



## Green Criminology and Environmental Criminality in South Asia: A Comprehensive Analysis with Emphasis on India and Neighbouring Nations

Sapresh Devidas<sup>1\*</sup>, Akanksha Gehlaut<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>Assistant Professor, Govind Ramnath Kare College of Law

\*Corresponding author's; Sapresh Devidas

<i>Article History</i>	<b>Abstract</b>
Received: 06 June 2023 Revised: 05 Sept 2023 Accepted: 16 Dec 2023	<p><i>Environmental crime is harmful to the environment, other creatures, and humanity. Although though it is one of the most widespread and lucrative types of crime, as is the part played by companies in perpetrating these crimes, both of these facts go unnoticed. Traditional criminology is mostly anthropocentric (human-centred), with theories and research focusing on people as both criminals and victims of crime. Green criminology, on the other hand, expands this concept to encompass non-human animals, such as wild, domestic, and farmed animals, as well as the environment (water, land, air, and plants). A more inclusive view of who might be a victim of crime or injury is taken by green criminology in place of a purely anthropocentric one. The section under "Green Criminology and Victimization" follows expands on our discussion of environmental victimization. The purpose of this Research is to discuss various approaches to environmental crime and the growth of green criminality in South Asian countries. In this region, environmental crime is influenced by social and economic factors that result in the use of the environment as a resource for survival as well as economic forces that result in the use of the environment as a resource for profit. Environmental criminals frequently adapt to changing socioeconomic conditions, use various legal loopholes, and take advantage of enforcement and infrastructure weaknesses in South Asian nations, which allows them to conduct environmental offenses without being prosecuted and punished. Green criminology is still in its early stages in many South Asian countries, but it is focusing on issues that have been identified elsewhere, such as multidisciplinary, collaboration with the natural sciences, and addressing local issues like the exploitation of hunting tourism, the deterioration of marine and coastal ecosystems, and organized crime like timber logging.</i></p>
CC License CC-BY-NC-SA 4.0	<b>Keywords:</b> <i>Green Criminology, Crime, Environment, South Asia, victimization</i>

### 1. Introduction

Environmental crimes are defined broadly as illegal acts that adversely harm the environment. Illegal wildlife trade, smuggling of ozone depleting chemicals (ODS), illegal trade in hazardous waste, unlawful, unregulated, and unreported fishing, and illegal logging and the concomitant traffic in stolen timber are among them. Because they are perceived as 'victimless' and low on the priority list, such crimes frequently fail to elicit the appropriate response from government and the enforcement community. In actuality, the consequences touch everyone in society. Illegal logging, for instance, adds to deforestation. It deprives forest populations of important livelihoods, creates ecological issues such as flooding, and is a major contributor to climate change - deforestation accounts for up to one-fifth of greenhouse gas emissions. Illegal trade in ODS, such as the refrigerant chemicals chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), contributes to ozone layer depletion, which causes skin cancer and cataracts in humans. Green criminology is a field those studies, analyses, and deals with offenses and increasing environmental damages that are sometimes overlooked by standard criminology. It allows for an inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary interaction and approach; redefining criminology as more than merely being preoccupied with crime or societal harm that falls under the purview of the criminal justice system. Green crime is a fast-moving and even somewhat contested area in which academics, policymakers, and practitioners frequently disagree not only about how green crimes should be defined, but also on

the nature of the criminality involved, potential solutions to green crime problems, and the content and priorities of policy. Within ecological justice discourse, for example, there may be consensus that environmental and non-human animal harms must be addressed. Nonetheless, disagreements continue about whether green crimes are better addressed through criminal justice systems or through civil or administrative processes.<sup>1</sup>

## **Research Objectives**

The primary objectives of this research are as follows:

- a) To recognise and examine the several types of environmental crimes that are common in South Asia, such as wildlife trafficking, illicit logging, water pollution, land encroachment, and hazardous waste disposal.
- b) To investigate the socioeconomic reasons, with a focus on human greed, governance issues, and ignorance, that lead to environmental criminality in the area.
- c) To evaluate how international collaboration and law enforcement authorities can be used to address transnational environmental crimes.
- d) To find out how much Green Criminology theory is used to prosecute environmental crimes, including any attempts to label them as crimes against humanity.

## **2. Materials And Methods**

To develop a thorough grasp of the topic, the researcher used a doctrinal approach. The following steps are part of the methodology:

**Literature Review:** Conduct a thorough analysis of scholarly works, papers, official documents, and conferences pertaining to South Asian environmental laws, environmental criminality, and green criminology.

**Case Studies:** Examine particular environmental crime incidents in a few South Asian nations to show contextual elements and enforcement difficulties.

**Comparative Analysis:** To find gaps and potential solutions, compare the legislative frameworks and enforcement methods of South Asian nations with those of other areas and with best practises.

### **Concept Of Green Criminology**

Green criminology is difficult to describe because it incorporates a diversity of viewpoints as well as philosophical and ideological orientations. As a result, rather than a unique green criminology, it is an umbrella word for a criminology concerned with the overall neglect of ecological issues in criminology as well as the assimilation of green ideas within mainstream criminology. For mainstream criminology, restricted concepts of police and policing by state institutions, as well as crime as defined primarily by the criminal code, predominate. Environmental harms provide a significant hazard to human survival, and green crimes such as pollution pose a significant threat to human life despite being frequently neglected by standard legal systems. Likewise, green criminology, transcends well beyond and focus on societal and interpersonal crimes to cover consideration of “the detrimental repercussions of human actions on local and global ecosystems”. In doing so, green criminology analysis issues such as rights, justice, morals, victimization, criminality, and the employment of administrative, civil, and regulatory justice systems, as well as questions of crime as defined by a strict legalist/criminal law paradigm. Green criminology also investigates the behaviour of non-state criminal justice players such as NGOs and civil society organizations, as well as the role of the state as a key contributor to environmental harm.<sup>2</sup>

Green criminology is also concerned with wildlife crime. Most of the green criminological debate focuses on wildlife trafficking and illegal wildlife commerce, notably trafficking in endangered species. Nonetheless, illegal wildlife killing, particularly in farming and ranching areas, has increasingly piqued the interest of green criminological experts. Some researchers have classified the killing of large predators such as wolves and lynx as a form of resistance, illustrating the contradiction between conservation and animal protection ideals and the necessities of rural communities. While most jurisdictions have animal protection legislation in place to protect wildlife from unwarranted human predation, hunting continues to be a legal and regulated pastime. Hence, illicit wildlife killing within hunting communities should, in theory, draw the attention of law enforcement. Yet, such assassinations may occur with the sanction of the community and may be considered a sort of organized crime. How the state handles such illegal killings, as well as its sentiments toward hunting communities that do so, is important in deciding how states address species justice concerns.

## **What Is Green Crime?**

Any act that causes an animal pain, suffering, or death, or that otherwise endangers its welfare. Animal abuse can be physical, psychological, or emotional; it can be active mistreatment or passive neglect or omission; and it can be direct or indirect, purposeful or unintentional. There is no clear reference to whether or not the harm in question is a violation of law here, as in many definitions of green crimes, and many definitions of green crimes draw on deviance/injury rather than legal definitions. Many human behaviours endanger (nonhuman) animals. Animals can be seen as victims of green crimes perpetrated by humans since they experience pain and psychological anguish, even if we (as humans) do not know if animals can comprehend or define their experience as victimhood. Animal exploitation is widespread and diverse. It may be useful to identify the types of animals being hurt at times, because the types of animals, the types of injuries, and the explanations for those harms may all be linked.<sup>3</sup>

## **Tracking Green Crimes and Explaining Their Scope**

There are many ways to count green crimes at the local, national, and international levels. Those data sources are not addressed in the orthodox criminological literature, and some measures of green crime require accessing the scientific literature. Measuring green crimes is not as simple as measuring street crimes—there is no single location where green crimes are aggregated, and these data must be collected from numerous sources across levels of analysis and locations. It is also necessary to define what is being counted and why. Sometimes, green crime counts can only be measured using conviction or penalty data, leaving open questions about the dark figure of green crime. Since green crimes are diverse, efforts to measure them adequately must also be diverse. This is a difficult challenge that necessitates aggregating, for example, counts of air, water, and waste pollution violations; violations of very specific laws related to nuclear waste and radiation, fossil fuel well (fracking) contamination, or other hazardous waste counts (e.g., abandoned contaminated brownfields, or waste sites on remediation lists); and various measures of animal harms, including those previously described (e.g., companion animals, wildlife, trafficked animals). Furthermore, some green crimes cannot be quantified and must be characterized qualitatively in order for the harms to be visible and relevant.<sup>4</sup>

## **Approaches To Environmental Crimes in Asia**

Economic expansion and globalization have depleted Asia's natural resources. The problem of environmental crimes extends beyond transnational lines, threatening the global environment legacy. These offenses are dealt with on a domestic level and require research to evaluate their effectiveness and future recourse. The researcher investigated the legal-procedural framework for environmental crimes in the following South Asian countries: China, Bangladesh, Nepal, and India.<sup>5</sup>

## **Environmental Crime In India**

According to the preceding definition, environmental crimes are illegal acts that directly impair the environment. Illegal wildlife trade, smuggling of ozone depleting chemicals (ODS), illegal trade in hazardous waste, illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing, and illegal logging and the concomitant traffic in stolen timber are among them. India is a huge country with a wide range of natural relief types. It also boasts one of the world's highest populations, putting enormous strain on the natural environment and the availability of resources. Article IVA of the Indian Constitution imposes a duty on every citizen of India to safeguard and improve the natural environment, including forests, lakes, rivers, and animals, as well as to have compassion for living creatures. Furthermore, Part IV of the Indian Constitution states that the state shall strive to maintain and promote the environment, as well as to protect the country's forests and animals. The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Environment Protection Act, 1986, the Hazardous Waste Management Regulations, the Wildlife Protection Act, 1976, and the Indian Forest Rights Act 2006 are the six major pieces of legislation that govern specific environmental issues in India. Each of them constitutes a number of environmental offenses punishable by significant penalties such as imprisonment and fines. We will now examine the five basic types of environmental crimes and their prevalence in India.<sup>6</sup>

Environmental crime encompasses a wide range of breaches that cause harm to the environment and human life, ranging from administrative or record-keeping errors to the actual illegal dumping of toxins into the environment. Environmental crimes may include, but are not limited to:<sup>7</sup>

- Poaching;
- Illegal wildlife trade;
- Unreported fishing;

- Trading of unregulated & illicit products for monetary and personal benefit - trade of timber, ivory, rhino horns, or even sandalwood;
- Littering;
- Improper waste disposal;
- Oil spills;
- Wetland destruction;
- Dumping into oceans, streams, lakes, or rivers;
- Improperly handling pesticides or other toxic chemicals;
- Burning garbage;
- Improperly removing and disposing of asbestos;
- Falsifying lab data pertaining to environmental regulations;
- Smuggling certain chemicals, such as CFC refrigerants, into the United States;
- Bribing government officials;

### ***The Cause of Environmental Crimes***

These environmental crimes are not motivated by something spontaneous; they are planned, and they are responsible not just for environmental deterioration, but also for a variety of additional consequences.

- The first and most important reason for committing any act is to gain material benefits and financial gains; many activities are performed solely for the purpose of earning money, and this is a motivator for the commission of these types of crimes; however, there are other reasons for committing these types of environmental crimes.
- To obtain control-environmental crimes are occasionally committed in order to gain control over an area, a product, or a monopoly.

The six major pieces of legislation that govern specific environmental issues in India are the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Environment Protection Act, 1986, the Hazardous Waste Management Regulations, the Wildlife Protection Act, 1976, and the Indian Forest Rights Act 2006. Each of them produces many environmental offenses with severe penalties such as incarceration and fines that can be severe. For example, any violation of the Environment Act or its regulations or orders will be penalized by imprisonment for up to five years or a fine of up to Rs 1,000,000, or both. If such violation is repeated, an additional punishment of up to Rs 5,000 will be imposed for each day that such failure or contravention continues after the conviction for the first such failure or contravention. Furthermore, if the infringement persists for more than one year after the date of conviction, the offender faces up to seven years in jail.<sup>8</sup>

They also establish Pollution Control Boards and other nodal agencies under the legislation to expressly regulate and assure compliance. If the aggrieved parties believe their interests have been violated, they can file a lawsuit. In 2011, the Ministry of Environment and Forests established the National Green Tribunal ("NGT").<sup>9</sup> It can hear cases involving "serious environmental concerns" arising from the application of seven laws, including those on air pollution, water pollution, environmental protection, and biodiversity. It not only has appellate jurisdiction, but also Constitution of India (1950), art 51A. and art 48A. Environment Protection Act of India (1986), Section 15, National Green Tribunal Act (No. 19 of 2010, India). Several categories of cases require original jurisdiction to be decided. Furthermore, it has the authority to award compensation and direct reparation for ecological and property harm.<sup>10</sup>

The NGT directed the Central Pollution Board to develop a methodology for assessing compensation for environmental damages in the matter of *Paryavaran Suraksha Samiti v. Union of India*<sup>11</sup>. In 2019, the Board issued a report outlining a mechanism that suggests a penalty of up to Rs. 1 million based on several categories under a Graded Reaction Action Plan. After the establishment of the NGT, the number of cases documented by police appears to have decreased, while the number of court cases filed has increased. It has been chastised on the grounds that it has overreached its mandate and acts like the supreme court of the land.

*Ratlam Municipal Council v. Vardhichand and Others, 1980 AIR 1622, 1981 SCR (1)*. The Ratlam City Case, also known as the Ratlam City Case, is considered a landmark and very important judgement given by the Supreme Court of India. In this case, the court observed the impact of deteriorating urban environment on the poor living in the urban area. In this case, public health was recognized as a human right, which obliged the municipal council to take proper steps, particularly in managing the drainage facilities in Ratlam.

*M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (Shriram Industries Case). 1987 SCR (1) 819, AIR 1987 965*. Also known as the Shriram gas leak case, this was a gas leak of food chemicals in the country's capital, New Delhi, in which the court observed that the company was under absolute liability, to pay compensation to the victims of the gas leak, this was the first case in India in which the concept of absolute liability was introduced, this was also the first case in India in which the accused was convicted.

*Tarun Bharat Singh, Alwar v. Union of India and Others 1993 SCR (3) 21, 1993 SCC* In this lawsuit, the court prohibited mining in the Sariska National Park region, but according to reports in 2015, mining in Sariska is still in full swing, causing environmental harm. And no writ petitions have been filed at the Supreme Court, not even under Article 21, which ensures the right to a secure and healthy environment.

## **China**

Its efforts to achieve rapid economic expansion have negative consequences for the environment and natural resources. One of the growing concerns in China is air pollution caused by pollutants from rapid industrialization. To combat this, China passed several laws, including the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution Law, the Law on the Prevention and Control of Air Pollution, the Law on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Wastes, the Marine Environment Protection Law, the Forestry Law, the Grassland Law, the Fisheries Law, the Mineral Resources Law, the Land Administration Law, the Water Resources Law, the Law on the Protection of Wild Animals, the Law on Water and Soil Conservation, and the Agriculture Law. The Environmental Protection Law of 2015 is the foundational law that controls environmental protection in China.

It is based on the concept of coordinated development of economic development, social improvement, and environmental protection. The Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) was established and quickly rose to prominence as a vital department of the State Council. In terms of adjudication, 'there are now over such courts throughout China. The central government supported this endeavour by establishing an environmental tribunal within China's top court, the Supreme People's Court. Yet, the environmental courts were adaptable, allowing for economic growth initiatives. As a result, their role in executing environmental protection measures is being called into doubt. Even while officials are equipped to issue fines on a daily basis, the legislation falls short of imposing liability based on the accountability that an official must demonstrate. This raises concerns regarding the effectiveness of implementation. China passed the 2017 Environmental Protection Tax Law, which imposes a financial burden for pollution emissions, as part of its ongoing efforts to combat emissions and create a deterrent impact. There were 2023 environmental violation cases with criminal charges in 2016. In 2018, China detained 15,095 persons for environmental offenses. In 2018, authorities also prosecuted 42,195 persons for a variety of environmental offenses. Yet, as previously stated, cases resulting in sanctions following court processes remained inaccessible and unclear.<sup>12</sup>

## **Bangladesh**

Bangladesh is an environmentally sensitive country with widespread and widespread environmental crime. Unfortunately, the country's environmental crime prevention apparatus is quite weak, and traditional policing is used to combat these crimes. As a result, the green criminological approach to preventing environmental crimes in Bangladesh is immature in many areas, with no green policing model in place. Environmental crime kinds and trends in Bangladesh range from "soft" to "hard" characteristics. Soft environmental crime, such as citizen behaviour that harms the environment, is a widespread occurrence. Throwing garbage at random rather of placing it in the trash can, as well as contaminating tourist areas with plastics, bottles, and other items, is a common occurrence in Bangladesh. Although these activities appear to be "gentle," they have long-term consequences. Legal compliance with these techniques is not "tough." Vehicle and industrial emissions, untreated dumping, river grabbing, encroaching, waste dumping and sand filling, illegal hill cutting, illegal installation of brick kilns, illegal exploitation of forest wood, illegal wildlife hunting, cruelty against wildlife, wildlife smuggling, and pollution from ship-breaking yards are examples of "hard" environmental crimes.<sup>13</sup>

The responsibility to protect the environment is the constitutional obligation in Bangladesh as Article 18A of the constitution illustrates that "the state shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to preserve and safeguard the natural resources, biodiversity, wetlands, forest and wildlife for the present and future generation". Several parts of the Bangladeshi constitution, such as Articles 18, 23, 23A, 24, 25, 27, 31, 32, 42, and 145A, are either directly or indirectly related to environmental protection. For example, Article 18(1) is concerned with improving nutrition and public health. Article 32 states that "no one should be deprived of life or personal liberty except in accordance with law," which is inextricably linked to environmental safety. The High Court Division enlarged on the significance by declaring that "the enjoyment of pollution-free water and air, improvement of public health by creating and sustaining conditions conducive to good health, and ensuring a quality of life consistent with human dignity" are all relevant.

## **Nepal**

Nepal is an example of an IWT enforcement-based method. Nepal is well-known for its jointly managed community forests, but it also has effective enforcement-based responses to IWT of charismatic species. Nearly 7,000 military soldiers are watching protected regions, automatic cameras are monitoring wildlife, and the Central Investigative Bureau and Wildlife Crime Control Bureaus are conducting a wave of operations. Between 2009 and 2014, the number of wildlife seizures climbed tenfold, while the number of IWT arrests increased eightfold.

Nepalese law similarly imposes harsh prison sentences and fines for those convicted of IWT offenses, and punishments for participating in illegal international commerce have recently been strengthened. In some occasions, extra-legal violence has been used in the name of conservation. These methods are believed to have improved conservation outcomes, resulting in a "zero poaching year" in Chitwan National Park. These initiatives show Nepal's commitment to criminal justice remedies to wildlife crime, but continuous incidents of domestic and international IWT show that they are ineffective. While punishment is a crucial component of the entire strategy, conservation also relies on preventing offenses in the first place. Situational crime prevention approaches, which try to make it more difficult for potential motivated offenders to commit crimes in the first place, have been investigated within the context of IWT Prevention, on the other hand, is dependent on limiting the number of prospective motivated offenders through the deterrent effect of criminal justice consequences. According to deterrence theory, the effectiveness of criminalization and enforcement as a deterrent is determined by the severity, celerity (swiftness), and certainty of punishment outweighing the motives for participating in crime.<sup>14</sup>

## **Comparative Critical Analysis**

Due to the growing environmental difficulties that countries around the world are facing, Green Criminology, a relatively new topic, has recently attracted more attention. India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, and other nations in South Asia are not immune to the negative effects of environmental degradation and related criminal activity. With an emphasis on India and its neighbours, this comparative critical research seeks to uncover the complexities of South Asian environmental criminality. Each nation in South Asia faces distinct environmental problems that operate as breeding grounds for a variety of criminal activities. Environmental crimes that are frequently committed in the area include the illegal trade in wildlife, extensive deforestation, water pollution, land invasion, and air pollution. While there are some similarities among these crimes, each country's unique cultural, economic, and political characteristics also have an impact on them. The legal frameworks can be compared to find similarities and differences. Although environmental protection legislation has been passed in the majority of South Asian nations, how effectively they are applied varies greatly. While Bangladesh and Nepal struggle to properly administer and enforce environmental regulations, India, for example, has made steps to strengthen its legal system. The effectiveness of the legal systems in combating environmental criminality can be influenced by political will, institutional capability, and corruption.

## **Recommendations**

Improved enforcement co-operation and political will is required to curb the growing threats posed by environmental crime. Parties, relevant government ministries, specialist organisations and enforcement agencies have a key role to play in addressing environmental crime across its range and should implement the following as a matter of urgency:

- Strengthen Environmental Laws: Enact thorough and effective environmental laws that categorise and clearly define green crimes and impose severe penalties on offenders. Make sure that these rules are consistently and successfully enforced throughout all of South Asia.
- Recognise that, unlike some other forms of crime, Environmental Crime is a time critical issue that urgently requires a substantial, committed and sustained global response.
- Acknowledge that environmental crime is a haven for corruption at all levels and that unless corrupt officials are tackled, efforts to combat environmental crime will be impeded. This fact should be acknowledged within cross-cutting resolutions on environmental crime and within the Convention against Corruption.
- Develop administrative reform to combat corruption, particularly through the introduction of technology to remove direct human contact involved in areas such as trade in natural resources. Commit to assisting those nations where the prevalence of crime is highest, and the resources are most lacking.
- Support Inter-Governmental Organisations such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Interpol and the World Customs Organisation (WCO) to develop projects to create and build the capacity of national and regional enforcement agencies, and provide technical assistance to units dedicated to investigating environmental crime.
- Increase synergy between mechanisms such as the Convention on Transnational Crime and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Flora (CITES), in addition to the need recognized at the CITES 15th Conference of Parties for closer international liaison between the Convention's institutions, national enforcement agencies, and existing intergovernmental bodies.
- Promote the use of current national criminal laws, proceeds of crime, and asset seizure legislation, in addition to "environmental specific" legislation, against environmental criminals.
- Create new international, national, and regional environmental crime enforcement teams, as well as border liaison offices, to share intelligence in order to build investigations and operations targeting criminal networks. Encourage necessary people to participate in the CITES Enforcement Experts Group in order to demonstrate adequate investment and political commitment to combating wildlife crime.
- Increase Law Enforcement Capacity: Make investments in law enforcement organisations' education and tools so they can efficiently look into and punish environmental offences. To only concentrate on these problems, specialised units for environmental enforcement can be developed.
- Increase Public Awareness and Education: Run public relations efforts and educational initiatives to emphasise the value of environmental preservation and the repercussions of green crimes. Inform local people about eco-friendly practises and good environmental management.
- Boost Law Enforcement Capacity: Invest in the training and equipment of law enforcement agencies so they can effectively investigate and prosecute environmental offences. Specialised units for environmental enforcement can be created to specifically focus on these issues.
- Increase Public Awareness and Education: Conduct educational campaigns and public relations campaigns to highlight the importance of environmental protection and the consequences of green crimes. Inform the community on environmentally friendly practises and effective environmental management.
- Strengthen environmental governance: Ensure accountability and openness in decision-making procedures pertaining to environmental policy and natural resource management.
- Reward Whistleblowers: Create systems to safeguard and commend people who disclose environmental crimes. Encourage people to come forward with knowledge regarding nefarious environmental activity.

#### **4. Conclusion**

It is clear that the enormous harm done to our planet has been caused by human avarice and shortsightedness as we stand at the nexus of environmental destruction and optimistic recovery. Our insatiable appetites have had a negative impact on the very system that supports us, which has resulted in permanent damage to the environment and its inhabitants. But there's still hope. We are on a path to

recovery and atonement, and it starts with realising that the crimes against the environment are also crimes against mankind. This paradigm shift necessitates a coordinated effort from society, law enforcement, and decision-makers to safeguard the delicate balance of nature. We must use the strength of both legal and sociological viewpoints to close the gap between environmental crimes and humanity's welfare. We can break down the obstacles that now minimise the seriousness of environmental offences by comprehending their complexities and tendencies. We may encourage a more comprehensive approach to conservation by addressing the various settings and ingrained biases that impact our sense of environmental risk. Adopting sustainability involves changing our own ideas and objectives, not merely putting rules and regulations in place. We must resist the allure of quick rewards and fight to create a future that supports all life on this planet. This necessitates reframing success in terms of preserving nature's wealth for future generations rather than only focusing on economic expansion. As we take each step towards environmental recovery, let us remember that we are not separate from nature; we are an integral part of it. Our well-being is intricately intertwined with the health of our environment. Only when we cherish and protect the delicate tapestry of life can we progress as a species. Let's set out on this transformative journey with humility, compassion, and a strong sense of duty. A new era of environmental consciousness will emerge as we nurture the seeds of change, but it may take some time. Together, we can usher in a more promising and sustainable future where coexistence with environment serves as the norm and where we leave a legacy of care and concern for all living things. In the end, we are merely stewards of this earth, and it is our responsibility to leave behind a place where life is abundant, where people live in peace with their surroundings, and where the corrosive forces of avarice have been replaced by the nourishing influence of love for the Earth.

### References:

1. Government of India. "Environment Protection Act, 1986." <https://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Environment-Protection-Act-1986.pdf>
2. Ghosh, Shibani Kinkar. "Illegal Trade in Wildlife: A Study of Indian Law and Enforcement." *Asian Journal of Criminology*, vol. 13, no. 1, 2018, pp. 69-86.
3. Malik, Mohit. "Environmental Pollution and Criminal Liability in India." *The International Journal of Comparative Environmental Law and Policy*, vol. 3, 2018, pp. 70-96.
4. Illegal wildlife trade in India, available at [https://www.wwf.org/about\\_wwf/enablers/traffic/illegal\\_wildlife\\_trade\\_in\\_india/#:~:text=Trade%20in%20over%201800%20species,Fauna%20and%20Flora%20since%201976](https://www.wwf.org/about_wwf/enablers/traffic/illegal_wildlife_trade_in_india/#:~:text=Trade%20in%20over%201800%20species,Fauna%20and%20Flora%20since%201976) (last visited on March 05, 2023).
5. Crimes against environmental law available at file:///C:/Users/devid/Downloads/SSRN-id3866168%20(1).pdf retrieved on 12th march 4:53 pm.
6. Environment Protection Act (1986, India), sec 15.
7. National Green Tribunal Act, (No. 19 of 2010, India)
8. Constitution of India (1950)
9. Writ Petition (Civil) No. 375/2012, National Green Tribunal (Principal Bench).
10. 'Environmental Protection in China', Permanent Mission Of The People's Republic Of China To The United Nations Office At Geneva And Other International Organizations In Switzerland (Web page).
11. Environmental crimes in Bangladesh Available at file:///C:/Users/devid/Downloads/EnvironmentalCrimes%20(1).pdf Available at <https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/csp2.13>.
12. Nepal Law Commission. "Nepal Environment Protection Act, 1997." <https://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/archives/8676>
13. Government of Bangladesh. "Bangladesh Environmental Conservation Act, 1995." [https://doe.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/doe.portal.gov.bd/laws/8a5d1735\\_29eb\\_4de0\\_a9a6\\_866f8b3d782a/Bangladesh%20Environmental%20Conservation%20Act%201995%20%281%29.pdf](https://doe.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/doe.portal.gov.bd/laws/8a5d1735_29eb_4de0_a9a6_866f8b3d782a/Bangladesh%20Environmental%20Conservation%20Act%201995%20%281%29.pdf)

### Index Of Abbreviations

IWT: Illegal wildlife Trade

UOI: Union of India

NGT: National Green Tribunal

CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Interpol

WCO: World Customs Organisation

CFCs: Chlorofluorocarbons

ODS: Ozone Depleting Substance