



# The Roadmap of Wildlife Conservation and Management for Sustainable Development

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## ABSTRACT

Wildlife conservation is the heart of biodiversity and Mother Earth. Wildlife conservation entails protecting the wild species and their natural habitat to maintain a healthy balance in the natural ecosystem.

Several wildlife creatures have lost their habitat due to the increasing cases of endangered wildlife species brought on by global evolution and development, which eventually result in their exploitation. The Global Risk Report 2020 issued by The World Economic Forum notes that the ecosystem will collapse due to biodiversity loss as humans increasingly rely on it for economic gain. Undoubtedly, unchecked human activity will lead to an unsustainable environment.

Bilateral agreements such as the International Convention to protect birds, fisheries convention, etc., were first established. There were laws enacted at the international level for wildlife conservation before any international accords. These regulations were created in response to industrial pollution and resource depletion.

The United Nations' initiative on the human environment dates back to the 1972 Stockholm Conference. It was the first international meeting to address environmental challenges. The conference produced two key results: -

- Stockholm Declaration
- Action Plan for the human environment

According to Principle 4 of the Stockholm Conference, it is up to humans to protect the legacy of nature and wildlife from extinction. Principle 13 of the conference says that to improve environmental protection, humans should collectively act to impose rational planning and development policies.

To achieve environmental sustainability objectives, the environment and economy must be integrated. The Stockholm Conference served as a guiding light for advancing international environmental relations. Additionally, the 'Earth Summit' for international action on Sustainable Development was held under the auspices of the 1992 Rio Declaration.

The study seeks to explain how, throughout time, wildlife conservation has become a significant component of the nation's goals for sustainable development and its aftermath. The entire study is doctrinal and based on international conventions. The research is concluded with the authors' opinions, findings, and recommendations.

## **SCOPE OF STUDY**

The topic of the research paper deals with how wildlife protection promotes sustainable development. It focuses on understanding wildlife trafficking and the critical need to stop it.

There have been numerous causes for the extinction of animals in the world. A component of the natural habitat is flora and fauna. An ecological imbalance brought on by damage to one of them will result in unsustainable development. Even though there are international laws controlling wildlife conservation, the majority of crimes go unreported. In this paper, we have attempted to analyze the rationale for reducing wildlife trafficking with the help of case studies. We tried to pursue legal rulings that aided in the strict execution of laws or conventions to avoid wildlife crimes. Together with it, we have provided recommendations for the flaws that we think need to be remedied.

## **STATEMENT OF PROBLEM**

Several actions have been launched at the international level by governments from around the world to protect wildlife and maintain sustainable development. But in the history of sustainable development, people have always been at the center. The phrase has always been understood to refer to human development only, not to that of other species like nature. Overexploitation of wildlife has resulted from it.

## OBJECTIVES

The research paper explains:

1. To recognize the role that the protection of wildlife plays in advancing sustainable development.
2. To understand the causes of the rise in wildlife crimes.
3. To examine the international agreements aimed at preventing crimes against wildlife.
4. To comprehend how judicial rulings have effectively enforced wildlife-related regulations.
5. Should environmental deterioration be allowed to occur at the expense of economic growth?
6. To comprehend the World Wildlife Fund's function.
7. To examine Indian views on protecting wildlife and preventing sustainability.

## HYPOTHESIS

The idea of sustainable development has grown in relevance on a worldwide scale. Sustainable development should be integral to every nation's development programs and policies to prevent environmental damage. The preservation of wildlife is essential to sustainable development. Because they are mutually dependent, humans and wildlife suffer when either one suffers. Wildlife faces many natural and man-made hazards. Many species have gone extinct due to the excessive exploitation of nature for economic gain and profit. Sustainable development calls for wildlife preservation.

## METHODOLOGY

The research paper "**The Roadmap of Wildlife Conservation and Management for Sustainable Development**" followed the doctrinal research methodology and secondary sources based on international conventions, case studies, and judicial decisions of the court.

## INTRODUCTION

Since ancient times, wildlife has played a significant role in human civilizations and the economy. People have exploited countless wild plant and animal species for food, medicine, clothing, furniture, and other uses in their daily lives. People began overusing and overexploiting these wild plant and animal species to increase their profits, which resulted in the extinction of many of these species.

Wildlife life and people are mutually dependent. Hence, if one suffers, the other will also suffer. Wildlife is incredibly important to humans since it gives us many socioeconomic benefits, such as food and medicines. Tourism relies greatly on animals and biodiversity in many countries.

Natural resources on Earth include land, air, water, plants, animals, and people. Several wildlife species have disappeared over the past few decades due to various factors, including deforestation, climate change, animal

trafficking, and exploitation. Experts have discovered that the rate of extinction caused by natural causes is thousands of times faster than the rate at which species are vanishing from the globe.<sup>1</sup>

## WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY WILDLIFE CONSERVATION?

The preservation and restoration of the ecology of the Earth depend on wildlife protection. The term "wildlife conservation" describes a strategy for preserving wild species in their natural habitat. It attempts to defend wildlife against dangers like killing, poaching, smuggling, etc.

For the planet to be sustainable, wildlife preservation is essential. A sustainable future requires the preservation and protection of endangered animal species. The two major threats to wildlife today are habitat loss and illegal commerce. Several factors threaten wildlife and biodiversity. Land degradation, deforestation, ocean acidification, and climate change are a few of these factors. The well-being of humans is at risk due to the loss of vital ecosystem services caused by the degradation of wildlife's natural habitat. The weaker members of society are the most impacted, such as the impoverished, women, and children.

It's also important to protect wildlife against other criminal activities, including poaching, hunting, and wildlife trafficking. They have brought numerous species dangerously close to extinction.

## THREATS TO WILDLIFE

The following are some of the main dangers affecting animals today: -

**Illegal Trade:** One of the biggest challenges confronting wildlife today is the illegal trade. It has caused local and worldwide extinction of species by reducing their population.

**Habitat destruction:** It reduces the ability of an area to support species, which may result in the extinction of that wildlife. It is difficult for species to acquire food, water, and a location to raise their young because of habitat degradation. These things are crucial for their survival, but the devastation of their ecosystem has left them without them, endangering their ability to live.

**Climate change:** The Earth is now warmer thanks to climate change. It has caused ice to melt and the water level to rise. In many respects, this has put animals in danger. Several species, including polar bears and sea turtles, are at risk. Many climatic fluctuations brought on by climate change, such as frequent and severe droughts, heat waves, warm waters, etc., harm biodiversity.

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<sup>1</sup> AZO LIFE SCIENCES, <https://www.azolifesciences.com/article/Why-is-Wildlife-Conservation-Crucial-to-a-Sustainable-Future.aspx> (last visited April 1, 2023).



**Pollution:** The greatest danger to wildlife is pollution caused by humans. Due to numerous human activities, a vast diversity of toxins are discharged into the environment. These negatively impact animal life. Several species have become extinct as a result of these contaminants. Fossil fuels, mining, animal agriculture, releasing poisonous and dangerous waste into water bodies, etc., have all harmed animals and threatened their survival.

Several studies and research articles have demonstrated how human activities harm wildlife and biodiversity. The Global Assessment Report 2019 on Biodiversity and Environment Services was released by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). This study paints a gloomy picture of how habitat loss, overuse by humans, and climate change may result in the extinction of nearly a million species over the next few decades.<sup>2</sup>

The loss of biodiversity, which will cause ecosystems to collapse, is one of the top 5 challenges the world will face in the future years, according to the World Economic Forum's 2020 Global Risk Report.

Instead of conventional weapons like guns and traps, hunters and poachers now use more advanced and potent weapons, known as the technological era. According to the United Nations, the spread of weapons, poaching, and regional security are all related. Conservation of animals, therefore, affects not only the environment but also safety, peace, social cohesion, and good governance. So, there is a necessity and need for international cooperation to address the issue of illegal wildlife trading and hunting.

## **WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING**

The word "wildlife trafficking" describes illegal slaughter, poaching, smuggling, and other forms of animal trade<sup>3</sup>. Wild animals are mercilessly removed from their habitat as a part of this process and sold away for monetary or personal gain.

Illegal wildlife trade is considered a crime against the environment. Wildlife extinction would be a major loss to the environment and natural resources because wildlife is believed to be an integral component of the natural ecosystem. The growing population and resource demand are two major factors contributing to wildlife trafficking. The demand for leather goods, jewelry, accessories, costumes, etc., is rising due to ongoing industrialization and growth.

The global ecosystem is being seriously hampered by wildlife trafficking, which has also had a detrimental effect on the viability of the wildlife population.

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<sup>2</sup> UNITED NATIONS, <https://www.un.org/en/un-chronicle/global-framework-wildlife-conservation-can-benefit-sustainable-human-development> (last visited April 1, 2023).

<sup>3</sup> WILDLIFE TRADE, <https://wildlifetrade.wcs.org/Wildlife-Trade/What-is-wildlife-trafficking.aspx> (last visited Mar. 20, 2023).

## WHY SHOULD WE BE CONCERNED ABOUT IT?

We know that illegal wildlife trading has led to animal extinction and, eventually, the loss of natural habitats. There have been no positive outcomes. There could be a wide range of issues with it. It is more likely to result in ecosystem imbalances such as deforestation, forest loss, resource depletion, earthquakes, tsunamis, and other natural disasters.

Concern should be expressed over the increasing number of animals being killed illegally to produce goods that are in demand and make money. The question arises as to why we should care about the decline of animals now arises. And how does it relate to the unsustainable state of the environment?

- i. The primary justification is that it seriously jeopardizes the livelihood of everyone. Animals and plants are natural resources, as we all know. They both make excellent contributions to medications. Surely, the depletion of shared resources would result from the extinction of flora and fauna, resulting in a world that is not sustainable.
- ii. As mentioned, it will lead to an environmental imbalance. The health of the Earth is essential to human existence. Furthermore, we must safeguard the planet's ecology to ensure sustainable human existence.
- iii. The widespread and merciless slaughter and trade of animals on the international market is concerning. It is paving the way for the environmental crisis that calls into doubt the viability of sustainable development of livelihoods.
- iv. The loss of biodiversity due to the extinction or decline of animal species is still another significant issue.
- v. It has also been discovered that the disease is transmitted due to wildlife trafficking. Animals are used in experiments worldwide for various purposes, which can accelerate the spread of infections or viruses. For instance, the COVID-19 virus, respiratory issues, or the Ebola virus.
- vi. The rapid depletion of natural resources and the loss of livelihood have significantly impacted the country's economic progress. A lack of resources largely causes the growing instances of poverty worldwide.

In Vietnam, for instance, tigers' skin and heads are displayed and for sale. In addition, animals are captured in unfavorable situations where they are tortured, exchanged, or killed to meet supply and demand goals and eventually gratify human demands.

## CASE STUDY ON WILDLIFE TRADE

Globally, wildlife trafficking is ranked as the fourth most pervasive environmental crime. A strong network surrounds the international illegal trafficking of animals. The nation's economic growth has become more diverse as a result.

Law enforcement agencies have been established to protect wildlife species' populations from wildlife crimes. The majority of incidents have yet to be reported at a considerable rate. It has put the ecology at risk and increased pressure on the government to stop destroying habitats.

Overuse of wildlife species has thrown off the delicate balance of nature. For instance, global trading in elephant ivory is rife today. Over 10% of the elephant population was reportedly murdered by poachers in 2013 due to the rising demand. And as was predicted, the elephant population would disappear within the next 15 to 20 years<sup>4</sup>. Another illustration is the annual trading of millions of fish, birds, etc. A sizable and lucrative market for business has resulted from it.

### 1. Trade of Gecko, a lizard in North-east India

The northeastern region of India is renowned for its flora and fauna, making it a region rich in biodiversity. In the woods of North-east India, a wide variety of animals, including reptiles, can be found. A rare species of lizard called a gecko can be discovered in the forests.

The lizards' illegal trade is becoming worse every day. Geckos are traded for therapeutic purposes all over the world. In particular, the lizard is being collected and sold at high prices in Manipur and Assam because of its therapeutic qualities. Some think it can treat diseases like AIDS or cancer. But it has yet to be demonstrated by science.

### 2. Ivory trade in Africa

Elephant poaching is spreading quickly throughout Asia. In Africa, thousands of elephants are killed each year for their tusks. And the reason for this is the rise in demand for ivory. Ivory is commonly utilized for decorative or therapeutic purposes. Elephant skin and heads are occasionally exhibited and sold in local African markets.

### 3. Skinning the cat

There is a market hub in China where the skins of various animals are marketed and exported between nations. People from all around the world travel to China each year to purchase animal skins. They primarily use it for ornamental or other uses. People frequently purchase it at a high rate because the demand is great. Animal trafficking illegally is becoming a more and more significant industry.

<sup>4</sup> WORLD WILDLIFE, <https://www.worldwildlife.org/threats/illegal-wildlife-trade> (last visited Mar. 20, 2023).

## **SIGNIFICANCE OF STOCKHOLM AND RIO CONFERENCE**

### **STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE**

The first worldwide initiative for environmental protection was the 1972 United Nations Conference on Environment, popularly known as the Stockholm Conference. The environment was the first important problem to be tackled at a conference. The 1972 edition took place in Stockholm from June 6–15. The conference's two key results were:

1. Stockholm Declaration
2. Action plan for the human environment

The Stockholm Declaration was not legally binding. It consists of 26 concepts that discuss the environment and its prevention. It acknowledged the protection of wildlife as one of the crucial elements of sustainable development. Some of the guiding principles for protecting animals include:

#### **Principle 2**

It states that it is crucial to maintain the Earth's natural resources, particularly its flora, and fauna, via careful planning and management for the benefit of both the present and future generations.<sup>5</sup>

#### **Principle 4**

According to this notion, everyone must protect and sustainably manage wildlife and their habitat. Planning for economic growth includes wildlife protection as an essential component.

#### **Principle 7**

According to the law, governments must take action to stop pollutants that could endanger marine life and living resources from contaminating the water.

### **RIO CONFERENCE**

The UN Conference on Environment and Development, usually called the Rio Conference, occurred in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. On the 20th anniversary of the Stockholm Conference, it was held. Its main objective was to discuss how socioeconomic activity affects the environment. Another significant aspect of this conference was the participation of numerous NGOs, scientists, and media representatives in addition to State Parties. The conference's primary results were:

1. Rio Declaration
2. Agenda 21

<sup>5</sup> UNITED NATIONS, <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/environment/stockholm1972> (last visited April 1, 2023).



3. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
4. Convention on Biological Diversity
5. Declaration on Principles of Forest Management

## 1. CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, 1992

This Convention's key goals are preserving biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components.

Some of its key articles include:

In **Article 6**, the topic of conservation and sustainable use is covered. According to the agreement, each state party must adopt national plans, programs, and strategies for the preservation and sustainable use of the biological variety. Plans, programs, and strategies for social, economic, and environmental development should also include the sustainable exploitation of biological variety.

In **Article 8**, In-situ conservation is the main focus. Conservation of species in their natural habitat or ecosystem is called in situ conservation. The article emphasizes that nations should establish protected zones where extra steps can be taken to maintain biological diversity. It should also expand, control, and support such areas. National parks, sanctuaries, biosphere reserves, and other examples of such places.

In **Article 9**, Ex-situ conservation is discussed in this article. It refers to preserving species outside of their ecosystems or native habitats. According to this article, countries must develop policies to conserve biological diversity's constituent parts ex-situ. They ought to set up, support, and enable in situ preservation of fauna and flora. They ought to implement strategies for the rehabilitation and recovery of endangered species. These species ought to be properly restored to their original habitats.

## 2. AGENDA 21

There are several principles in Agenda 21 for the preservation of wildlife for sustainable development. Among them, important principles are:

### a) CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

It asserts that species, genes, and ecosystems must be preserved and maintained. It urged all states to take specific actions to safeguard wildlife and biological variety, including,

- Perform extensive studies into the value of biodiversity for ecosystems, including conducting national assessments of the state of biodiversity.
- Creation of national plans to protect and sustain biological diversity.
- Safeguarding natural environments.

- Support the preservation of wildlife.

## b) PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF OCEAN AND MARINE LIVES

The nations should take the following actions to conserve the maritime environment and marine species: -

- Developing countries must protect their ocean resources. To avoid the risk of long-term or permanent consequences on the maritime environment, they should take action to stop further degradation of the marine environment.
- Also, while engaging in activities that could hurt the seas and oceans, states should complete environmental impact assessments.
- General environmental, social, and economic development policies should include measures to protect the marine environment.
- Minimizing or stopping chemical emissions that damage marine life.
- It also emphasizes that states should carry out these tasks with the assistance of NGOs, the United Nations, and the private sector.

## INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

International authorities, comprising member nations worldwide, acknowledged the need for international treaties or conventions to protect and conserve the species as the prevalence of wildlife crimes increased globally. Some significant international conventions were formed in accordance with the objective. To name a few,

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)<sup>6</sup>
- The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network (TRAFFIC)
- World Heritage Convention (WHC)
- United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)<sup>7</sup>
- Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT)

<sup>6</sup> Vanya Verma, International Conventions and Treaties Dealing with Wildlife, ipleaders (Mar. 15, 2023, 10:00 AM), <https://blog.ipleaders.in/international-conventional-treaties-wildlife/>.

<sup>7</sup> UNITED NATIONS, <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/index.html> (last visited Mar. 15, 2023).

## 1. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)<sup>8</sup>

It is a non-binding international agreement that allows countries to stop the illegal animal trade. It makes sure that international wildlife trafficking does not put endangered animal and plant species in jeopardy. The United Nations Environment Programme governs the CITES. The CITES is successfully preventing the trade in wildlife on a global scale and the extinction of species.

India, a nation with tremendous diversity, is a CITES member. As a country with a high biodiversity, the government and the populace strive to preserve the natural ecosystem, including flora and wildlife.

## 2. World Heritage Convention (WHC)

It is a mechanism utilized worldwide to defend and maintain the natural heritage. It advocates that preserving legacy and sustainability for future generations is the responsibility of member nations, the global community, and individuals.

The preservation of historic places is the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The places are nominated and added to the World Heritage list. Major locations have been nominated for the Heritage list by UNESCO and WHO. Nanda Devi National Park, Manas National Park, and Keoladeo National Park, among many more, are just a few of India's efforts to conserve wildlife.

## 3. The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network (TRAFFIC)

It is a worldwide non-governmental organization that fights against illegal wildlife trafficking. It offers practical ways for safeguarding plants and animals from unauthorized trade in flora and fauna.

India and TRAFFIC have worked closely together to detect wildlife trafficking. The team consists of professionals who educate the representatives engaged in animal conservation. Additionally, it analyses the research on the wildlife trade. Also, it started a number of awareness-raising programs to persuade the governments to work together to protect wildlife habitats.

## 4. United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

UNFF is an organization established by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The organization's mission is to advance the sustainable use, management, and preservation of forests. As a global tool, it helps to lessen deforestation, improve forests, combat poverty, promote sustainable development, etc.

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<sup>8</sup>Vanya Verma, International Conventions and Treaties Dealing with Wildlife, ipleaders (Mar. 15, 2023, 10:00 AM),

<https://blog.ipleaders.in/international-conventional-treaties-wildlife/>.

## 5. Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT)

The organization seeks to end the trade in wildlife and the sale of animal-derived goods. The rate of population growth has grown with industrialization and development. Moreover, the demand for and availability of wildlife items have increased due to rising human desires.

### INTER-LINKAGE BETWEEN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable wildlife conservation refers to the management and preservation of wildlife to ensure the longevity of the species' population while also considering the socioeconomic needs of the human population.

Several examples prove that protecting wildlife has led to sustainability. These examples demonstrate how development and protection can coexist without conflict. Vicuna trading is prohibited by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Vicunas are an animal species that are native to South American Andes. Due to the over-exploitation of its excellent wool fiber, they were almost driven to extinction. The vicuna population then rebounded following this limitation. A vicuna fiber harvesting program has been in operation.

Since 2007, Bolivia has had a system in place to gather vicuna fiber, and it has quickly developed into a sector that accounts for 20% of the country's exports. This has strengthened local communities without putting vicunas in jeopardy.<sup>9</sup>

To improve conservation efforts, governments worldwide are brought together through several international organizations and conventions, such as the United Nations and CITES.

Many international agreements protecting wildlife and biodiversity have shown how a global framework for conservation can benefit human development.<sup>10</sup> CITES recognized how crucial it is to ensure that international wildlife trading is legal and sustainable for the advancement of the environment and humanity.

The CITES promotes the involvement of state parties, local government entities, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations in implementing the Convention. Threatened marine, terrestrial, and avian species will be preserved, and more sustainable livelihood possibilities will be available.

<sup>9</sup> AZO LIFE SCIENCES, <https://www.azolifesciences.com/article/Why-is-Wildlife-Conservation-Crucial-to-a-Sustainable-Future.aspx> (last visited April 1, 2023).

<sup>10</sup> UNITED NATIONS, <https://www.un.org/en/un-chronicle/global-framework-wildlife-conservation-can-benefit-sustainable-human-development> (last visited April 1, 2023).



## ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Can environmental destruction caused by economic growth result in sustainable development?

The answer to this question is complicated. Politicians and other leaders must consider the environment when planning economic expansion. Even though economic growth promotes development, development at the cost of the environment leads to environmental damage and unsustainability.

The environment is crucial and demands attention as the economy expands. The loss of the natural habitat is visible in hill stations and other biodiverse regions. It has been noted that development projects in these places cause deforestation, the eradication of plant and animal species, the alteration of river courses, and other environmental harm.

It causes an imbalance in the natural ecology, which destroys the heritage. We must comprehend the significance of protecting and preserving our natural heritage. Sustainable development is regulated by factors such as clean air and water, the preservation of resources, the avoidance of wildlife trade, etc.

To protect the environment, effective public policies and international agreements are required. We must make sure that environmental harm does not result from economic progress.

International environmental jurisprudence has consistently addressed the preservation of wildlife. The law enforcement agency eventually understood the value of wildlife as a source of natural habitat and began to promote the idea of managing and conserving animals.

**On May 21, 2020, the Islamabad High Court issued a noteworthy decision declaring that animals have legal rights.** The elephants, in this case, known as the Kaavan, were subjected to cruel treatment and were trafficked across continents for financial gain. To secure a welfare paradigm in society, the court highlighted the strong implementation of legislation protecting wildlife. As animals are given fundamental rights, it is crucial to safeguard them to keep nature's delicate balance.

In a case involving Japan's illegal whaling operation, **Australia v. Japan**<sup>11</sup>, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) rendered yet another significant ruling.

<sup>11</sup> WORLD ANIMAL PROTECTION, <https://www.worldanimalprotection.org/news/japan-banned-whale-hunting-research> (last visited Mar. 10, 2023).

The national consensus ratified the Whaling Convention, which is a non-binding agreement. As a result, the International Whaling Commission was established, and it now has the authority to change the convention in specific cases with a three-fourths majority of votes.

The main issue was whether it was acceptable for Japan to use fatal force to enforce the Whaling Agreement. The Treaty permitted the slaughter of whales under rare conditions using non-lethal methods. Japan was therefore instructed to follow these guidelines if it wanted to implement the Whaling Convention in its own country.

## INDIAN PERSPECTIVE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The colonial era is when wildlife conservation began. The first rules and regulations for the conservation of animals were created during this time. The Wild Birds Preservation Act was enacted by the British government in 1897. The government enacted the Wildlife and Wildlife Preservation Act in 1912.

With India's independence, the Indian government created laws and programs to safeguard the nation's wildlife. The Act for Wildlife Protection was implemented in 1972. Also, India joined numerous international agreements to protect wildlife, including the Ramsar Convention of 1971, the Convention on Biological Diversity of 1992, etc.

### Types of Wildlife Conservation in India

The two types of wildlife conservation described in the Rio Conference's Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992, are practiced in India. They include,

**Ex-situ conservation** refers to the protection of wild creatures away from their natural habitat in a more secure location. The zoo is one example.

**In-situ conservation:** Only the natural habitat of these wild species is protected. National parks and wildlife sanctuaries are two examples.

The Indian government has undertaken several programs and projects to protect its wildlife, including Project Elephant for managing and conserving wild elephants and Project Tiger to safeguard the country's declining population of royal tigers.

Many national parks have also been established to safeguard species that are in danger of going extinct. These parks include Gir National Park of Gujarat, The Kaziranga National Park of Assam, and the Periyar National Park in Kerala.

The Indian Constitution advocates the need for environmental protection through various constitutional provisions.

**Article 51A** - The citizens must protect the natural environment, including rivers, lakes, forests, wildlife, etc. And take every possible measure to improve the natural habitat of the nation.

**Article 48A**- It imposes a duty on the states to safeguard the natural environment, including forests and wildlife animals.

**Article 14** - It talks about equality before the law and equal protection of the law. With regard to the environment, it imposes a duty on the government to take appropriate and reasonable actions to protect the environment.

**Article 21** - It states that every person has a right to live in a healthy and clean environment.

The Parliament has passed different laws on wildlife protection in compliance with the environmental provisions outlined in the Constitution. The chief among them is: -

### **The National Environmental Tribunal Act of 2010**

The statute aims to handle environmental harm concerns and compensate victims effectively. It seeks to safeguard forests, wildlife, and other natural resources. Also, it resulted in the creation of a court to uphold environmental legal rights.

### **The Forest Conservation Act, 1980**

It emphasized the importance of protecting forests since they are a source of vital resources that hold the natural environment together. The frequent occurrence of economic development activities in the forest has affected the local flora, animals, and inhabitants. As a result, we must safeguard the nation's unique cultural diversity and maintain a healthy balance between people and the environment.

### **The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**

We are all too aware of the widespread occurrences of wildlife crime and the decline in animal populations. The Parliament passed the Wildlife Protection Act to solve these problems and save animals and the forests.

### **The National Green Tribunal Act**

The Parliament acknowledged the need for creating a specialized tribunal that will focus on issues related to the environment. The NGT has occasionally played a significant role in protecting the environment, prosecuting those who attempt to harm it, and—most importantly—paying compensation to those harmed by activities resulting in environmental damage.

India as a nation has thus developed and comprehended the complexity of the human environment to conserve the environment regardless of development activities.

## **FUND WILDLIFE**

The World Wildlife Fund is a renowned multinational organization that addresses threats to the environment and works to ensure that all living creatures have a bright future<sup>12</sup>. It promotes wildlife preservation and lessens human activity's negative effects on the environment.

The group works to stop environmental deterioration and maintain environmental and human harmony to advance sustainable development. The organization works to persuade the country to strengthen its environmental protection enforcement laws and occasionally publishes suggestions on managing natural resources and habitats.

The necessity to protect the natural ecosystem, including the plants and animals, is promoted. Additionally, it aims to educate people on how to live in a sustainable ecosystem and impacts those who make decisions. It collaborates with non-governmental organizations, business associations, and worldwide communities. Finally, it persuades the government to launch a cooperative action plan to aid the World Wildlife Fund in achieving its objectives and significantly improving environmental protection on a worldwide scale.

## **SUGGESTIONS**

- 1) It's critical to safeguard the habitat and prevent its degradation. It includes areas featuring wildlife, wetlands, rivers, and woods.
- 2) Collaborate with the NGO or provide assistance on your own to defend animal rights.
- 3) Launch awareness programs to alert people against torturing or killing animals for nefarious purposes.
- 4) More effective law enforcement organizations for effectively implementing wildlife forums or programs.
- 5) Protecting greenery and forest habitat is essential if you want to eliminate natural calamities like earthquakes and tsunamis.
- 6) Encourage afforestation by growing trees around you.

There are yet more recommendations on the board. The government and individuals can take additional steps to protect and manage wildlife.

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<sup>12</sup> WORLD WILDLIFE FUND, <https://wwf.panda.org/> (last visited Mar. 15, 2023).



## CONCLUSION

Sustainable wildlife conservation refers to the management and preservation of wildlife while considering the human population's socioeconomic needs to secure the species population's survival.

According to CITES, "sustainable use" in the context of wildlife commerce refers to trade that does not imperil or harm the survival of a species. For wildlife and humans to have a sustainable future, preventing and conserving animals is crucial. Its protection is imperative given the current catastrophe of biodiversity loss. Although governments worldwide are taking action to safeguard their native animal species nationally, a worldwide framework will accelerate this process.

The conservation of wild animals, birds, and other species is aided by the existing international frameworks for preserving wildlife and biological diversity, as well as limits and laws on the wildlife trade. According to the global framework, supervised and regulated trade would aid in attaining sustainable development because it would allow for successful trade without putting species in danger.

In addition to contributing to the ecosystem's health, wildlife is crucial to human existence. Humans rely on wildlife for various purposes, including food, clothing, scientific research, medicine, cultural activities, etc. Because it is so crucial to our well-being, observing, managing, and safeguarding wildlife carefully is crucial.

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