

Forest and Wildlife of India

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Abstract— The article aims to describe and analyze all the details about the process of managing conservation of forest. This article tries to analyze the forest conservation act 1980 and the need for amendment. It also tries to examine the role of tribals in preserving the forest. This article describes the conservation and management of wildlife. And examine the wildlife protection act 1972.

Indexed Terms-- Forest, Environment, Tribes, Wildlife, Food and Downward etc

I. INTRODUCTION

Forests interact with climate and respond to environmental change. When we imagine a Forest, we picture trees, plants and animals. Trees are defining features of Forest. But a Forest is much more than a collection of trees. A Forest is a community of many plants, animals, fungi, lichens and host of microorganisms. Forest communities extend from the crowns of tall trees, downward through the understory to the Forest floor deep into the soil. Wildlife plays a very important role in the ecosystem. Wildlife helps to keep the food chain in place and thereby maintaining ecological stability. Without plants and animals our life would not be possible. Oxygen, food, soil, clothes all come from flora and fauna only.

1. FLORA: Flora means plants growing naturally.
2. FAUNA: Fauna means animals living naturally.

II. TYPES OF FORESTS IN INDIA

There are 5 types of forest in India. The distribution of climatic conditions that lead to their formation and the unique characteristics.

- Tropical evergreen forests.

- Tropical deciduous forest.
- Tropical thorn forest.
- Montane forest.
- Mangrove forest.

III. FOREST CONSERVATION

Deforestation leads to bad effects. So, we must protect forests. For conserving forest, we must adopt these practices :

- Deforestation must be stopped.
- Forest should not be over utilized.
- Use of wood as fuel should be discouraged
- Plant fast growing trees.
- Protect forests from forest fires.
- Protect wildlife sanctuaries, biosphere reserves and national parks.
- Regulating grazing of animals in forest land
- Protection of forests from pests and pathogens.
- Economic use of timber and found wood to avoid its wastage.
- Promoting alternative energy sources such as biogas, hydroelectricity, wind power.

Involvement with forestry is our tradition. philosophy developed in forest under trees since forest cover has decreased to about 14% in need of Protection. Forest should be conserved to maintain ecological balance and to meet the growing demand of increasing population.

IV. FOREST CONSERVATION THROUGH LAW

National forest policy 1952 enunciated that one third of the geographic area of the country should be under forest. However there had been continuous

Deforestation for various reasons, and it is estimated that 4.238 million hectares of forest land was officially diverted to non forest purpose between 1951-52 and 1979-80 with a view to conserve forest, Government of India could enact the forest conservation act 1980.

V. FOREST CONSERVATION ACT 1980

To conserve and protect forest resources. Conservation of forest and related issues like Deforestation and the illegal consumption of forest resources. It covers all types of forest like reserved forest, protected forest and forest land all over India. This act was implemented on 25th October 1980. The forest conservation act 1980 stimulated that the central permission is necessary to practice sustainable agro-forestry in forest areas.

Violation of forest rules can be treated as a criminal offense.

VI. FEATURES

- Any state government should use forest land for forest purposes only.
- Any state government wants to use forest for other purposes, it has to take approval from the central government.
- Provision for conservation of all types of forest.
- Any illegal non-forestry activity within a Forest can be stopped immediately.

It targets to limit Deforestation, conserve biodiversity and save wildlife. Even though this act provides greater hope with forest conservation, it was not successful in its attempt. This leads to the need for an amendment.

VII. NEED OF AMENDMENT

Forest on private land: Identification of forest on private land is subjective to some extent. This results in a lot of resistance particularly from private individuals and organizations. – Considering any private area as forest, would restrict the right of an individual to use his/her own land for any non-forest activity.

Changes in the ecological and economic news: There has been considerable change in ecological, social and environmental regimes in the country in the last few years.

- The current circumstances especially for accelerated integration of conservation and development have become necessary to amend the act.

Achieving India's climate target: To achieve the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) extensive plantation in all possible available lands outside the Government Forest was necessary.

VIII. 1ST AMENDMENT ACT 1988

- Prohibits lease of forest land to anybody.
- Intensify conservation and increase forest cover upto 30% of the total land area.

IX. 2ND AMENDMENT ACT 1992

- Provision for allowing some non-forest activity in the forest.
- Wildlife sanctuaries, national parks are totally prohibited for any exploration and survey.
- Cultivation of tea, coffee or rubber is not allowed because it is a non-forest activity.
- Mining is a non-forest activity, but allowed with the permission from the central government.
- Any non-forest activity must have

1. Cost benefit analysis.
2. Environmental impact statement.

Based on the reviews of these documents that particular activity can be permitted in the forest.

X. ROLE OF TRIBALS IN PRESERVING THE FOREST

Tribals understand the importance of forests and are known to save them.

The Tribals of Uttarakhand gathered around trees and hugged the trees. So, that they could be saved from being cut. This was called the chipko movement. This movement was deep-rooted. Around 260 years ago, in the early 18th century, a woman named Amrita Devi

was the pioneer of this movement. She along with 84 other villagers risked their lives and resisted the maharaja order to cut trees.

XI. WILDLIFE OF INDIA

wildlife refers to undomesticated animal species, but has come to include all organisms that grow or live without being introduced by humans. Wildlife is simply animals living in their natural habitat and not under the control of human beings. Wildlife helps in maintaining the ecological balance of nature by being a part of the food chain. Moreover killing carnivores lead to an increase in herbivores which in turn affects the forest vegetation, thus due to lack of food they come out of their habitat. India is home for a vast variety of wildlife. In fact it is considered to be one of the most biodiversity regions in the world. We are captivated the fauna from the endangered asian elephant to the great one horned rhinoceros from their natural habitat, 80% of whose population resides in india. There is no doubt that India's rich biodiversity must be conserved. But conservation presents a host of challenges with an ever growing population. Indian national habitats are rapidly diminishing, becoming more fragmented and have been replaced by urban development, farmlands and mining.

XII. CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE IN INDIA

Wildlife conservation is the practice or an activity in which humans protect animals, plant species and their habitat.

XIII. MEASURES TO CONSERVE WILDLIFE

- Total ban on poaching or capturing of any bird or animals belonging to endangered species.
- securing the ecosystem.
- Setting up national parks and sanctuaries to provide safe habitat to birds and plants.
- Conducting regular surveys to monitor the population of all species in the forest, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

NATIONAL PARK: National Park are forest areas where animals are protected in their natural habitat. Moreover, in national parks extra care of animals is

taken. Here people are appointed to protect the animals from hunters. They also take care of their health. There are 104 national parks in india.

XIV. WILDLIFE PROTECTION ACT (WLPA) 1972

The wildlife protection act was enacted by the Indian parliament in 1972. This act conserves the wildlife flora and fauna in the country. This act was imposed in order to certify environmental and ecological security. The Wildlife protection act came into implementation on 9th September 1972. This act has been amended several times in 1982, 1986, 1991, 1993, 2002, 2008 and 2013.

The act conserves many species of flora and fauna, a reticulum of ecologically important conserved areas. The act consists of 60 sections and 6 schedules divided into eight chapters.

XV. FEATURES

Main motive behind introducing this act was to stop illegal poaching and animal hunting. To regulate people from damaging or disturbing the ecosystem of wild birds or reptiles and to discourage trading of animals or its products such as its skin, horn, feathers, nails, tooth, musk, eggs and so on.

The act empowers the central and state government to declare any area a wildlife sanctuary, national parks or closed area. It provides officers to handle and implement the act. Regulate the hunting of wild animals, protect specified plants, sanctuaries, national parks and closed areas. Restriction of controlling trade of wild animals and their articles.

The act Prohibits hunting of animals except with permission of authorized officers when an animal has become dangerous to human life or property or as disabled or deceased as to be beyond recovery.

XVI. SCHEDULES UNDER WLPA 1972

SCHEDULE 1 AND 2: The most potent sections of the act covering animals which are in the category of endangered species and are rare. The section in this schedule gives absolute protection to species and these

Cannot be infringed on any account. Offenses under these are prescribed the highest penalties under the law.

SCHEDULE 3 AND 4: Covers animals that are not in danger of becoming extinct but they do need protection. The penalties under this section are also less than schedule 1 and 2.

SCHEDULE 5: Delineates animals that can be hunted, it includes commonly seen animals such as crows, mice and rats. For this purpose, the hunters have to apply for a license to the district forest officer, who will allow a hunter to shoot during a specific season and restricted area. Any violation in rules can cancel the hunting license.

SCHEDULE 6: Includes plants which are prohibited from Cultivation and planting such as bedtimes cycad, kuth, ladies slipper orchids, pitcher plant, blue and red vanda.

XVII. CONCLUSION

Forest and wildlife of india.

Forests are the best gift of nature to mankind. We are availing a lot of benefits from the forest.

Wildlife, we can protect them by habitat management, that is to protect their natural habitat by planting more trees. We can protect them by developing protective areas such as national parks, wildlife sanctuaries to protect wildlife.

Article 51A of the constitution states that it shall be the essential duty of every citizen to ensure and improve the natural habitat including forest and wildlife.

Thus, we should always protect our forest and wildlife. Here are a few suggestions like roof forest, foresting in cities, use of technology to protect forest and wildlife, new inventions to implement and protect wildlife and forest.