Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Examine the ecological benefits and implementation challenges of reintroducing historically extinct wildlife species into their former habitats.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 01/11/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Ecological restoration; predator-prey relationships; biodiversity; habitat suitability; human-wildlife conflict; scientific monitoring

Model Answer

Introduction

Wildlife reintroduction involves returning a species to an area where it previously occurred but has disappeared. It can contribute to ecological restoration when supported by scientific evidence and suitable habitats.

Potential Ecological Benefits

1. Restoration of Food Webs

Reintroducing native predators can help restore ecological interactions and, under appropriate conditions, influence prey populations and ecosystem dynamics.

2. Biodiversity Conservation

Reintroduction can support the recovery of threatened species, strengthen ecosystem resilience and improve conservation awareness.

Implementation Challenges

- **Habitat suitability:** Adequate prey, shelter, connectivity and territory are essential for long-term survival.
- **Human-wildlife conflict:** Livestock losses and public safety concerns can generate opposition.
- **Legal and ethical issues:** Projects must comply with wildlife laws, licensing requirements and animal-welfare safeguards.
- **Scientific uncertainty:** Ecological impacts, disease transmission and effects on existing species require assessment.

Way Forward

Authorities should conduct baseline ecological studies, consult local communities, establish conflict-mitigation mechanisms and use phased releases with long-term monitoring. Independent scientific evaluation should guide continuation or modification of projects.

Conclusion

Wildlife reintroduction can restore ecological functions, but it should not proceed solely on conservation ambition. Evidence-based planning, legal compliance and community participation are essential for sustainable outcomes.

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