

Editorial Note:

ANIMALS AND ETHICS: HOW MUCH DO WE CARE?

In nature, every species has some contributory effort to ensure. The tiger or the honey bees at the Sunderbans mangrove forest have their own task in ecosystem. The former keeps the spotted deer, wild boars, and even monkey population to a balance. Hunting the weak animals as food, tiger preventing the disease outbreak of the preyed population. The honey bees keep the forest plants live through pollinations, that they can produce seedling and helping the largest swamp survive. In addition, honey bees producing excellent natural products like honey and wax.

The term 'ecosystem', coined by the British ecologist Sir Arthur G. Tansley in 1935. After few decades, by early 60's, ecologist E. P. Odum and J. M. Teal quantified energy fluxes in various ecosystems. The job of a predator and prey or the pollinator in the forest were exemplified. As a zoologist we oversee the ecosystem under the means of nature's eye. The 'food chain' denotes the interdependency of plants and animals in environment. It shows how matter and energy transferred from plant to animals and animals to animals through food. While the 'food web' shows the complex interlocking relationships of network of food chains in a community. In nature, pollination and seedlings are vital. Thus prevention of over exploitation of the plant species needs to be ensured.

In this century, the problem of human intervention in ecosystem is known to all. High biodiversity designates good ecosystem health and resilience to disturbances. Environmental changes can be monitored by indicator animal for ecosystem health. Anthropogenic pressure by exploitation, habitat destruction and pollution are contributing from the so called cultural and economic arrays. Animals those are crucial for human food, clothing, and other resource-economy are over exploited in name of farming or science. Many animals are abused as of spiritual and cultural values in societies. Zoologist should respect each and every species that contributes to the biodiversity of an ecosystem. Often taken for granted, one should respect to the grand tapestry of nature, that every animal, whether big or small, plays a vital role. The pet or companion animals, domestic or farm animals, surrounded or wild animals and research animals need to be ecologically valued. Innovative

perspectives for least use of animals from nature, alternative methods for laboratory animal use and ethical animal research need to be considered.

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©2023 Zoological Society of Bangladesh DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3329/bjz.v51i2.0765>