



World Wildlife Day

For Prelims: World Wildlife Day, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Sustainable Development Goals, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Environment Protection Act, 1986, The Biological Diversity Act, 2002

For Mains: Importance of conserving Wildlife, India's Domestic Legal Framework for Wildlife Conservation.

Why in News?

World Wildlife Day has been **celebrated every year** on the **3rd of March since 2013**.

- The date chosen coincides with the day of the [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\)](#) which was signed in 1973.
- The **UNGA (General Assembly) resolution also designated the CITES Secretariat** as the facilitator for the global observance of this special day for wildlife on the [UN \(United Nations\)](#) calendar.

What is the theme of 2022?

- Theme: **Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration.**
- This theme is chosen as a way to draw attention to the conservation status of some of the most critically endangered species of wild fauna and flora.

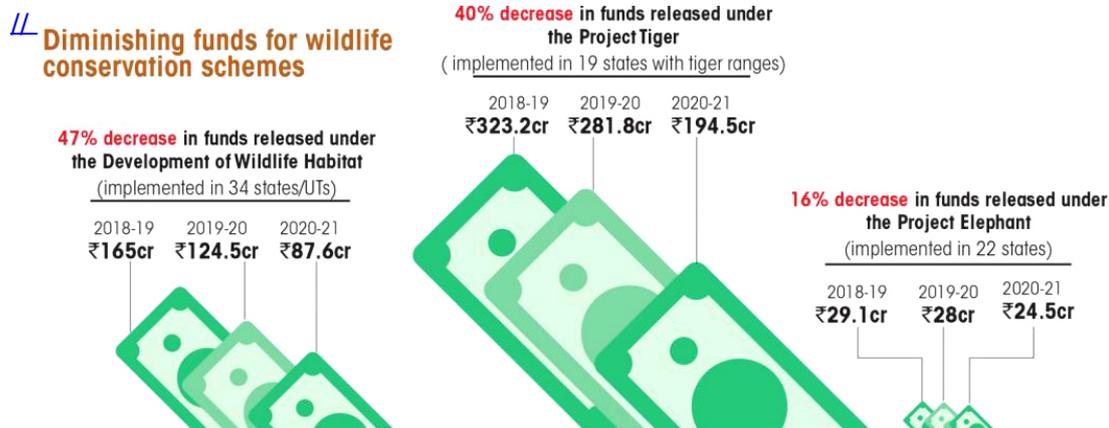
What is the Significance of the Day?

- This aligns with UN [Sustainable Development Goals 1, 12, 14 and 15](#), and their wide-ranging commitments on alleviating **poverty**, ensuring sustainable use of resources, and on conserving life both on land and below water to halt biodiversity loss.
- Our planet is currently facing the urgent challenge that is the loss of biodiversity and up to a million species could disappear in the coming decades if unsustainable human activity, [climate change](#) and habitat degradation are left unchecked.

What about the Status of Species of Fauna and Flora?

- Around more than **8000 species of wild fauna and flora are endangered** and close to 30,000 more are known to be on the verge of getting extinct or vulnerable.
- It is also estimated that **around a million species are extinct.**
- India accounts for **7-8% of all recorded species**, including over **45,000 species of plants and 91,000 species of animals.**
- India is one of the **most biodiverse regions of the world**, home to three biodiversity hotspots - **the [Western Ghats](#), the [Eastern Himalayas](#), and the [Indo-Burma hotspot](#).**
- The country has **seven natural [World Heritage Sites](#), eleven [Biosphere Reserves](#) and forty nine [Ramsar sites](#).**

- India is home to a **number of wildlife conservation parks and sanctuaries**, notable among those are [Jim Corbett National Park](#) in Uttarakhand, [Ranthambore National Park](#) in Rajasthan, [Gir National Park](#) in Gujarat, Bannerghatta Biological Park in Karnataka, [Periyar National Park](#) in Kerala, Hemis National Park in Ladakh, [The Great Himalayan National Park](#) in Himachal Pradesh.
- The main factors that **contribute to the extinction of species** include **human activities such as habitat loss due to urbanisation, overexploitation, moving species from their natural habitat**, global pollution and climate change.
 - Illegal wildlife trade** is also unsustainable, harming wild populations of animals and plants and pushing endangered species toward extinction. It also brings several public health consequences, such as the spreading of [zoonotic pathogens](#).



What about India's Domestic Legal Framework for Wildlife Conservation?

- Constitutional Provisions for Wildlife:**
 - By the [42nd Amendment Act 1976](#) of the Constitution "Forests" was added as Entry 17A in the Concurrent List and the "protection of wild animals and birds" was added as Entry 17B.
 - Article 51 A (g)** of the Constitution states that it shall be the **fundamental duty** of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment including forests and Wildlife.
 - Article 48 A** in the [Directive Principles of State policy](#), mandates that the State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.
- Legal Framework:**
 - [Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#)
 - [Environment Protection Act, 1986](#)
 - [The Biological Diversity Act, 2002](#)
- India's Collaboration With Global Wildlife Conservation Efforts:**
 - [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\)](#)
 - [Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals \(CMS\)](#)
 - [Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#)
 - [World Heritage Convention](#)
 - [Ramsar Convention](#)
 - [The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network \(TRAFFIC\)](#)
 - [United Nations Forum on Forests \(UNFF\)](#)
 - [International Whaling Commission \(IWC\)](#)
 - [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#)
 - [Global Tiger Forum \(GTF\)](#)

PYQ

The most important strategy for the conservation of biodiversity together with traditional

human life is the establishment of (2014)

- (a) biosphere reserves
- (b) botanical gardens
- (c) national parks
- (d) wildlife sanctuaries

Ans: (a)

Source: DTE

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/world-wildlife-day-2>