

See discussions, stats, and author profiles for this publication at: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/327717103>

Wildlife: An Introduction

Presentation · September 2018

DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.23194.08649

CITATIONS

0

READS

87,830

1 author:



Alok Kumar Chandrakar

Guru Ghasidas University

23 PUBLICATIONS **41** CITATIONS

[SEE PROFILE](#)



WILDLIFE AN INTRODUCTION

ALOK KUMAR CHANDRAKAR

Department of Forestry, Wildlife & Environmental Sciences
Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh

WILDLIFE

- At present, life on earth includes human beings and thousands of species of other animals, and plants.
- Human culture and civilization has given human beings the status of a super-partner in the world of animals and plants.
- Man has learnt to exploit animals, plants and other non-living natural resources like land, water and minerals for his use. This has resulted in two categories of animals:
 - A) **Domestic animals**: These animals have been **put to use by man** for his benefit viz cow, buffaloes, camels, horses, goats, sheep, yak etc.
 - B) **Wild animals**: These animals live in the wild and are **not put to use by man**. Wild animals are also referred to as wildlife and include thousands of species of mammals, birds, reptiles, fishes, amphibians and insects that live in the wild.

Animal classes based on their dependency on human for survival:

- **Free living animals:** Animals that is not directly dependent on other organism (human) for survival. They are able to live and move independently.
- **Captive animals:** Animals that live under human care are in captivity. Captivity can be used as a generalizing term to describe the keeping of either domesticated animals (livestock and pets) or wild animals.
- **Feral Animals:** A feral animal is one which has escaped from a domestic or captive status and is living more or less as a wild animal. Animals which were wild before they escaped from captivity are not regarded as feral. For example, a lion which has escaped from a zoo is not a feral animal. Some common examples of animals with feral populations are goats, dogs, cats, pigs, horses etc.

Values of Wildlife

- Wildlife is an important natural resources that can be put to various uses by man. These includes ethical, cultural, commercial, recreational and environmental uses.
- Wild animals are intimately connected with our society, tradition, culture education, economy, recreation and ecology. They have made our planet a place of joy, enjoyment, peace and prosperity.

- **Positive values:**

- Ethical Values
- Cultural Values
- Ecological Values
- Scientific Values
- Aesthetic and Recreational value
- Commercial or Economic values
- Game values

- **Negative values**

- Damage to agriculture
- Competition
- Diseases
- Conflict with human

Ethical values

- We the human beings proclaim ourselves superior to wild animals even though they are more ferocious, powerful, swift and adaptable. The three distinguished features of human beings are the basis viz.
 - ✓ capacity to distinguishing between right and wrong,
 - ✓ sense of reasoning,
 - ✓ love and appreciation of beauty
- The ethical values compel us to think that **we have no right to kill or destroy the other living components of the nature that includes wildlife.**
- Our ancients books, sculptures, religion, rules and philosophers have contributed significantly in the direction of -
 - ✓ protection, conservation and control of wildlife
 - ✓ spreading and including the sense of love and co- existence to wild creatures among us.

The ethical value of wildlife in Indian History:

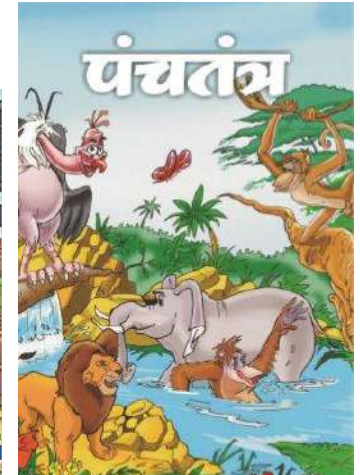
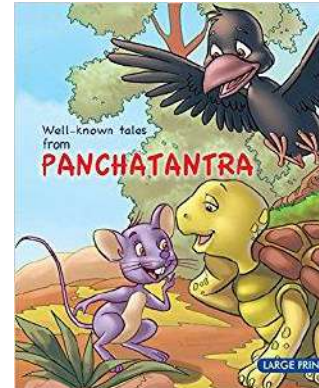
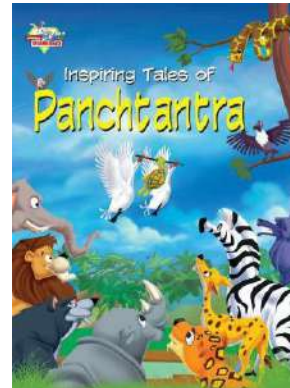
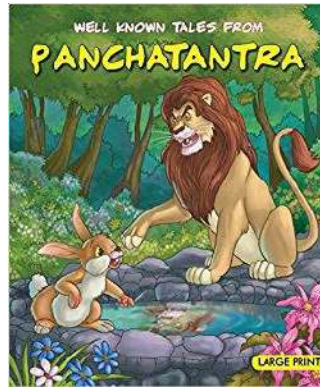
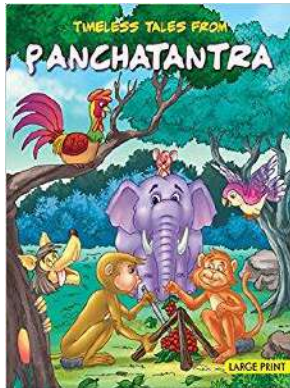
- Wild animals were afforded protection in Hindu mythology through religious myths and sentiments viz. tiger is associated with the Goddess *Durga*, Snakes decorate the neck of Lord *Shiva*, Lord *Ganesha* is believed to have the nose of an elephant.



- In the ancient epic *Ramayana*, an army of monkey and other animals helped Lord *Rama* in his war against *Ravana*, the symbol of injustice.



- The stories of *pancha-tantra* are full of the love for wild animals and have a profound impact on the young mind.



- The emperor *Ashoka* defined the protection of wildlife and forest trees as a duty of kings and citizens alike.
- The famous philosopher *Kautilya* in his 'Arth Shastra' has given a comprehensive coverage to the '*Abhayaranya*' or Forest sanctuary, where animals could live without any fear of being killed.
- In almost every religion it is wrong to take the life of an animal.



Cultural values

- Wild animals have an intimate relationship with human religion, culture and tradition not only in ancient but also in modern times.
- Examples of bravery and ferocity are cited with respect to the lion and tiger.



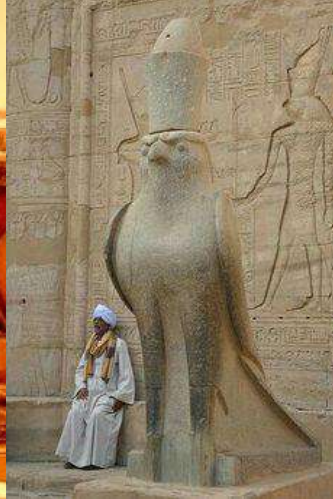
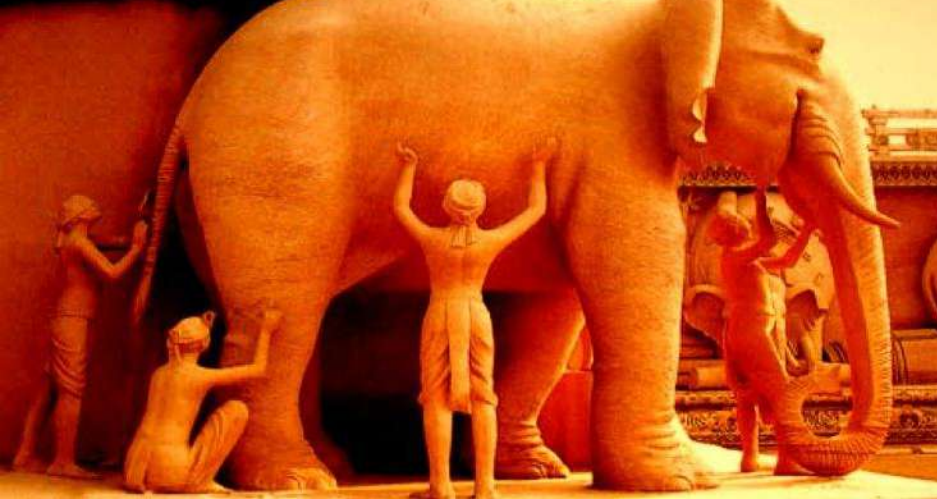
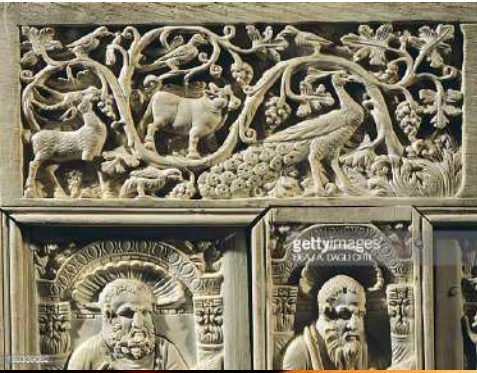
- The peacock has always been a source of inspiration and grace.



- Killing of insects is forbidden in religions like Buddhism and Jainism.
- Wild animals should be preserved because the knowledge which we have about these animals is part of our culture.



- These animals have been source of inspirations for mankind and contributed significantly towards art, architecture, literature and mythology.



- The ultrasonic technique used by bats might be inspiration for human to invent the radar

Echolocation - broadly described as “seeing with sound”.
Bats use sound waves and echoes to determine where objects are in space.

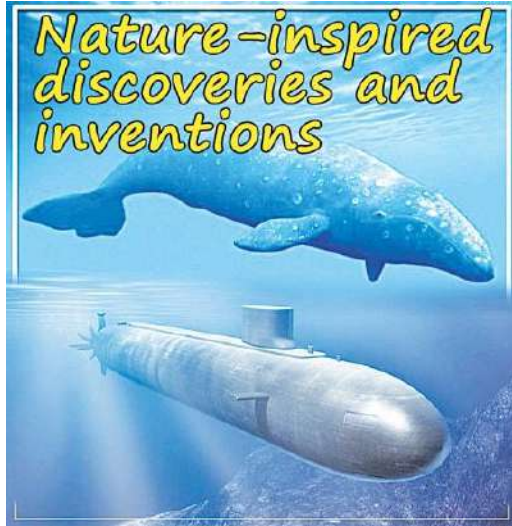


Bats navigate their territory and seek out prey by emitting sound waves or “bat calls”. (a variety of chirps and squeaks)

Narrowband calls (Constant Frequency, or CF, calls) identify potential prey

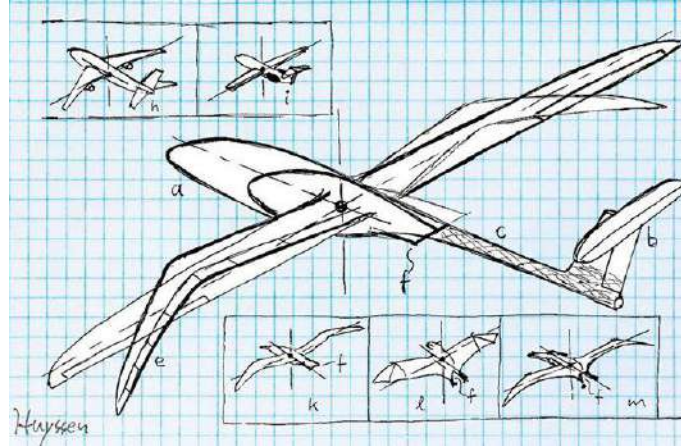
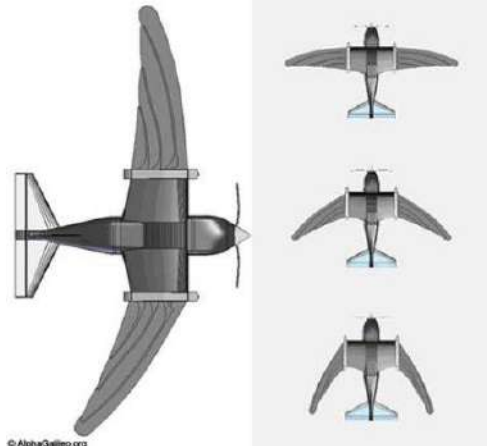
Broadband calls (Frequency Modulation, or FM, calls) scan the landscape

- Animals are inspiration for human for many inventions and designs.



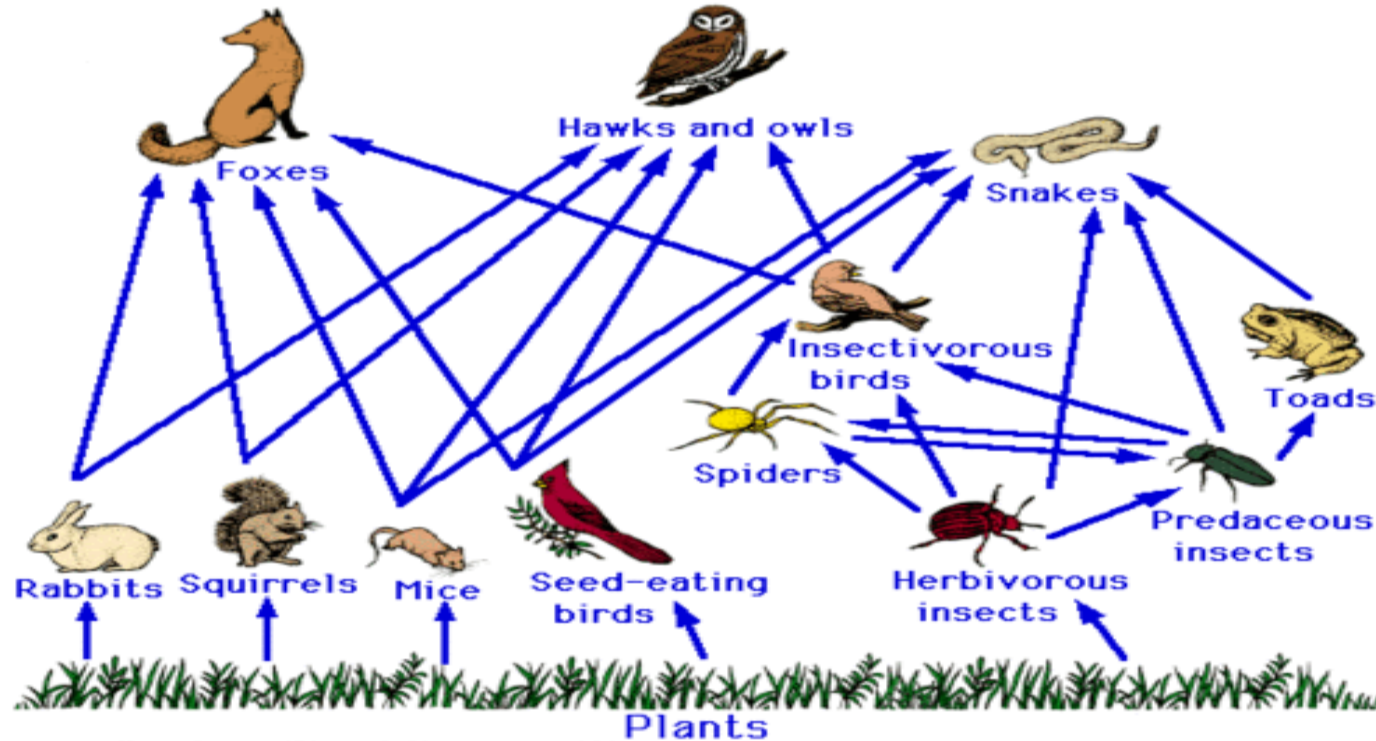
SHINKANSEN BULLET TRAIN

Eiji Nakatsu, an engineer at the Japanese rail company JR-West, took inspiration from the kingfisher, that creates barely a ripple when it darts into water in search of a meal. The train's redesigned nose – a 50-foot-long steel kingfisher beak – reduced power use and enabled faster speeds.



Ecological values

- Wild animals are as much a part of nature as man and have a significant role to play in maintaining the dynamics of the ecosystem. Wild animals occupies the position of consumer in the ecosystem.



- Seasonal migration of birds and mammals help in the development of vegetation by the dispersal of seeds, which they eat and defecate.



- Birds and insects help in cross pollination. It increases the diversity of genetic recombination and viability of the plant vegetation, the producer component of the ecosystem.



- Some wild animals and birds are natural scavengers and thereby help to keep the environment clean and hygienic. Hyenas and jackals are also eliminators of weak, (useless and unfit) individuals.



- Wild animals and insects also act as a biological controlling agent if insect pest and diseases.
- Thus, wild animals play an important role in maintaining the ecological balance, correcting, rehabilitating and preventing further loss to the environment.

Scientific values

- Research workers are engaged all over the world in conducting scientific studies on the so as to achieve different scientific goals.
- Whenever any medicine that is to treat various diseases in human beings is invented, the research on its effect is first tested on animals (such as apes, monkeys, lemurs, pigs, rats and mice) before it is used for human consumption and treatment.
- The knowledge of body functions of different animals and their evolutionary relationship with each other, how they interact with each other and with nature etc, would have been incomplete without the animals who are dissected by scientists.
- The Rh factor in human blood was discovered after studying the rhesus monkey.
- Chimpanzees have helped human beings in conducting serological protein tests.

- The common long nosed Armadillo has been used for leprosy research, Black bear has been used for studying kidney diseases, and African elephants were used as model for research on thrombosis.
- Many studies on the animal behaviors have helped psychiatrist, to understand the nature of human mind.
- Some of wild animals direct or indirect medicinal values for human beings, such as
 - ✓ Musk pod or musk deer is valued as scent
 - ✓ Fat of tiger or hornbill is believed to cure rheumatism
 - ✓ Snake venom is used for the preparation of anti-venom for snakebite
 - ✓ Eggs of wild pigeon, jungle fowl and ducks are helpful in curing common cold
- Thus, wild animals have an immense scientific and medicinal value. Proper awareness can help in earning good will of humanity towards wildlife.

Aesthetic & Recreational values

- Value which pertain to inborn natural beauty and artistic appreciations are grouped under this.
- Some of the wild animals are simple and beautiful, some are majestic and powerful, some others are magnificent and colorful; this sheer beauty of the wildlife has a direct appeal to human spirit and humanity would like to preserve this splendid form of beauty of nature at all cost.
- This is almost an intangible value which may be difficult to measure or compare but nevertheless it is important.
- The pleasure which we derive by viewing them may not be quantifiable.



- Wildlife provides recreation to general public.
- People would like to find time, from the busy schedule of their modern busy life, to share some moments of pleasure and mental happiness with wildlife.
- Various sanctuaries, national parks, zoos provide place for recreation and attract public.
- The integration of wildlife with tourism industry, have become a source of tremendous economic gain.
- Country like India, which are very rich in the variety of wildlife tourism can be a big source of income, as well as, principle source of foreign exchange.



- It is a priceless value which may be popular and widespread in nature and may be important for generating awareness in public minds for wildlife conservation.



Commercial or Economical values

- Wildlife as a natural resource has great commercial value.
- Trough out the world many people are earning their livelihood by carrying trade in wildlife and their products.
- Many industries such as fishing are as big as any other modern industry as far employment generation, output and income.





**THE WILDLIFE TRADE
IS THE FOURTH MOST
LUCRATIVE ILLEGAL
TRADE IN THE WORLD**

- Along with fishing, fur and skin trade has also developed into a industry.
- Trade in certain items like musk, ivory, rhinoceros horn, crocodile skin, fur from monkey, rabbit and bear etc. has threatened these animals are now on the verge of extinction.



TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network

AnimalsAsia
UNEP the cruelty ends



GREEN VIET

env
the environment for people

**FRANKFURT
ZOOLOGICAL
SOCIETY**

WCS

**SAVE
VIETNAM'S
WILDLIFE**

**FREE
THE
BEARS**

UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

FREELAND
Wildlife Conservation Fund



Working together to combat illegal wildlife trade

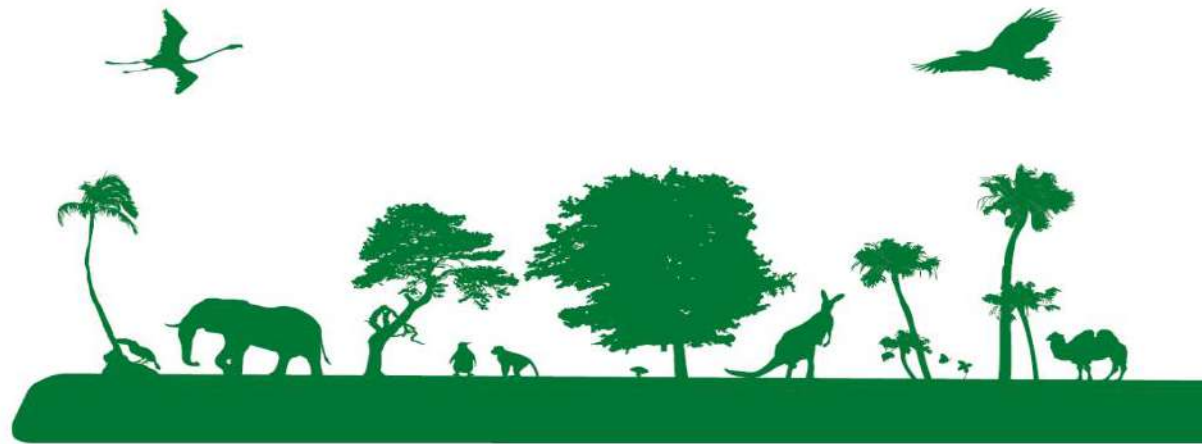
Game values

- Wildlife has a greater value for those who hunt for sport.
- Our kings, emperors were famous for creating special reserves for hunting:
- Dachigam sanctuary, was exclusive hunting reserve of Maharaja of Kashmir.
- Bharatpur bird sanctuary formed the reserve of Maharaja Bharatpur.
- Corbett had become a legendary figure for hunting the man-eaters of the U.P. hills
- Peoples have won large number of trophies by killing the wild animals. This resulted in the mass killing of some of the majestic wildlife.
- Hunting and fishing clubs have been created in many countries like USA, as a sport.



Positive values

- The positive values of wildlife can further be divided into two:
- Non-consumptive or Intangible
- Consumptive or tangible
- The ecological and ethical are intangible value, while economic, scientific and others are of tangible values, as we get direct benefit in the form of food, money and enjoyment.

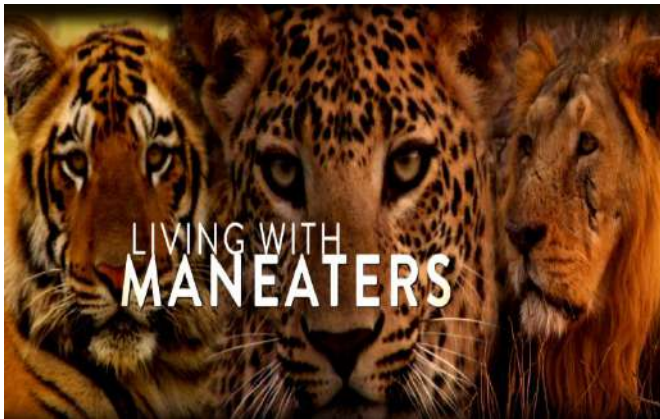


Negative values

- Wildlife has got certain negative values, such as:
 - Destruction of properties
 - Predation
 - Potential role as reservoir or carriers of various diseases
- Wildlife such as deer and other herbivorous animals destroy the crops in the field and intensity is felt most by those countries whose agriculture is in the primitive stages and living standard is very poor.

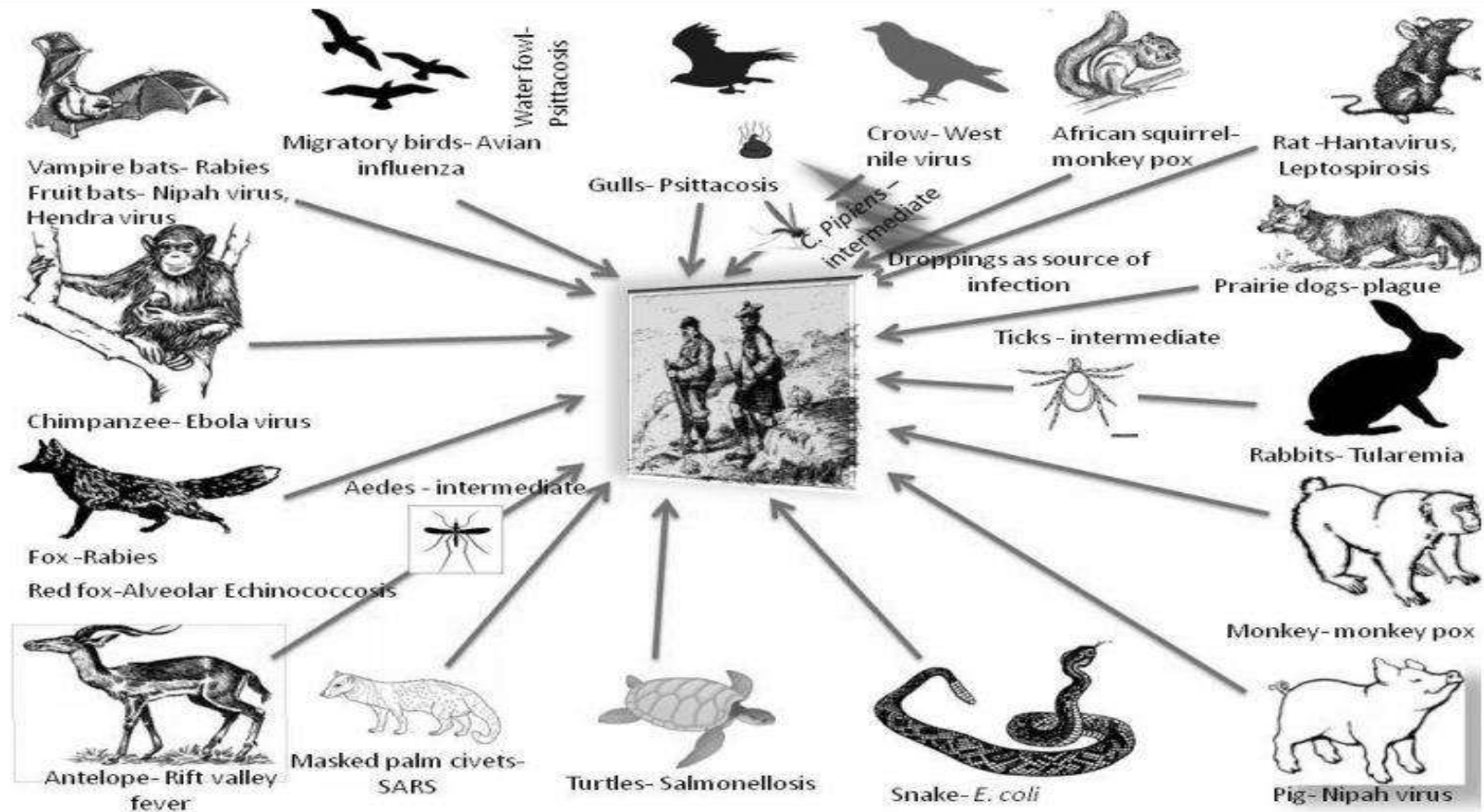


- Carnivores like panther, tiger and lion sometimes lift domestic animals and create hardships for the rural population.
- There are many instances when loss of human life has been up to a great extent at hand of man-eaters carnivores.





- Some of wild animals act as a carriers or reservoirs of certain diseases.



- However, the positive values of wildlife far outweigh the negative values.

Conclusion

- Wildlife is an important renewable natural resource at the hand of man with diverse use.
- The colorful and magnificent wildlife bestowed upon us by the nature had made tremendous contribution towards:
 - our culture, religion, courage and discipline,
 - customs, and traditions,
 - education and economy,
 - entertainment and aesthetic sense,
 - maintaining balance of nature
- The list is still linger making life on this planet full of joy and enjoyment, peace and prosperity.

