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WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STRATEGIES AND MANAGEMENT IN ERSTWHILE ADILABAD DISTRICT, TELANGANA STATE

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Abstract

In recent years, erstwhile Adilabad district wildlife conservation has attracted great public attention. However, substantial distinctions can be found in the prevailing concepts of wildlife conservation, particularly with the recent notion that emphasizes animal rights. Wildlife welfare and wildlife rights are not synonymous, with welfare more compatible with the reasonable and legal utilization of wildlife. This review highlights the major issues of wildlife life extinction, endangerment, and conservation. It is necessary to know the Current scenario about wildlife protection and conservation at the national and international levels. Habitat conservation is the key solution to conserve biodiversity. A lot of efforts have been made to encourage forestation and decrease deforestation and practices have been made in many areas. Similarly, discouraging the pet trades, overshooting as well as hunting by applying different banes, marine pollution by different laws and regulations, and public awareness are the main concerns. Wildlife refers to those plants and animal species that live and grow in areas uninhabited by humans. However, as human civilizations developed, the domestication of wild animals and plants began for the benefit of human beings, and this had a considerable impact on the environment. Due to human activities, many wild animals adapted to the changes in the environment and started to live in a domestic environment along with humans. Examples of such animals are dogs, cats, cows, buffaloes, goats, rodents, a few species of birds, etc. As human activities increased and development took place on a large scale, wildlife and ecosystems were seen being affected by it. It was noticed that the exploitation of wild animals for the benefit of human beings and recreation purposes increased.

Keywords: Conservation, Biodiversity, Habitat, Wildlife, Civilization, Recreation, Exploitation, Etc.

Introduction

Wildlife habitats and species around the world are facing a crisis. It is estimated that global warming may cause the extinction of 15–37% of species by 2050. This is another aspect that needs attention because we could lose about 1.25 million species. Unlike other environmental losses, this one cannot be reversed because nature does not give a second chance to biodiversity. If we take into consideration the conventional reasons why wildlife is disappearing in Asia, India is doing far better than other countries. India has launched an extensive protected area network of research institutions in which legislation, socio-economic factors, and wildlife research play a great role. The Central Zoo Authority plays a key role with zoos in programming research activities related to the conservation and propagation of wild animals. Planned research activities include studies on wildlife biology, genetic variability, species-specific nutritional requirements, animal behavior, epidemiological surveys, and disease diagnosis through postmortem examination. The future depends on interaction between captive and wild animals, preservation of biodiversity, and genetic and demographic variations of species. India still has 65% of Asia's tiger population, 85% of the Asian rhino population, 80% of the Asian elephant population, and 100% of the Asiatic lion population. These are all highly endangered and poached animals.

"In the current scenario, conservation of biodiversity is a great challenge. It requires collaborative global efforts for success in a modern, changing world. There is a great need for different planning strategies for protection, conservation, and minimizing the loss of natural resources. Indications of conservation targets or endpoints and warnings with site-specific information greatly enhance the success rate of conservation. Wildlife Conservation in India India is the seventh-largest country in the world and Asia's second-largest nation, with an area of 3,287,263 km², a national border "of 15,200 km, and a coastline of 7516 km. For administrative purposes, India is divided into 28 states and union territories and is home to more than 1 billion people, which is approximately 16% of the world's population. Ecologically, India can be



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divided into three main regions: • the Himalayan Mountain System; • the peninsular India subregion (woodlands and desert); and • the tropical rain forest region.”

Objectives:

- “To evaluate the current threats to wildlife.”
- “What recent attempts have been made for the conservation of wildlife?”
- “Highlight the possible efforts that should be made to save wildlife in the future.”

Wildlife conservation and its problems & threats: Wildlife “conservation refers to the process by which animal and plant species are protected in their natural habitats. The main aim of wildlife conservation is to ensure the protection of wildlife and the preservation of nature and natural habitats for humans as well as wildlife. For this initiative, many governmental and non-governmental organizations have been set up for the very cause of wildlife conservation and protection. Human activities for their living and benefits have affected wildlife considerably across the world. This has resulted in the extinction of many wild animals & plants and biodiversity loss. It has been observed that a considerable number of species of animals and birds have become extinct in the past 2000 years. Some reasons were because of climate change and some were because of human activities for their benefits, such as food, clothing, shelter, medicine, etc. It is also expected that many more species of wildlife will become extinct very soon if they are not protected by proper means of conservation and by enacting effective legislation. Hence, international organizations and almost all the nations across the world have come together to protect wildlife and the environment with the help of legislation and acts, creating national parks, biosphere reserves, wildlife sanctuaries, etc., and implementing this legislation and acts strictly in their nations and regions. Wildlife conservation has become a major area of concern, though. The conservation of animals and plant species mainly aims at protecting endangered species from becoming extinct due to various human and human-induced activities.” “Wildlife is facing many threats due to human encroachment and their activities, as well as a few natural factors, which can be enumerated below:” Habitat “loss by destruction, fragmentation, and degradation: Habitat destruction and fragmentation can take place by human activities such as felling of trees, dredging rivers, constructing dams, filling wetlands and mowing fields, use of lands for agriculture, construction of houses and roads, etc. Habitat degradation can take place because of the increasing pollution level, invasion of new species, changing ecosystems, etc.”

Wildlife Conservation in India

India is the seventh-largest country in the world and Asia’s second-largest nation, with an area of 3,287,263 km, a national border of 15,200 km, and a coastline of 7516 km. For administrative purposes, India is divided into 28 states and union territories and is home to over 1 billion people, or approximately 16% of the world’s population. Ecologically, India can be divided into three main regions:

- The Himalayan Mountain System;
- The peninsular India subregion (woodlands and desert); and
- The tropical rainforest region. A great wealth of biological diversity exists in these regions and India’s wetlands and marine areas.

The people of the Indian subcontinent were once blessed with some of the most profuse natural gifts: verdant forests, water-stocked Himalayan ranges, rich coastal fish resources, productive estuaries, grassy pastures, and bountiful river systems. Abundant rain and fertile soils added to this plenitude. Years of mismanagement, however, have degraded our forests, wounded our coastline, and poisoned our aquifers with devastating results. Today, India contains 172 species (2.9% of the world’s total number) of animals that are considered to be globally threatened by the IUCN. These include 53 species of mammals, 69 species of birds, 23 species of reptiles, and 3 species of amphibians.

Extinction is somehow classified as a ‘biological reality’ because no species has, as yet, existed for more than a few million years without evolving into something different or dying out completely. Extinction is threatening all species, but



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most of the time, smaller animals, like bats and rodents, face this threat more than other animals. We, however, tend to focus on the charismatic flagship species, which we like to see and which fascinate us. Success in evolution is measured in terms of survival: failure by extinction. Most recent extinctions can be attributed, either directly or indirectly, to human demographic and technological expansion, commercialized exploitation of species, and human-caused environmental change. These factors, in turn, have affected the reproductive rate of endangered species and their adaptability to changing environmental conditions. Concern for wildlife is, in fact, a concern for ourselves. In this paper, I would like to address the threat of extinction concerning four species: the royal Bengal tiger and blackbuck (mammals), the great Indian bustard (bird), and the gangetic gharial (reptile).

The erstwhile Adilabad District

The district derives its name from Adilabad, its headquarters town, which was named after the ruler of Bijapur, Ali Adil Shah. The district was for long not a homogenous unit, and its parts were ruled at different periods by nasties, namely, the Mauryas, Staavahanas, Vakatakas, Chaludyas of Badami, Rashtrakututs, Chalukyas of Kalyani, Mughals, Bhosle Rajes of Nagpur, and Asaf Jahis, besides the Gond Rajas of Sirpur and Chanda. Originally, this was not a full-fledged district but a sub-district named Sirpur-Tandur, which was created in A.D. 1872 with Edlabad (Adilabad), Rajura, and Sirpur as its constituent talukas. In 1905, an independent district with headquarters in Adilabad was formed. Due to the district's reorganization in October 2016, Adilabad was divided into four districts: Adilabad, KumramBheem Asifabad District, Mancherial District, and Nirmal District.

The Telangana District is the erstwhile Adilabad, Komuram Bheem Asifabad, Manchiryal, and Nirmal are geographically, culturally, and touristically unique and an absolute paradise for nature lovers. Every district offers different forms of tourism, exhibits its rich cultural and heritage richness, and showcases mesmerizing nature-based tourist destinations. Tourists have also been visiting almost all tourist destinations in general and ecotourism destinations in good numbers throughout the year. Adilabad district is a vast and great region with huge potential for tourism and has several historical places and monuments, great shrines and temples, places of pilgrimage, wildlife sanctuaries, etc. Besides, it offers a great variety of cultures, festivals, arts, and crafts, etc. Many dynasties ruled over the North Telanaga region.

Adilabad district is a very beautiful place. Because of its lush green scenic beauty with dense forests and hills, it is called 'Telangana Kashmir'. The district is also popular for cascading waterfalls in Kuntala, Pochhera, the Tiger Reserve of Kawal, and the Wildlife Sanctuary of Pranahita. The Pranahita Wildlife Sanctuary is an interesting destination not just for its flora and fauna but also for its rock formations of prehistoric and treasure trove of fossils. The district is also famous for its spiritually elevating temples like Basara, Jainath, and Keslapur. Basara Saraswathi Temple is considered the 'Goddess of Knowledge'. This temple was said to have been built by the great sage Veda Vyasa. It is very popular for the performance of 'Akshara bhyasam' (the first letter-writing ceremony for children), which is believed to be an auspicious initiation into the process of education. Sri Lakshmi Narayana Swami Temple of Jainath, which was believed to have been built by the Pallavas, was a testimony to the rich architecture of that period. The Nagoba temple of Keslapur attracts many devotees to participate in the Nagoba Jatara. This Jatara is a tribal festival that is held in honor of Nagoba (the Serpent God) every year. Toys and paintings of Nirmal and metal crafts of Docra, etc., are renowned for the cultural identity of the Adilabad district.

Situated in the middle of the Sahyadri mountain range, the Kuntala waterfalls are in dense forest. It is said to be the highest waterfall in Telangana cascades down to a height of 45 meters. If the Kuntala waterfall is the highest, the Pochera waterfall is the deepest, plunging from a height of 20 meters in the middle of a forest. In addition to these two popular waterfalls, there are many less-traveled waterfalls in the district. These are the Mitte waterfalls, Koratikal waterfalls, Kanakai waterfalls or Kanakadurga waterfalls, Mukti Gundam waterfalls, Gayatri waterfalls, etc., which became new tourist vistas in the district. Kadam Reservoir, amidst scenic hillocks, is an ideal destination for leisure tourism activities in the district. This exotic location, surrounded by verdant forests, is the perfect getaway for nature lovers.



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There are many, many places to visit: Basara Saraswathi temple, Adilabad, the only Saraswathi temple in North Telangana, Pochera and Kuntala waterfalls, Nirmal handicrafts in Nirmal district are known for their varied range of handicrafts. Nirmal is world-famous for oil paintings depicting themes from epics such as the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. Exhibited in the form of wood paintings and other wooden articles, Nirmal artwork accompanies aesthetic expression. The Pranahitha Wildlife Sanctuary is a natural habitat for various types of wild species Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the important wildlife sanctuaries in Telangana. The Kawal sanctuary houses various animals, and several varieties of flora and fauna are seen here. This sanctuary is located in the Adilabad district.

Komuram Bheem, Asifabad

Jodeghat, the birthplace of tribal leader Sri Komuram Bheem, Babezari waterfall, scenic Ada Reservoir (named Komuram Bheem Reservoir), etc., offer a wide range of diverse tribal tourism experiences to tourists visiting the Jodeghat tourism cluster. Kawal Tiger Reserve (KTR) is an ecological paradise and a potential tiger tourism destination. Covering a core area of 892.13 sq. Kms., and a buffer area of 1123.0 Sq. Kms. The Kawal Tiger Reserve (KTR) forests are extended as contiguous to the other two Tiger Reserves of Tadoba Andheri of Maharashtra and Indravathi Tiger Reserve of Chattisgarh. Between the Kawal and the other two Tiger Reserves, tigers are known to migrate. Hence, the development of a tiger corridor linking these three tiger reserves helps with the conservation of the tiger species and promotes tiger tourism. For nature enthusiasts, the Jannaram wildlife expedition is a pleasant experience that the Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary cum Tiger Reserve offers. Nirmal town which is embedded amidst the Sahyadri mountain ranges offers a wonderful climate throughout the year. There are four forts of the medieval period on the outskirts of Nirmal town namely Chhattisgarh, Battishgadh, Samgadh, and Sonagadh.

Vultures which are on the verge of extinction can be seen in Asifabad. Bejjoor Reserve Forest has a marble mound adjacent to a large stream. This mound has been converted into a 'vulture sanctuary'. This is the most common place for vultures in our state. The people of the surrounding villages throw dead animals near this hill for the vultures.

Wildlife Sanctuaries in erstwhile Adilabad

The forest area of Telangana state comprises approximately more than 25% of the state area. The Deccan Plateau where Telangana is located consists of open and thorny forests and also grasslands called 'Kanchas'. This is the reason why many animals, even endangered ones like blackbucks, chinkaras, etc., are found here. The National Policy for Wild Life Conservation, 1972, has encouraged the development of many sanctuaries, national parks, and reserves in India. Fascinating Facts about Wildlife in Telangan. Nature teaches us some simple yet necessary facets of living life happily. These include discipline, love, patience, and giving. Eco-tourism has vast potential in the state of Telangana, as it has several places with dense forests, waterfalls, lakes, rivers, scenic beauty, and areas with good wildlife. There are many wildlife sanctuaries in the Adilabad district of Telangana, which include the following:

Table-1.2 Wildlife sanctuaries

NO	Name of Wildlife Sanctuary	Area (sq km)	Year of origin	Area
1	Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary	892.23	1965	Jannaram mandal
2	Pranahita Wildlife Sanctuary	136.02	1980	Tiryani Mandal
3	Shivaram Wildlife Sanctuary	29.81	1978	Chennur mandal
4	Kawal Tiger Reserve	2015.44	2012	Jannaram mandal

Source: District Website: [Adilabad.telangana.gov.in/places of interest](http://Adilabad.telangana.gov.in/places%20of%20interest)



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Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary

Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary, established in 1965, comprises dry deciduous forest. With the advent of monsoon (June-September), the entire complex is adorned with greenery with bamboo, teak, herbs, shrubs, and a diverse variety of trees to add to the green cover. The best time to visit the sanctuary is during the winter.

Animals such as nilgai, barking deer, sambar, sloth bear, cheetah, Indian bison, tiger, and panther have made the sanctuary lively and interesting. Reptiles that you have seen only in books can be seen here. It can be scary at times, but it does bring out the excitement in children and adults alike! Follow real animals: Python, Monitor lizards, crocodiles, cobras, star tortoises, etc. Enjoy the large variety of birds all around you—mynahs, quails, eagles, kingfishers, partridges, owls, kites, and yes, unusual migratory birds too! A haven for bird watchers.

The ethnomedicinal plants used by the ethnic tribes living in and around the Kawal wildlife sanctuary are documented based on interviews with 128 key informants from 43 villages. The study identified 198 medicinal plant taxa representing 165 genera of 72 families. Fabaceae is the predominant family with 33 species, followed by Apocynaceae (11 spp.), Convolvulaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Malvaceae, and Rubiaceae (7 spp. each), Anacardiaceae, Combretaceae, and Verbenaceae (6 spp. each), and Rutaceae (5 spp.). The majority of these species are indigenous (83.33%). The indigenous people largely use trees (81; 40.91%) and herbs (48; 24.24%), which are wild and abundant, followed by climbers (40; 20.21%) and shrubs (29; 14.64%).

The government is making efforts to curb poaching, illegal deforestation, and human encroachments. New posts have been made and water sources have been upgraded. The sanctuary was made a Tiger Reserve in April 2012.

Differences between Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary and Kawal Tiger Reserve

Kawal Tiger Reserve is located at Jannaram Mandal in Mancherial District in Telangana state of India. Govt of India declared Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary as Tiger Reserve in 2012. The oldest sanctuary is in the northern Telangana region of the state. This is well known for its abundant flora and fauna. This sanctuary is the catchment for the rivers Godavari and Kadam that flow towards the south of the Sanctuary. Kawal Tiger Reserve is located in the Adilabad district of Telangana. The Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary was established in 1965 and later declared a Protected Area (PA) in 1999 under the Wildlife Protection Act, of 1972. Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary was declared a Tiger Reserve in 2012.

Sivaram Wildlife Sanctuary

Sivaram Wildlife Sanctuary, the size of which is only 36.29 sq. kms. This sanctuary is known for its freshwater crocodiles. In 1987, this forest area was initiated as a sanctuary for crocodiles. Situated on the banks of the River Godavari, this place is their natural habitat. This wildlife sanctuary is a haven for nature lovers and nature photographers. The ecosystem in this sanctuary can sustain various biotic communities, and as a result, visitors from all over the world come to visit the place.

Apart from crocodiles, this wildlife sanctuary has a rich collection of flora and fauna. Teak, bamboo, Timan, gumpena, kosha, thorny shrubs, and other deciduous vegetation are found here. Animals like the sloth bear, tiger, panther, cheetah, sambar, nilgai, black bucks, monkeys like the langur and the rhesus monkey, and reptiles such as pythons make this their habitat.

The Sanctuary has various species of crocodiles, among which the freshwater variety, the Mugger Crocodile, whose name is derived from the Mugger Fish, is usually seen in the Indo-Gangetic Plain basking in the sun. Unlike their saltwater counterparts, these mugger crocodiles can crawl on land for long distances. It is also home to the Marsh Crocodiles.



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Pranahita Wildlife Sanctuary

Pranahita Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in Telangana, at a distance of about 35 kilometers from Mancherla which is located in the district of Adilabad. It is about 35 kilometers towards the northeast side of Hyderabad. Spanning over an area of 136 square kilometers, the place is immersed in the scenic landscapes of the Deccan plateau. Pranahita Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the scenic landscape of the Deccan plateau. Pranahita Wildlife Sanctuary covers the thick deciduous teak forests.

Pranahita Wildlife Sanctuary is famous for sighting deer and certain species of birds. The topography of Pranahita Wildlife Sanctuary is prehistoric as it belongs to the Deccan plateau, and the remains that can be seen on the rock formation are yet another place of interest. The sanctuary is also a treasure trove of fossils.

The region in Pranahita Wildlife Sanctuary is hilly with undulating terrain, sprinkled with patches of grassland and plateau. The thick deciduous teak forests cover Pranahita Wildlife Sanctuary. The natural beauty of Pranahita Wildlife Sanctuary is further augmented by the Pranahita River, a tributary of the river Godavari, which meanders gracefully through the beautiful sanctuary. The Pranahita River also serves as a source of water for wildlife. Various fossils have also been found in the sanctuary. The climate is usually hot and dry and the temperature varies from 15 to 40 degrees Celsius.

Flora and Fauna of Pranahita Wildlife Sanctuary

Pranahita Wildlife Sanctuary hosts a rich biodiversity and is the home to a vast variety of flora and fauna. Common plants and trees found in the sanctuary include Dalbergia sissoo, Ficus spp., Dalbergia latifolia, Dalbergia paniculata, Pterocarpus marsupium and many more. It shelters many faunae too especially mammals such as Forest cats, sloth bears, Wild Dogs, Hyenas, Langur, rhesus, leopards, and tigers. Stunning birds can also be spotted in the sanctuary, among which the common ones include herons, ducks, teals, strikes, and many others.

Impact of Wildlife Sanctuaries

For a healthy ecological balance on this earth, wildlife is as important as humans. Each organism on this earth has a unique place in the food chain and contributes to the ecosystem in its special way. But, sadly today, many of the animals and birds are getting endangered or even extinct. A drastic decrease in the flora and fauna can cause ecological imbalance, which affects many aspects of climate and the ecosystem. Wildlife traditionally refers to undomesticated animal species, but has come to include all organisms that grow or live wild in an area without being introduced by humans. Wildlife can be found in all ecosystems.

The wildlife sanctuaries are established to protect the endangered species. It is quite difficult to always relocate the animals from their natural habitat, therefore, protecting them in their natural environment is advantageous. The endangered species are specially monitored in the wildlife sanctuaries. The sanctuary houses several species of animals, including cheetah sambar, barking deer, nilgai, sloth bear, Indian bison, panther, and tiger. Tourists can also find reptiles like the crocodile, Python, monitor lizard, star tortoise, and cobra in this wildlife sanctuary. The goal of wildlife sanctuaries is to ensure that a large population of wildlife and their habitats are preserved. National parks, on the other hand, protect the territory's scenic, environmental, and cultural heritage.

Suggestions & Conclusion

1. They should conduct quantitative and qualitative analyses of the natural, cultural, artistic, and human resources, as well as plan for their use and conservation. The majority of planned tourism extends their usage without protecting resources.



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2. It is necessary to recognize that a country's legacy is a part of humanity's heritage to avoid conflict, violence, and a lack of sensitivity to a global perspective of heritage.
3. To acknowledge the social and economic significance of tourism via the preservation and creation of a clean environment. To acknowledge that traditional values, especially nonmaterialistic ones, should govern tourism as a social force and a negotiated resource between the wealthy and the poor.
4. Socioeconomic objectives of a state can be implemented if tourism is for the development of the host nation.
5. Tourism should not only confront risks and challenges but also be environmentally sustainable. All tourist development must not only answer to short-term requirements but also to duties we feel towards the exploited, the marginalized, the poor and backward, the ignorant, etc. Hence, a long-term perspective on tourism is necessary.
6. Most of the historic legacy is vulnerable to both natural and human forces of deterioration, necessitating in-depth research and enough funding for preservation and upkeep. The majority of nations have antiquities and art preservation laws that allow national museums to purchase artifacts that may be stolen or smuggled out of the country.
7. Regarding conservation and pollution control methods, an international organization like the WTO proposes encouraging the local community to decorate their houses and balconies through contests and other activities.
8. By information and advertising efforts, the government should coordinate visitor enjoyment with the social and cultural activities of the local community.
9. The government should provide pedestrian zones at tourist destinations such as retail malls, public parks, and playgrounds to attract an increasing number of tourists.
10. Respect and awareness of local cultural and sensitive historical sites must be maintained, with particular emphasis on places of religious importance.

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