

## **FAQ's**

### **What is the importance of Wildlife Protection Act?**

The **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972** is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted for protection of plants and animal species. Before 1972, India only had five designated national parks. Among other reforms, the Act established schedules of protected plant and animal species; hunting or harvesting these species was largely outlawed.

The Act provides for the protection of wild animals, birds and plants; and for matters connected therewith or ancillary or incidental thereto. It extends to the whole of India, except the State of Jammu and Kashmir which has its own wildlife act. It has six schedules which give varying degrees of protection. Schedule I and part II of Schedule II provide absolute protection - offences under these are prescribed the highest penalties. Species listed in Schedule III and Schedule IV are also protected, but the penalties are much lower. Schedule V includes the animals which may be hunted. The plants in Schedule VI are prohibited from cultivation and planting. The hunting to the Enforcement authorities have the power to compound offences under this Schedule (i.e. they impose fines on the offenders). Up to April 2010 there have been 16 convictions under this act relating to the death of tigers.

### **Define the following according to the Wildlife Protection Act:**

#### **a) Hunting**

#### **b) Trophy**

"Hunting", with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions, includes,

(a) capturing, killing, poisoning, snaring, and trapping or any wild animal and every attempt to do so,

(b) driving any wild animal for any of purposes specified in sub clause

(c) injuring or destroying or taking any part of the body of any such animal, or in the case of wild birds or reptiles, damaging the eggs of such birds or reptiles, or disturbing the eggs or nests of such birds or reptiles;

"Trophy" means the whole or any part of any captive animal or wild animal, other than vermin, which has been kept or preserved by any means, whether artificial or natural, and includes,

(a) rugs, skins, and specimens of such animals mounted in whole or in part through a process of taxidermy, and

(b) antler, horn, rhinoceros horn, feather, nail, tooth, musk, eggs, and nests;

### **What are the issues involved in enforcement of Environmental Legislation in India?**

Some of the important issues involved in enforcement of environmental legislation in India are as follows: 1. The precautionary principle, 2. The polluter-pays principle, 3. Freedom of information!

The environmental issue in India looks gloomy despite so many Legislations and Acts. The rivers and lakes continue to be choked with industrial waste and sewage. The air in many cities of India is heavily polluted. Deforestation takes place quite normally. The protection of wildlife is not carried out in its true spirit, despite the enforcement of Acts.

The people must be guided and helped to establish the trend of acceptance of preventing the environment as a whole, our health and Earth's resources, The presence of legislation to protect the air, water, soil etc., doesn't necessarily mean the problem is addressed.

**Three issues that are especially important for environmental legislation are:**

### ***1. The precautionary principle:***

This principle has evolved to deal with risks and uncertainties faced by environmental management. The principle implies that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure it does not prevent problems but may reduce their occurrence and helps ensure contingency plans are made.

The application of this principle requires either cautious progress until a development can be judged 'innocent', or avoiding development until research indicates exactly what the risks are, and then proceeding to minimize them.

### ***2. The polluter-pays principle:***

In addition to, the obvious the polluter pays for the damaged caused by a development this principle also implies that a polluter pays for monitoring and policing. A problem with this approach is that fines may bankrupt small businesses, yet be low enough for a large company to write them off as an occasional overhead, which does little for pollution control.

There is, thus, debate as to whether the principle should be retrospective. Developing nations are seeking to have developed countries pay more for carbon dioxide and other emissions controls, arguing that they polluted the global environment during the Industrial Revolution, yet enjoy the fruits of invention from the era.

### ***3. Freedom of information:***

Environmental planning and management is hindered if the public, NGOs or even official bodies are unable to get information. Many countries have now begun to release more information, the USA has a Freedom of Information Act, and the European Union is moving in this direction.

But still many governors and multinational corporations fear that industrial secrets will leak to competitors if there

is too much disclosure, and there are situations where authorities declare strategic needs and suspend disclosure.

## **Discuss the relationship between biodiversity and people.**

Human actions are fundamentally, and to a significant extent irreversibly, changing the diversity of life on Earth, and most of these changes represent a loss of biodiversity. Changes in important components of biological diversity were more rapid in the past 50 years than at any time in human history. Projections and scenarios indicate that these rates will continue, or accelerate, in the future.

Virtually all of Earth's ecosystems have now been dramatically transformed through human actions. Over the past few hundred years, humans have increased species extinction rates by as much as 1,000 times background rates that were typical over Earth's history

Biodiversity contributes directly (through provisioning, regulating, and cultural ecosystem services) and indirectly (through supporting ecosystem services) to many constituents of human well-being, including security, basic material for a good life, health, good social relations, and freedom of choice and action. Many people have benefited over the last century from the conversion of natural ecosystems to human-dominated ecosystems and the exploitation of biodiversity. At the same time, however, these losses in biodiversity and changes in ecosystem services have caused some people to experience declining well-being, with poverty in some social groups being exacerbated.

