

# LIFE ON LAND

By Sanchi Bansal

'A good man is a friend of all living creatures '. The world is a habitat to a large number of diverse species that are connected directly or indirectly, and The presence of animals is essential because it maintains the balance in the ecosystem. Sustainable Development Goal 15 "Life on land" follows this, it's one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations in 2015, which works to "Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss" The Goal has 12 targets to be achieved by 2030, and the progress is measured by 14 indicators.

In today's world, some animals also serve as companions and help reduce our stress, anxiety, depression, and loneliness. Every organism has a unique place in the food chain, and each contributes to maintaining the existence of life on this planet. The man had learned early that with their more complex and advanced mind, they are superior to any other animal on the Earth. But humans don't give animals what they deserve and their rights are violated. With the proliferating population and the development of different ways to entertain the people being set up, zoos are one of these modes of entertainment where animals are the entertainers! Can you imagine if someone put you behind bars even though you are faultless? If you are left solus? If you are separated from your family? If people make fun of you? What If you are not able to do things freely? You are overlooked all the time? That's what guiltless fauna undergo. Is it important to have zoos if we want to experience the biodiversity of our planet? No, if you want to spend a holiday, you have to enter their zone, not they enter your cities. So let these pitiful creatures set free and respect them, so instead, we should visit national parks and sanctuaries set up by Government. That's what the SDG 15 Life on Land looks forward to. The Life on Land SDG works on protecting natural habitats, eliminating poaching, conserving animal species, and combat trafficking.

**Around 30 million animals are killed every day by poaching besides the 3 billion animals killed for food. They are harmed by several ways adapted by ‘humans the developed animals’ which are a target to be banned under the SDG 15. Some of them are-First of all they neglect animals which means the animal's caretaker or owner fails to provide food, water, shelter, or veterinary care sufficient for survival, Second Shooting is the practice of seeking, pursuing, and capturing or killing wildlife, Third Mutilation the practice cutting or removing a part of any animal for using it for our benefits, and Then hurting or abusing animals for humans fun and entertainment. There are many ways animals are harmed even though unintentionally because even if you throw just one plastic polythene on the road or in the water bodies an animal might eat it or its chemicals diffuse in the water or land. Such habits and actions lead to the extinction and endangerment of animals like Indian cheetah, tigers, Asian elephants, and many more.**

**Imagine if there would be no animals around you how would you live as they are an integral part of your life. They serve you as transport, they help you to make your work easier, they maintain the ecological balance, and they also provide us with several products like milk from cows, honey from bees, and silk from silkworms. So in return can't we just provide them freedom and their rights? Can't we follow and think like great personalities like baba amte, Menaka Gandhi Sreedhar Vijayakrishnan, and many such activists? So let's make SDG 15 and all other SDG a success and save our fauna to save ourselves.**