

World Wildlife Day : An awareness initiative by Dept. of Zoology, Barasat Govt. College



The animals and plants that live in the wild have an intrinsic value and contribute to the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic aspects of human well-being and to sustainable development.

World Wildlife Day is an opportunity to celebrate the many beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora and to raise awareness of the multitude of benefits that their conservation provides to people. At the same time, the Day reminds us of the urgent need to step up the fight against wildlife crime and human-induced reduction of species, which have wide-ranging economic, environmental and social impacts.

To celebrate World Wildlife Day, launched on March 3 by the United Nations in 1973 to help raise awareness about how people benefit from “fauna and flora,” we asked our Knights and our faculty to share some pictures from their field work.

In 2022, the theme was '**Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration.**' The theme for 2022 seeks to raise awareness of the critically endangered species of flora and fauna in our ecosystems, with a view to generating and implementing workable solutions to conserve them.

Our Students of Department of Zoology, aimed to boost up the level of knowledge and of awareness about wild life by submitting short articles to know more about wild life and awareness on March 3, 2022.

WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

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World Wildlife Day, observed on **March 3** every year, is an opportunity to celebrate beautiful varied forms of wild fauna. It is also observed to raise awareness to conserve them. This day has become one of the most important global annual events dedicated to wildlife.

The theme for World Wildlife Day 2022 is ‘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. This is to drive the discussion towards imagining and implementing solutions to conserve wildlife

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 said to be extinct. This day holds significance for the UN because saving these species aligns with UN Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 12, 13, 14 and 15, and their commitments like alleviating poverty, ensuring sustainable use of resources and conserving life on land.

Importance of Wildlife

Wildlife Awareness is an important and interesting subject of study. Wild Animals and forests form part of the vital natural resources of a country and as such, all the components of Forests are categorized under Wildlife. From time immemorial forest resources have been a source of human sustenance. They are home to the most amazing herbs, medicinal compounds, natural cosmetics etc. Forests and Wild Life go together since forests serve as a home for wildlife. Wildlife also figures prominently in aboriginal art, legend, and ceremony. Seasonal migrations of wildlife species have communal ritual values for people.

- ♣ Source of Medicines.
- ♣ Life Sustenance.
- ♣ Maintainers of Ecological Balance.
- ♣ Genetic Diversity.
- ♣ Indicators of Environmental Health.

Ways to Save Wildlife

- ♣ Raising Awareness
- ♣ Tree Plantation
- ♣ Discourage Animals Products.
- ♣ Wildlife Curriculum
- ♣ National Policies

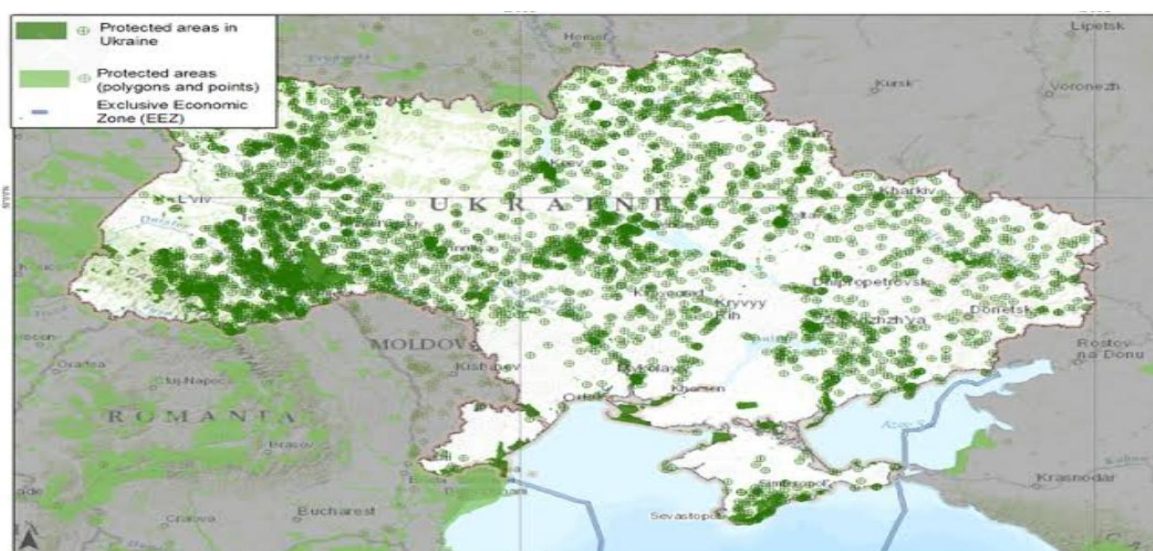
Threats To Wildlife

- ♣ Global climate change
- ♣ Agricultural and industrial pollutants.
- ♣ An ever-increasing human population
- ♣ Deforestation
- ♣ Lack or Absence of awareness about the values of wildlife.

IMPACT OF RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT ON UKRAINE'S BIODIVERSITY, WILDLIFE AND ECOLOGY

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Biodiversity of any country plays a pivotal role on its economic and social life. Despite having only less than 6% of Europe's land Ukraine contributes 35% of its diversity. The recent war situation between Russia and Ukraine surely damages both country's economic structure but in case of Ukraine as we can see the damage is high and also in respect of ecology. So, obviously damage on Ukraine ecosystem is not only their national or local concern but it should be a global concern. The **Chernobyl disaster** on 26 April, 1986 was rated seven, the maximum severity—on the International Nuclear Event Scale where 134 staffs and fireman immediately admitted to hospital due to acute radiation syndrome out of them 28 died on the next month and 14 suspected **radiation-induced cancer** deaths followed within the next 10 years. Also during the time of crimea annexation the donetsk coal basin of Ukraine already faced significant damages. Now on 2022 continuous attack of Russian forces on the land of Ukraine not only started destroying cities, buildings and taking lives but also raising the risk of ecosystem disbalance in many paths.



Let us see what can be the probable impact, if this situation lasts long or further more severity rises on this geopolitical issue:

1. Ukraine have over 70,000 species of endemic rare flora and fauna. Destruction of the forests and lands near the forest areas are of serious concern.
2. Main rivers – Dniro, Dniester , Pivdennyi buh ,Danube , which are the food securer of the country ,will be polluted in large scale.
3. 16% of the land covered by forests. One of their main economic hold of the country is of timber, which will be destroyed with no time if forest fire takes due to artillery.
4. Using of different weapons and bombing are now increasing the carbon foot print (locking more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere), will lead to high risk of rapid climate change.
5. During the crimea annexation the Donetsk coal basin has significant damage. It contains active and inactive landmines which are pumped regularly so that the groundwater

doesn't flood them, admits a strike if the pumping stops the flood water could dissolve Hg, As, Pd etc. contaminating the groundwater permanently.

6. There are 33 wetlands having the status of international importance. Eastern Syvash Wetlands will be the first to be affected if the war further spreads in other parts.
7. Russia has been accused for using vacuum bombs (thermobaric / fuel air explosives). A vacuum bomb is an advanced weapon capable of reinforcing buildings and vaporizing human bodies within that area). It creates a massive fireball cloud sucking all the oxygen from the explosion area, i.e. destroying all the oxygen from a huge radius.
8. Russia and Ukraine together exported more than 25% of the world's wheat. If this war continues the agriculture will be affected severely in turn affecting the ecological systems and economy of other countries also.

We humans are also an important part of these ecosystems. So, destroying human lives along with wildlife and nature's resources will affect the ecology for decades to come.



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in the wrong hands be used for hunting or poaching the wild.

High-intensity conflicts also require and consume vast quantities of fuel, leading to massive CO2 emissions and contributing to climate change.

In some cases, the areas where displaced people move may go under pressure, such as herders moving their livestock through sensitive ecosystems. Large-scale refugee movements can also create transboundary environmental impacts when neighbouring countries struggle to cope with people's influx and basic needs.

Whether unintended or deliberate, large-scale nuclear incidents have always led to inter and transboundary impacts. Regardless of the outcome, the ecological collapse after a war ought to happen and is in neither side's interest.

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ENVIRONMENT

Environmental impacts of the Russia-Ukraine conflict

War in Ukraine could lead to thousands of civilian deaths, a potential refugee crisis and global economic downfall. It will also create irreversible damage to the regional as well as the global environment



By DTE Staff

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WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

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World wildlife day is celebrated on 3rd March to acknowledge the international day for the adaptation of the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). This day recognizes the raised awareness worldwide about the flora and fauna.

The General Assembly talked put forward the pure and natural value of the wildlife. It also brightly lightens up the various ecological, genetic, cultural, social and studies related help they provided us. Most importantly they have a crucial role in human wellbeing. On this day we all the part of this amazing world get a chance to cherish more the world's biodiversity. United Nations also mentioned that" Though World wildlife Day is an annual celebration, wild conservation is an issue that

needs attention and action every day."

Our world is residence of a great number of plants, trees, animals and flowers. It includes an amazing spectrum of diversity of different forms of lives. If we try to look at the margin of differences, it includes it goes something like this which comprises of the largest flower of the world *Rafflesia arnoldii* which is locate in the rainforest of Indonesia to the smallest and simplest flower *Wolffia sp.* Belonging to the Lemnaceae family.

Our history is an example of huge display of impressive diversity of animal kingdom. Here the animal kingdom makes up 0.4% of global biomass. There are 1.05 million insects; 11000 birds, 11000 reptile species and mammal species are 6000 in number. The beauty of the majestic white tiger of India and also the colorful Mandarin fish make us baffled, while the wise tactics adapted by the angelfishes in the marine environment and small little ants make us think about the creation of the almighty.

We must happily and responsibly response and take care to our environment to save our wildlife, to safe our mother earth.



The Crisis of Our Glorious Wild life

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Wild life is the another name of life. It creates our environment and makes earth beautiful. There are many creations in wild life. The first life-forms appeared nearly 4 billion years ago. From a single eukaryotic cell, it has become an outstanding and mainly diversified group in earth. There are various habit-habitat, behaviors, life sustaining mechanisms are found in different group of animals. Members of kingdom Animalia has adopted to various environments, from the bottom of the ocean to the highest mountain peaks.



OUR ENVIRONMENT

Wildlife is very essential for so many of the important things in our lives. It is the main source that provides us natural systems on which we are dependent. Like, balanced climate, healthy water and food, medicines and many more. But day by day, our wildlife is in crisis for our own deeds. That is why our natural ecosystem loses its balance. Each year, **3rd March** is celebrated as **WORLD WILD LIFE DAY**, the day of signature of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973.

Large mammals, small mammals, upland birds, waterfowl, wetland birds are categorized as wildlife. Due to the rapid growth of human population, the habitat, the life is in risk, to expand the industry, humans are continuously destroying their natural environment, taking over their beauty for industrial uses. Due to scarcity of food, habitat, some of specific species of both flora and fauna cannot survive on earth. The most common species which are considered as endangered are, **GIANT PANDA** (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*), **ROYAL BENGAL TIGER** (*Panthera tigris*), **BLUE WHALE** (*Balaenoptera musculus*), **ASIAN ELEPHANT** (*Elephas maximus*), **GORILLA** (*Gorilla beringei* and *Gorilla gorilla*), **WHOOPING CRANE** (*Grus americana*), **SEA OTTUR** (*Enhyra lutris*), **SNOW LEOPARD** (*Panthera uncia*), **ORANGUTAN** (*Pongo pygmaeus*) etc.



THREE DIFFERENT SPECIES OF MAMMALIA

Many national and international organizations like, **WORLD WILDLIFE FUND**, **Conservation International**, **the Wildlife Conservation Society**, are working for rescue the crisis of wildlife. They are working with the government to establish and protect public lands, like national parks and wildlife refuges. They are helping write legislation, such as the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 in the United States, to protect various species. They are working with law enforcement to prosecute wildlife crimes, like wildlife trafficking and illegal hunting (poaching). Also they are promoting biodiversity to support the growing human population while preserving existing species and habitats.

For our own requirement, we are rapidly breaking the web of life, which protects us and works like a natural barrier which gives a shelter against the catastrophes. Not only the earth, the total universe is in risk. As they are losing their shelter and food, they are entering in locality of human, that is why both wild and human populations are in danger. We have no right to destroy this beautiful universe, because they have evolved before us. We should protect and care for earth.



BIRD AND REPTILE

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IMAGE SOURCE

Pinterest.com

Wildlife Protection and it's importance to Humans and impact of war on wildlife



Wildlife, a term which is widely used to those animals living in forests and all the organisms dwelling in the forests. It is found in all ecosystems throughout the world, in plains, grasslands, rainforests, deserts, etc. even in rural and developed urban areas, all of which have their own distinct forms of wildlife. Wild animals are an integral part of our biodiversity. They are also one of the most beautiful creations given to us by Mother Earth. They not only make us scared, but also amazed by their beauty and habits. But, due to rapid population growth, war, urbanisation and increase in food production has led to a decrease in forests as well as the wildlife.

Today, on World Wildlife day, we will discuss about the importance of wildlife to humans as well as its protection.

Wildlife protection and its importance to humans



The practice of conserving wildlife to prevent it from getting extinct or exploited is known as Wildlife conservation. Wildlife conservation is very important as it helps us to restore, protect and enhance the natural ecosystems of the earth. Humans exploit



wildlife and exercised poaching for their personal benefits. For this, many species have gone extinct or, are at the verge of extinction. Many birds and animals like vulture and lion, tigers, respectively are endangered now due to them being hunted for recreational purposes (and vultures getting extinct because of a drug named Diclofenac, which is used in

cattle). We, humans don't have the power to re-create wildlife once

it is destroyed, but we do have the power to preserve them not only for us, but also for our Mother earth. Wildlife provides us with a lot of valuable things like food medicines etc, there are still many animals and plants which are yet to be discovered for their various usages .

Wildlife helps us in a lot of ways, which is quite indirectly , like, if forests are destroyed , the carnivorous animals inhabiting the forests have a high possibility of invading the human habitats, thereby killing them. Killing carnivorous animals will cause an increase in herbivorous animals which feeds on herbs and shrubs in the forests, thereby decreasing plants which ,in turn, affects the vegetation of the forests and they come to our crop fields and eat our food crops. Wildlife can inspire people to lead a sustainable lifestyle. They can invoke feelings of sympathy and compassion which causes people to be conscious of damaging effects of their lifestyles. Wildlife are also important for their scenic beauty along with plants.

There are several ways through which wildlife can be conserved by humans. These are :-1) developing consciousness among people about wildlife, educating them about wildlife, it's importance to humans, like the way education about STDs ,safe sex and population control are given.

2) Educating people about extinct, vulnerable, endangered species through social media like youtube, twitter, Facebook,

whatsapp, instagram and through advertisements with a famous film celebrity preaching about importance of conservation and protection of wildlife. Films on wildlife can also help people to educate about wildlife.

3) Encouraging people to protect animals and birds by educating them about the importance of particular birds and animals.

4) Severe punishments for people who try to hunt endangered animals and birds.

Impact of war on wildlife

Wars are the worst ways to destroy lives. Not only humans, but also wildlife are affected and destroyed by war. This is probably a topic, which is less discussed as how war affects wildlife because of



political tensions which arose between Ukraine and Russia which lead to war for past 7-8 days and people are more concerned about the people staying in Ukraine (especially the foreign nationals studying MBBS in Ukraine and how to return them to their countries safely) and other political matters concerning Russia, Ukraine and countries supporting them for war. Here are list of species which are at risk in Ukraine(and also endangered) :-

1. *Desmana moschata*



2. *Spalax arenarius*



3. *Sorbus tauricola*



4. *Vitrea nadejdae*

Vitrea nadejdae



5. Falco cherrug



6. Isophya zubowskii



There are many more animals which probably got extinct in Ukraine due to war or maybe are at the verge of extinction. So, war in Ukraine is not only killing humans, but also killing the flora and the fauna of the country. So, on world wildlife day, we should all take an oath to protect wildlife and also to pray so that no more war happens because if there is war, there will always be loss of habitat, vegetation and wildlife.