Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Wildlife trafficking threatens biodiversity and requires coordinated national and international action. Examine the challenges involved in preventing illegal wildlife trade and suggest measures to strengthen conservation.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 19/10/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Biodiversity loss; endangered species; illegal wildlife trade; organised trafficking networks; CITES; Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; enforcement agencies; DNA identification; international cooperation; habitat conservation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Illegal wildlife trafficking is a major threat to biodiversity. The rescue of orangutans in Odisha highlights the importance of animal welfare, species identification and investigation into the illegal movement of endangered animals.

Challenges

1. Organised Networks: Wildlife trafficking networks may operate across international borders, complicating investigation and prosecution.

2. Weak Traceability: Uncertain origins, forged documents and inadequate monitoring make it difficult to establish the legal status of rescued animals.

3. Animal Welfare: Smuggled animals may suffer from malnutrition, disease, stress and unsuitable living conditions.

4. Enforcement Gaps: Limited resources, inadequate coordination and insufficient specialised expertise can weaken action against traffickers.

Measures

India should strengthen enforcement under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, improve intelligence-sharing and develop specialised veterinary and forensic facilities. Cooperation under CITES can support species identification and lawful repatriation. Public awareness, habitat protection and stricter monitoring of illegal trade routes are also essential.

Conclusion

Effective wildlife conservation requires coordinated enforcement, scientific expertise and international cooperation to protect endangered species and preserve ecological balance.

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