



NTCA's Plan on Relocation of Villages

[Source: IE](#)

Why in News?

Recently, the [National Tiger Conservation Authority \(NTCA\)](#) has urged [state wildlife departments](#) to develop a comprehensive timeline and action plan for the relocation of villages situated within the [core tiger habitats](#).

What is NTCA's Villages Relocation Plan?

- **About Core Areas:**
 - **Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Act, 2006** emphasises the need for **undisturbed areas** to support viable tiger breeding populations.
 - **Core or critical tiger habitats** refer to areas within tiger reserves that are kept untouched to ensure the survival of breeding tiger populations.
 - The NTCA's focus is on the **55 notified tiger reserves in India**, where approximately 600 villages (64,801 families) currently reside within **core tiger habitats**.
- **Voluntary Village Relocation Program (VVRP):**
 - **Voluntary Village Relocation Program (VVRP)** has twin objectives of **empowering the local communities** by giving access to development opportunities and **creating inviolate space for tigers** so that both can **co-occur in harmony**.
 - Relocations must be **voluntary** and based on the informed consent of **gram sabhas and families involved** and **Forest rights of Scheduled Tribes and other forest dwellers** must be recognised and settled.
 - **Compensation:** Families can choose between **financial compensation (Rs 15 lakh per family)** or a **resettlement package** (including land, housing, and basic amenities).
 - **Issues With Relocation Plan:** The NTCA's relocation package falls short of the legal standards set by the **Land Acquisition Act, 2013**.
 - NTCA does not comply with the legal requirement of the **Land Acquisition Act, 2013**, which has special provisions to provide resettlement and rehabilitation to ST communities and forest dwellers.

Project Tiger

- **Project Tiger** is a wildlife conservation initiative in India that was launched in **1973**.
- The primary objective of Project Tiger is to ensure the **survival and maintenance of the tiger population** in their natural habitats by creating dedicated **Tiger Reserves**.
- Starting with only **nine reserves**, the project marked a paradigm shift in wildlife conservation efforts. By 2024, it had **grown to 55 reserves in different states, totalling 2.38% of India's land area**.
- The unreliable pug-mark method of the first **tiger census** in 1972 gave way to more accurate techniques like the **camera-trap method**.

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WILDLIFE CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

Constitutional Provisions for Wildlife

42nd Amendment

Act, 1976: Forests & Protection of Wild Animals and Birds (moved from State to Concurrent List)

Article

48 A: State shall endeavor to protect & improve environment and safeguard forests and wildlife of country

Article

51 A (g): Fundamental duty to protect & improve natural environment including forests and Wildlife

Legal Frameworks

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Major Conservation Initiatives

Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH):

- Financial assistance provided to State/UT Governments for protection and conservation of wildlife
- A Centrally Sponsored Scheme

National Wildlife Action Plan (2017-2031)

Guidelines for Eco-tourism in Protected Areas

Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau: To combat wildlife-related crimes

Wildlife Division (MoEFCC):

- Policy and law for conservation of biodiversity and Protected Area network
- Technical and financial support to the State/ UTs under IDWH, Central Zoo Authority and Wildlife Institute of India

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB):

Collection, collation of intelligence & its dissemination, establishment of centralized Wild Life crime databank, coordination etc.

Wildlife Crime Control:

- Operation Save Kurma
- Operation Thunderbird

Species-Specific Initiatives

- Protection and conservation of Greater Adjutant in Gangetic riverine tract
- Dolphin Conservation in Non-Protected Area Segment of Ganga River
- Conservation Breeding Centre for Wild water buffalo (2020)
- Recovery programme for Snow leopard (2009)
- Recovery programme for Vultures (2006)
- Project Elephant (1992)
- Project Tiger/National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) (1973)

India's Collaboration with Global Wildlife Conservation Efforts

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- World Heritage Convention
- Ramsar Convention
- The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network (TRAFFIC)
- United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)
- International Whaling Commission (IWC)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Global Tiger Forum (GTF)



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Read more: [Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#), [Forest Rights Act](#), [National Tiger Conservation Authority](#)

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q1. At the national level, which ministry is the nodal agency to ensure effective implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of

Forest Rights) Act, 2006? (2021)

- (a)** Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (b)** Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- (c)** Ministry of Rural Development
- (d)** Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Ans: (d)

Q2. Consider the following statements: (2018)

1. The definition of "Critical Wildlife Habitat" is incorporated in the Forest Rights Act, 2006.
2. For the first time in India, Baigas have been given Habitat Rights.
3. Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change officially decides and declares Habitat Rights for Primitive and Vulnerable Tribal Groups in any part of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a)** 1 and 2 only
- (b)** 2 and 3 only
- (c)** 3 only
- (d)** 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (a)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/ntcas-plan-on-relocation-of-villages>

