

# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LAW MANAGEMENT & HUMANITIES

[ISSN 2581-5369]

---

Volume 7 | Issue 3

---

2024

© 2024 *International Journal of Law Management & Humanities*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://www.ijlmh.com/>

Under the aegis of VidhiAagaz – Inking Your Brain (<https://www.vidhiaagaz.com/>)

---

This article is brought to you for “free” and “open access” by the International Journal of Law Management & Humanities at VidhiAagaz. It has been accepted for inclusion in the International Journal of Law Management & Humanities after due review.

In case of **any suggestions or complaints**, kindly contact [Gyan@vidhiaagaz.com](mailto:Gyan@vidhiaagaz.com).

---

**To submit your Manuscript** for Publication in the **International Journal of Law Management & Humanities**, kindly email your Manuscript to [submission@ijlmh.com](mailto:submission@ijlmh.com).

---

# An Overview of Wildlife Conservation Efforts in India

---

MADHUJA CHAMOLI<sup>1</sup> AND HADIYA KHAN<sup>2</sup>

## ABSTRACT

*Wildlife is the origin of everything; it is an indubitable fact that all forms of flora and fauna have evolved from the elementary levels of the environment of a species of wildlife. Considering the hazardous effects that a location's wildlife has always been plagued with, it becomes essential to address the issues which grapple with it. Owing to the massive geographical structure of India, it is the abode of an ever-pervading wildlife, containing myriads of flora and fauna. Since modern times, India, so as to preserve this affluent treasure of nature, has brought out many acts and policies to foil the causes of its wildlife pangs at an alarming and effective scale. The following article strives to point out the instrumental steps that the Indian government has put forth to conserve its wildlife.*

*Wildlife is the origin of everything; it is an indubitable fact that all forms of flora and fauna have evolved from the elementary levels of the environment of a species of wildlife. Considering the hazardous effects that a location's wildlife has always been plagued with, it becomes essential to address the issues which grapple with it. Owing to the massive geographical structure of India, it is the abode of an ever-pervading wildlife, containing myriads of flora and fauna. Since modern times, India, so as to preserve this affluent treasure of nature, has brought out many acts and policies to foil the causes of its wildlife pangs at an alarming and effective scale. The following article strives to point out the instrumental steps that the Indian government has put forth to conserve its wildlife.*

**Keyword:** National park, Sanctuary, Project Tiger, Biosphere reserve Wildlife Conservation.

## I. INTRODUCTION

India, owing to its colossal area, is a home of innumerable flora and fauna. Of the total geographical area, about 22 percent are occupied by forests and trees. Such an affluent portion of land is the home of millions of species of animals. Man - made activities have significantly deteriorated the natural condition of their habitat - poaching, hunting, etc. As a matter of fact, at least 16 rhinos were killed for their horns in India's Assam State - this species is on the verge

---

<sup>1</sup> Author is a student at Law College Dehradun, Uttarakhand University, Uttarakhand, Dehradun, India.

<sup>2</sup> Author is an Assistant Professor at Law College Dehradun, Uttarakhand University, Uttarakhand, Dehradun, India.

of extinction worldwide. Another such example of poaching may be found in the following news: at the turn of the 20th century the tiger population in India was about 100000 and now it is bordering on 3000 wild tigers. This abrupt decline in population was, to an extent, due to the hunting fantasy of British imperialism in India. Many other species of tragic fates are exactly alike. Therefore conserving wildlife at present is the most essential goal of the world population. Over the years all the world's government has increasingly become vigilant of wild life deterioration. Likewise, in order to Converse its wild life and promote the propagation of those species that are declining at an alarming rate, the Indian government has launched many effective steps to ensure the growth and development of its flora and fauna. Among the issues there is poaching and other activities that exploit the animals for the benefit of the economy - poaching causes about 4 percent decline in wild life in India.

#### **(A) Needs Of Wildlife Conservation in India**

- For proper balancing of ecosystem
- For proper functions of food chain
- Wildlife and forest are essential measure of biodiversity
- Wildlife conservation is essential for human beings in order to protect them from flood, fire, and drought
- Wildlife gives their major contribution in production of foods Raw materials from nature and medicinal source. Wild plants are used in making pharmaceuticals drugs
- Humans needs to conserve the nature for making the future generation more healthy, and prosperous
- To protect our cultural biodiversity

## **II. METHODS TO PROTECT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN INDIA**

There are numerous ways to protect wildlife conservation in India which are follows as

- **Habitat Management:** It encompasses gathering census, statistical data, models concerning the species that need instant attention for conservation such method enables for the better planning in the preservation, protection and elevating the condition of a species natural habitat.
- **Establishment of protected areas:** In order to protect wildlife from human activities government need to establish national park, sanctuary, Biosphere reserve, where human

activities such as cultivation, grazing are prohibited. Protected area are developed carefully by bearing in mind about the well being of wildlife.

- Establishment of law's and policies: law's should be established in order to punish those who engage in illegal activities of hunting, poaching, killing of animals, birds for illegal trade of their skin, bones, animal fur, Horne, meat etc which have the excessive demand in the market. So strict laws should be made to punish the wrongdoers.
- Mass Education: people should encourage to actively participate in wildlife conservation programme. which helps them to realise the importance of wildlife by the way of conducting seminars, lectures, wildlife tour or by celebrating wildlife day every year. this type of environmental programme helps person to attach with nature.
- Captive breeding programme: It is a process of keeping or captive endangered species in controlled environment whose survival are threatened in wild due to various environmental factors. By keeping such species in zoo, wildlife reserve, botanic garden in order to keep them safe and protected from extinction

### **III. CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR WILDLIFE PROTECTION IN INDIA**

Constitution of India is a key document which contain fundamental rights and duties of citizens. It also laid down the directive principals of state policy, powers and structure and procedures of governmental institutions. It also called the living document. It is dynamic and constantly evolving changing with time. It is lengthiest constitution in any country on earth.

#### **Article 21**

Right to life is a fundamental right which include right to education, right to shelter, right to life states that no shall deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law

In the context of environmental right: protection and preservation of environment is essential for development of individual. Air free from pollution, water, sanitation are essential to live a life without which life cannot be enjoyed - K.M chinnappa v. Union of India

In the context of animal right: Supreme Court has brought some animal right under the ambit of right to life. In the case of animal welfare board of India v. A. Nagaraj and ors, (the jallikatu case )

#### **Article 48**

Lay's down the state shall organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific

lines and taken steps for preserving and improving breeds, and prohibiting the slaughter of cows and calves - Abdul hakim qureshi v. State of Bihar 1961.

### **Article 48A**

Lays down the directive principals for protection and improvement of environment and safeguarding of forest and wildlife of the country. Article 48A was added by 42nd amendment 1976, and the states are binding to make laws for the protection of environment and wildlife M. C mehta v. Union of India

### **Article 51A**

The fundamental duties of citizens are given in article 51 A (part 4) of constitution of India

In the context of environmental and animal right the relevant clause of article 51 A has read as follows

It shall be the duty of every citizen of India:

51(g) To protect and improve the natural environment including Forest, lake, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures

(h) to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform

Article 51(g) interpreted in animal welfare board of India v. A. Nagraja and ors(2014)

State of Gujarat v. Mirzapur Moti kureshi kassab jamat and ors (20005).SC held article 51A was to read with article 48 and 48A.Ensuring the spirit of all provisions are knowledge

**Important acts made by the Indian government to protect biodiversity and wildlife conservation in India are:**

- Fisheries act 1897
- Indian forest act 1927
- Minning act 1957
- Prevention of cruelty to animals 1960
- Wildlife protection act 1972
- Water ( prevention and control of pollution act 1974
- Forest conservation act 1980
- Air (prevention and control of pollution act) 1981
- Environmental protection act 1986

- Biological diversity act 2002
- Wetland (conservation and management) Rule 2010: It has been made up to protect wetland in India. Wildlife crime control buruae was established to subdue illegal trade, and hunting of wildlife and that of endangered species. Special organizations like wildlife institute of India, Bombay natural history society was setup to conduct research on wildlife conservation.
  - K. M chinnappa v. Union of India AIR(2002SC742)
  - Animal welfare board of India v. A. Nagraja and ORS AIR (2014) SCC 547
  - Abdul Hakim qureshi v. State of Bihar AIR(1961)

#### **IV. SOME OF THE IMPORTANT CONSERVATION INITIATIVES TAKEN BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN INDIA**

##### **(A) Project Tiger**

Besides being one of the most effective wildlife conservation steps, it has not only elevated the habitat of tigers, but also contributed significantly to the ecosystem. The project was launched by the government of India back in 1972 with the main objective of preserving and protecting the Bengal tiger breed. Among 47 tiger reserves established in over 17 regions there are Corbett National park and ranthambore national park that conducts the assessment of the tigers population, their natural habitat, hunting behaviours under the supervision of the tiger task force. India has seen a massive impact of this project on the tiger's habitat, increasing their population from a meagre 268 in nine reserves to above 1000 in 28 reserves in 2006 to 2000 tigers in 2016.the most recent data published demonstrates the total tiger population of 3167, which is the population estimate from the camera - trapped area. Having added up both the camera trapped area and non camera trapped tiger presence areas, the highest limit is estimated to be 3925 tigers and the average number is 3682 tigers, showing a substantial growth rate of 6.1 percent per annum.

##### **(B) Project Elephant**

Elephants, being one of the biggest mammals on earth, plays a crucial role in the functioning of biodiversity. the project elephant was launched in the year 1992 by the government of India with the following objectives. To protect the elephants from hunters and porchers and put an end to illegal trades of ivory. The project also includes the steps to foil the conditions that lead to the unnatural deaths of elephants in India. The project fosters planned and scientific management methods to Converse their habitat to alleviate the human intervention in their

habitats so as to be foil Any type of conflict between their encounters. The project also emphasizes the ecological restoration of their natural habitat. To ensure and protect the health and breeding of this one of the biggest mammals on the planet. The project has been implemented in sixteen states: Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Assam Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, Uttaranchal, Tamil Naidu and West Bengal. Though the figure may not be surprising, nevertheless, since 1992, the year of the projects initiation, the population of elephants has increased to around 30000 in 2021 from what this figure was back in 1992 - 25000.

### **(C) Project Rhino**

Project Rhino was initiated in 2005 to conserve and protect the greater one-horned rhinoceros, native to the Indian subcontinent. these are the second largest extant species of rhinoceros. Once this species used to stroll all over the indo-gangetic plain but poaching and hunting killed countless, pushing them to the verge of extinction and reducing their habitat to a mere eleven places. owing to the various uses of their horns, they are often porched and killed to supply their horns to the black markets of the world. for example, almost 100 rhinos were killed between 2013 and 2018 in India. to conserve these animals, IRV moved 18 Indian Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary National Park Manas National Park rhinos from Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary and Kaziranga National Park to Manas National Park. As of 2022, the total number of Indian rhinos is 4014. In addition to this project and fostering their habitat, the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 project was launched to achieve at least 3000 rhinos across India by 2020.

### **(D) Crocodile Conservation Project**

The crocodile conservation project was launched in 1976 with the primary objective of protecting the nation's three crocodile species: Gharial, the fresh water crocodile and the saltwater crocodile. The project aims at ensuring safe breeding of these marine - land animals. The gharial was on the verge of extinction in 1974. The resurrection of the gharial was the cornerstone of the crocodile conservation project. To foil their alarmingly declining population, over 250 gharial were released in the ramganga river in Corbett between the year 1982 - 1994. The gharial and saltwater crocodile conservation programme was first implemented in 1975 in odisha, followed by the mugger conservation programme. Since the year 1977, more than 2000 crocodiles have been released in creeks and estuaries, causing a gradual increase in the crocodile population in the river system of bhitarkanika. The local crocodile population has grown to 1768 in 2021 from A mere 96 in 1974. As to the latest data of 2022, it is estimated that there are 3000 to 5000 mugger / marsh crocodiles in India.

**(E) Project Snow Leopard**

Project snow leopard: snow leopards are found in Himalayan and trans Himalayan region at over 2700 m above the sea level. This species is native to the mountain ranges of South and Central Asia. India feeds approximately ten percent of the world's snow leopard population which is spread across the five Himalayan states: Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir. These animals reside in extremely cold regions. Owing to our negligence against poaching and their natural habitat degradation; they have come very close to the human settlements in quest of their everyday prey, thus throwing their lives into peril of violence. Considering these facts, in 2009 the ministry of environment, forests and climate change initiated project snow leopard to encourage attempts to conserve snow leopards along with their habitats in India. The project's sole aim is to conserve their natural habitat through community involvement at large scale. It also intends for all biologically essential habitats within the animals ranges, irrespective of ownership. Since the year 2013 India has been a participant in the global snow leopard and ecosystem programme (GSLEP). India's first estimation demonstrates 718 snow leopards in the wild of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Sikkim.

**(F) Project Sea Turtles**

Olive turtles are one of the smallest species of sea turtles. In our times this species, too, is grappling with the modern activities of pollution, waste, plastic garbage, and human consumption. Further, their degradation is also caused by overexploitation of marine resources by trawlers incessantly violates the rule of not fishing within the distance of 20 kilometres of a marine sanctuary. The UNDP sea turtle project was launched in 1999 by the ministry of environment and forests along with the wildlife institute of India, Dehradun, for the aim of protecting olive ridley turtles and other endangered species of turtles. The project has been carried out in ten coastal states of India, particularly in the state of Orissa. It lays guidelines for the development activities in an area, with the objective of conserving turtle breeding areas and protecting them from any type of disruption. Besides, it imparts funds for the monitoring and development of the project; the satellite method is used to identify the nesting area of olive ridley turtles. In addition to these aims, the project also aids in the preparation of the following: the development of infrastructure and their habitat, measures to minimise turtle mortality, to foster national and international cooperative action for sea turtle protection. In the Bhitarkanika wildlife sanctuary, India, feeds their largest nesting whopping population with an average of 398000 females, nesting each year.



**(G)Project Hangul**

The project was launched by the Kashmir government in 1970 with the assistance of WWF. In 2009 it was rechristened as " save Kashmir's red deer Hangul. The species of Hangul deer are found in the national park dachigam and nearby areas. Their population was about 5000 back at the beginning of the 20th century. Soon their habitat began to deteriorate; owing to overgrazing, unfavorable climatic conditions, and poaching, which led to a drastic fall in their population to about 150 in 1970. In order to rescue the population of hangul deer, the state government of Jammu and Kashmir, with the support of WWF and IUCN, commenced this project. The project turned out to be quite successful, showing an increase in the population of Hangul deer to above 340, as of 1980.

**(H)Protected Areas**

To fortify the ecological diversity. Our country has established a series of conservation areas. Among them there are above 106 national park and 515 wildlife sanctuary and 18 biosphere reserve these protected areas are categories by IUCN

**(I) National Park**

A national park may be defined as an area located by the government for the conversation of the natural environment. Beside ,it can serves as a recreation and amusement of people, while simultaneously containing many animals and plants. Yellow stone national park is widely considered as the first ever established in the year 1872.

Some of the national parks of our country are:

- Jim Corbett national park (Nainital)
- Kaziranga national park (Assam)
- Gir National park(Gujarat)
- Bandipur national park (Karnataka)
- Rajaji national park (Uttarakhand)
- Bandhavgarh national Park (Madhya Pradesh)
- Ranthambore natinal Park (Rajasthan)
- Dudhwa national park (Uttar Pradesh)
- Eravikulam national park (Kerala)

**(J) Wildlife Sanctuary**

Wildlife sanctuaries are areas in which an animal habitat is protected from any activity that leads to the deterioration of animals. In a wildlife sanctuary, the killing, capturing and poaching of animals are strictly prohibited. It aims to provide an environment conducive to the protection and growth of an animal's natural habitat. The following are some of the wildlife sanctuaries in India: Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary in Rajasthan. Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala. Govind Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttarakhand. Madumalai Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu.

**(K) Biosphere Reserve**

Biosphere reserve is may be defined as A protected area whose sole objective is to protect the biodiversity (Flora and fauna) of geophysical region, while simultaneously promoting sustainable development. The biosphere zones are divided into the three zones that constitute it: the core area, buffer zone and transition zone. An example of biosphere reserves in the world is Guadalupe Island and picks de Europa. In India, the largest biosphere reserve is the gulf of Kachchh, Gujarat

**V. CONCLUSION**

In summary, India's wildlife conservation acts are pivotal in maintaining the nation's diverse ecosystems. These laws have been essential in shielding endangered species and their natural habitats from threats such as habitat loss, illegal hunting, and climate shifts. Through strict enforcement and encouraging community involvement, India has achieved notable progress in conserving its wildlife. Nonetheless, ongoing efforts and flexible strategies are vital to tackle new challenges and ensure harmonious coexistence between humans and wildlife. The effectiveness of these conservation acts relies not only on strong legal frameworks but also on the collective responsibility of citizens, policymakers, and conservationists to work together for a vibrant and balanced natural environment. Owing to the above mentioned steps, we can see an enormous position change in biodiversity, and thus can pave the way for a world devoid of all sorts of natural or physical deficiency.

\*\*\*\*\*

**VI. REFERENCES**

- Ecology Environmental Science And Conservation. author J. S Singh S. p Singh S.R Gupta publisher S C Chand
- Environmental Ecology, Biodiversity, Climate Change and Disaster Management author Ravi P Agrahari Publisher McGraw hills
- Environment and Ecology author Majid Husain Publisher Access Publishing
- Environmental law author Dr. H. N tiwari publication Allahabad Law Agency.

\*\*\*\*\*