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	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>LESSON PLAN</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>LESSON PLAN : E 5</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN INDIA</u></p> <p>Period - One Type - Lecture Code - E 6 Term - III (SD/SW)</p> <hr/> <p><u>Training Aids</u> 1. Computer, Projector, Charts, Pointer. Black Board & Chalk.</p> <p><u>Time Plan</u> 2. (a) Introduction - 05 Mins (b) Wildlife Conservation - 15 Mins (c) Wild Life Projects - 15 Mins (d) Conclusion - 05 Mins</p> <p><u>INTRODUCTION</u></p> <p>3. The Indian subcontinent is blessed with a natural habitat of a large and varied wildlife. We can find some of the most magnificent as well as the rarest wildlife species of the world in the country. The beauty and variety we see in the jungles of India is difficult to be expressed in words. However, the past few decades have seen the greed and negligence of human beings leading to large-scale poaching, habitat destruction, resulting in animal - human conflict with rapid decline in the population of most of the wild animals and birds.</p> <p>4. Conservation of Wildlife in India has slowly and gradually been understood by all. Today, efforts are being made towards wildlife conservation to preserve this natural wealth. Numerous wildlife conservation projects have been undertaken in India, both, at the government, as well as the individual level, to protect the wildlife of the subcontinent.</p> <p><u>AIM</u></p> <p>5. To acquaint the cadets about Wildlife Conservation and Projects in India.</p> <p><u>PREVIEW</u></p> <p>6. The lecture will be conducted in following parts:-</p> <p>(a) Part I - Wildlife Conservation.</p> <p>(b) Part II - Wildlife Projects in India.</p>

(a)	<p><u>PART I : WILDLIFE CONSERVATION</u></p> <p>Need for Conservation</p> <p>7. Threats to Wildlife. The major threats being faced by the wildlife in India are:-</p> <p>(a) Decreasing Capacity. The wildlife sanctuaries of India have become overcrowded and their capacity has decreased to quite an extent. This is one of the major reasons for the depleting population of wild animals in India.</p> <p>(b) Increasing Fatalities. Tourism in the national parks of the country is increasing day by day. One of the reasons for this is a rise in the popularity of eco-tourism and adventure tourism. This has led to a growth in vehicle pollution increasing wildlife road fatalities, apart from leading to a damage of the natural habitat of birds and animals.</p> <p>(c) Increasing Forest Fires. Increase in forest fires due to campfires by visitors or deliberate fires by poachers / villagers has had a damaging effect. These fires not only kill animals, but also destroy their natural habitat.</p> <p>(d) Increased Motor Boat Activity. The wildlife of coastal areas is constantly disturbed by personal watercrafts, like jet skis or wave runners. These personal watercrafts enter shallow waters and expel nesting birds from their roosts. Such activities are disturbing the mating pattern of birds.</p> <p>(e) Release of Chemicals/Toxins. Releasing of chemicals and other toxic effluents into the water bodies has led to poisoning of the water. The animals and birds drinking such water face a fatal threat. Even the population of fish, living in such water bodies, is declining at a fast pace.</p> <p>(f) Climate Changes. The climate changes taking place in the world today, are affecting not only humans, but also the wildlife. The natural habitat as well as migration patterns of the animals and birds is experiencing disturb patterns.</p> <p>(g) Increase in Poaching. The threat of poaching has been haunting the wildlife of India since ages. Even after the establishment of wildlife sanctuaries and national parks, the threat of poaching has not been totally eliminated.</p> <p>8. Maintenance of Food-Chain. Conservation of wildlife is extremely important for sustaining the natural ecosystem. All living organisms of the biosphere are connected to each other by a common factor of food. Animals form a very important part of this food chain and there is a need to maintain equilibrium. Any disruption to this food chain can have major effects. Herbivores and carnivores are required to maintain the appropriate balance of nature. If all lions, tigers and other big cats vanish from the earth, the deer population would increase manifold thus bringing a disastrous effect on the</p>
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plants and grass. Therefore it is essential that the population of carnivores is maintained through wildlife conservation.

Wildlife Conservation Measures

9. **Wildlife Projects.** Measures to conserve Indian Wildlife include various Projects such as Project Tiger, Jungle Lodges and Nature Camps. These are the measures taken towards the conservation of Indian wildlife. It also includes reduced cutting of trees, since it is clear that when forests are cut down, wildlife is naturally threatened. Some beautiful and interesting species have already become extinct. Further, measures for conservation of Indian wildlife have been taken for curbing secret poaching and shooting that can lead to the complete extinction of rhinoceros, the famous Royal Bengal tiger and the elephant.

10. **Expansion of Sanctuary System.** Habitat creation was another important measure, like for instance, various National Parks, Zoological Parks, Botanical Gardens, Sanctuaries and Biosphere Reserves have been constructed that serve as protected areas for the wildlife. They help in conserving the wild life in their state.

11. **Breeding in captivity** has also helped in the survival of many wild life species.

12. **Mass Awareness and Education.** Another important significant measure of conservation of Indian wildlife is mass awareness and education. Awareness about the endangered species and wildlife is considered essential for protecting them. People are educated and encouraged to participate in preservation processes of wildlife.

13. **Wildlife Protection Act 1972.** Hunting has been made punishable by law in many countries including India. In 1972, Wildlife protection Act was passed which provides legal protection to wildlife and endangered species in particular.

(b) PART II : WILDLIFE PROJECTS IN INDIA

14. **General.** The need to create wild life projects is to preserve the endangered species. It must be understood that some animal species are more endangered than others, because their numbers have fallen to alarming levels due to poaching, reduction of habitat, pollution of water bodies and other man made disturbances like electromagnetic waves from mobile towers. Some of these projects are funded by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) while, others are funded by the Government.

15. **Project Tiger.** In order to save the Tiger, the Indian government started the 'Project Tiger' in 1973-74, with the objective of restraining, as well as augmenting the declining population of tigers in the country. Under the project, nine wildlife sanctuaries were taken over and developed into tiger

reserves. These reserves were developed as exact replicas of the varied terrains of the country, with their core area being free of any human movement. With time, the number of sanctuaries under the ambit of 'Project Tiger' was increased and by 2003, it had been increased to 27. Project Tiger helped increase the population of these tigers from 1,200 in the 1970s to 1700 in 2011.

16. Project Elephant. Project Elephant (PE), is a centrally sponsored scheme, launched in February 1992, to provide financial and technical support to major elephant bearing States in the country, for protection of elephants, their habitats and corridors. It also seeks to address the issues of human-elephant conflict and welfare of domesticated elephants. The Project is being implemented in 13 States / UTs , viz. Andhra Pradesh , Arunachal Pradesh , Assam , Jharkhand , Karnataka , Kerala , Meghalaya , Nagaland , Orissa , Tamil Nadu , Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. 25 Elephant Reserves (ERs) extending over about 58,000 sq km have been formally notified by various State Governments till now. The estimated population of wild elephants is in excess of 25000.

17. Project Hangul. The Kashmiri stag also called Hangul is a subspecies of Central Asian Red Deer native to Northern India. This deer lives in groups of two to 18 individuals in dense riverine forests, high valleys and mountains of the Kashmir Valley and Northern Chamba, in Himachal Pradesh. In Kashmir, it is found in the Dachigam National Park, at elevations of 3,035 meters. The population of these deers has fallen from 5,000 animals in the beginning of the 20th century to about only about 150 animals by 1970. However, the state of Jammu & Kashmir, along with the IUCN and the WWF prepared a project for the protection of these animals, named as Project Hangul. This brought great results and the population of this species has now increased to over 340 by 1980.

18. Crocodile Conservation Project. The Indian Crocodile Conservation Project is considered among the more successful of conservation initiatives in the world. It has pulled back the once threatened crocodilians from the brink of extinction and placed them on a good path of recovery. The Project has not just produced a large number of crocodiles, but has contributed towards conservation in a number of related fields as well.

19. Project Sea Turtle. A significant proportion of world's Olive Ridley Turtle population migrates every winter to Indian coastal waters, for nesting mainly at Eastern Coast I Orissa. The Ministry of Environment & Forests in 1999 has initiated the Sea Turtle Conservation Project in collaboration with UNDP, with the objective of conservation of Olive Ridley Turtles and other endangered marine turtles. The Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun has been designated as the Implementing Agency. The project is being implemented in 10 coastal States of the country with special emphasis in the State of Orissa.

20. Vulture Conservation in India. India has nine species of vultures in the world. The population of three species i.e. White-backed Vulture, Slender-billed Vulture and Long-billed Vulture in the wild has declined drastically over the past decade. The decline of Gyps genus in India has been put at 97% by 2005. Due to this evidence, all three vulture species were listed by IUCN, the World Conservation Union, in 2000 as 'Critically Endangered'. The workshop to prepare an Asian Vulture Recovery Plan held at Parwanoo in Himachal Pradesh, India in February 2004 recommended the establishment of captive holding and captive breeding facilities for three species of Gyps vultures at six different places in South Asia, besides implementing a ban on veterinary use of Diclofenac. These centres would serve as source for reintroduction of the birds after removal of the cause of mortality from the environment.

21. Indo-Russian Cooperation on Migratory Birds. MoEF has also signed a protocol with Russian counterpart, for conservation of migratory bird species between the two countries. It has been agreed to develop joint projects of mutual interest on migration and nesting behaviour of Siberian Cranes and common cranes and also to exchange scientific and official information on issues relating to wetland management, conservation of avi-fauna etc.

22. Other Projects. After the success of animal projects, the government has now initiated several new projects for conservation of other endangered animals like, The Himalayan Musk Deer Ecology and Conservation Project, Project Lion, Project Snow Leopard and endangered Birds / Pheasant Projects.

CONCLUSION

23. The Indian subcontinent is blessed with a natural habitat of a large and varied wildlife. We can find some of the most magnificent as well as the rarest wildlife species of the world in the country.