

Management and protection of endangered animals and related act – A review

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I. Introduction

Every species requires a certain set of environmental conditions to be able to move around, feed and reproduce. Whether it's in the forest, grassland, desert, tundra, or ocean, the place where each species finds the conditions it needs to live and thrive is called its habitat. When habitats are threatened, so are the animals who live there are also affected and some time they all are disappeared or degenerated they all are called endangered species. For example, wolverines and bears roam across vast distances, so when their habitat is broken up by roads or other commercial development, their ability to survive is jeopardized. Animals and plants need each other to survive. They keep the world of nature in balance. If a certain plant dies out some animals may become extinct too, because they depend on the plant for food.

II. Why species become extinct

Long ago, most animals and plants became extinct because of natural events, like earthquakes or volcano eruptions. Climatic changes, like the beginning of the Ice Age, also led to the disappearance of certain species. Today, plants and animals are in danger mostly because of human beings. Some plants and animals can survive in many areas. When they move to other places they adapt to their new environment very quickly. Others can only live in certain areas. We call such a living place a habitat. If a habitat is destroyed the species cannot find any more food or a place to live, sleep or have babies. So it dies out. Habitats can be destroyed in many ways. More and more people live in our world. They need more space to live in. Rainforests, grasslands and other parts of nature are cleared and people start to settle there. They take away the natural home of plants and animals. Pollution can also kill off certain species. Acid rain from factories goes down in rivers and lakes and can poison fish there.

The most endangered areas are the tropical rainforests. More than 50 % of all animals and plants live there. Every day, thousands of acres of rainforest are destroyed and many species become extinct every day. Ever since man appeared on earth he has killed animals and gathered plants. They have been used for food, medicine, clothes and to make homes. Cheetahs, tigers and other wild cats have been killed for their skins. Whales have been hunted for centuries because of their oil and blubber. Most animals today are protected by international law, but many, like the black rhinoceros and the African elephant are hunted illegally. Some species, like wolves, have been killed by humans because they were seen as a danger to farm animals. Sometimes native animals become endangered when a new species comes to live in a place. Foxes were brought to Australia to kill off rabbits, which were seen as a pest. But instead of killing rabbits, the foxes killed kangaroos and other marsupials of Australia.

Parasites belong to the greatest threats to plants and animals. Tiny organisms, bacteria and fungi can destroy trees, kill birds and fish.

2-1 Climate Change

Our warming planet is playing havoc with habitats around the world. For example, melting sea ice in the Arctic prevents polar bears from finding food and shelter, while changing rain patterns put forests and the animals that live there at greater risk from wildfires.

2-2 Habitat Loss & Degradation

Agriculture. Industrial development. Urban sprawl. These are all factors that have contributed to the extensive loss and fragmentation of prime wildlife habitat, which in turn has brought many animals to the brink of extinction, like the critically endangered jaguar or Florida panther. Even habitats that are large enough to support the wildlife living there can suffer negative impacts that affect wildlife. Every day, habitats are subjected to pollution from pesticides, oil spills and agricultural runoff.

III. What Defenders Is Doing to Help Protect Habitats

For decades, Defenders of Wildlife has played a leading role in helping shape smart conservation policies for managing national wildlife refuges, national forests, and other public lands because these areas, owned by all Americans, represent some of the last best places for wildlife to thrive. We also work with state agencies and private landowners to help develop and implement conservation plans that will preserve environmentally important areas long into the future.

And our in-house experts are working to help wildlife adapt to the impacts of climate change and ensure renewable energy projects are developed in ways that don't harm important habitats

IV. Factors

A species must be listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) if it is threatened or endangered due to any of the following 5 factors: present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range; over-utilization of the species for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes; disease or predation; inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; and other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.

The ESA requires that listing determinations be based solely on the best scientific and commercial information available; economic impacts are not considered in making species listing determinations and are prohibited under the ESA.

V. What are the steps taken by the government to protect endangered species

Some of the projects and wildlife conservation programmes in India include Project Tiger, which has been till now the most successful one in protecting and preserving the tiger population. There is the Gir National Park, which is only habitat existing for Asiatic lions in India. The Kaziranga Sanctuary in Assam is another remarkable example of saving the endangered Rhinoceros. There's Periyar in Kerala conserving the Wild Elephants and the Dachigam National Park doing the same to save the Hangul or Kashmiri Stag. Like wise, a number of bioserves, sanctuaries and national parks have been opened to protect the wild life. Poaching has been banned and is punishable offense. Though serious steps are still to be taken in many steps, to improve the wildlife. Government has undertaken tiger project. It is making an effort to stop the killing of tigers. Save rhino project is also initiated by the government. Government has made 89 national parks and 490 wildlife sanctuaries. Project great Indian bustard has also been a success. It is also protecting the national bird of India-peacock.

VI. Protection

People have hurt plants and animals but they are also willing to help them **survive**. All over the world organizations like the World Wildlife Fund, the Rainforest Action Network or Friends of the Earth are helping to protect habitats. They raise money for their projects and make governments and the public listen to them. New laws have also been made to protect endangered plants and animals all over the world.

VII. The World Wildlife Fund

In 1960, biologist Sir Julian Huxley returned from a research trip to Africa. He was very much shocked by what he had seen there: the hunting of rare animals and the destruction of their habitat. Other scientists shared his opinion that something had to be done about this. The following year Huxley, some fellow scientists and a few politicians founded the World Wildlife Fund. It became the largest conservation group in the world. Today the WWF has 5 million supporters around the world. It has national organizations in more than 50 countries and raises more than 100 million dollars a year.

The most important task of the WWF is to protect endangered species around the world. Among them are the tiger, whale, elephant and many others. The giant panda, one of the most endangered animals, has become the WWF's symbol. The WWF also tries to protect habitats like the tropical rainforest. In the past decade alone, it has been able to conserve over 1 billion acres of forest in Asia, South America and Africa. The organization fights against the pollution of natural resources and is worried about the destruction of fish in the world's oceans. Over the past years the WWF has been working on projects in over one hundred countries. It also gives money to research work and spends a lot to teach children and parents about our world in danger. **8. Endangered Species Act of 1969**

The Endangered Species Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-135) was an expansion of the Endangered Species Preservation Act of 1966 which authorized the United States Secretary of the Interior to develop a comprehensive list of species or subspecies of animals threatened with worldwide extinction. It also prohibited the importation from any foreign country any animal-whole or in part, any product, or any egg belonging to a species on that list. Limited exceptions for scientific, educational, zoological, or propagational purposes and for certain cases of commercial "economic hardship" were allowed under strict permitting procedures.

A predecessor to the Endangered Species Act of 1969, the Lacey Act of 1900, was the first in a long line of efforts by the United States government to preserve wildlife. Introduced by Iowa Congressman John F. Lacey in the House of Representatives in 1900 and signed into law by President William McKinley on May 25, 1900, it was originally "directed more at the preservation of game and wild birds by making it a federal crime to poach game in one state with the purpose of selling the bounty in another".^[1]

VIII. Endangered Species Preservation Act of 1966

Peregrine falcon on rock

The Endangered Species Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-669) was passed prior to the 1969 act, and set up a list of species native to the United States that qualified as endangered. The animals on this list were then afforded certain protections from the National Wildlife Refuge System. For example, the Endangered Species Preservation Act was in part dedicated to raising awareness of endangered species of birds like the peregrine falcon, and to "conserve, protect, restore, and propagate certain species of native fish and wildlife".^[2] Despite these protections, however, researchers found that the act was insufficient. This led to the current act being expanded by the Endangered Species Act of 1969.

Endangered Species Act of 1973

The Endangered Species Act of 1969 was only in effect for four years. It was soon replaced by the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The 1973 act was signed into law by President Richard Nixon, and expanded the protections afforded by the Endangered Species Act of 1969. The act is administered by two federal agencies, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

IX. Conclusion

Endangered species are destroyed from the earth day by day so that the main object of this paper is to aware the people for protection of endangered species by understanding the laws and acts of the government and help them in this work.

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