

# WILDLIFE

(2nd Semester)  
Complete Lectures

## "CONSERVATION BIOLOGY OF WILDLIFE"

### ⇒ WILDLIFE:-

→ Wildlife is the entire native uncultivable flora and undomesticated fauna.

### ⇒ BIODIVERSITY:-

→ Biodiversity is the variety/variability of life.

### ⇒ CONSERVATION BIOLOGY:-

→ Conservation Biology is the science of protection and management of biodiversity.

### ⇒ Why conservation is necessary?

1. To know the status of biodiversity.
2. To protect the declining biodiversity.

## \* Status of Species

→ Status of Species means that either a species is decreasing, increasing or stable.

E.g.,

\* Kangaroos → restricted to Australia → 2000  
no need to conserve them

\* Deer → cosmopolitan → 20,000 → need to conserve  
→ To conserve the biodiversity, just we have to know the status of species.

\* We have to conserve declining or rare species.

\* If species are naturally rare and stable, then there is no need of conservation.

\* If species are declining due to environmental factors, hazards and human activities, then it is necessary to conserve them.

## ⇒ Why we conserve the species?

1. The resources are limited.

\* If resources are unlimited, then there is no need of conservation. (Because natural

resources are limited, so we always conserve the limited species that are rare or declining.)

→ The natural resources / species have values.

→ Some economic value / valuable species or natural resources.

## ⇒ How Conservation is done?

→ Various methods to conserve the species

1. Direct Method      2. Indirect Method

**Direct Method:** Sampling, Total count, Capture-Mark-Recapture

**Indirect Method:** Voice, Fecal Analysis, Predators, shed off

\* Antelops are different from deers because they have ability to shed off.

⇒ How we come to know → either a species is increasing/decreasing or stable → by:

→ Previous records → Population Census

→ If previous records are not available, then status of specie is known by pop. census

## ⇒ Challenges towards Conservation

1- To know the status of biodiversity.

2- Rarity of Species / Commonness of Species

\* Some species are naturally rare e.g.

Kangaroos. \* Some species are naturally

common. e.g., Crow.

\* Vulture → naturally common but declining

due to certain anthropogenic activities.

So, need to conserve.

3- To conserve only declining species.

⇒ How we measure → that species are

declining?

→ When we say:

→ Species decline is 50% in last 20 years

It means, species disappear from 50% area.

→ 1.5 Million species known → 5-100 M species (total)

70-98.5% Error

→ Population census is based on "netting

effort".

→ If species is represented by only one

individual in Pakistan and netting

effort is done 1 time in every province,

and we catch 1 individual from each province, then taxa is abundant.

→ Netting Effort - 1 time

→ Individual caught - 1 from each area.

→ Taxa is abundant.

\* Conservation → never means to increase the number of individual but to maintain the genetic variability.

## ⇒ APPROACHES OF Conservation:-

→ Two approaches of Conservation

\* Area

↳ In-situ

↓  
natural environment

\* Species → controlled environment

↳ Ex-situ (215 in work

in IUCN).

4- Identification of species is also a challenge.

→ we have to identify species first.

→ Erwin → done fumigation on tropical tree and collected the insects, counted them and identified them. → Multiplied with world's insect species and estimated that there 8 Million Species of insects.

→ Ewin's estimation is one way to estimate the diversity.

→ Identification of species is one of the biggest challenges of conservation.

\* **Morpho-species** → Some species are identified on the basis of their morphology.

→ The resembling taxa should be considered as one species.

## ⇒ Challenges in Conservation Biology

- \* Identification of species
- \* To know the species status
- \* Rarity / Commonness of species
- \* Conserve only declining species

## ⇒ Statement :-

- Diversity increases from poles to tropics.
- \* Biodiversity  $\propto$  Temperature
- \* This statement is not a rule or theory because most of the species are unexplored or unknown.

### \* Hypothesis On this Statement

"Diversity increases from poles to tropics."

### 1 - Catastrophe Hypothesis :-

- According to this hypothesis, the tropics are more balanced.
- \* If temperature is increased on poles, then catastrophic conditions will be caused while in case of tropics, there is no catastrophic effect of temperature. So, tropics are balanced.

## 2. Evolutionary Speed Hypothesis:-

→ According to this hypothesis, all the diversity remains active throughout the year on tropics.

\* Diversity remains active → reproduction occurs → this phenomenon speeds up the evolution. So, tropics are more diverse.

## 3. Energy Input Hypothesis:-

→ According to this hypothesis, tropics receive more energy.

\* Source of energy is sun because tropics are winterless zone.

\* Deserts have less biodiversity because of evapo-transpiration phenomenon.

## 4. Productivity Hypothesis:-

→ According to this hypothesis, the tropics are more productive. So, they rich in diversity.



## ⇒ Approaches to measure & Protect the Biodiversity:-

→ There are certain approaches to measure and protect the biodiversity.

\* Resembling taxa → considered as one species

\* Certain shortcuts to know about the biodiversity → Identification → Status → Population census → Species decline

→ It is difficult to conserve/measure the diversity. So, there are certain shortcuts in conservation biology to:

→ Conserve

→ Measure &

→ Estimate the

biodiversity.

→ Different approaches/shortcuts to avoid challenges.

### 1- Surrogate Approach:-

→ We select an indicator taxa on the basis of certain characteristics.

i. Indicator taxa should have well-known

and stable taxonomy.

E.g., Scientific name; literature surveys

ii- Indicator taxa should have known ecology.

E.g., role of specie in the ecosystem must be known.

iii- Indicator taxa should be cosmopolitan in distribution.

E.g., Cosmopolitan → Easily available → More literature → Easily conserved.

iv- Some species of indicator taxa should be habitat specific.

E.g., Mountain, Caves, Grasslands → habitat of different species.

v- The strategies applicable to indicator taxa should be equally applicable to all other taxa.

vi- Indicator taxa should have some economic value.

→ Economically significant species are more conserved.

\* Problems with this approach are

\* The strategies applicable to indicator taxa should be equally applicable to all other taxa.

→ By the strategies of conserving one taxa, we can not conserve all other taxa.

E.g. we can't conserve the birds with the conserving strategies of mammals.

\* Indicator taxa should have some economic value.

→ Instead of having some economic value, species should have some biological value.

\* Various types of Extinctions on the basis of specie's values:-

a. Ecological Extinction:-

→ The individual of a specie are there but unable to play their ecological role

b. Local Extinction:-

→ The specie is still present in its geographical range but extinct locally.

c. Biological Extinction:-

→ When the species are no more known to exist. This is called "real/true extinction."

## 2- Multiple Taxa Approach / Stopping Basket Approach:-

→ In this approach, we select multiple taxa to conserve the multiple taxa.

→ It is quite rational by conserving one specie of mammals, we can conserve all other species.

→ Insects = Insects, → Aves = Aves

→ Mammals = Mammals etc.

### \* Problem with this approach:

→ The only problem with this approach is "taxonomic distinctiveness"

## 3- Taxonomic Distinctiveness Approach:-

→ In this approach, we have to apply our own conservation strategies for some species that are endemic or

unique. E.g. Indus River Dolphin <sup>31</sup> conservation

#### 4- Representation Approach:-

→ In this approach, we apply all other approaches where they needed.

\* Surrogate Approach

\* Multi-taxa Approach

\* Taxonomic Distinctiveness Approach

#### 5- Complementary Approach:-

→ In this approach, we mark the grids of biodiversity.

\* National Park → have an intact ecosystem  
↳ larger area → all biotic + abiotic factors  
↳ In-situ

→ It is difficult to conserve all the biotic and abiotic factors to make an intact ecosystem.

→ Mark the areas where diversity is dense → by conserving 5% area, we can conserve 95% biodiversity.

## ⇒ Advocacy of Wildlife:-

→ Some people focus on:

- \* One type of wildlife value
- \* Multiple type of wildlife values
- \* Apathetic about wildlife values

→ On the basis of economics, there are four types of values:

### 1. Direct-Use Values

→ Current market values

### 2. Indirect-Use Values

→ Ecosystem services provided by biodiversity.

### 3. Option Values

→ Values that are still hidden.

### 4. Existence Values

→ Values that exist.

→ How much you will pay to have the tiger.

→ The species have right of existence as humans (ethical statement).

→ On the basis of values, there are certain types of advocates of wildlife:

### 1. Laissez-Faire Group:-

→ People living mostly in cities and apathetic about wildlife and their values.

### 2. Protectionists:-

→ They want to conserve the wildlife on ethical grounds.

### 3. Sentimentalists:-

→ Group of people that want to conserve the wildlife for aesthetic values.

### 4. Single Use Adherents:-

→ They focus only one value for the conservation of wildlife.

### 5. Multiple Use Adherents:-

→ They use multiple values for the conservation of wildlife and they are true wildlife lovers.

⇒ Conservation → species Based (Ex-situ) 215 IUCN sp. records  
 ↳ Area Based (In-situ)

↳ biggest category is "National Park" → Maintenance & Conservation

→ We consider ecosystems are closed. All biotic and abiotic factors of one ecosystem will never interfare with the factors of another ecosystem.

→ we consider ecosystems are closed whi in reality ecosystems are open. and they can interfare in another ecosystem  
 E.g., Stream → narrow portion → less productivity  
 Wider Portion → More productivity.

“When the individual relatively greater in number and chances of survival are greater than extinction.” → (In-situ)

“When the chances of extinction are greater than survival and individuals are relatively lesser in number.” → (Ex-situ)

→ Major Challenge in Conservation is

Inbreeding

→ To maintain genetic variability of individuals



## ⇒ Landscape Scale Conservation:-

- Landscapes are heterogenous
- There are patchiness in the habitat.
- Patches of different habitats.
- \* National Park → homogenous ecosystem
- \* Landscapes → heterogenous ecosystem
- Ecosystems are open and they are heterogenous.

Desert → Grassland → Water Body → Dessert  
↳ Patchiness in habitat

→ There are certain factors that effect conservation efforts in landscapes;

### 1- Patch Quality:-

→ The quality of the patch for species of concern. It can effect conservation efforts.

### 2- Patch Context:-

→ Patch context is spatial location of patch with reference to space. → Either it is tropical, subtropical or desert.

\* temporal with reference to time.

→ Connectivity → ease of movement of the species. how much is ease to bridge the gap.

\* Separate national parks for separate ecosystems.

⇒ SLOSS → Single large or several small  
\* Larger is the best.

→ Conserve abiotic & all biotic factors.  
→ In landscape conservation, there is patchiness.  
→ Issue is inbreeding.

⇒ MVPs → Minimum viable population size  
↳ below the size of population are unlikely to recover.

⇒ Franklin Rule:-

→ Ideal condition,

Time Period	Survival
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1000 years → 99%

→ For Convenience,

100 years → 95%.

∴ e.g. Bighorn sheep → 120 in population  
in 70 years.

⇒  $N_e$  → The number of individuals can contribute to the next generation.

- " $N_e$ " also called Effective Population Size.
- Short Term Conservation → 50 animals
- Long Term Conservation → 500 animals
- If there is patchiness in landscapes, then we can make fragments to maintain the genetic variability.
- We create bridges for ease of the movement of animals → But predators can also move through these bridges. This is the major problem.

### ⇒ Speciation:-

→ Formation of new species.

→ Uniqueness of individuals also might be disturbed. The gene pool is unique.

→ Speciation → Allopatric Speciation

→ Speciation, that isolate the population geographically

→ First Step → Geographical Isolation

→ Reproductive Isolation

\* If the individuals are very few in number. Then, we **Re-inforce** the individuals.

⇒ Re-inforcement = Adding up of Individuals in Existing Population

⇒ Re-Introduce → we can introduce new species where the extinction have occurred.

→ Many adapted genes can be transferred from one population to another population.

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⇒ Principles of Conservation Biology:-

1- Evolution is the basic axis that unites all of biology.

(The Evolutionary Play)

2- The ecosystems are dynamic and largely non-equilibriumal.

(The Ecological Theatre)

3- Humans are the part of every ecosystem.

(Humans are part of the play)

\* Species → Conservation → Ex-situ

\* Ecosystem → Conservation → In-situ

→ we should not be rigid about patchiness → we should declare the

area as "Biosphere reserve"  
→ We should not be strict about boundaries.

⇒ Biosphere Reserve :-

→ There are four parts of biosphere reserve:

- 1- Core Area → is the undisturbed natural area of natural habitat.
- 2- Buffer Zone → is the area where disturbance is allowed but it should be sustainable.
- 3- Environmentally Sensitive Area → reserve for intensive agriculture.
- 4- Human Use Area → reserved for human habitation.

F T W T F S S

\* [Management of Semi-Natural Ecosyst  
⇒ Management of Woodlands:-

→ These might be six situations.

1- Wild Wood;

→ These are natural communities but are managed for timber production.

2- Wood Pasture;

→ These are the trees in the pastoral landscapes for grazing (managed for grazing).

3- Non-Woodlands;

→ These are the trees in hedgerows.

4- Plantations;

→ These are the afforested landscapes.

5- Orchard;

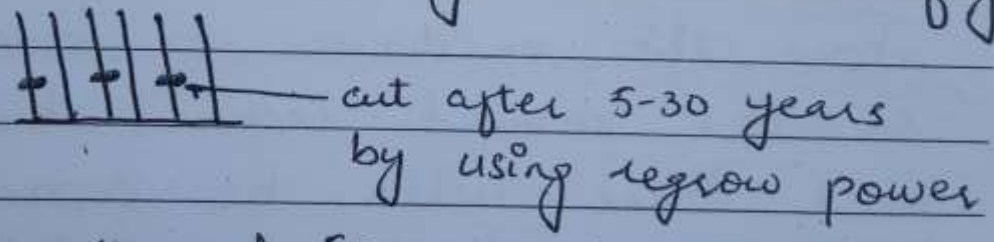
→ Trees managed for fruit production.

6- Ornamentals;

→ Eye catching trees in Parks, Streets & houses.

# ⇒ Coppicing:-

- One way is to manage the trees is "coppicing".
- Coppicing is also carried out for the management of biodiversity.
- “To use the regrow power of plants” is known as coppicing.
- ∴g., Butterflies → prefer sunny weather
- To manage the butterflies, grow the trees in rows → We can cut one ∴ alternate row within the period of 5-30 years. → to manage the butterfly diversity.



# ⇒ Fire:-

- Ground Fire
- Surface Fire → Best
- Canopy Fire / Crow Fire → Destructive

→ Another way to manage the trees is "fire".

→ Surface fire is best.

→ We can manage the grasses by fire.

# ⇒ Grazing → manage the trees

Another way to manage the ecosystem is "Ecological Restoration".

⇒ Ecological Restoration:-

→ Restoration means to return the object to its Pristine (historic) condition

\* Why ecological restoration is necessary

→ 3 basic reasons to restore the ecosystem

→ 1- We have to spend money for the provision of clean air/water, etc.

Material: e.g. → concept of species. e.g. humans take more care of their own species.

2- Existential:-

→ For the existence of humans, the societies should restore the ecosystem and there will be ownership.

→ Ecosystems should be maintained. Human participate in restoration and if they succeed, then there will be ownership.

3- Heuristic → Experiments for restoration

⇒ Components of Ecological Restoration

→ For the restoration of ecosystem, there are certain components:-



- 1) - Soil → There might be two conditions
- a) Only ploughing can resolve the issue (Compactness)
  - b) Introduction of soil from the nearby areas (Mining)
- 2) - Vegetation → Native vegetation of the areas through introduction of seed/vegetation.  
\* We have to introduce native vegetation.
- 3) - Pollinators → We have to introduce native pollinators communities.
- 4) - Native Seed Dispersers → We have to introduce native seed dispersers.
- 5) - Herbivores → Vegetation of any area depends on native herbivores. → Introduce native herbivores.