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## Conscious Efforts in Defence of Voiceless Forests and Wildlife: An Influential Impact on Wildlife Conservation

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### ABSTRACT

Wildlife means the animal species which are not used for the domestic purpose and their habitat is wild environment where all the habitats and biodiversity can be present. There are several reports conveyed that the wildlife and environment are benefited to the world. The IUCN estimates that 27000 species of the organisms are at the risk of extinction, of these 25% mammals, 14% birds, and 40% are amphibians. All these species are in the threat of extinction and need to conserve. The threats to the wildlife are habitats destruction, invasion of exotic species, anthropogenic activities, climate change and illegal wildlife trade. This study focuses on the main issues of the wildlife extinction, vulnerability and protection. It is essential to be aware of the current state of national and worldwide efforts to protect and conserve wildlife. The main strategy for protecting biodiversity is habitat conservation. Numerous strategies have been implemented worldwide to promote forestation and reduce deforestation. Similarly, by banning the pet trade, excessive hunting and shooting, marine pollution, various rules and regulations, and public awareness are the primary concerns. This shows that the conservation of wildlife does not depend only on human activities however; it has close interaction with the global political and economic systems.

### Introduction

Wildlife conservation is the efforts to reducing the rate of extinction of species, along with their habitat. Most of the people treat wildlife as only some game species that has been hunted in a traditional way. But now, wildlife means undomesticated organisms found in flora and fauna that are not only used as hunting but also not considered as game species (Sinha, 2001). Some people also defined wildlife is only large mammals such as lions, buffalo, cheetah, leopard, elephants, rhinoceros, monkey and other related species before the development of wildlife promotion and education. Although, wildlife refers to the variety of all living organisms inhabiting in the wild, at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels on earth (Amare, 2015). Trees are disappearing at a very fast rate that is notorious for us. Deforestation takes place in many ways including crop agriculture, illegal logging, forest fire, overpopulation, Livestock ranching and due to climate change. These all activities make impact on people's livelihood and threaten our biodiversity. In the recent past, due to reduced law enforcement efforts, an increase in illegal activities, i.e., hunting and fishing was recorded. Rhinoceros is hunted for its horn, African elephant, which is killing for its ivory, pangolins are poached for their meat purpose, parrots for domestic trade, many tropical fish captured for aquaria, some plants also demands for marketing. Similarly Bengal tiger, gorilla of central Africa have been threatened with extinction by hunters operating illegally (Geist *et al.*, 2002). But when law enforcement efforts increased then illegal hunters arrested and these numbers decreased (Gandiwa *et al.*, 2013). This ensures that practice to the detection of snares and their removal in protected area is important, exclusively

when law enforcement efforts are rise (Gandiwa, 2014). Earth was losing many species at a very fast rate. This anxious expectation strongly blamed humans and their daily activities. We must find a strong need for preventing other endangered species. The recovery rate varied according to the needs of different species, at the level of an individual species. Generally, submitting recovery plan began with studies of those species which comes under threat and finding those agents that put its survival at risk. Once familiar with those agents then people could take action to remove the threat and mitigate its impact. These kinds of attentive actions allow the species to recover on its own. Some species reproducing at a fast rate is enough to save them from extinction. Some efforts from human side is such as human help in the form of captive breeding programs (breed endangered species in zoos), in vitro fertilization (IVF) and other forms of assisted reproductive technology. Protection of wild life is not only the protection of floral and faunal species, but also an important action to maintain the ecological balance of earth (Wang *et al.*, 2020). Great intention to the raising of ecological sustainability develop as fast as possible otherwise we will lost a lot. Therefore, the main objective of this paper is to provide awareness on wildlife conservation and its protected area management through focusing on benefits of wildlife conservation and major challenges of wildlife extinction, vulnerability and protection.

#### Wildlife Protected Area Management

Protected areas or conservation areas are the place in which human occupation or at least the exploitation of resources is limited. Protected areas vary by level of protection depending on the rules

and regulations of the international organizations involved. The term protected area includes:-National Parks, Wildlife sanctuaries, Conservation reserves, Community reserves.

The main aim of protected areas is the protection of biological diversity. Protected areas are a strategic approach for conservation and also provide different benefits for sustainable social and economic development.

#### Protected areas of India from 2006 to 2025

Year	No. of National Parks	Area Under National Parks (Km <sup>2</sup> )	No. of wild life Sanctuaries	Area Under Wildlife Sanctuaries (Km <sup>2</sup> )	No. of Community Reserves	Area Under Community Reserves (Km <sup>2</sup> )	No. of Conservation Reserves	Area Under Conservation Reserves (Km <sup>2</sup> )	No. of Protected areas	Total Area under Protected Areas (Km <sup>2</sup> )
2006	96	38392.12	503	111229.48	1	0.31	4	42.87	604	149664.78
2007	98	38428.88	507	111529.04	5	21	7	94.82	617	150073.74
2008	99	39441.74	510	113123.35	5	21	45	1259.84	659	153845.93
2009	99	39441.74	512	113395.36	5	21	45	1259.84	661	154117.94
2010	102	40283.62	516	113842.87	5	21	47	1382.28	670	155529.77
2011	102	40283.62	518	113998.75	5	21	52	1801.29	677	156104.66
2012	103	40500.13	526	114933.44	5	21	59	2012.93	693	157467.50
2013	102	40500.13	532	117123.63	19	30.94	64	2232.61	717	159887.31
2014	103	40500.13	535	118290.66	43	58.22	64	2232.61	745	161081.62
2015	103	40500.13	541	118866.44	44	59.51	71	2548.82	759	161974.90
2016	103	40500.13	543	118917.71	45	59.66	72	2566.20	763	162043.70
2017	103	40500.03	544	118931.80	46	72.61	76	2587.95	769	162092.49
2018	104	40501.03	544	118931.80	46	72.61	77	2594.03	771	162099.47
2019	101	40564.03	553	119756.97	163	833.34	86	3858.25	903	165012.59
2020	104	43716	566	122420	214	1302	97	4483	981	171921
2021	106	44372.42	564	122509.33	218	1445.71	99	4726.24	987	173053.69
2022	106	44402.94	570	126904.08	220	1455.15	107	5290.82	1003	178052.99
2023	106	44402.94	573	127197.55	220	1455.15	123	5585.05	1022	178640.69
2024	106	44403.00	573	127198.00	220	1455.15	123	5585.05	1022	178641.00
2025	106	44402.94	574	127241.24	309	8464.13	145	7054.60	1134	187162.91

Source: National wildlife Database, Wildlife Institute of India

#### Protected Areas of India (As on December, 2025)

	No.	Total Area(Km <sup>2</sup> )	Coverage % of Country
National Parks	106	44402.94	1.35
Wildlife Sanctuaries	574	127241.24	3.87
Conservation Reserves	145	7054.60	0.21
Community Reserves	309	8464.13	0.26
Protected Areas	1134	187162.91	5.69

(ENVIS Centre on Wildlife & Protected Areas - [wienvic.nic.in/www.wienvic.nic.in/Database/Protected\\_Area\\_854.aspx](http://wienvic.nic.in/www.wienvic.nic.in/Database/Protected_Area_854.aspx))

#### Challenges of Wildlife Conservation

**Loss of Biodiversity:-** Biodiversity loss means disappearance of biological diversity. Biodiversity loss caused due to increasing of population, habitat loss, invasive species (non-native species), over exploitation (over hunting and overfishing), pollution (addition of unwanted substances) and climate change associated with global warming. Biodiversity loss threatens the structure and balance of ecosystem (especially food chain and food web). When dealing with biodiversity loss, our strategies must include wildlife monitoring, government involvement, Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) collaboration, practice of protecting wild plants and animal species through conservation.

**Human Wildlife Conflict:-** Human wildlife conflict (HWC) refers to negative interactions between human and wild animals, with unwanted outcomes for people and their resources, on the one hand, and wildlife and their habitats on the other (IUCN 2020). HWC occurs when competition between human and wildlife increases for natural resources. It affects directly or indirectly both human and animals and human food security. In many regions, number of conflicts has increased due to human population growth and transformation of land use by anthropogenic activities. ( Nyhus, 2016; FAO, 2009). HWC is a serious global threat to sustainable development, food security and wildlife conservation. HWC outcomes include: Crop destruction, reduced agriculture, Competition for grazing lands and water supply, livestock predation, injury to human and increased risk of disease transmission. Strategies for HWC include population size regulation, translocation, lethal control, endangered species preservation, scientific research and sociological studies. The need to do better, gives first priority for management of biodiversity and protected areas. IUCN (2020)

**Deforestation and Forest Degradation:-** Deforestation and forest degradation is the global threats for many wild animals and their habitat. On large scale, deforestation has also led to extinction of various species as resulting in biodiversity loss (Bishaw, 2001). Uncontrolled logging, illegal production, climate change and fuel wood collection are some of the major causes of deforestation that directly affect wildlife and their habitat (Amare, 2015). Simple and important strategy against deforestation is to plant a tree. Cutting down of trees causes billions of tons carbon dioxide (greenhouse gas) released into air. When we plant a tree, it provides capacity to fight against global warming because trees absorb carbon dioxide. Similarly, reduce your impact on forest, use less paper, recycle paper because when one ton of paper recycle, it prevents the cutting of 17 trees (Amare, 2015). This way, you will decrease your contribution towards deforestation.

**Poaching:-** Poaching is illegal trafficking and capturing of wildlife. Poaching is a serious threat to numerous wild organisms worldwide and affects our biodiversity, particularly those species protected in wildlife preserves or national parks. Many animal species have been limited in number or may be endangered due to poaching includes: Elephant, hunted for their tusks, body parts and meat, Rhinoceroses for their horns, Tigers for skin, bones, teeth, claws, tails and whiskers, Sea turtles targets for hawksbill, and lemurs for their meat, and Gorillas are also hunted for their meat, these all are highlighted in the point of extinction, by the depredations of market hunters and unregulated sportsmen. Plants are also susceptible to poaching. Animals depend on plants directly or indirectly, here is an example with proof when forests are not completely cleared, some valuable trees like as rose wood or mahogany may be illegally logged from an area, eliminating both tree species and all animals that depend on it (The editors of Encyclopedia Britannica).



#### Conclusion

This paper has discussed the wildlife conservation and management. It is essential to maintain the balance of wildlife and their habitat. We find a strong need to promote the protection of endangered

species which have come at the point of extinction. It is also necessary to ramify awareness to people by educating each other through posters, social media, NGOs, researches relevant to ecology and other forms of communication. All of these are helpful in reducing the challenges of wildlife conservation because challenges of wildlife conservation are mainly connected with each other. Humans and their anthropogenic activities are responsible for loss of biodiversity, Human wildlife conflict, deforestation, forest degradation and poaching also. Wildlife protected areas extends to protect and preserve rare species with the help of such resources as National parks, wildlife sanctuaries, conservation reserves, community reserves, etc.

The government of many countries enforces strict laws and our whole hearted contribution can encourage wildlife conservation. Our responsible and initiative steps to protect biodiversity are necessary because life will become ridiculous without wildlife conservation.



Figure- Some pictures showing deforestation

**Future Direction of Wildlife Conservation:-** All we have to take the responsible charges to provide a safe and bright future for upcoming generations. It is important to recognize the interactions between wildlife and their environment. Wildlife provides so many benefits to us such as socio economic, cultural, employment possibility, sustainable environment, and aesthetics, scientific, touristy, nutritional and educational. Wildlife has always been play a vital role in our livelihood. Wildlife uses for multipurpose such as sociocultural, nutritional (especially protein from meat, eggs, etc.), folk medicine (body parts of some wild animals used in cure of disease and manufacture of drugs), recreational uses (aesthetic, photography, etc.), educational and scientific uses (most researchers use wild animals as specimens for conducting tests) (Sifuna, 2012).

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