

New Inclusive Paradigm of Conservation: International and National Perspective

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Abstract

The etymology and practice of conservation anchored based on exclusionary principles originated in the West and its off sets were spread across the globe. Conversion of primary ecosystems especially forest into production landscape of commercial importance and exclusion of local community or the ecosystem people was the prime activity. All the conservation legislations and polices of most of the nation states were arose based on this Western exclusionary jurisprudence. The advancement of ecological science, questions of diversity and sustainability and examples of conservation in action had brought out empirical information proving inevitable role of indigenous and local communities in conservation. The need of preservation of natural or primary ecosystems came into legality and practice with the end of 20th century, but the definition, methodology and legality to delineate conservation areas were based on the old exclusionary paradigm. Most of the protected areas (PAs) across the globe came through this pattern and India was not different. The paper narrates the paradigm shift in the international regime to inclusive conservation areas and practises with the onset of 21st century based on inclusive jurisprudence of indigenous origin. The climate change impact necessitated such a shift into practices and all the international forums has incorporated this. The IUCN has redefined PAs based on the new paradigm and which has not reflected in recent proposed amendments in India, instead is reverting back to centaury old exclusionary and production-based conservation. A critical overview is provided here.