



ECOBUZZ

A BUZZ TO THE GREEN FUTURE!!

RIO SUMMIT 1992
21 KEY AGENDAS

NOVEMBER'2025
EDITION

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Greetings from Faculty of Law, GLS University!

After a successful series on Sustainable Development Goals, I am very happy to learn that for the next EcoBuzz series we explore the five basic elements of nature –the *panchamahabhutas* – which inhere the properties of earth (prithvi), water (jala), fire (tejas), wind (vayu) and space (akasha).

Reconnecting to the nature outside of us can help us reconnect to our true, inner nature. When we spend more time outside in the elements, we start to rebalance ourselves physically, mentally and energetically.

The current edition of EcoBuzz shall focus on the element “Prithvi” – the Earth. It’s surprising just how easily we can lose connection to the earth. Spending long periods indoors, driving cars and fixating on screens all creates a disconnection between ourselves and the earth. The longer we’re disconnected from the earth and the outside world, the more we forget our interconnected role within nature. Thus, the more we tend to focus on ‘I, me, my’ – the ego.

Our Mother Earth is currently dealing with a wide range of issues, despite efforts in recent decades to address environmental challenges. Due to the terrifying pace at which the Environment is being exploited the legal framework for addressing environmental issues at the global and domestic levels seems inadequate without the collective effort of the human-kind.

I feel happy that the students have decided the ‘MOTHER EARTH’ as the theme for this month's EcoBuzz and our constant efforts towards a green and clean Earth, will continue to raise awareness on the alarming issues that the mother Earth is facing.

Let’s come together for organised actions with the sole objective of saving mother earth while thriving to keep it alive, green, and clean.

Regards,
Dr. Mayuri H. Pandya
Dean, Faculty of Law, GLS University

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National Updates

● National Biodiversity Mission (NBM)

The National Biodiversity Mission strengthens conservation of ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. Current efforts focus on People's Biodiversity Registers, Biodiversity Management Committees, and community participation to ensure sustainable use of biological resources.

● Expansion of Protected Areas and Wildlife Corridors

To address habitat fragmentation and human-wildlife conflict, India has expanded protected areas and notified new wildlife corridors connecting forests across states. Recent initiatives focus on elephant, tiger, and leopard corridors, ensuring genetic flow and safe movement between habitats.

● Species Recovery Programmes under Project Tiger and Project Elephant

Flagship conservation initiatives such as Project Tiger and Project Elephant continue to play a central role in wildlife protection. Updated monitoring mechanisms, habitat restoration, and anti-poaching measures have contributed to stabilising populations of key species.

State Updates

● Biodiversity Heritage Sites and Urban Biodiversity Conservation (Gujarat)

Gujarat has strengthened biodiversity conservation by identifying and protecting Biodiversity Heritage Sites under the Biological Diversity Act. Wetlands, grasslands, and coastal ecosystems are being prioritised to conserve native flora and fauna. Urban biodiversity initiatives, including protection of mangroves and urban wetlands, aim to maintain ecological balance amid rapid urbanisation.

● Mangrove Conservation and Coastal Biodiversity Protection

Recognising mangroves as critical buffers against climate change and biodiversity loss, coastal states including Gujarat have intensified mangrove restoration programmes. These initiatives enhance fish breeding grounds, protect coastal wildlife, and reduce vulnerability to cyclones and sea-level rise, while also supporting livelihoods of coastal communities.

● Community-Based Forest and Wildlife Management

State forest departments are increasingly promoting joint forest management and community participation in biodiversity conservation. Through awareness programmes, sustainable harvesting practices, and eco-tourism initiatives, local communities are becoming key stakeholders in protecting plant and wildlife species, ensuring long-term conservation outcomes.

मणिर्नगच्छेत्प्रवृद्धं शनं वायुः पतञ्जलिः।
प्रतिवासोमा पिशाचं ग्रामवृद्धं पुनः शंछि।

One should not pollute nature, its sources, and keep them undisturbed for the well-being of all beings, as nature's power is boundless. Living in harmony with nature brings peace and avoids harm to all beings.

GREEN JUSTICE

Animal Welfare Board of India v. A. Nagaraja & Ors. (2014) 7 SCC 547 —

The Supreme Court held that every species has an inherent right to life, dignity and security, subject only to human necessity, and that Article 21's protection of "life" extends to animal life as part of the basic environment. The Court adopted an eco-centric approach, applying the "species' best interest" standard, and recognised that animals possess intrinsic worth beyond mere survival or instrumental value. It further noted that the PCA Act reflects India's cultural tradition of equality of all species, safeguarding animal welfare while accommodating essential religious practices under Section 28.

Centre for Environmental Law, WWF-India v. Union of India 2013) 8 SCC 234

The Supreme Court held that Section 33-A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 mandates immunisation of all wildlife in and around national parks and sanctuaries, while Section 34 requires registration of all firearms within the protected area and within 10 km of its boundary. The Court prohibited grant of fresh arms licences within this radius without prior concurrence of the Chief Wildlife Warden. State Governments and Union Territories were directed to file affidavits within eight weeks showing strict compliance and prohibition of all statutorily barred activities inside protected areas.

T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad, In re v. Union of India 2020 SCC OnLine SC 683

1. The Supreme Court approved the establishment of the Pakhrau Tiger Safari in Uttarakhand, noting expert assessment that the site lay at the edge of the buffer zone and was suitable, unlike alternative locations. It observed that since the Tiger Conservation Plan, 2015 envisaged a rescue centre-cum-safari, the State should relocate the Rescue Centre near the Safari to avoid duplication. The Court directed that construction must strictly comply with the 2016 Guidelines, and clarified that these directions would apply to all existing and future tiger safaris.

Bombay Environmental Action Group v. State of Maharashtra 2018 SCC OnLine Bom 109 (Bom HC)

The Bombay High Court addressed large-scale destruction of mangroves along the Maharashtra coast and the failure of authorities to prevent illegal activities. The Court declared mangroves as protected forests and directed the State to establish a public Grievance Redress Mechanism with online, toll-free and physical complaint facilities, including photo uploads.

आत्मनरक्षितं भवेत् किम् आत्मं वासमं स्तुतिम् |

विनाःपरम् आदितिः नार्थमनं हितमात्मनः ॥

One who is free from excessive desire and attachment lives peacefully. Avoiding unnecessary wants allows one to focus on a higher purpose and sustainable living.

GREEN LAWS

·The Biological Diversity Act, 2002

It is the main Indian law for conserving biodiversity. It was created to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992). The Act establishes a three-level structure: the National Biodiversity Authority at the national level, State Biodiversity Boards at the state level, and Biodiversity Management Committees at the local level. These bodies work together to regulate access to biological resources, document local biodiversity through People's Biodiversity Registers, and ensure fair sharing of benefits arising from the use of biological resources. The law also protects traditional knowledge and supports sustainable use of biodiversity. The 2023 Amendment makes compliance easier for researchers, encourages cultivation of medicinal plants, and strengthens measures against biopiracy.

·The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

This is one of India's earliest environmental laws and aims to safeguard wild animals, birds, and plants. It provides for the creation of National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves, and Community Reserves. Wildlife species are listed under six schedules that offer different levels of protection. The Act also establishes National and State Boards for Wildlife, regulates hunting and trade of wildlife products, and empowers authorities to prevent poaching and illegal wildlife trade. The 2022 Amendment introduced stricter penalties, brought exotic species under regulation, and aligned the law with CITES.

·The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

It was enacted to control the diversion of forest land for non-forest activities. It requires prior approval from the Central Government for such diversion and aims to prevent unnecessary deforestation. The Act emphasizes sustainable forest management and mandates compensatory afforestation whenever forest land is diverted. The 2023 Rules streamline the forest clearance process while upholding conservation commitments.

·The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

Serves as an umbrella legislation that gives the Central Government wide powers to control pollution and protect the environment. It was enacted after the Bhopal Gas Tragedy. The Act allows the government to set standards for pollutants, regulate industrial activities, and declare eco-sensitive zones around protected areas. It also supports the implementation of various environmental regulations such as the EIA Notification, Coastal Regulation Zone rules, and eco-sensitive zone guidelines.

·The Indian Forest Act, 1927

This Act is colonial-era law that forms the basis for the control and management of forests in India. It classifies forests into reserved, protected, and village forests, each having different levels of regulation. The Act focuses mainly on administration and protection of forest resources, prevention of illegal logging, and management of forest produce. However, it is often considered more regulatory than people-oriented.

नेहाभिक्रमनाशोऽस्तिप्रत्यवायो न विद्यते |
स्वल्पमप्यस्यधर्मस्य त्रायते महतो भयात् ||

No effort in the pursuit of righteousness goes to waste. Even a little effort in this direction protects from great dangers.

CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY: PROTECTING WILDLIFE AND PLANT SPECIES

-Devanshi Bhatnagar

At first glance, biodiversity conservation may appear to be a routine environmental concern. In reality, it goes far beyond that directly influencing the survival of all living organisms and the stability of life on Earth.

1. What Is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on Earth. It includes all living organisms—plants, animals, insects, fungi, and microorganisms—along with the ecosystems they form and the genetic variations within species. In simple terms, biodiversity is an umbrella encompassing diverse life forms across habitats and genetic structures.

Biodiversity exists at three levels:

- Genetic Diversity: Variations in genes within a species
- Species Diversity: Variety of species within an ecosystem
- Ecosystem Diversity: Diversity of habitats and ecosystems

2. Indicators of Global Biodiversity Decline

Human survival is deeply intertwined with biodiversity—from the air we breathe to the food we consume. Yet, this vital life-support system is rapidly deteriorating. Scientific studies indicate that the current rate of extinction is hundreds to thousands of times higher than the natural baseline, primarily due to human activities.

The Living Planet Report 2024 highlights that the average size of wildlife populations declined by 73% between 1970 and 2020, based on data from over 5,000 vertebrate species. Similarly, Biodiversity in Focus: United States Edition reveals that 34% of plant species, 40% of animal species, and 41% of ecosystems in the U.S. face a serious risk of extinction or collapse.

3. Why Is Conservation Important?

Healthy ecosystems provide essential services such as clean air, freshwater, food security, climate regulation, and natural medicines. Biodiversity conservation is therefore critical for:

- Climate Change Resilience: Diverse ecosystems are more adaptable to climate shocks
- Disease Treatment: Nearly 40% of modern medicines are derived from natural sources
- Human Well-Being: Biodiversity supports livelihoods, mental health, and overall quality of life
- Economic Stability: Ecosystem services contribute significantly to global industries and supply chains
- Food Security: Pollinators support over one-third of global crop production
- Employment: Biodiversity generates jobs in forestry, tourism, healthcare, and conservation

4. Strategies for Preserving Wildlife

Effective biodiversity protection requires coordinated and sustainable action, including:

- Habitat Conservation: Preventing damage caused by industrialization and urban expansion
- Sustainable Land-Use Practices: Reducing habitat fragmentation and chemical dependence
- Research and Monitoring: Tracking population trends and ecosystem health
- Public Awareness and Education: Encouraging responsible environmental behavior
- Protected Areas & Afforestation: Ensuring safe habitats and restoring degraded ecosystems

These strategies are most effective when implemented together, reinforcing ecological balance and long-term sustainability.

The eco-wheel illustrates how biodiversity provides natural resources, benefits multiple stakeholders, and is influenced by various drivers of change.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

NATIONAL EVENTS

ESG & Sustainability Strategy India Summit 2025

Date – 17–18 December, 2025

Location – Bengaluru, Karnataka

Focuses on ESG implementation, corporate sustainability strategies, regulatory compliance, and long-term environmental governance in India.

GeoSmart India 2025: Climate Change & Disaster Management Summit

Date – 3–4 December, 2025

Location – Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

Focuses on climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, geospatial intelligence, and sustainable urban planning.

India Water Impact Summit 2025

Date – 9–11 December, 2025

Location – IIT Delhi, New Delhi

Focuses on water sustainability, river rejuvenation, climate-resilient agriculture, and integrated water resource management.

Echoes of Earth – Environmental Arts & Sustainability Festival

Date – 13–14 December, 2025

Location – Bengaluru, Karnataka

Promotes sustainability awareness through eco-art, music, and nature-centric cultural initiatives.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

UNEA-7 (United Nations Environment Assembly)

Date – 8–12 December, 2025

Location – Nairobi, Kenya

Focuses on global environmental governance, climate action, pollution control, biodiversity protection, and sustainable development policies.

Global Conference on Renewable Energy & Environmental Sustainability (GCREES 2025)

Date – 5–7 December, 2025

Location – Montreal, Canada

Focuses on renewable energy technologies, environmental sustainability, and climate-friendly innovations.

International Conference on Pollution Control for Clean Environment (ICPCCE-2025)

Date – 22–23 December, 2025

Location – IIT Bhubaneswar, Odisha (Hybrid International Conference)

Focuses on pollution mitigation, environmental monitoring, clean technologies, and sustainable waste management.

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CREATIVE CORNER



THIS EVOCATIVE ILLUSTRATION DEPICTS THE FRAGILE BALANCE BETWEEN ECOLOGICAL PRESERVATION AND INDUSTRIAL DESTRUCTION. AT ITS CENTER, A HAND TRANSITIONING INTO A STURDY TREE TRUNK CRADLES A VIBRANT GLOBE TEEMING WITH DIVERSE WILDLIFE—INCLUDING AN ELEPHANT, DEER, AND AQUATIC LIFE—SYMBOLIZING THE STEWARDSHIP REQUIRED TO PROTECT BIODIVERSITY. THIS SANCTUARY IS SHARPLY CONTRASTED BY THE DESOLATE FOREGROUND, WHERE CHARRED TREE STUMPS AND SMOG-FILLED INDUSTRIAL SKYLINES REPRESENT THE DUAL THREATS OF DEFORESTATION AND POLLUTION, SERVING AS A POWERFUL VISUAL PLEA FOR THE LEGAL AND ETHICAL PROTECTION OF OUR NATURAL WORLD.

संगच्छध्वंसंवदध्वंसंवोमनांसिजानताम्।
देवाभाग्यथापूर्वसंजानानाउपासते॥

Move together, speak together, let your minds be in harmony — just as the ancient gods shared their portion in harmony.