

## **Wildlife Protection Act (WLPA) 1972**

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### **Definition:**

An act to provide for the protection of wild animals, birds and plants and for matters connected therewith or ancillary or incidental thereto with a view to ensuring the ecological and environmental security of the country. It extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

It shall come into force in a State or Union Territory, to which it extends, on such date as the Central Government may, by notification, appoint, and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act or for different States or Union territories.

### **What does the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 say?**

Wildlife Protection Act 1972, also known as Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 was passed on August 21, 1972, but was later implemented on **September 9, 1972**. This act prohibits the capturing, killing, poisoning or trapping of wild animals. It extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to Conservation India's portal, the Government of India has enacted the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 with the various objectives.

### **The objectives are as follows:**

- Prohibition of hunting.
- Protection and management of wildlife habitats.
- Establishment of protected areas.
- Regulation and control of trade in parts and products derived from wildlife.
- Management of zoos

### **What does this act include?**

Wildlife Protection Act 1972 (WLPA) prohibits the injuring, destroying and removing any part of a wild animals body. In the case of wild birds and reptiles, the act also forbids disturbing or damaging their eggs. WLPA is also against taxidermy, which is the preservation of a dead wild animal as a trophy, or in the form of rugs, preserved skins, antlers, horns, eggs, teeth, and nails.

## **Punishment under this Act**

Penalties for any violation under this act can be carried out by agencies like:

- ✓ The Police.
- ✓ The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- ✓ The forest department.
- ✓ The customs.
- ✓ Charge sheets are filed by the Forest Department and other agencies who encounter violators, then usually hand over their case to the Forest Department.

## **Wildlife Protection Amendment Act 2002**

This amendment for this act was made in 2002 but came into force in January 2003 and under it, the punishment for defaulters is harsher. If someone is caught in the process of trade of animal trophies and other articles derived from wild animals they will be subjected to three years of imprisonment and/or a fine of **Rs. 25,000/-**.

## **Wildlife Protection Amendment Act 2006**

The act was amended in the year 2006 and its purpose is to strengthen the conservation of tigers and other endangered species by combating crimes against them through the special Crime Control Bureau.

## **Wildlife Protection Amendment Bill 2013**

The Wildlife Protection Amendment Bill, 2013, was introduced by Environment Minister Jayanthi Natarajan in the Rajya Sabha on August 5, 2013. The bill seeks to further amend the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972. It has a provision of imprisonment up to seven years for poaching or hunting of wild animals

The Bill also protects the hunting rights of Scheduled Tribes in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

## **Withdrawal of the amendment bill**

In the year 2015, Prakash Javadekar asked to withdraw the amendment bill to further amend the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, and announced a lot of changes which needs to be made before actually implementing it. These changes were announced in Rajya Sabha.