



Animal Attacks in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

According to data by the forest department, **43 fatalities** are seen in [human-wildlife conflicts involving tigers and leopards](#) in the year of 2023.

Key Points

- According to 2023 data, 21 people died in leopard attacks and 22 people died in tiger attacks.
- The [Wildlife Protection Society of India \(WPSI\)](#), has released data showing 204 deaths in the country in 2023.
 - From January 2000 to December 2023, **a total of 551 people lost their lives in leopard and tiger attacks**, and over 1,833 individuals sustained injuries.
- The [Corbett Tiger Reserve \(CTR\)](#) has reported the highest number of tigers at 260 among the 53 tiger reserves in the nation.
- The tiger population in Uttarakhand **has surged from 442 to 560 compared to the figures reported in 2018**. The estimated number of leopards in Uttarakhand is 3,115.
- Since June 2001, **a total of 1,663 leopard deaths have been recorded, with many attributed to accidents or interspecies conflicts**, among other causes.

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HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT



When encounters between humans and wildlife lead to negative results, such as loss of property, livelihoods, and even life

Causes of HWC

- Agricultural Expansion
- Urbanization
- Infrastructure Development
- Climate Change
- Wildlife Populations Growth and Range Expansion

Impacts of HWC

- Grave injuries, Loss of life
- Damage to farms and crops
- ↑ violence against animals

WWF India during 2003-2004 developed the Sanitpur Model by which community members were connected with Assam Forest Dept and given training on how to drive elephants away from crop fields and human habitations safely.

In 2020, the SC upheld Madras HC's decision on the Nilgiris elephant corridor, affirming the right of passage of the animals and closure of resorts in the area.

Data on HWC

- Tigers killed 125 humans between 2019 and 2021
- Death of 329 tigers due to poaching, natural and unnatural causes.
- Elephants killed 1,579 humans in three years
- Death of 307 elephants due to poaching, electrocution, poisoning and train accidents

Advisory for HWC Management (Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife)

- Gram Panchayats empowered to deal with problematic wild animals (WPA 1972)
- Compensation against crop damage due to HWC (PM Fasal Bima Yojna)
- Local/State depts. to adopt early warning systems and create barriers
- Paying a part of ex-gratia as interim relief within 24 hours of the incident to the victim/family

State - Specific Initiatives

- **UP** - Man-animal conflict under **listed disasters** (in State Disaster Response Fund)
- **Uttarakhand** - **Bio-fencing** carried out by growing various species of plants in areas
- **Odisha** - Casting **seed balls** inside different forests to **enrich food stock for wild elephants**

