WILDLIFE CONSERVATION THROUGH CULTURE AND HISTORY

- Tradition of non-violence

- Animals revered in Indian culture
  - Elephants- Lord Ganesha
  - Lion/Tiger- associated with Goddess Durga
  - Snake- associated with Lord Shiva

- Conservation values inscribed in Ashoka pillar edicts

- Gandhian policy of “Ahimsa”

- Bishnoi Community
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION –PRESENT POSITION

- **Legislations**
  - Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972
  - Biological Diversity Act, 2002
  - Indian Forest Act, 1927
  - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
  - Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
  - Foreign Trade Regulation Act, 1992

- **Policies and Plans**
  - National Environment Policy-2006
  - National Biodiversity Action Plan
  - National Forestry Action Plan
  - EXIM Policy
Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972

- Provides for creation of Protected Areas
- Prohibits all forms of hunting (including Game hunting)
- Six Schedules- according high status of protection
- Provides for constitution of highest advisory Board- National Board for Wildlife under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister
- Provisions for stringent punishments
National Biodiversity Action Plan

- Based on principles that human beings are at centre of sustainable development concerns
- Envisages planned manner for implementing provisions of Convention on Biodiversity
- Strengthening and integration of *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation of natural resource base and its sustainable utilization
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION – PRESENT POSITION (Contd...)

  - Ecological Security and *in situ* Conservation
  - Peoples’ Support for Wildlife
  - Effective Management of Protected Areas
  - Conservation of Wild and Endangered Species and Their Habitat
  - Control of poaching, Taxidermy and Illegal Trade in Wild Animals and Plant Species
  - Conservation Awareness and Education
  - Domestic Legislation and International Conventions
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION – PRESENT POSITION (Contd...)

- 4.83% of geographical area of the country under wildlife management
- 100 National Parks, 514 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 44 Conservation Reserve Reserve, 4 Community Reserves
- 39 Tiger Reserves
- 28 Elephant Reserves
India is signatory to all major international conventions relating to management of wildlife:

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Convention of International Trade on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild flora and fauna (CITES)
- Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild animals (CMS)
- International Whaling Commission (IWC)
- Ramsar Convention.

Our role in all these conventions generally revolves around the principles of precautionary approach with regard to consumptive use of bio-resources.

We also believe in leveraging support of the countries of our region for coordinated action on global issues relating to conservation of wild animal and its habitats.
HUNTING AND POACHING

- Major impediment in wildlife Conservation

- Animals poached include:
  - Tiger- skin, bones, etc
  - Leopard- Skin, bones, etc
  - Elephant- Ivory
  - Rhino- Horn
  - Musk deer- Musk
  - Bear- Bile
  - Snakes/Lizards- skin
  - Turtle- meat
  - Pangolin- meat
STATUS AND TREND OF BUSHMEAT HARVEST

- Bush meat harvesting is illegal in India.
- Occasional cases of illegal hunting cannot be ruled out.
- No categorical survey has been carried out so far.
- Studies conducted so far indicate hunting of:
  - Galliformes
  - Porcupine
  - Wild Boar
  - Amphibians and Reptiles
  - Deer
  - Hares
  - Turtles
  - Pangolins
SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF BUSHMEAT

- In India meat of domesticated animals preferred over hunting of wild animals

- Large scale hunting for food subsistence uncommon in India though certain pockets indulge in such hunting

- Rare cases of socio economic dependence on meat of wild animals

- Indigenous tribes of Andaman & Nicobar Islands exercise legal hunting rights under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972
So far no distinct studies conducted to ascertain the impact of use of bush meat on the species.

Poaching/hunting more for illegal trade in parts and products than for consumption of meat.
KEY NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

2011:-
- Hosted Elephant-8 Ministerial meeting for promoting Elephant conservation and as a prelude to hosting the E-50:50 in 2013
- Hosting the Park Manager’s Congress in October 2011
- Hosting of First Dugong South Asia Workshop under auspices of UNEP/CMS
- Red listing process in India underway as per IUCN guidelines

2012:-
- Hosting CBD-COP-11 in October 2012
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR ADDRESSING UNSUSTAINABLE HARVESTING OF BUSHMEAT

- Due to strong legislation and strict enforcement, bush meat harvesting at minimum

- Legal measures to curb illegal hunting:
  - Effective implementation of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972
  - Effective enforcement for crime detection
  - Stringent punishments for contravention of the provisions of the Act.
  - Judicial intervention- Special Courts for speedy trial of wildlife offences
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR ADDRESSING UNSUSTAINABLE HARVESTING OF BUSHMEAT

- GOVERNANCE:
  - Better management of wildlife habitats
  - Increase in frontline staff
  - Capacity building and training of staff
  - Expansion of wildlife habitats
  - Creation of viable wildlife corridors
  - Effective implementation of scientifically prepared management plans for wildlife habitats
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR ADDRESSING UNSUSTAINABLE HARVESTING OF BUSHMEAT

☐ GOVERNANCE:

- People’s participation in conservation
- Better eco-development activities
- Mitigation of man-animal conflicts
- Village relocation with consent
- Better publicity and awareness among the people
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR ADDRESSING UNSUSTAINABLE HARVESTING OF BUSHMEAT

- Enforcement:
  - Intelligence gathering and networking
  - Wildlife crime detection
  - Better enforcement machinery for control of wildlife offences
  - Creation of activity specific Rapid Action Forces- for control of poaching, man-animal conflict, fire control, etc.