form of a diversified and abundant collection of flora and fauna known as its wildlife. One of the places on Earth with the greatest concentration of different kinds of flora and fauna is the continent of India. The flora and fauna of this nation include an exceptionally large number of distinct species of both plants and animals. The wild creatures that are indigenous to this nation include the tiger, the lion, the wolves, the bears, the rhinoceros, the camels, the monkeys, the numerous types of reptiles, the crocodiles, the deer, the bison, and the Asian elephant. In addition, it is home to a diverse collection of bird species, including flamingos, pelicans, parakeets, woodpeckers, and peafowl.[2] The Western Ghats, the Easter Himalayas, and the Indo-Burma area are each considered to be one of India's three biodiversity hotspots. Out of the world's total of 34 biodiversity hotspots, India is home to three of them. The grasslands of western India are renowned not only for their grazing herds but also for the abundant wildlife that can be found there. Although the Indian cheetah has been extinct in its territory, other large cats such as lions and leopards may still be seen roaming the plains.

The wild animals and their habitats are observed to be suffering as in direct result of the expansion of human activities and the development that was taking place on a massive scale. It is observed that the exploitation of wild animals for the advantage of humans and for enjoyment factors increased, and this prompts the need for various limits and stringent regulation in order to safeguard and maintain the wildlife. This pieces of legislation, known as Acts, were passed into law by the Government of India after taking into account the most significant risk of extinction that the country's animal population faces. The majority of the laws have been adopted in accordance with the international legislations and agreements that have been passed in relation to the protection of the environment and the preservation of wildlife by the United Nations and other international organizations.

## Wildlife in India

Nature has bestowed to India with **minerals** a priceless treasure in the form of a diversified and abundant collection of flora and fauna known as its wildlife. One of the places on Earth with the greatest concentration of different kinds of flora and fauna is the continent of India. The flora and fauna of this nation include an exceptionally large number of distinct species of both plants and animals.[3] The wild creatures that are indigenous to this nation include the tiger, the lions, the wolves, the bears, the rhinoceros, the camels, the monkeys, the numerous types of reptiles, the crocodiles, the deer, the bison, and the Asian elephant. In addition, it is home to a diverse collection of bird species, including flamingos, pelicans, parakeets, woodpeckers, and peafowl. The Western Ghats, the Easter Himalayas, and the Indo-Burma areas are considered to be one of the three biodiversity hotspots that are located in India. There are a total of 34 biodiversity hotspots across the world.

In order to conserve and preserve the numerous kinds of animals that are found in India's rich, varied, and unique wildlife reserve, the country has established more than 515 sanctuaries, in addition to 104 national parks and 18 bioreserves. According to one of the studies that were carried out, 12.6% of the mammalian, 7.6% of the avian, 6.2% of the reptilian, and 6.0% of the floral species that exist are endemic to India. This indicates that India is a home to a large number of unique plant and animal species. According to the study, over 33 percent of plant species can only be found in India. As a result, India is considered to be one of the world's most important biodiversity reserves since it is home to almost 70 percent of the world's unique plant and animal species.

India is a home to a diverse collection of animal and plant species in large part to its extensive network of forest belts, which in turn are a reflection of the varying climate patterns that prevail across the subcontinent.[4] India is home to a wide variety of forest types, including tropical rainforest in the Andaman Islands, the North-Eastern region, and the Western Ghats; moist deciduous forest in the East; dry deciduous forest in Central and South India; thorn forest in the Deccan and Western Gangetic Plain; coniferous forest in the Himalayas; and dry deciduous forest in the Central and South Indian regions.

The recent activities of human development and their encroachment on the habitat of wildlife have posed a serious threat to wildlife in general, particularly to endemic species like the Asiatic Lion, the Bengal Tiger, the Indian White-rumped Vulture, the Nilgiri Leaf Monkey, and others. This is especially true for the species that have no close living relatives. There are 172 kinds of wildlife and endemic species that are unique to India that are also included on the list of vulnerable species of the world that has been declared by the IUCN. This accounts for 2.9% of the total number of species that are threatened across the globe.

## **Bird conservation**

The way to preserve bird populations is referred to as "bird conservation," and it is a subfield of "conservation biology." The presence of humans has had a significant impact on different of birds. There have been over one hundred species that have become extinct throughout the course of human history; however, the most significant extinctions caused by humans took place in the Pacific Ocean as humans colonised the islands of Melanesia, Polynesia, and Micronesia.[5] It is estimated that between 750 and 1,800 species of birds became extinct as a result of this process. According to the Worldwatch Institute, bird populations all around the globe are now on the decline, and there are over 1,200 species that are in danger of going extinct within the next century. The most common explanation refers to the destruction of natural habitats. Overhunting, unintentional deaths caused by accidents with structures, bycatch from long-line fishing, pollution, competition and predation by domestic cats, oil spills and pesticide usage, and climate change are some of the other problems that this species faces. Legislation, the preservation and restoration of bird habitat, and the establishment of captive populations for the sake of reintroduction are some of the many different methods that governments and a wide variety of conservation organisations are working to safeguard birds.

## **Wildlife Conservation and Its Problems & Threats**

The act of protecting animal and plant species in the wild by keeping them in their native environments is what we mean when we talk about "wildlife conservation." The primary goal of wildlife conservation is to secure the protection of wildlife while also preserving nature and natural habitats for both humans and animals.[6] This goal applies to both the preservation of natural areas and the natural habitats of wildlife. Many organisations, both governmental and non-governmental, have been established specifically for the purpose of wildlife preservation and protection in order to contribute to this endeavour.

The activities that humans engage for their own means of subsistence and advantages have had a significant impact on the natural world all around the world. This has led to the demise of a great deal of wild animals and plants as well as a loss of biodiversity. It has come to everyone's attention that during the course of the previous two thousand years, a sizeable number of animal and avian species have vanished completely. Some of the reasons were caused by changes in the climate, while others were caused by actions carried out by humans for their own advantage, such as the production of food, clothes, shelter, and medicine, among other things. It is also anticipated that a great number of other species of wild animals would vanish off the face of the earth very quickly if they are not safeguarded by appropriate methods of conservation and by the adoption of efficient laws. Therefore, international organisations and almost all of the nations across the world have bonded together to protect the environment and the wildlife through the use of legislations, Acts, the establishment of national parks, biosphere reserves, wildlife sanctuaries, and other similar areas, and the strict enforcement of these legislations and Acts within their respective nations and regions.

However, the preservation of wildlife has emerged as a primary focus of attention. The primary objective of efforts to preserve animal and plant life is to forestall the extinction of vulnerable species brought on by a variety of human activities and those activities caused directly or indirectly by humans.[7] The invasion of humans and the activities that they engage in, in addition to a few natural elements, all of which may be stated below, are the primary causes of the various dangers that face animals today:

- i. Habitat loss as a result of destruction, fragmentation, and degradation: Habitat destruction and fragmentation can be caused by human activities such as the cutting down of trees, the dredging of

rivers, the construction of dams, the filling of wetlands and mowing of fields, the use of lands for agriculture, the construction of houses and roads, and other such activities. Degradation of habitat can occur for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to rising pollution levels, the introduction of new species, and shifting ecosystems.

- ii. Illegal Trading, Hunting, and Poaching of Endangered Species Illegal hunting and poaching have posed a major threat to wildlife, which is further fueled by the lack of proper management and use of resources by forest officials to curb the menace and save the wildlife.
- iii. Climate change: both global warming and climate change have played a significant part in creating a dangerous environment for the world's animals. This is another effect that may be directly attributed to human actions, such as the burning of fossil fuels and other activities that have led to a shift in the climate throughout the world.
- iv. The overexploitation of resources: The exploitation and overexploitation of resources for the sake of obtaining food and other things has led to the creation of a situation in which there is a threat to the wildlife, particularly the endangered species. The wildlife populations have suffered greatly as a result of the excessive use of wild animals and plants for various purposes, such as food, medicine, clothing, and so on; as a result, their very survival is now in danger.
- v. Pollution The ever-increasing amount of pollution that is the direct result of human activities and industrial operations has led to the discharge of hazardous and poisonous pollutants into the air, water, and land. As a result, it has had a detrimental impact on the native flora and fauna, which ultimately places them in danger of going extinct.

Therefore, in order to rescue the globe and maintain the ecological balance and prevent further damage to the world's wildlife and species of plants and animals that are in risk of extinction, conservation efforts must be undertaken. In order to achieve this purpose, governments all over the globe are striving to preserve and conserve wildlife by establishing legislations and Acts and ensuring effective execution of these legislations and Acts. These actions are being taken in order to protect and conserve wildlife.[8] The government of India, which is aware of the dangers, has responded by creating national parks, animal sanctuaries, biosphere reserves, and other types of protected places. The first national park was founded in 1936 and was once known as the Hailey National Park. It was then renamed the Jim Corbett National Park after Jim Corbett, who was the first person to establish a national park. Since that time, the number of national parks has continued to rise at a steady rate, and as of April 2012, there are a total of 104 national parks in the United States. It was made possible by the creation of over 500 animal sanctuaries and 18 biosphere reserves around the country. There are 515 wildlife sanctuaries in existence today, 41 of which are recognised as tiger reserves as part of the Project Tiger initiative. In addition, the government of India has passed a number of laws and acts that are geared at the preservation of the country's diverse animal populations.

### **Various Legal Provisions for Wildlife Protection in India**

When it was observed in the early 1970s that the number of tigers in the country had begun to decrease and had reached the brink of extinction as a result of hunting, poaching, and illegal trade by the hunters for their own self-serving motives and benefits, the need for wildlife protection and conservation in India was felt.

This was the impetus for wildlife protection and conservation in India.[9] A meeting of the General Assembly of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) was held in Delhi in 1969. During this meeting, participants and members of the international community expressed serious concern regarding the diminishing number of unspoiled areas in India as well as the dangers that human activities posed to the endangered species of wildlife that lived in the country. These issues were attributed to the fact that India was home to many of the world's most threatened animal and plant species.

As a direct consequence of this, a nationwide ban on the hunting of tigers was implemented in the year 1970. Subsequently, in the year 1972, the Government of India enacted and began enforcing the Wildlife Protection Act, and in the same year, a plan was developed and put into action to enable both government and non-government organisations to collaborate on the preservation of wildlife.[10] In addition, the World Conservation Strategy was developed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) in conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and with the cooperation, advice, and financial assistance of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Wildlife Fund. This was all done with the goal of preserving the world's natural environments and natural resources for future generations (WWF). The primary objective of this plan was to ensure that vital ecological processes and life-supporting systems are preserved, in addition to ensuring that genetic diversity is protected and that species and ecosystems are used in a manner that is sustainable.

### **Possible Solutions in Wildlife Conservation and Implementation of Laws**

It is necessary to handle all of the issues of the preservation and conservation of wildlife in a manner that is in complete accordance with the law, and it is also necessary to look for some alternative solutions, in order for the species to be preserved and conserved. In order to put an end to the unethical and unlawful acts that are taking place in India regarding the exploitation of natural resources, more regulations need to be implemented.[11] These steps can take the form of putting on awareness programmes for the general public, authorities dealing with wildlife protection, and law enforcement officers and agents.

**Sensitivity on the Part of the Public and Officials:** In order to achieve the goal of safeguarding and preserving wildlife, it is necessary to raise awareness among forest rangers and other government employees who are stationed in protected areas and reserves. This will help achieve the goal.[12] These concerned people should be given the opportunity to get training and study on wildlife conservation strategies as well as legislative provisions that are available for the protection of wild animals. In addition, it is necessary to include the local people who live in the regions around the protected areas by educating them about the significance of wildlife preservation and protection as well as the essential laws that regulate it and including them in the conservation and protection efforts.

The populace of the area has to be made aware of all of the provisions of regulations that are accessible for the purpose of safeguarding and maintaining the wildlife and the endangered species.[13] They have to additionally be told about the penalties and punishments that are in place in the event that any laws are violated and the wildlife is harmed. This will contribute to a greater understanding among the local people, which in turn will assist in offering support to the forest authorities who are working in these protected regions, as well as the officials working for the government.

### **Increasing Resilience of Nature Reserves:**



This strategy involves the preservation of natural reserves, the establishment of buffer zones, the reduction of human activities such as the building of structures, the paving of roads, and the operation of transportation systems, the minimization of wildlife tourism, the reduction of habitat fragmentation, the conservation of genetic diversity, the protection of biodiversity "hot spots," and the averting of extinction and the safeguarding of species that are in danger of becoming extinct.[14] It is essential, in order to maximise resilience, to surround fragmented landscapes with buffer zones that have been created. The regions that are guarded by buffer zones must also undergo restoration work, the primary aim of which is the mitigation of particular adverse effects brought on by climate change.[15] There are certain ecosystems that still retain their original landscapes and may have sufficient resilience, but the people who live in these regions need to have their use of the land and water strictly regulated in order to avoid the resilience of these ecosystems from deteriorating further.

The management of the vegetation that is included inside these reserves also contributes to the preservation of resilience. In regions where there is a greater risk to wildlife and endangered species, the government needs to put these kinds of initiatives into action. Within these natural reserves and buffer zones, the government also has to create a wildlife tourist industry that is under control.[16] Because wildlife tourism has a negative impact on the breeding and feeding pattern and disturbs nesting sites, the government is obligated to keep a close eye on these activities and make certain that forest officials and other concerned persons comply with the rules and regulations outlined in the applicable Acts and legislations. The protection and preservation of wild animals and their natural habitats, as well as the continued existence of wild animals, would benefit greatly from the implementation of this policy, provided that it is carried out in an exacting manner.

## CONCLUSION

Wildlife protection and conservation is a huge task in India with the growing concerns of illegal trade and exploitation of wildlife resources. This objective cannot be achieved until and unless all branches of the government authorities, villagers & local people residing in and around the protected areas, non-profit and nongovernmental organizations, law enforcement officers and the general public work together towards this goal. India has a rich heritage and is gifted with natural resources which are precious and endemic to the country, and thus making it a biodiversity rich country.[17] Hence, there is a need for everyone to protect this rich ecosystem and maintain a balanced environment.

## REFERENCE

- [1]. See B. K. Sharma, Environmental Chemistry: Conservation of wildlife, (2017).
- [2]. See, S.A.K. Azad, Hunting of wild Animals and its Legal Control in India, A. I. R, 2018.
- [3]. Vikas Vashishtha, Law and Practice of Environmental Laws, 2016.
- [4]. Nandan Nelivigi, Biodiversity, Wildlife & Protected Areas Management in India: A People Centered Approach, (2020).
- [5]. Sanjay Upadhyay, Videh Upadhyay, Forest Laws, Wildlife Laws and the Environment, (2019).
- [6]. S. Singh, Principles of Environment Conservation, (2018).

- [7]. Prasanna, Legal Protection of Wildlife, Cochin University Law Review, (2017).
- [8]. Divan, Rozencranz, Environmental law and policy in India, (2016).
- [9]. Vikas Vashishtha, Law and Practice of Environmental Laws, (2017).
- [10]. Biodiversity Profile for India, Indira Gandhi Conservation Monitoring Centre (IGCMC), New Delhi and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge, UK. (2017)
- [11]. Thapar, V., Land of the Tiger: A Natural History of the Indian Subcontinent, University of California Press (2018)
- [12]. Tritsch, M.E., Wildlife of India Harper Collins, London (2016)
- [13]. Groombridge, B. (ed)., The 1994 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. pp 286 (2019)
- [14]. Klappenbach, L, 'Understanding the Threats to Animals and Wildlife – Examining Natural Threats and Man-made Threats',
- [15]. Singhar, A. S, Laws for Protection of Wildlife in India: Need for Awareness towards Implementation and Effectiveness, Indian Forester (2017)
- [16]. Kumar, A., Endangered Species and the Law, Handbook of Environment, Forest and Wildlife Protection Laws in India, WPSI and Natraj Publishers, Dehradun (2018)
- [17]. Singh, C., India's Forest Policy and Forest Law, Natraj Publishers, Dehradun (2016)