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ENVIRONMENT

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**ENVIRONMENT, ECOLOGY, & WILDLIFE-
RELATED BILLS / ACTS / SCHEMS – Part 2**

PART 1

**ENVIRONMENT, ECOLOGY, AND WILDLIFE-RELATED BILLS
AND ACTS**

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974

Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981

Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

Biological Diversity Act, 2002

**Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers
(Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006**

National Green Tribunal Act, 2010

Energy Conservation Act, 2001

**Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notifications, 1991 (Superseded
by CRZ Notification, 2011 and 2019)**

Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 (Amended 2017)

E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 (Amended 2022)

**Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary
Movement) Rules, 2016**

**ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE-RELATED GOVERNMENT
SCHEMES AND MISSIONS**

Project Tiger (1973)

Project Elephant (1992)

PART - 2

Crocodile Conservation Project (1975)

Project Hangul (1970s)

**Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats
(IDWH)**

National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-Systems (NPCA)

Amrit Dharohar Scheme (2023)

MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes) (2023)

National Mission for a Green India (GIM)

National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE)

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)

Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)

National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)

LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) Mission (2022)

National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) (2019)

Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) (2017)

INTERNATIONAL PROTOCOL/CONVENTION ALIGNMENT



ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE-RELATED GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AND MISSIONS

Crocodile Conservation Project (1975)

Objective: To conserve gharial, saltwater crocodile, and mugger crocodile populations.

Details:

- Initiated with UNDP/FAO support, focusing on Odisha and other states.
- Includes habitat restoration and breeding programs.
- Part of the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH) scheme.
- **Impact:** Stabilized crocodile populations in key habitats.
- **Update (2025):** Continues under IDWH with stable populations and ongoing habitat restoration.

International Protocol/Convention Alignment:

- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES):** The project supports CITES by protecting species like the gharial (Appendix I) and saltwater crocodile (Appendix I/II) from illegal trade.
- **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** It aligns with CBD objectives by conserving crocodile habitats and aquatic biodiversity.

UPSC Relevance: Occasionally appears in UPSC Prelims for species-specific questions (e.g., gharial conservation) and its linkage to IDWH and CITES.

Unique Features: The project's captive breeding and release programs, particularly for the critically endangered gharial, are a notable success in species recovery.

Project Hangul (1970s)

Objective: To protect the critically endangered Kashmir stag (Hangul).

Details:

- Implemented in Dachigam National Park, Jammu & Kashmir, with IUCN and WWF support.
- Includes population monitoring and habitat protection.
- **Impact:** Increased Hangul population to around 340 by 1980, though still critically endangered.
- **Update (2025):** Population remains critically low, with conservation efforts challenged by habitat loss.

International Protocol/Convention Alignment:



- **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** The project supports CBD objectives by protecting the critically endangered Hangul and its habitat, contributing to biodiversity conservation.
- **IUCN Red List:** While not a convention, the project aligns with IUCN's conservation priorities, as the Hangul is listed as critically endangered.

UPSC Relevance: Appears in UPSC Prelims for species-specific questions and in Mains for conservation challenges in conflict-prone regions like J&K.

Unique Features: The project's focus on a single, critically endangered species in a geopolitically sensitive area makes it unique, with WWF and IUCN collaboration adding global significance.

Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH)

Objective: To protect and manage wildlife habitats and endangered species.

Details:

- Provides financial and technical assistance to states for protected areas.
- Includes a component for recovery of endangered species like Hangul, snow leopard, vulture, swiftlet, Nilgiri tahr, and Sangai deer.
- Supports anti-poaching and patrolling activities.
- **Impact:** Strengthens conservation efforts across diverse species and habitats.
- **Update (2025):** Expanded funding in 2024-2025 for species like snow leopard and Nilgiri tahr.

International Protocol/Convention Alignment:

- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES):** IDWH supports CITES by protecting species like the snow leopard and vulture (listed in CITES Appendices) through anti-poaching and habitat conservation.
- **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** The scheme aligns with CBD goals by conserving diverse habitats and endangered species.

UPSC Relevance: Relevant for UPSC exams due to its coverage of multiple endangered species and protected areas. Questions often focus on species recovery programs and funding mechanisms.



Unique Features: The scheme's broad scope, covering lesser-known species like the Nilgiri tahr and swiftlet, distinguishes it from species-specific projects like Project Tiger.

National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-Systems (NPCA)

Objective: To conserve wetlands and aquatic ecosystems.

Details:

- Provides assistance to states for wetland management, including Ramsar sites.
- Focuses on pollution control, biodiversity conservation, and water quality monitoring.
- **Impact:** Enhances the health of wetlands critical for biodiversity and water security.
- **Update (2025):** Increased funding for Ramsar sites like Chilika Lake, with emphasis on community involvement.

International Protocol/Convention Alignment:

- **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (1971):** The NPCA directly implements India's commitments under the Ramsar Convention (joined in 1982), supporting the conservation and sustainable use of 75 Ramsar sites (as of 2025).
- **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** It aligns with CBD objectives by protecting wetland biodiversity.

UPSC Relevance: A key topic in UPSC Prelims and Mains, with questions on Ramsar sites, wetland ecosystem services, and NPCA's role in conservation.

Unique Features: The scheme's integration of community participation in wetland management and its focus on Ramsar sites make it a model for wetland conservation globally.

Amrit Dharohar Scheme (2023)

Objective: To promote wetland conservation and eco-tourism.

Details:

- Complements NPCA by focusing on sustainable management of wetlands.
- Promotes eco-tourism and livelihoods for local communities.
- **Impact:** Enhances wetland conservation and community engagement.
- **Update (2025):** Gaining momentum with projects in key wetland areas like Sundarbans and Chilika.



International Protocol/Convention Alignment:

- **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (1971):** The scheme supports India's Ramsar commitments by promoting conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, including eco-tourism at Ramsar sites.
- **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** It aligns with CBD goals by enhancing wetland biodiversity and community involvement.

UPSC Relevance: Emerging topic in UPSC exams due to its focus on eco-tourism and wetland conservation. Questions may link to NPCA and Ramsar Convention.

Unique Features: The scheme's emphasis on eco-tourism as a conservation tool is innovative, linking environmental protection with sustainable livelihoods.

MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes) (2023)

Objective: To restore mangrove ecosystems and support coastal communities.

Details:

- Focuses on afforestation and restoration of mangroves along coastlines.
- Promotes sustainable livelihoods through mangrove-based activities.
- **Impact:** Strengthens coastal ecosystems and resilience against climate change.
- **Update (2025):** Active implementation in states like Odisha and Gujarat, with early success in mangrove restoration.

International Protocol/Convention Alignment:

- **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (1971):** MISHTI supports Ramsar objectives by restoring mangroves, which are critical wetland ecosystems, often part of Ramsar sites.
- **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):** Mangrove restoration contributes to carbon sequestration and climate resilience, aligning with India's NDCs under the Paris Agreement.
- **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** The scheme supports CBD goals by conserving mangrove biodiversity.

UPSC Relevance: A new topic in UPSC exams, with potential questions on mangrove conservation, climate resilience, and coastal livelihoods.

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Unique Features: The scheme's dual focus on ecological restoration and economic benefits through mangrove-based livelihoods is a unique approach to coastal conservation.

National Mission for a Green India (GIM)

Objective: To increase forest cover and improve ecosystem services.

Details:

- Part of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
- Aims to afforest 10 million hectares and improve forest quality.
- Promotes community participation and sustainable livelihoods.
- **Impact:** Enhances carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation.
- **Update (2025):** Progress toward the 10 million hectare target, with focus on degraded lands.

International Protocol/Convention Alignment:

- **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):** GIM directly supports India's UNFCCC commitments by increasing forest cover to meet NDC targets for carbon sinks (2.5–3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent by 2030).
- **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** The mission aligns with CBD objectives by promoting biodiversity conservation through afforestation and ecosystem restoration.
- **United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF):** GIM supports UNFF goals by promoting sustainable forest management.

UPSC Relevance: A core topic in UPSC exams, with questions on afforestation targets, carbon sequestration, and NAPCC linkages.

Unique Features: The mission's ambitious 10 million hectare afforestation target and community-driven approach make it a flagship initiative for climate and biodiversity goals.

National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE)

Objective: To protect the Himalayan ecosystem and promote sustainable development.

Details:



- Focuses on glaciers, biodiversity, wildlife, and traditional knowledge.
- Implemented by MoEFCC with G.B. Pant Institute as the nodal agency.
- Addresses climate change impacts and sustainable resource management.
- **Impact:** Supports conservation in the ecologically fragile Himalayan region.
- **Update (2025):** New research initiatives focus on glacial retreat and climate adaptation.

International Protocol/Convention Alignment:

- **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):** NMSHE supports UNFCCC goals by addressing climate change impacts on the Himalayas, contributing to India's NDCs through adaptation and mitigation.
- **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** The mission aligns with CBD objectives by conserving Himalayan biodiversity and traditional knowledge.

UPSC Relevance: Tested in UPSC exams for its focus on Himalayan ecology and climate change. Questions often cover glacial retreat, biodiversity, and NAPCC.

Unique Features: The mission's focus on the Himalayas, a globally significant and fragile ecosystem, and its integration of traditional knowledge are distinctive features.

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)

Objective: To combat illegal trade in wildlife and endangered species.

Details:

- Coordinates with state governments and international agencies.
- Monitors and investigates wildlife trafficking.
- **Impact:** Reduces poaching and illegal trade, protecting endangered species.
- **Update (2025):** Increased international collaboration to tackle cross-border wildlife trade.

International Protocol/Convention Alignment:

- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES):** The WCCB directly implements CITES obligations by combating illegal wildlife trade, coordinating with international agencies like INTERPOL and the CITES Secretariat.



UPSC Relevance: Relevant in UPSC exams for its role in wildlife protection and CITES enforcement. Questions often focus on wildlife trafficking and WCCB's coordination mechanisms.

Unique Features: The WCCB's specialized focus on wildlife crime and its international collaboration (e.g., with INTERPOL) make it a unique enforcement body in India's conservation framework.

Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)

Objective: To manage funds for afforestation to mitigate the side effects of deforestation.

Details:

- Manages funds collected for forest land diversion to support afforestation and reforestation.
- Ensures compensatory afforestation in areas affected by development projects.
- **Impact:** Supports large-scale afforestation to mitigate deforestation impacts.
- **Update (2025):** Increased utilization of funds for afforestation, with concerns about mismanagement persisting.

International Protocol/Convention Alignment:

- **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):** CAMPA supports UNFCCC goals by funding afforestation, contributing to India's NDC target of creating carbon sinks.
- **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** The scheme aligns with CBD objectives by promoting biodiversity through reforestation and ecosystem restoration.
- **United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF):** CAMPA supports UNFF goals by promoting sustainable forest management.

UPSC Relevance: A key topic in UPSC exams, with questions on compensatory afforestation, fund management, and its linkage to the Forest (Conservation) Act.

Unique Features: The CAMPA fund, created through contributions from development projects, is a unique financial mechanism to ensure afforestation offsets deforestation.

National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)

Objective: To address climate change through mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable development.



Details:

- Includes eight missions, such as the National Mission for a Green India and NMSHE.
- Promotes renewable energy, energy efficiency, and climate-resilient agriculture.
- **Impact:** Provides a framework for India's climate change response, aligning with global commitments.
- **Update (2025):** Aligned with India's updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), emphasizing renewable energy and carbon sequestration.

International Protocol/Convention Alignment:

- **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):** The NAPCC is India's primary framework for implementing UNFCCC commitments, including the Paris Agreement (ratified in 2016), through its missions addressing mitigation and adaptation.
- **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** The NAPCC supports CBD objectives through missions like GIM, which promote biodiversity conservation.

UPSC Relevance: A major topic in UPSC Mains (General Studies Paper III), with questions on its eight missions, India's NDCs, and climate change strategies.

Unique Features: The NAPCC's eight-mission structure is a comprehensive approach to climate change, integrating mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable development, making it a model for national climate strategies.

LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) Mission (2022)

Objective: To promote sustainable lifestyles and individual actions to reduce environmental impact.

Details:

Launched by the Government of India to encourage eco-friendly practices like reducing waste, conserving energy, and promoting sustainable consumption.

Engages communities, schools, and individuals through awareness campaigns and actionable pledges.

Aligns with India's climate goals under the NAPCC.

Impact: Encourages behavioral changes to support environmental conservation at the grassroots level.

Update (2025): Gaining traction with campaigns promoting sustainable urban living, as highlighted in recent MoEFCC initiatives.

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International Protocol/Convention Alignment:

- **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):** The LiFE Mission supports UNFCCC goals by promoting sustainable lifestyles that reduce carbon footprints, aligning with India's NDCs under the Paris Agreement.
- **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** The mission aligns with SDGs, particularly SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 13 (Climate Action), by encouraging sustainable practices.

UPSC Relevance: An emerging topic in UPSC exams due to its focus on sustainable lifestyles and climate action. Questions may cover its linkage to NAPCC and SDGs.

Unique Features: The mission's focus on individual behavioral change as a climate strategy is innovative, positioning India as a leader in promoting sustainable living globally.

National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) (2019)

Objective: To improve air quality in 131 non-attainment cities (cities failing to meet air quality standards) by 20-30% by 2024, extended to 2026.

Details:

- Coordinated by MoEFCC, it focuses on reducing particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) through city-specific action plans.
- Includes measures like promoting electric vehicles, controlling industrial emissions, and enhancing air quality monitoring.
- Funds allocated for infrastructure like air quality monitoring stations and public transport.
- **Impact:** Addresses urban air pollution, complementing the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act.
- **Update (2025):** Extended to 2026 with mixed progress; cities like Delhi and Kanpur show improvements, but challenges remain, as noted in recent environmental reports and X posts.

International Protocol/Convention Alignment:

- **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):** The NCAP indirectly supports UNFCCC goals by reducing co-pollutants (e.g., black carbon) that contribute to climate change, aligning with India's NDCs.
- **World Health Organization (WHO) Air Quality Guidelines:** While not a convention, the NCAP aligns with WHO guidelines by targeting air quality improvements to meet health-based standards.



UPSC Relevance: A high-priority topic in UPSC exams due to urban air pollution issues. Questions focus on NCAP targets, AQI, and measures like electric vehicles.

Unique Features: The NCAP's city-specific action plans and focus on reducing PM2.5/PM10 make it a targeted approach to India's air pollution crisis, complemented by robust monitoring systems.

Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) (2017)

Objective: To train youth in environment and forest-related skills to support conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

Details:

- Run by MoEFCC, it offers courses in areas like wildlife management, pollution monitoring, and forest conservation.
- Targets employability in conservation projects, eco-tourism, and environmental monitoring.
- **Impact:** Builds capacity for environmental conservation and supports community involvement in schemes like GIM and NPCA.
- **Update (2025):** Expanded training programs in 2024-2025, focusing on climate adaptation and wetland management skills.

International Protocol/Convention Alignment:

- **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** The GSDP supports CBD objectives by building capacity for biodiversity conservation through training in wildlife and forest management.
- **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):** The program aligns with UNFCCC goals by training individuals in climate adaptation and mitigation skills, supporting India's NDCs.
- **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** The GSDP aligns with SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by providing environmental skills for sustainable livelihoods.

UPSC Relevance: An emerging topic in UPSC exams, with potential questions on capacity building for environmental conservation and its linkage to NAPCC and CBD.

Unique Features: The GSDP's focus on skilling youth for environmental careers, including niche areas like wetland management, is a forward-looking initiative to support India's conservation goals.



INTERNATIONAL PROTOCOL/CONVENTION ALIGNMENT

Acts with Direct Alignment: Wildlife (Protection) Act (CITES, CBD), Forest (Conservation) Act (UNFCCC, CBD, UNFF), Environment (Protection) Act (Stockholm Conference, UNFCCC, Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam, CBD), Biological Diversity Act (CBD, Nagoya Protocol), Plastic Waste Management Rules (Basel), CRZ Notifications (Ramsar, CBD, UNFCCC), Wetland Rules (Ramsar, CBD), E-Waste Rules (Basel, Stockholm), Hazardous Waste Rules (Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam), Energy Conservation Act (UNFCCC), National Green Tribunal Act (Stockholm Conference, UNFCCC, CBD, Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam), Scheduled Tribes Act (CBD, UNDRIP).

Schemes with Direct Alignment: Project Tiger (CITES, CBD), Project Elephant (CITES, CBD), Crocodile Conservation Project (CITES, CBD), Project Hangul (CBD, IUCN), IDWH (CITES, CBD), NPCA (Ramsar, CBD), Amrit Dharohar (Ramsar, CBD), MISHTI (Ramsar, UNFCCC, CBD), GIM (UNFCCC, CBD, UNFF), NMSHE (UNFCCC, CBD), WCCB (CITES), CAMPA (UNFCCC, CBD, UNFF), NAPCC (UNFCCC, CBD), LiFE Mission (UNFCCC, SDGs), NCAP (UNFCCC, WHO), GSDP (CBD, UNFCCC, SDGs).

No Direct Alignment: Water Act, Air Act (though they support broader global goals).

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