

**Q 11. Write an essay on wild life conservation in India.****Ans.**

Wildlife traditionally refers to non-domesticated animal species. Recently it has come to include all plants, fungi and other organisms which grow or live wild in an area without being introduced by humans.

Wildlife can be found in all ecosystems. It has great importance in our daily life.

Most scientists agree that much wildlife is affected by human activities. Hence, wildlife conservation is considered as one of the most pressing environmental concerns today. Many nations have government agencies and NGO's dedicated to conservation, which help to implement policies designed to protect wildlife.

Wildlife conservation is the attempt to protect endangered animal and plant species, along with their natural habitat. The main objective of this practice is to make sure that their habitat will be preserved so that the future generation of both wildlife and human can enjoy it.

The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is considered to be one the most successful conservation models in the world. It has its origin in 19<sup>th</sup> century, when a number of wildlife animals (including the American Bison), were near extinction.

**Importance of Wildlife:**

**1. Maintenance of natural balance:** Nature remains in balance. If an organism comprising trophic level in the food chain is missed, disturbance occurs in the equilibrium of nature. It happens because various organisms of a community are inter linked through food chains. For example, when snakes are killed to obtain the skin, rats increase in number and cause great damage to crop. Similarly, a decrease in the number of carnivore predators (lions, tigers, etc.), results in an increase in the number of herbivores.

**2. Aesthetic and recreation:** Wildlife is also important from the viewpoint of its aesthetic and recreational value for man. People visit zoological parks and gardens to see the wildlife in the natural habitat. The activities of such animals like jumping of deers, dance performed by peacock, play shown by monkeys etc. provide us thrilling experience and we feel delighted.

**3. Economic value:** Wildlife is a good source of earning money for our country. Some products of wildlife such as horns, bones, skin, fur etc. fetch large amount of money in foreign markets. Horns of rhinos, antlers of swamp deer, tusks of elephants, musk of musk-deer are very costly and rare items.

**4. Medicinal value:** A number of medicines are prepared from the wildlife. Action Biodiversity (AB) estimates that as many as 50 percent of the drugs available in the United States were originally developed from microbial organisms, plants and animals. As for example, antibiotics are prepared from *Penicillium*, quinine is prepared from bark of cinchona tree and rheumatism is treated with fat of tigers.

**5. Genetic value:** Genes from wild animals and plants can now be used to help breed better varieties by the genetic engineers. Thus wildlife is an important genetic resource for characters like disease resistant higher productions, higher ecological amplitude etc.

**6. Research value:** Large number of animals is used for research purposes in the laboratories. The effect of new medicine is tested on animals, particularly on monkey (*Rhesus macaca*) before applying to human.

**7. Religious value:** Indian wildlife is also important from religious and cultural point of view. The impact of wild animals on our life is sharply reflected in our religion and culture.

### **Extinction to Wildlife species:**

No doubt extinction of a species is a natural process, but human activities are responsible for increasing the rate of extinction. Habitat loss due to destruction, fragmentation or degradation of habitat, is the primary threat to the survival of wildlife. When an ecosystem has been dramatically changed by human activities, such as agriculture, oil and gas exploration, it may no longer be able to provide food, water and cover to raise young.

The increasing population of human beings is the most major threat to wildlife. More people on the globe mean more consumption of food, water and fuel. Therefore more waste is generated. The species which are bound to the face of the danger of extinction are known as **endangered species**. Endangered species of India are Tigers, Leopard, Rhinoceros, Indian wild Ass, Kashmiri stag, Musk deer, Indian Bustard, pink headed duck etc.

### **Ways of Wildlife conservation:**

In 1972, the Government of India enacted a law, called the Wildlife Conservation Act. The World Conservation Strategy was developed in 1980 by the "International Union of Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources" (IUCN). Later on support from non-government organizations (NGOs) was included. A number of NGOs are working these days. The Nature Conservancy is a US charitable environmental organization that works to preserve the plants and animals. World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is an international non-governmental organization working on issues regarding conservation, research and restoration of the environment.

**1. Provision of safe guarded habitat:** The most essential part of the wildlife conservation is to provide natural habitat. This is done by restoring and preserving forests. This includes the provision for feeding, breeding, nursery and resting areas for the species.

**2. Protection from hunting:** Hunting of wildlife animals should be prohibited. Government of India has established Wildlife Board in 1952 and passed Wildlife Protection Act in 1972.

**3. Education to common people:** The importance of wildlife should be brought to the notice of common people. This can be done by encouraging them to make frequent visit of zoological parks and gardens. They will spend their time with live animals.

In order to arouse a general awakening in the common man in favour of protection of wildlife, the Indian Board of Wildlife (IBWL) decided to observe the wildlife week from October 2 - 8 every year.

### **Measures adopted in India for the Wildlife Conservation:**

To protect wildlife in our country, national parks, sanctuaries, zoological parks and zoological gardens have been set up and maintained by the government.

**1. National parks:** These are protected area reserved for the betterment of wildlife. These are established by the approval of legislature. Alteration of natural habitat by forestry, grazing or cultivation is prohibited. Private ownership is not allowed in the national parks.

India's first national park was established in 1936 as Hailey National Park. Now it is known as Jim Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand. As of April 2012, there were 112 national parks. Some famous national Parks are - Sundarban National park, West Bengal; Kaziranga National Park, Assam; Kanha National Park, Madhya Pradesh; Hazaribagh National Park, Jharkhand; Gir Forest National Park, Gujrat; Dudhwa National Park, Uttar Pradesh; Desert National Park, Rajasthan, etc.

**2. Sanctuaries:** Sanctuaries are the Hunting prohibited areas set up by executive orders. Wildlife animals are only protected there. These are used to increase the population of animals which are on the verge of extinction. Harvesting of timber and collection of forest products are allowed for the betterment of animals. India has 515 animal sanctuaries referred

to wildlife sanctuaries Category IV Protected area. Among these, the 41 Tiger reserves are governed by Project tiger. Some important wildlife sanctuaries are Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh; Pakhui Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh; Gibbon Sanctuary, Assam; Nakti Dam Wildlife sanctuary, Bihar; Valmikinagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Bihar etc.

**3. Zoological parks:** The protected area where captured animals and birds are kept in their natural habitat are called zoological Parks, e.g. Birsa Deer Park, Ranchi, Hisar Deer Park, Haryana, Jawaharlal Nehru Biological Park, Bokaro Steel City etc.

**4. Zoological gardens:** The protected area where captured animals and birds are kept within fences and cages are known as zoological gardens, e.g. Alipur Zoological Garden, Kolkata, West Bengal; Chamarajendra Zoological Garden, Mysore; Victoria Garden , Mumbai etc.

#### **Endangered Animal Species:**

1. Sumatran Rhinoceros
  2. Hawksbill Sea Turtle
  3. Gharial
  4. Ganges Shark
  5. Asiatic Lion (Indian Lion)
  6. Woolly Flying Squirrel
  7. Sei Whale
  8. Wild Water Buffalo
-