

Wild life Crime: A Global Problem

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Abstract:

'Wildlife' covers all animals and plants. Wildlife crime is a crime which is committed against the national laws and regulations with the intention of natural resources protection and to control their management and usage. The illegal poaching, transportation, trafficking, and supply of animals for their body parts for commercial purposes. The trafficking of wildlife threaten the existence of particular species. The worldwide illegal trade of wildlife produces gives a major influence on developing nations. Traffickers abuse poverty and disparity to invite poachers, working in territories with government existence. The wildlife crime is much rising in Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries due to demand of raw materials for industries in Asian continent. Illegal trafficking and poaching of wildlife become one of the major problem. In the present paper, an attempt has been made to study the global problem that is wildlife crime. The issues like illegal trade, role and challenges faced by government are highlighted.

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Introduction

Wildlife relates to the flora and fauna. 'Fauna' means animals and birds like falcons and tiger, it also comprise aquatic life. While 'Flora' means plants, such as cacti and orchids, it also comprise wooden and non-wooden forestry products. On the other side crime refers to an illegal act for which someone can be punished by the government. International Consortium on combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) is a combination of governmental organizations that works for national laws and regulations for protecting the natural resources and to control their management and usage.

Illegal trafficking and poaching of wildlife has made the successful business at global level due to which the population of wildlife is decreasing or being gone into endangered species. The trade of wildlife has root at global level which is linked via complex networks, intermediaries and entrepots. Many of the animals like elephants, rhinos, tigers and others are considered as an endangered or have already gone inexistent in the wild. Like both the Northern White Rhino and the Western Black Rhino (Save the Rhino International 2015) have been extinct in the wild due to the rhino poaching for their horns. The main causes of wildlife crime are accessories or luxury items, pet trade, bush meat, and alternative medicines.

Wildlife crime remains outside 'mainstream' crime so assessing the scale of wildlife crime is very difficult. In many aspects, wildlife crime is a victimless crime. From many signs, and significant proof, it is estimated that organized criminal networks is involved in harvesting, treating, trafficking and trade of wildlife and wildlife produces through sophisticated methods crossing national borders and zones. In the combination of Fraud, counterfeiting, money-laundering, violence and corruption many other various form of crime are also found. Wildlife crime also include the risk of human health through the spread of viruses because of cross-border trafficking of live faunae and flora. Diseases like bird flu, are spread through the food chains and leads to death of livestock people. The luxury with which some wildlife illegal imports across boundaries, often in significant amounts, proves very real threats to national safety and the bio-security of Countries.

Chain of Prohibited Wildlife Trade

The illegal trade of rhino horns and ivory is originated from Central and Eastern Africa and Southern Africa. According to the reports of United Nation Environment Program (UNEP), 'Elephants in

the Dust' shows that poaching is worsened by deficiency and food concern. Because of the poverty and insufficient government, the people are involved into criminal activities which is paid by the enforcement authorities later. But for the participation in poaching poverty is not always the reason.

According to the report of TRAFFIC's 2008, the wealth people are involved in illegal and unsustainable compare to the poverty in Southeast Asia, owing to the dynamics of growing wealth and wider methods of economic development in the area. In the illegal activities, Wildlife crime is similar to many other forms. Certainly, it has similar features like other international crime styles, such as prohibited trade in narcotics. Though, wildlife crime has a significant degree compare to other crimes and responded to, as 'mainstream' crime.

The worldwide illegal trade in wildlife produces a worse impact on developing nations. The efforts of emerging nation to manage their natural resources are declines by the illicit wildlife trade that results in the forms of damage of future profit. It is necessary to identify the connection among insurgence groups and isolated, virtually nationless wildlife assets which offer perfect cover and nourishment for protestors escaping state authority.

According to the data shown by EU-TWIX database, EU shows a major transfer way for trafficking of ivory. The process of transferring wildlife products from source countries to artisans and consumers through transit routes. Trafficked ivory from Africa to China is treated in China's recorded ivory dealers, and transferred to South Korea, Japan, Europe and United States.

Role of Controlling Agencies Worldwide

South Asian Enforcement Network (SEWAN): In 2008, SAWEN was formed in the presence of TRAFFIC and CAWT within the provision of south Asia co-operative environment program. There are many countries which are included in SAWEN i.e., India, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Bhutan. It is platform where countries members works together against the growing wildlife crime.

Alliance against Wildlife Trafficking: In 2005, U.S. State Department established the Coalition against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT) as a controlled alliance of organization and governments. The chief aim of the alliance is for controlling and finishing the illicit trade of wildlife produces and wildlife. CAWT

currently has 6 administrations and 13 international NGOs.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations Wild Enforcement Network: in 2005, Freeland Foundation and TRAFFIC Southeast Asia established ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) along with the Thai Government and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). It is considered as the largest county wildlife law administration teamwork in the world. The main aim of ASEAN-WEN oversees is to support the cooperative law enforcement capability of 10 ASEAN associate nations.

Illegal Wildlife Trade in India

For a long time, illicit wildlife trade has developed and made an Organized Global Crime that affect the existence of wild species across the globe. India has a very robust and legal strategy to control and constrain the wildlife trafficking. The act of wildlife, 1972 contains more than 1800 species of wild animals, plants and their derivatives which have been prohibited.

An international agreement is signed between the governments with an objective to give the assurance that the trade of wildlife species would be conducted without harming them. Since 1976 India is also a member of this agreement which was named as CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora).

In India, wildlife trade has many product of animal and plants which includes snake skins mongoose hair, Rhino horn, bones, skins, whiskers, turtle shells, Leopard and Tiger and claws, deer antlers, musk pods, shahtoosh shawl, bear bile, Elephant tusks, medicinal plants, timber and captive birds like parakeets, munias mynas etc. the trade of wild animals and plants has more value at international level compare to the India.

Like many other nations, the problem is not of law in India but it is a defect in the communication, implementation and execution. Without party-political support, deterrents for over-exploitation and illicit trade, like penalties for lawful violations, are also frequently weak.

Challenges in Governing the Illegal Wildlife Trade

The running the wildlife trade is considered as difficult challenge especially when the trade is prohibited. The worldwide nature of the lawful and unlawful trades means that inter-state and multi-agency collaboration are needed to confirm that the

trade does not over abuse specific species and risk lead to the extinction.

Countries produce a set challenges for those involved in trying to control or stop wild life crime. In response to these challenges, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was developed in 1973, while it was come into the act in 1975. But the decision of CITES are poorly implemented and enforced due to lack of adequate national legislation. The enforcement system itself is problematic because it is heavily dependent on national organizations and legal outlines to apply it on the ground. Wildlife law enforcement officers frequently deficiency parity including accompaniments in Duties and Police services and are not able to react the organized nature of persons who pursue to take natural resources. The states like US has the Lacey Act and the Endangered Species Act, which are supposed to strictly regulate the trade in endangered species, but as discussed earlier, given that the US remains a significant importer of illegal wildlife products. Which shows that the law is poorly enforced. (TRAFFIC 2008). Traffickers make use of new technologies to trade wildlife, and the Internet has proved to be an important means of selling wildlife across the world.

The illegal wildlife trade become an international issue and governing of illegal wildlife trade came with many challenges. An International Fund for Animal Welfare report sets out the results of an investigation of online trade in CITES listed species. It followed 7122 online auctions in 11 countries over a six- week period. The study revealed a very high volume of illegal trade in endangered species, worth US\$450 000 in total. The report identified enforcement as a critical problem.

Conclusion

From many years, wildlife crime is increasing day to day and now has become an international attention. There are many activities which cover under wildlife crime. The illegal wildlife trade is fourth most profitable international crime which lead after the trading of drugs, people and arms. For monitoring the action of illegal wildlife trade, Governments and various organizations are making efforts which have been success at certain level to reduce the crime. The lack of effect and result assessments of programs, strategies and intrusions has postponed the thoughtful of what mechanism, and what might work in dissimilar ways, for the project and application of lucrative intrusions. Within few years, the global

community has paid attention toward the illicit wildlife trade in respect of the major socio-economic, ecological and safety disadvantages which are stopping from it. Wildlife law enforcement

should be performed according to the national desires which maintain the human rights, public security, and the accused rights.



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