



# Habitat Loss of Himalayan Brown Bear

## Why in News

Recently, a study conducted by scientists of the [Zoological Survey of India](#) on the **Himalayan brown bear** (*Ursus arctos isabellinus*) has predicted a **significant reduction in suitable habitat and biological corridors** of the Himalayan brown bear **due to climate change**.

## Key Points

- The study titled '**Adaptive spatial planning of protected area networks for conserving the Himalayan brown bear**' was carried out in the **western Himalayas**. It has predicted a **decline of about 73%** of the bear's habitat by the year 2050.
- The total habitat loss can make 8 out of 13 PA completely uninhabitable by 2050.
- The **western Himalaya** where significant **brown bear population is distributed** is most **vulnerable to global warming** as this elevation belt is **getting warmer** faster than other elevation zones of Himalayas.
- To keep a check on this, scientists have recommended preemptive **spatial planning of PAs in the Himalayan region** for the long-term viability of the species.
  - The spatial planning of PAs is **aimed at minimising the risks and uncertainty of climate change**.
  - **Spatial Planning** is an activity centered on making decisions relating to the location and distribution of land use activities. It allows monitoring of changes, both in climate and socio-economic situations.

## Himalayan Brown Bear

- **Range:** North-western and central Himalaya, including India, Pakistan, Nepal, the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China and Bhutan.
- **Habitat:** High altitude open valleys and pastures.
- **Status:** [IUCN Red List](#)- **Critically endangered**.
  - [CITES - Appendix I](#)
  - [Indian Wildlife \(Protection\) Act of 1972 - Schedule 1](#)
- **Food:** Omnivorous.
- **Threat:** Human-animal conflict, rapid habitat loss, poaching for fur, claws and organs and, in some rare cases, bear baiting.



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