



Sustainable Use of Wild Species: IPBES Report

For Prelims: IPBES

For Mains: Sustainable Use of Wild Species

Why in News?

A report released by the **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)** has stated that Sustainable use of wild species can meet needs of billions.

- Delegates from 140 countries came together to discuss and **reach an outcome on the sustainable use of wildlife.**
- The assessment shortlisted five categories of practices used for wild species — **Fishing, Gathering, Logging, Terrestrial animal harvesting** which includes hunting and non-extractive practices such as observing.
- The report is the first of its kind and has been **conceived after a period of four years.**

What is IPBES?

- It is **an independent intergovernmental body**, established by member States in 2012.
- It **strengthens the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services** for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development.

What are the Findings?

- **Dependence on Wild Species:**
 - About **70% of the world's poor population** is directly dependent on wild species.
 - 20% source their food from wild plants, algae and fungi.
- **Wild-Species-Important Source of Income**
 - The use of wild species is an **important source of income** for millions of people worldwide.
 - Wild tree species **account for two thirds of global industrial roundwood**, trade in wild plants, algae and fungi is a billion-dollar industry, and even non-extractive uses of wild species are big business.
- **Local Variations:**
 - About 34% of marine wild fish stocks are overfished and 66% are fished within biologically sustainable levels. But within this global picture, there are significant local and contextual variations.
- **Unsustainable Logging of Tree Species:**
 - The survival of an estimated 12% of wild tree species is **threatened by unsustainable**

logging.

- **Unsustainable gathering** is one of the main threats for several plant groups, notably cacti, cycads and orchids.
- **Unsustainable hunting** has been identified as a threat for 1,341 wild mammal species – with declines in large-bodied species that have low natural rates of increase also linked to hunting pressure.

▪ **Rural People are at Risk of Unsustainable Use:**

- Rural people in developing countries are most at risk from unsustainable use of Wild Species, with lack of complementary alternatives often forcing them to exploit wild species already at risk.
 - About 50,000 wild species are used through different practices, including more than **10,000 wild species harvested directly for human food.**

▪ **Cultural Significance leading to Exploitation:**

- Certain species have cultural importance as they offer multiple benefits that define tangible and intangible features of people's cultural heritage.
- The use of wild species is also a source of culturally meaningful employment for such communities and they have engaged in the trade of wild species and materials since millennia.
- Wild rice (*Zizania palustris* L.) is a cultural keystone species, providing physical, spiritual and cultural sustenance for many indigenous peoples in the Great Lakes region of North America

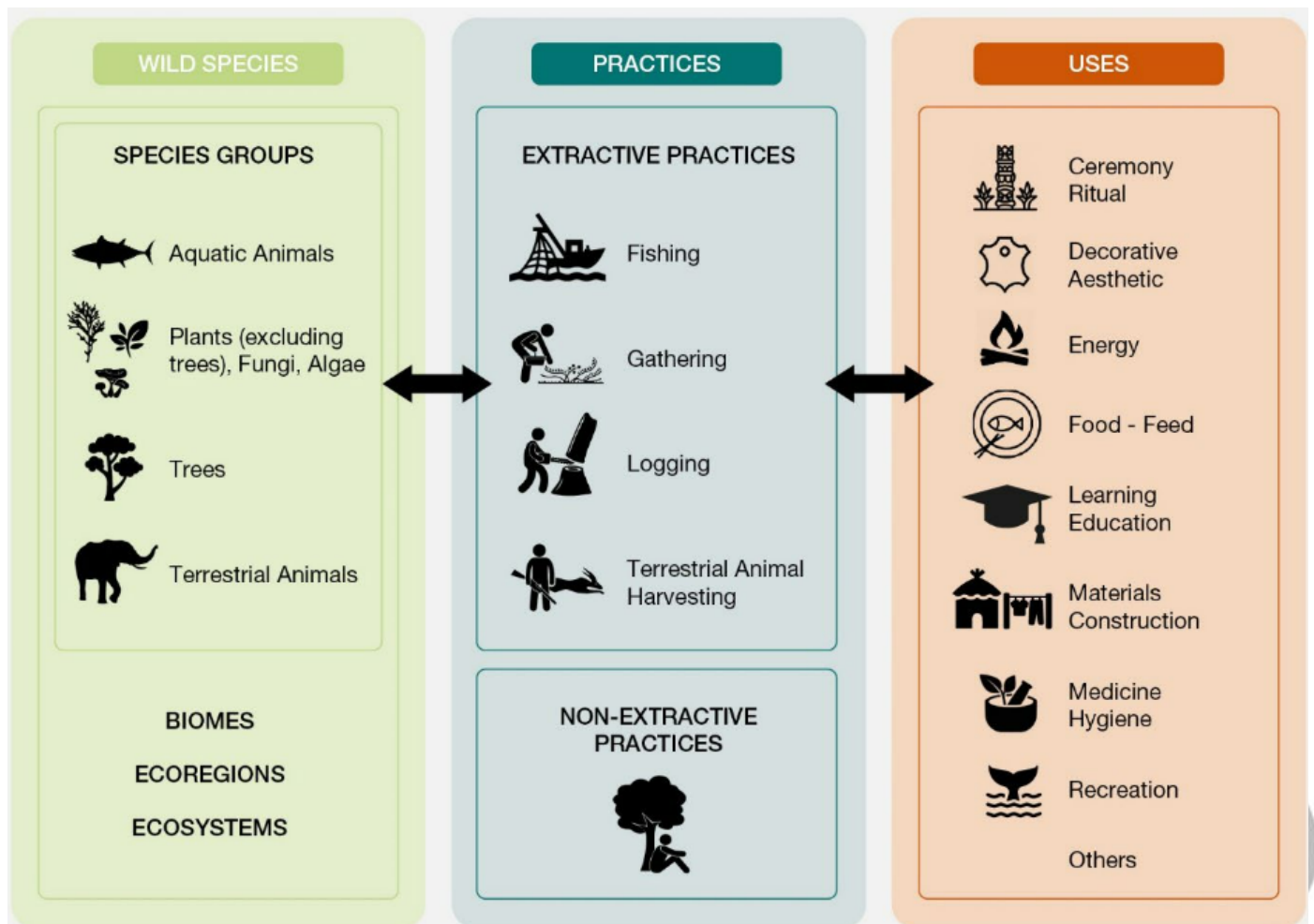
▪ **Drivers and Threats:**

- Drivers such as land- and seascape changes, climate change, pollution and invasive alien species that impact the abundance and distribution of wild species, and can **increase stress and challenges among the human communities that use them.**

▪ **Illegal Trade:**

- Global trade in wild species has expanded substantially in volume, value and trade networks over the past four decades.
- Illegal trade in wild species represents the **third largest class of all illegal trade** – with estimated annual values of up to USD199 billion. Timber and fish make up the largest volumes and value of illegal trade in wild species.





What are the Recommendations?

- **Integration of diverse value systems, equitable distribution of costs and benefits, changes in cultural norms and social values** and effective institutions and governance systems can facilitate the sustainable use of wild species in future.
- Addressing the causes of unsustainable use and, wherever possible reversing these trends, will **result in better outcomes for wild species and the people who depend on them.**
- **Bringing scientists and indigenous peoples together** to learn from each other will strengthen the sustainable use of wild species.
 - This is especially important because **most national frameworks and international agreements largely continue to emphasize ecological and some social considerations, including economic and governance issues** - while cultural contexts receive little attention.
- **In fishing, fixing current inefficiencies, reducing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing,** suppressing harmful financial subsidies, supporting small-scale fisheries, adapting to changes in oceanic productivity due to climate change, and proactively creating effective transboundary institutions will help sustainable Use.
 - Countries with robust fisheries management had seen stocks increasing in abundance. The Atlantic bluefin tuna population, for instance, has been rebuilt and is now fished within sustainable levels.
- **In logging** this would entail **management and certification of forests for multiple uses,** technological innovations to reduce waste in manufacturing of wood products, and economic and political initiatives that recognize the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including land tenure.

Source: DTE

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