

A STUDY ON THE NEED OF THE CONSERVATION OF WILD ANIMALS AND BIRDS

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ABSTRACT

The diversity of life on Earth is a priceless present from God. The phrase "wildlife" refers not just to wild animals, but also to birds, insects, plants, fungi, and even tiny organisms. This is because the term encompasses all kinds of undomesticated life, not only domesticated animals. Humans are just as vital as other creatures, plants, and marine species when it comes to the preservation of a healthy ecological balance on this planet. Every living thing that exists on this planet occupies a one-of-a-kind position in the food chain, and as a result, makes a distinct contribution to the health of the ecosystem. But it's a sad fact that many species of animals and birds are disappearing from the world today. The natural environments of animals and plants are disappearing as a result of human activities such as land development and farming.

Keywords: *Conservation, Wild, Animals, Birds*

INTRODUCTION

The interrelationships among the many creatures that make up the eco-system and the way in which they are linked through food webs and food chains are its defining characteristics. Even if only one of the wild animal species that make up an ecosystem becomes extinct, the disruption that this causes to the food chain as a whole might have catastrophic consequences. Take the example of a simple bee, which, as a result of the pollen they transport, is absolutely necessary for the development of some plant species. If there are fewer bees around, there won't be as many pollen grains and flowers to fertilise them, which means agricultural production will suffer.

In a similar vein, a rise in the population of a particular species can also have a negative impact on the equilibrium of an ecosystem. Take, for example, the situation of carnivores, whose numbers continue to dwindle on a daily basis as a direct result of the hunting and poaching practises of humans. Because of the decline in the population of these predators, the number of herbivores that are dependent on the flora of the forest for their existence has increased. It wouldn't be long before the number of herbivores in woods skyrocketed to such an extreme that they would have no choice but to relocate to agricultural regions and

settlements in order to meet their nutritional requirements. Therefore, protecting wildlife is an important step towards guaranteeing a check on the ecological balance and, as a result, sustaining a healthy eco-system.

There are a large variety of plant and animal species that are, in one way or another, utilised for the benefit of people. A significant number of medicinal substances, including aspirin, penicillin, quinine, morphine, and vincristine, were originally obtained from plants that were not farmed. Since ancient times, the traditional medical practise of Ayurveda has also relied on the extracts and juices obtained from a wide variety of plants and herbs in order to treat conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and a wide variety of other neurological disorders.

Not only are plants beneficial, but many of the extracts from different kinds of animals are also quite high in the nutrients and anti-oxidants that they contain. The venom of the cobra is used as a remedy for leprosy, for example, and the list does not end here; for example, the oil from the liver of cod fish is rich in anti-oxidants called Omega 3 and Omega 6; these help combat the effects of ageing; compounds obtained from prawns and lobsters are used to treat fungal infections; and so on. Studies and research are being conducted on several animal species in the present day in an effort to discover treatments for terminal illnesses such as cancer, Alzheimer's disease, and Parkinson's disease. If we do not take action to protect animals in this day and age, there will come a day when the human race will also be in grave peril.

Poaching and the killing of animals for their fur, jewellery, meat, and leather are other significant causes that contribute to the extinction of wild animals. If rigorous measures are not done to safeguard animals in the near future, it won't be long until their names are found only on lists of extinct species. This might happen very quickly. And this would not be the end of it! If some animal and plant species become extinct, it will very probably have the same catastrophic effect on the human race. Therefore, it becomes a significant obligation for us humans to conserve not just the animals on our planet but also, and maybe most importantly, ourselves.

The majority of the dietary requirements of the human population are satisfied by agricultural products and plants. Are you aware that different kinds of wildlife contribute significantly to the growth of these plants? If not, then let's get a grasp on the basic idea. Pollination is a method of plant reproduction in which the pollen grains from the male flower are transmitted to the female flower, resulting in the formation of seeds. The fruits and vegetables that we acquire from plants are the consequence of this process. Now, in order for pollination to take place, birds, bees, and insects—three of the smallest creatures that exist on our planet—play a crucial role. Pollen is transmitted from one bloom to another when insects and birds migrate from one flower to the next. This is how pollen gets from one flower to the next. If for any reason the number of birds and insects that carry pollen is reduced, it is possible that this will have a substantial impact on the growth of the crop.

NEED OF THE CONSERVATION OF WILD ANIMALS AND BIRDS

The maintenance of a clean and healthy environment is also substantially aided by the activities of wild animals. Numerous microorganisms, bacteria, slime moulds, fungus, and earthworms feed on the waste products of plants and animals. As a result, these waste products are broken down and their chemicals are released back into the soil, therefore replenishing the soil with nutrients. These nutrients are then taken up by the roots of plants, which enables the plants to grow and develop. Well! This is not the end of it. Do you know

that birds such as eagles and vultures, which are reviled by mankind, really make significant contributions to the well-being of the natural world? Scavengers like these assist maintain the environment clean by clearing away animal carcasses and dead corpses so that it may continue to support life. Just for a moment, try to picture living in a world where we were always surrounded by layers of unrotted and undecayed dead bodies.

These days, scientists and researchers are exerting a great deal of effort to save various species of plants and animals by use of "Gene Banks." These gene banks serve as a repository for the cells and tissues of a wide variety of wild animal species, many of which are essential to the processes of agriculture and farming. Not only can the original plant varieties and animal breeds be re-generated with the help of these cells and tissues in the event that wildlife epidemics, climate changes, or any other such natural disasters result in a reduction or extinction of these species, but also new plant varieties and animal breeds with improved genetic traits can be generated, leading to an increase in the amount of chromosomal diversity that exists within species. Gene banks not only save cells and tissues, but they also keep plant seeds, sperm, eggs, and embryos from a wide variety of mammalian species. As science and technology continue to improve, it is becoming increasingly standard practise to preserve reproductive parts like ovaries and testes for later use.

There are many different advantages that might accrue from the process of breeding different plant and animal species to produce hybrid offspring. The plant species that have had their genetics modified tend to have higher yields, greater resistance to diseases and pests, and also contribute to the enhancement of soil quality. Additionally, crossbreeding has shown to be of great use in the dairy cow industry, resulting in enhanced genetic species that produce more milk while also displaying increased health and fertility.

Additionally, wildlife contributes significantly to the growth of the country's economy in vital ways. Wildlife reserves and forests significantly contribute to the inflow of foreign money, which in turn helps to increase a country's gross domestic product (GDP). These reserves and forests do this by giving game safaris and birding excursions, which attract travellers from all over the world who want to see endemic and endangered species. Trekking, fishing, and river rafting are just few of the activities that require licences and licences from the government. The money collected from these activities goes straight into the government's coffers. Wildlife safaris and bird watching aren't the only activities that contribute to the economy of the country. That is not all; the expense of travel, local transit, food, housing, and sight-seeing all contribute in an indirect manner a large amount to the economy of the nation. The inflow of visitors results in a large rise in the number of seasonal work possibilities available to local residents, which, in turn, is another element that contributes to an increased GDP.

Many people rely on wildlife as their primary source of income and the thing that allows them to buy the necessities of existence. Take, for example, the instance of fishermen and farmers, both of whom significantly rely on the revenue provided by their daily catches and who also heavily rely on the healthy crop yield in order to maintain their standard of living. In a same vein, many other sectors, such as textile, paper, lumber, and rubber, are extremely reliant on animals for their revenue. Take for example the typical occurrence of hotels and resorts being located close to wildlife parks. These will only generate income if the park and its inhabitants continue to be preserved and guarded, which will, in turn, encourage tourists to spend the night in their resorts, which will, in turn, contribute to the money generated by those resorts. individuals who are engaged in wildlife-based businesses, such as those who supply fishing gear, snorkelling and scuba diving equipment, binoculars for bird-watching, porters, guides, drivers, and mahouts (the list goes on and on), are among those who gain from wildlife tourism. The number of individuals who are working in wildlife-based businesses is enormous. There is a significant demand for items made from exotic animals all over the world, including those made of leather and ivory, such as handbags, belts, fur coats, and jewellery. In addition, those who make their living in these trades have a major dependence on animals.

Wildlife Conservation

As the human population grows, more and more lands are brought under its control. As a consequence of this, the amount of natural vegetation has decreased significantly, which has led to a reduction in the habitat of a number of different species. Over the course of the past few decades, both the enormous tracts of tropical forest and the animals that call that forest home have grown more threatened. Even in the oceans, fishing efforts are so great that population levels are falling at an alarming rate. As predators, we have evolved to become overly effective. Sometimes, in the name of luxury, we have to hunt animals! For instance, elephants are hunted for their tusks, whereas rhinoceroses are hunted for their horns, and so on. The exotic pet trade requires us to occasionally catch rare species, such as a variety of birds and fishes that live on coral reefs, among other animals. Because of this, humans have evolved into a species that is no longer in a state of coevolved harmony with the environment in which it lives. Aldo Leopold (1943) made a valid point when he stated that wildlife had formerly provided us with food and shade for our culture; in addition, it had brought us pleasure during our free time. It is now very necessary for us to back the proactive preservation of wildlife for a variety of reasons that represent the many elements of our connection to the natural world.

Conservation of wildlife is essential as it serves the following purposes:

There would be no ecological stability without the contribution of wildlife. The autecology of rare or vulnerable species, the synecology of communities, and the role of the abiotic environment in ecosystems are all relevant to conservation since they all play a role in ecosystem function. The presence of wildlife is essential to the health of any ecosystem. Through biogeochemical cycles, food chains, and population control facilitated by positive and negative feedbacks, it helps to keep the natural world in a state of equilibrium. If a species becomes extinct, the natural equilibrium of the environment will be disrupted, which will lead to adverse events.

This can be explained through the following examples:

1. If the number of herbivore animals severely decreases or stops growing altogether, carnivore species such as tigers, lions, leopards, and wolves, among others, would move into human settlements and begin attacking either humans or their domesticated animal companions.
2. If the population of carnivores were to diminish, then the population of herbivores would thrive, and these herbivores would either consume the majority of the vegetation or destroy the crop or vegetables that were being farmed by people. Therefore, the natural order is preserved thanks to the food chain consisting of prey and predators. A disruption in the food chain at any point would put the existence of human civilization at jeopardy.
3. Birds offer a variety of benefits to us in many different ways. It performs functions like as pollination, fruit dispersal, scavenging, eating insect pests, and so forth. Therefore, the damage that would be incurred as a consequence of the killing of birds or the destruction of their habitat would be immeasurable.
4. The population of net fish has decreased as a direct result of over fishing. Because to overfishing in the North Atlantic, species such as herring, cod, haddock, and others are on the verge of extinction. The destruction that is wreaked upon the food chain of the ocean as a result of overfishing has wider-reaching implications. One such illustration is the widespread extinction of marine birds as a result of malnutrition.

Importance of Wildlife

All living species (plants, animals, and microbes) in their natural environments are included in the definition of "wildlife." These organisms have not been grown, domesticated, or tamed in any way. But in the most literal sense, it refers to wild species of animals, reptiles, birds, and fishes, among other things. Certain significance of the animal kingdom, as described below:

1. Ecological Balance: Wildlife maintains balance of nature through-

(a) Regulation of population of different species.

(b) Food-chains or passage of food and energy through series of populations comprising producers, consumers and micro-organisms.

(c) Natural cycles or circulation of inorganic nutrients between biotic and abiotic environments.

2. Gene Bank: The Wildlife acts as a gene bank in order to facilitate the breeding of better varieties in the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry, and fishing. Breeders of plants and animals have been able to create variations that are resistant to disease and stress, in addition to having large yields. These varieties are the foundation of modern agriculture. Therefore, the upkeep of gene banks is vital.

3. Plant Propagation: Pollination in certain plants is performed by wild animals like birds; insects etc. and thus help in plants propagation, which is very essential.

4. Cleaning of Environment: Scavengers and decomposers are wild creatures (such as vultures, eagles, jackals, hyaenas, etc.) as well as microorganisms that feed upon dead animals, transform them into various nutrients, and release energy back into the natural environment, which results in an increase in the fertility of the soil. They provide very significant work in terms of cleaning up the environment; without it, it is possible to speculate about what would happen to this planet.

5. Scientific Importance: For the goals of study as well as studies of anatomy, physiology, ecology, and parts of evolutionary biology.

6. Soil Erosion: Plant cover, litter, the mixing of litter caused by the movement of wild animals, and the conversion of litter by microorganisms into spongy humus all work together to prevent it.

7. Control of Pollution

8. Perennial Fresh Water

9. Maintenance of Climate

10. Experimental Animals - Monkeys, Rabbits, Guinea-pigs, Rats etc.

11. Economic Importance: Timber, firewood, paper, gum, resins, tannins, various medications, essential oils, spices, silk, honey, hair, feathers, guano (the faeces of sea-fishes used as fertiliser or the manure generated from fish), leather, musk, ivory, and other materials can all be acquired from wild animals. Aside from this, profits are also acquired after the killing of wild animals from tourists, exports, hide, ivory, and other such things; despite the fact that the practise is illegal under law but is not in practise.

12. Potential uses: New foods and drinks (a beverage is a sort of plant product that is consumed by everyone on a regular basis and includes an alkaloid called caffeine that has a stimulating effect on the human body; examples of such beverages include tea, coffee, chocolate, and so on) are produced from wild plants and animals in the same way that all cultivated and domesticated plants and animals are. In the future, it may be possible to acquire medicines and other valuable goods from wild animals. It is also fragmentary product of the plant.

Benefits of Wildlife

For a variety of psychological and sociological reasons, humans have traditionally been given a positive connotation when discussing wildlife and the natural world. A simple walk in the park while taking in the

sights and sounds of the local avian population invigorates us and helps us recharge our batteries. In addition to putting out a bird feeder in the backyard, we may soothe our frayed nerves by participating in other physically demanding activities such as canoeing, trekking, hunting, or even taking pictures of wild animals. Animals have been of great assistance to humankind ever since prehistoric times, supplying not only food and clothes but also a source of revenue.

Benefits to Natural Processes

Wild animals play an important part in the ecological and biological processes that are, once again, necessary to the continuation of life. The continual interactions that take place between animals, plants, and microbes are essential to the biosphere's ability to carry out its essential functions. This, in turn, contributes to the maintenance and improvement of human life. To add on, these ecological processes are essential for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and other activities that are necessary for human existence. In addition, there are a number of other biological processes in which wild animals play an important part. Some examples of these activities include pollination, germination, seed distribution, soil production, nutrient cycling, predation, habitat management, waste breakdown, and pest control.

Benefits to Science, Agriculture, & Medicine

According to a number of studies, woodpeckers have the ability to eradicate ninety percent of the codling moth larvae that live beneath the bark of trees. This highlights the relevance of wild animals and the environments in which they live for the maintenance of genetic diversity. As a result, regions in which agriculture, forestry, and fisheries are dependent on crops or stocks might take measures to guarantee that these living resources have sufficient quantities to survive an ever-increasing list of dangers. Additionally, in the field of health, the creation of novel therapies and treatments is heavily reliant on animals and the habitats in which they live. It is interesting to note that the majority of medicinal products are the result of identifying or cultivating wild species rather than discoveries made via the application of standard chemical concepts. These days, the majority of pharmaceutical treatments include at least one component that is taken from a wild plant or animal.

CHALLENGES IN EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION LAWS IN INDIA

The use of wild animals in commerce and for other purposes that benefit humans has led in nearly every nation on the planet passing and implementing a variety of laws and acts in response to the problem of wildlife exploitation. Because it is a country that is home to a diverse array of life, India is not immune to this problem either. In spite of these regulations, the illicit trade in animal resources and the exploitation of wildlife resources persists. These laws were created with the intention of preserving and conserving wildlife, and their provisions are stringent because of this intention. Due to activities like as hunting, poaching of animals, removal of trees, and the utilisation of several indigenous plant species for a variety of applications, the nation is in danger of losing its biodiversity and faces the threat of extinction. Despite the fact that India's Wildlife Protection Act, Customs Act, and Import-Export policies all contain provisions that regulate the conservational measures and trade of wildlife species, particularly the endangered species, illegal hunting and poaching activities and trade are still thriving, and endangered species are still being exploited.[6] The Wildlife and Parks Act does not protect endangered plant and animal species that are found in other countries, and as a result, it does not have the ability to protect endangered species from being killed, poached, or exploited in any other way. It has been observed that the punishments and penalties for violations of the Act that are not sufficient to put a stop to and maintain control over the exploitation of wildlife. Offenders are still able to walk away by paying fines, and those who are fighting cases are also not troubled because the cases in the Indian Courts are settled too slowly. Those who are fighting cases are still able to get away with their actions. The reason behind it also accounts for the thousands of cases that are behind schedule and pending in other courts in addition to the District Courts. Because of this, getting a decision from the courts in these types of cases can take up to ten years, and by that

point, the perpetrators have likely flourished in their operations while the exploitation of animals has likely continued.[7] Another difficulty that has been noticed is that the Forest departments and the Forest Officers are not able to function successfully in executing the laws and facilitating the conservation operations because they do not have appropriate training or adequate resources. This prevents them from working effectively in both of these areas. It is clear that the mechanism for the implementation of the legislation in India for the preservation and protection of wildlife is likewise highly complex in its makeup. On the one hand, the rules make it possible for forest officers to safeguard the resources of the woods, but on the other hand, they do not allow them the authority to formulate policies that are relevant to the circumstances, which further complicates the issue of the seizure of illegally cut down trees or poached animals. This has further contributed in boosting the number of activities that include exploitation. On the other hand, the forest department itself plays a role in the exploitation operations for their own self-serving purposes and because of the corruption that exists inside the department. It has been observed that the forest officials have never included the local people who live in the surrounding areas in their efforts to halt the exploitation of wildlife, despite the fact that these people can really assist in preventing the exploitation and safeguarding the wildlife resources. This is despite the fact that these people can actually help in stopping the exploitation and protecting the wildlife resources. [8] Environmentalists, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and law guardians who are concerned with the protection and conservation of animals have just become aware of a brand new problem. This problem is related to the fact that people enjoy the activity of flying kites for enjoyment, which results in the deaths of a large number of birds that are protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972. The threads, known as "manja" in the local language, that are used for kite flying, particularly the Chinese thread, are responsible for the deaths of a great number of the birds that are included in Schedule I. In spite of the fact that flying kites made of Chinese thread was made illegal by Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act of 1986, the practise of using Chinese thread for kites is still common among the population. This has resulted in the death of quite a few birds that are native to this nation, while also causing the deaths of some birds that belong to species that migrate through this area.

CONCLUSION

Not only is it entertaining, but it's also quite calming to see wild creatures in their natural settings. People almost often spend their vacations in protected natural places, such as zoos, game parks, lakes, oceans, woods, and mountains, where they may engage in a variety of outdoor pursuits such as camping, fishing, riding boats, and hiking, to name just a few. It has been shown that persons who spend the majority of their time outside, whether it be hunting, observing wild animals, or taking a stroll or a ride in natural settings, are less likely to suffer from stress and the difficulties that are associated to stress. This is true whether the time spent is spent viewing wild animals or hunting. The preservation of traditions and customs is inextricably linked to the protection of wildlife. Because the local customs and ways of life in certain areas are intricately intertwined with the flora and fauna of the area, a failure to preserve the natural habitat might result in the destruction of the native lands as well as the loss of native cultural practises.

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