Wild life(protection)act 1972:

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Q. Define wild life. Write about wild life protection act 1972.

Answer.

 In terms of the wild life (protection) act, 1972, “wild life includes any animal, bee, butterfly, crustacean, fish and moth and aquatic and land vegetation that forms part of any habitat”. The newzealand wild life act, 1953 and conservation act 1987 define wild life as “any animal that is living in a wild state and states that animal means any member of the animal kingdom other than a human being.

India is the first country in the world to have made provisional for the protection and conservation of environment in its constitutions. On5th june,1972, environment was first discussed as an item of international agenda in the UN conferences on human environment in Stockholm and after 26th June is celebrated all over the world as world environment day. The wild life (protection) act was passed in 1972.

**Wild life (protection) act1972**: The act, a landmark in the history of wild life legislation in our country, came into existence in 1972. Wild was transferred from state list to concurrent list in 1976. This giving power to the central government to enact the legislation.

The **Indian board of wild life** (IBWL) was created in 1952 in our country, which after the enactment of the wild life (protection) act actively took up the task of setting up wild life national park and sanctuaries. The major activities and provisions in the act can be summed up as follows:

1. It defines the wild life related terminology.
2. It provides for the appointment of wild life advisory board, wild life warden, their power, duties etc.
3. Under the act comprehensive listing of endangered wild life species was done for the first time and prohibition of hunting of the endangered species was mentioned.
4. Protection to some endangered plants is also provided under the act.
5. The act provided for setting up of national park, sanctuaries etc.
6. The act provides for the constituencies of central zoo authority.
7. There is provision for trade and commerce in some wild life species with license for sale, possession, transfer etc.
8. The act imposes a ban on the trade or commerce in scheduled animal.
9. It provides for legal powers to officers and punishment to offenders.
10. It provides for captive breeding programmed for endangered species.

Several conservation project for individual endangered species like lion (1972), tiger (1973), crocodile (1974) and Brown antlered deer (1981) were started under this act. The act is adopted by all state in India except Jammu and Kashmir, which has it own act.

**Drawback of wildlife (protection) act 1972**. :

1. It seems as if the act has been en acted just as fallout of Stockholm conference held in 1972 and it has not included any locally evolved conservation measures.

2. The ownership certificate for animal articles (tiger, leopard skin etc) is permissible which very often serve as a tool for illegal trading.

3. The wildlife traders in Jammu and Kashmir easily get illegal fur and skin from other state which after being made into caps, belt etc. are sold or smuggled to other countries. This is so happening because Jammu and Kashmir has its own wild life act and it doesn’t follow the central wild life act. Moreover, hunting and trading of several endangered species prohibited in other states are allowed in Jammu and Kashmir, thereby opening avenues for illegal trading in which animals and articles.

4. The offender of the act is not subject to vary harsh penalties. It is just up to three year imprisonment or a fine of Rs 25,000 or both.

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