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I. Terrestrial Animals

Species	Context	Characteristics	Habitat	Conservation Status
Grey Wolf	'Operation Bhediya' (UP)	Social, high-speed, monogamous	India: Peninsular; Himalayan: Trans-Himalayan	Indian: WPA I; Himalayan: VU, CITES I, WPA I
Red Panda	WAZA Award Nominee	Arboreal, nocturnal, crepuscular	India (NE), Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, China	EN, CITES I, WPA I, Species Recovery Program
Asiatic Lion	Migration to Barda WLS	Smaller than African, moderate mane	Gir (Gujarat)	EN, CITES I, WPA I, Species Recovery Program; Project Lion
Cheetah	Translocation to Gandhi Sagar WLS	Fastest mammal, doesn't roar	African: Sub-Saharan Africa; Asiatic: Iran	Asiatic: WPA I; African: VU, CITES I; Project Cheetah
Indian Tiger	-	Flagship, umbrella species, solitary	India: Various regions	CITES I, WPA I; Project Tiger, NTCA

<b>Indian Elephant</b>	-	Intelligent, long gestation, female-led	India: Central, South, North East	EN, CITES I, WPA I; Project Elephant
<b>Nilgiri Tahr</b>	Population survey (TN)	Mountain ungulate, endemic to WG	Western Ghats	EN, WPA I; State animal of TN
<b>Hoolock Gibbon</b>	Oil exploration in Assam sanctuary	Arboreal, diurnal, territorial, sexual dimorphism	NE India	Western: EN, CITES I, WPA I; Eastern: VU, CITES I, WPA I
<b>Pangolin</b>	Increased poaching (Telangana)	Scaly, eats ants/termites, nocturnal	India: Throughout (except NE); Chinese: Assam, Eastern Himalayas	Both: WPA I, CITES I
<b>Markhor</b>	Sighting in Kashmir	Largest wild goat	J&K (India), Pak, Afg, Central Asia	WPA I, CITES I; Int'l Day of the Markhor, Kashmir Markhor Recovery Project
<b>Indian Bison (Gaur)</b>	Study in Palamu TR	Massive, grazing, diurnal	Western Ghats	VU, WPA I, CITES I

<b>Fishing Cat</b>	Collaring project (Coringa WLS)	Wetland feline, nocturnal hunter	India: Sundarbans, Himalayan foothills, WG	VU, WPA I
<b>Iberian Lynx</b>	Conservation success	Solitary, nocturnal/crepuscular, rabbit diet	Iberian Peninsula	VU

## II. Avian Species

Species	Context	Characteristics	Habitat	Conservation Status
<b>Indian Vulture</b>	Largest nesting colony in Moyar Valley	Whitish feathers on dark head/neck, colonial nester	Open Grassland (Jharkhand, MP, Rajasthan)	CR, WPA I
<b>Great Indian Bustard (GIB)</b>	Bustard Recovery Program funding approved	Agro-grassland bird, males have gular pouch	Indian Subcontinent (Rajasthan, Gujarat)	CR, CITES I, WPA I, Species Recovery Program
<b>Lesser Florican</b>	-	Smallest bustard, Males display in	Rajasthan, Gujarat, MP, Maharashtra, AP	CR, WPA I

		breeding season		
<b>Jerdon's Courser</b>	Rare sighting	Nocturnal, ground-dwelling, cryptic plumage	Endemic to Andhra Pradesh	CR, WPA I, Species Recovery Program
<b>Greater Adjutant Stork</b>	Purnima Devi Barman's award	Large flying bird, scavenger	Assam, Bihar, Cambodia; wetlands	EN, WPA I
<b>Amur Falcon</b>	Hunting ban in Manipur	Migratory raptor, long sea crossing	Breeds in Russia/China, migrates to S. Africa; Manipur, Nagaland during migration	LC

### III. Aquatic Species

Species	Context	Characteristics	Habitat	Conservation Status
<b>Eurasian Otter</b>	Radio-tagged in Satpura TR (MP)	Aquatic, webbed feet	Europe, Asia, Africa; India (N, NE, S)	NT, CITES I, WPA II

<b>Vaquita</b>	Population decline	Smallest cetacean, toothed whale	Gulf of California (Mexico)	CR, CITES I
<b>Blue Whales</b>	Comeback near Seychelles	Largest, loudest animal, krill diet	All oceans (except Arctic)	EN, CITES I, WPA I
<b>Gangetic River Dolphin</b>	Dolphin tagging in Assam	Blind, relies on echolocation	Freshwater: Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna, Karnaphuli-Sangu (India, Nepal, Bangladesh)	EN, WPA I; National Aquatic Animal, Project Dolphin

#### IV. Reptiles, Insects and Amphibians.

Species	Context	Characteristics	Habitat	Conservation Status
<b>Neptis Philyra</b>	New discovery in India	Butterfly, also known as long-streak sailor, serrated wings	Tale Valley WLS (Arunachal Pradesh); East Asia	-
<b>Butterfly Cicada</b>	New species discovered	Colorful wings	Meghalaya; Southeast Asia	-

<b>Bumblebees</b>	Resilient to pesticides	Fuzzy, short wings, larger than honeybees, buzz pollination, dance communication	-	-
<b>Gharial</b>	-	Bulbous knob on snout, primarily eats fish	Freshwater rivers (Chambal, Girwa, Ghagra, Son, Gandak)	CR, CITES I, WPA I
<b>Sea Anemone</b>	Bleaching in Lakshadweep	Predatory, symbiotic with algae and clownfish	Coastal tropical waters	-
<b>Batillipes Chandrayaani</b>	New marine tardigrade species	Trapezoid-shaped head, 4 pairs of legs with spines, can survive extreme conditions	Southeast coast of Tamil Nadu	-
<b>Sea Cucumbers</b>	Repopulation aids coral reef recovery	Echinoderm, consumes decomposing matter, buffers ocean acidification	Tropical seas	WPA I

<b>Sperm Whales</b>	Communicate using "codas"	Largest toothed whales, males near poles	Deep open waters	EN
<b>Olive Ridley Turtle</b>	Increased deaths	Olive green, mass nesting ("Arribada")	Tropical Pacific, Indian, Atlantic Oceans	VU, CITES I
<b>Indian Star Tortoise</b>	Threatened by illegal trade	Solitary, herbivorous, star-patterned shell	Arid regions of India and Sri Lanka	WPA I, CITES I

V. Plant Species

Species	Context	Characteristics	Habitat	Uses/Significance
<b>Utricularia (Bladderworts)</b>	Found in Keoladeo NP	Carnivorous, has bladders to trap prey	Lakes, streams, waterlogged soils	Boosts biodiversity, controls insect populations
<b>Seaweed</b>	ICAR-CMFRI center of excellence	Marine plants/algae, multicellular, autotrophs	Oceans, rivers, lakes	Nutritional, medicinal, manufacturing, agricultural uses

		(green, brown, red)		
<b>Aquilaria Malaccensis (Agarwood)</b>	CITES eases export from India	Evergreen tree, aromatic oil and chips	NE India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, SE Asia	Aromatic products
<b>Syntrichia Caninervis</b>	Withstands Mars-like conditions	Desert moss	Harsh locations (Antarctica, Mojave Desert)	Possible pioneer species for Mars colonization
<b>Semal Trees (Silk Cotton Tree)</b>	Disappearing from S. Rajasthan	Large deciduous tree, crimson red flowers	-	Ayurvedic medicine, worshiped, edible oil from seeds
<b>Tmesipteris Oblanceolata</b>	Largest genome	Fork fern, large genome	New Caledonia, nearby Pacific islands; rainforests	-
<b>Palm Tree</b>	Planted to combat lightning	Tropical, various types (coconut, oil palm, arecanut)	Tropical Forest Ecosystems	Lightning protection, construction materials, food
<b>Neelakurinji</b>	Listed as Vulnerable	Shrub, blooms every 12 years, semelparous	Shola grasslands of Western and Eastern Ghats	Name origin of Nilgiri hills



<b>Water Spinach</b>	IIVR technology for farmers	Semi-aquatic, perennial	Tropics and subtropics	Nutritional, purifies water
<b>Ashwagandha</b>	Growing in popularity	Evergreen shrub, bioactive compounds	India, Africa, Middle East	Medicinal (Ayurvedic)
<b>Kashmir Chinars</b>	Digital protection (geo-tagging)	Large, deciduous, long-lived, colorful leaves	Kashmir, Eastern Himalayas	Medicinal, furniture, dyes
<b>Tropical Plant Subabul</b>	Therapeutic potential identified	Leguminous tree, fast-growing	Tropical and subtropical regions	Nutritional (leaves and seeds)
<b>Dicliptera Polymorpha</b>	New species discovered	Thrives in grasslands, dual-blooming, spicate inflorescence	Western Ghats	-
<b>Sea Buckthorn</b>	GI Tagged	Grown organically	Ladakh	Medicinal, nutritional supplement
<b>Water Hyacinth</b>	Used for eco-friendly products	Non-native, aquatic invasive plant	Widespread in India	Reduces water pollution, used for products

## VI. Animals at Vantara

Species	Characteristics	Habitat	Conservation Status
Okapi	"Forest giraffe" or "zebra giraffe", solitary, diurnal	Endemic to arid regions of northwest India, southern India, and Sri Lanka.	EN
African Lion	Males have thick manes, females hunt in prides, larger and darker manes than Asiatic lions	Savannas, grasslands, open woodlands in sub-Saharan Africa	VU, CITES I
Rare Two-Headed Turtle (Bicephalic Chelonian)	Genetic mutation (polycephaly), coordination challenges	Savannas, grasslands, and open woodlands in sub-Saharan Africa	
Orangutan	Reddish-brown, intelligent, tool users, solitary, 3 species (Bornean, Sumatran, Tapanuli)	Tropical rainforests of Borneo and Sumatra	CR, WPA I, CITES I

<b>Lemurs</b>	Primates, diverse species, social, female-dominated groups	Madagascar, Comoros Islands; various ecosystems	Many species in CITES I
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