



Increase in Human-Leopard Conflict: Study

Why in News

A study conducted across Karnataka indicates that the **human-leopard policy guidelines** have had little impact on the ground and it has not led to decrease in human-leopard conflict.

- The **guidelines for human-leopard conflict management** were brought out by the Government of India in April 2011 **to reduce conflict with leopards, discourage their translocation, and suggest improved ways of handling emergency conflict situations.**

Key Points

▪ Findings of The Study:

- The number of leopards captured per month **increased more than threefold** (from 1.5 to 4.6) since 2011.
- Similarly, there was a **threefold increase in the number of leopards translocated** per month (from 1 to 3.5).
 - **Translocation** is the managed movement of live indigenous plants or animals (taonga) from one location to another.
- **Reasons for capture and translocation of leopards (in order of prominence)**
 - Livestock depredation (38.1%)
 - Leopards rescued from snares and wells (15.7%),
 - Anxiety caused owing to leopard sightings in human habitations (13.7%),
 - Leopards entering human dwellings (10.9%).
 - Human injuries (4.5%)
 - Human deaths (2%)

▪ Other Related News

- A recent study by **TRAFFIC** India on the seizure and mortality of '**common leopards**' (*Panthera pardus fusca*) revealed that of the total of 747 leopard deaths between 2015-2019 in India, 596 were linked to illegal wildlife trade and activities related to poaching.
- The Government of India launched the **First National Protocol on Snow Leopard Population Assessment** in **2019**, to mark the occasion of **International Snow Leopard Day (23rd October)**.
- In **2014**, a **national census of leopards around tiger habitats** was carried out in India except for the northeast. 7,910 individuals were estimated in surveyed areas and a national total of **12,000-14,000 estimated.**

Common Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) [\]\]](#)



- **Habitat:** It occurs in a wide range in sub-Saharan Africa, in small parts of Western and Central Asia, on the Indian subcontinent to Southeast and East Asia.
 - The Indian leopard (*Panthera pardus fusca*) is a leopard widely distributed on the Indian subcontinent.
- **Threats:** Habitat loss and fragmentation, poaching for the illegal trade of skins and body parts, and persecution due to conflict situations
- **Conservation Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List**: Vulnerable
 - **CITES**: Appendix I
 - **Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**: Schedule I

Source: TH

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