

INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND ANIMAL WELFARE: PARTICIPATION OF BANGLADESH

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ABSTRACT: *Animals are significantly important for our mother earth because the existence of many species depend on the continued survival of others and it is predominant to ensure the conservation and sustainable management of animal resources. This research work tries to kindle on the existing international initiatives covering animal welfare, nevertheless a comprehensive and universal global treaty may not be proved effective in all aspects of international initiatives will be proved useful in case of migratory animals, endangered species and trading of animals whose range extends beyond national boundaries. This research work analyses the current situation and achievements to date of the major international instrument in addressing the threats posed wild animal, marine animals, domestic animals and migratory species. This article also tries to explain the challenges which these instruments face and parallelly addresses the participation of Bangladesh in these international treaties. This research work also outlines the potential scope for further development and seeks to demonstrate that the national animal management system should be flourished in the light of international standard.*

KEYWORDS: Animal Rights, Animal Welfare, International Instrument, Bangladesh

INTRODUCTION

Earth is one of the most unique planets of the universe because it is excellently adorned with various species of living beings. Non-human animal is an indispensable component of the natural resource and this resource should not be depleted by over-exploitation. It is our obligation to ensure more desirable aura for them by adopting global, regional and national initiatives. Animal welfare as opposed to animal right means rationale and ethical treatment of animals including wild animal, domestic animal, migratory and endangered species and so on, whereas the concept of animal right recognises certain rights for animal like human beings. Both the concept of animal right and animal welfare has its development in international arena but there is no comprehensive international instrument addressing animal welfare.

Animal cruelty is a matter of both global and national concern. There is increasing recognition of the dangers wildlife and forest crime pose not only to the environment but to the rule of law and stability, and of the potential for the criminal proceeds to fuel conflict and terrorism (UNODC 2016). Capturing wildlife, illegal trade of wildlife, cruelty to domestic and companion animals, ill-treatment of research animal in laboratory threatens their survival.

Over 1 million animals are killed and abused in one whole year due to fighting of dog and cruel abuse of cats, horses and other house and farm held pet, each year 10,000 bull dogs die in bullfighting, 13% of animal abuse involves domestic violence, and 70% of animal abusers also have records of other crimes and about 3 to 4 million cats and dogs (young, healthy and

adoptable) are euthanized every year in shelters (Statistics on Animal Cruelty, 2005). Thousands of elephants being used for entertainment across Asia are kept in cruel, abusive conditions fueled by the growing tourism industry, World Animal Protection has found and at least 77% of the captive elephants surveyed in the report are chained day and night when not being used for entertainment purposes and experienced very little social interaction with other elephants ("The Guardian" 2017).

According to a report of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) published in 2016 disclosed that between 1980 and 2000, Singapore imported over 50,000 pangolin skins, mostly from Malaysia, and exported over 150,000 skins, mainly to Japan and the United States of America. Asian countries were the source of the bulk of all the pangolin products seized, although Uganda and other African countries accounted for 20% of all seizures and this report also discloses that in 2013, some 325,000 CITES listed parrots were legally exported, of which over a third were reportedly wild sourced (UNODC 2016).

This survey of UNODC also shows that the value of illegal wildlife products can be substantially increased by legal value-added for example a US\$10 illegally harvested snake skin can be transformed into a US\$10,000 designer handbag sold in a boutique. It is evident from the data that wild life trade and animal cruelty is very common throughout the world. That's why there is a massive number of global treaties addressing animal rights and animal welfare. There has been a growing tendency towards adopting a series of international environmental convention regarding fauna and flora. Some States have developed their legal arena by introducing new provisions regarding animal rights and animal welfare.

METHODOLOGY

This study is the combination of methods for interpreting the relevant international instruments addressing animal welfare and implementation of international principles in Bangladesh. In this research the analytical method is given priorities. Some information are collected from primary sources such as international treaties, national laws and policies. Some of the information was extracted from secondary sources such as books, journals, magazines, newspapers, websites etc. Some other recent information regarding legislative enactments, rules, regulations, policies and action plans are extracted from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock and Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs of Bangladesh.

Animal Resources in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is a homeland of thousands of varieties of animals. "Statistics show that about 2.9% of national GDP is covered by the livestock sector, and its annual rate of growth is 5.5%. Livestock population in Bangladesh is currently estimated to comprise 25.7 million cattle, 0.83 million buffaloes, 14.8 million goats, 1.9 million sheep, 118.7 million chicken and 34.1 million ducks. The density of livestock population per acre of cultivable land is 7.37. On average, each household owns 1.52 bovine animals, 0.9 goat and sheep and 6.8 chicken and ducks" (Islam, 2015, Livestock).

"In Bangladesh the total cattle population is about 23.4 million. Included among the cattle population are about 3.53 million milking cows, 2.61 million dry cows (cows without milk), 2.13 million draught cattle, and 4.20 million improved cattle" (Islam, 2014, Cattle). As of

2017 about 300 billion taka has been invested in the poultry industry and there is an estimated 150,000 poultry farms in Bangladesh (Poultry farming in Bangladesh, n.d.).

‘Bangladesh is rich in biodiversity. The country has about 113 species of mammals, over 630 species of birds, 125 species of reptiles and 22 species of amphibians. It has 260 freshwater species and 475 marine species. As far available information, other faunal species include 327 mollusks and 66 corals. Status of insect species is not available but it is reported to be highly diverse’ (Note: 1). Amongst other the Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest is the main source of wild life. ‘The Sundarbans is the lone world natural heritage site of Bangladesh. Within the forest habitats, there are 50 species of mammals, 320 species of inland and migratory birds, about 50 species of reptiles, 8 species of amphibians and about 400 species of fish’ (Islam, 2015, World Heritage Sites).

According to the survey undertaken by the government's Forest Department and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) there are a total of 138 different species of wildlife mammals in Bangladesh, 11 of which are now recorded as extinct. Among the existing mammals, 17 species are categorised as Critically Endangered, 12 are endangered and 9 are Vulnerable (Siddique, 2016).

From the statistics maintained by Bangladesh Forest Department it is disclosed that, in 2018 about 8,247 animals were seized by the airport authority before the departure of the wildlife to other countries. Usually jaguar, lion, zebra, monkey, crocodile, peacock, tortoise and different types of birds have been accounted for illegal trade in Bangladesh. Bangladesh is treated as a transit state and wild animals are exported to many countries throughout the world, mainly to India, Thailand, Malaysia, China and Singapore.

Animal Welfare and International Instruments

There is surfeit amount of international instruments addressing animal welfare and animal rights. Most of them deal with endangered species, some of them deal with wildlife protection and migratory birds, a few of them deals with fish but none of them deals with domestic or companion animal issues. Again these documents and conventions have some deficiencies in framing and implementation mechanisms. The upcoming points are going to depict the basic principles of major international conventions covering animal rights and welfare issues.

The Whaling Convention, 1946

This convention is officially known as the International Convention of the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW), including the Protocol to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, signed at Washington under Date of December 2, 1946.

Whales are important for ensuring balanced ecosystem by maintaining stable food chain. The prime aim of the convention is to regulate overhunting of whale. After analysing this convention it is evident that commercial whaling is banned but allows whales to be killed for scientific purposes. Because of some liberal provisions of this convention some States legalise whaling by enacting national legislations and concluding agreements between parties. Right now it is important to refer the dispute between Australia and Japan. The International Court of Justice concluded that the whaling program and activities conducted by Japan on the basis of scientific purpose in the Antarctic violated international law.

“The Court discusses the power of the State issuing a special permit and considers that Article VIII gives discretion to a State party to the ICRW to reject the request for a special permit or to specify the conditions under which a permit will be granted, but that the question whether the killing, taking and treating of whales pursuant to a requested special permit is for purposes of scientific research cannot depend simply on that State’s perception.....The Court then sets out the standard of review it will apply when examining the grant of a special permit authorizing the killing, taking and treating of whales on the basis of Article VIII, paragraph 1, of the Convention: it will assess, first, whether the programme under which these activities occur involves scientific research, and secondly, whether, in the use of lethal methods, the programme’s design and implementation are reasonable in relation to achieving its stated objectives” (AUSTRALIA V. JAPAN: NEW ZEALAND INTERVENING, 2014).

Obviously there are some drawback in the convention but it is the substantial international instrument dealing with whaling. Bangladesh has not signed this convention and whaling is not common in this country.

International Convention for the Protection of Birds, 1950

It is a multilateral treaty adopted under the auspices of IUCN. Basic objective of the convention is to protect birds in the wild state. The provisions of this convention are applicable not only in case of migratory bird but also to other birds including those useful to agriculture. It prohibits the import, export, transport, sale, offer for sale, purchase, giving or possession of any live or dead bird or any part of a bird killed or captured in contravention of the provisions of this Convention, during the season in which the species concerned is protected. But certain exceptions are included in the article 6 and 7 which permit purchasing or selling of killed birds. This provision vandalizes the significance of the convention. Although it is intended to be a multilateral treaty but it fails to get global acceptance. Bangladesh is not a party to this convention.

Antarctic Treaty (1959)

This treaty has been agreed upon among the parties (12 state party) for using the certain area of Antarctica for peaceful purposes. The following 4 conventions are within the ambit of Antarctic Treaty System.

1. **The Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora 1964 (no. of parties: 21)** particularly deals with protection and conservation of native fauna and flora. It allows rational use of those living resources.
2. **The Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals 1972 (no. of parties: 17)** ensures that ‘Antarctic seals are an important living resource in the marine environment’.

It addresses provisions against over-exploitation of Antarctic seals and give more emphasis on ‘the vulnerability of Antarctic seals to commercial exploitation’. It allows scientific research on Antarctic seals.

3. **Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) (no. of parties: 24)**

The Convention was signed in Canberra on 20 May in 1980 and entered into force in 1982. Krill, fin fish and other marine living resources are within the ambit of the convention.

4. The Convention on the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resource Activities 1988

The convention was signed by 19 states, but none of them have ratified it. Therefore, the convention has not entered into force and has been replaced by the Madrid Protocol, 1998 formally known as Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty. As of May 2013, the protocol has been ratified by 34 parties. It provides for comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems.

These conventions are specially covers the area, living and non-living resources of Antarctica. Majority of the States have not been ratified these agreements. It is worth mentioning here that agreements covering Antarctica is risky because it is the most sensitive part of our mother earth. None of these conventions have been ratified by Bangladesh.

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat 1971

This convention is popularly known as Ramsar Convention. The convention acknowledges the ecological significance of wetlands and their flora and fauna. **Article 4, 5 and 6** obligates the contracting parties to encourage research, the exchange of data and publications of information and to co-ordinate and support present and future policies. It also enacts provisions to make general or specific recommendations regarding the conservation, management and wise use of wetlands and their flora and fauna.

The convention contains some provisions for conservation of fauna and flora but needs to specifically address dispute settlement mechanisms and implementation procedure.

Ramsar 4th Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 was adopted by the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties at Punta del Este, Uruguay, 1-9 June 2015, through Resolution XII.2. Goal 1 of the plan contains provision addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation and Target 1 determines inclusion of beneficial features of wetlands in national strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries at the national and local level. Goal 3 ensures wisely using of all wetlands and Target 13 puts more emphasis on enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries, agriculture and ecotourism practices when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods. This Strategic Plan contains certain goal and target for fisheries and fishing but it omits to deal with specific provisions regarding fauna and flora.

Bangladesh has accepted the convention on 21/05/1992. There are two Ramsar Sites (Tangiar Haor, The Sundarbans Reserved Forest) in Bangladesh.

The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage 1972 (World Heritage Convention 1972)

The convention basically addresses conservation of cultural and natural heritage under the auspices of UNESCO. Bangladesh has signed the convention on 03/08/1983 and accessed the convention on 03/11/1983.

In spite of declaration of world heritage the habitants of Sundarbans have been decreasing day by day. The main attraction of Sundarbans is Royal Bengal Tiger. “Bangladesh has only a little more than 100 Royal Bengal tigers living in the Sundarbans forest, far fewer than previously thought, new figures show. Forestry officials conducted a survey, using hidden cameras, counted 106 tigers on the Bangladeshi side of the world's largest mangrove swamp, and about 74 on the Indian side. The figures mark a sharp decline from the 440 animals recorded 10 years ago” (Dasgupta, 2015).

Besides the spectacular Royal Bengal Tiger, the other notable mammalian faunas are spotted deer, Barking deer, Rhesus macaque, Jungle cat, Leopard cat, Indian porcupine, Otter, wild boar and crocodile (Peoples of Sundarban, 2013). The fishing cats, leopard cat listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.

Declaration of any sites as world natural heritage is a matter of great honour, pride and prestige for a country. But the convention basically puts more emphasis on the inscription of any site in the list. The reality is that maintenance of those sites incur a heavy cost which is very burdensome for less developed countries like Bangladesh.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora 1973 (CITES)

This convention is also known as Washington Convention. The preamble states that ‘international co-operation is essential for the protection of certain species of wild fauna and flora against over-exploitation through international trade’. The convention addresses sufficient provisions against over-exploitation of any endangered species but the convention is not sufficient to tackle illegal trans-boundary trafficking. Under the convention primary obligations rest with the state party. The convention needs to insert specific provisions regarding sustainable development. It should contain specific provisions regarding precautionary approach, preventive measures or for compensation and for enforcement. Although it contains sufficient measures for international trade but lacks to deal with domestic trade. It also lacks effective implementation mechanism. There are some obligations under the convention which is burdensome on many States. CITES regulates the trade in more than 35,000 species; however, there remain millions more that are endangered but not covered by the Convention and also there are species protected under specific national legislation that are not restricted in international trade (UNODC, 2016).

Bangladesh has ratified the convention on 18th February, 1982 but still lacks to implement all the provisions of the convention hence illegal exports of wildlife and wildlife products are thus a significant source of foreign currency revenue in Bangladesh.

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals 1979

This convention particularly deals ‘with those species of wild animals that migrate across or outside national jurisdictional boundaries’. Mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and one insect are

listed on the Convention's two Appendices, including many whales and dolphins, bats, gorillas, antelopes, albatrosses, raptors, water birds, sharks, sturgeons, marine turtles and the Monarch Butterfly are within the scope of the convention (Note: 2).

National report 2002 discloses that about twenty families of water birds are within the scope of the convention. "At present, 50 species of migratory water birds are threatened in the Asia-Pacific Region. Other migratory species or groups of species include Gangetic Dolphin, Dugong, Whales, Gharial, Estuarine crocodile, and five species of marine turtles of which Olive Ridley occur in Bangladesh. The major threats linked to the conservation of water birds or migratory water birds are habitat loss, habitat degradation, and introduction of exotic species, harvesting of resident and migratory water birds, effects of climate change. The main species targeted every year for hunting are ducks such as Garganey, Gadwall, Fulvous Whistling Duck, Coot and Swamphehen" (CMS, National Report, 2018).

The Strategic Plan Working Group has prepared a draft Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023. The Plan is based on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and covers all migratory species as defined by the Convention (CMS, Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2014).

It is necessary to prepare a latest country report on all the migratory species who are important for Bangladesh either as a transit state or as country of destination. On 2005 Bangladesh has become a party to the convention but achieve less success in attaining substantial international standard.

International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (popularly known as MARPOL 73/78)

This convention is dealt with prevention of pollution from ships basically by oil. It does not directly address adequate safeguard for marine fauna and flora but contains certain provisions relating to harmful substance (Article 6, 8, 11, annex I, II, III) which ensure certain safeguard against exploitation of living resources and marine life.

Due to certain reasons Bangladesh fails to follow the convention obligation. Bangladesh contributes around six thousand tons of oil to the four hundred thousand tons of annual oil pollution in the Bay of Bengal (Rahman, 2004). The Chittagong Port Magistracy detected about 700 offending vessels over a three-year period and fined them but could not completely stop the dumping of pollutants (Karim, 2009). The Sundarbans is very important for the marine living resources but repeated oil spills from foreign and local ships which call in to the Mongla Port are creating a severe threat to the world's largest tidal halophytic mangrove forest, the Sundarbans.

Though Bangladesh is a party to this convention (accessed on 19th February 2003) but there is no satisfactory achievement in this regard.

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea obligates States to conserve living marine resources and valuable species. There are plethora of provisions which ensure a better environment for the protection and conservation of marine living resources including fauna and flora and prohibits exploration and exploitation of the natural resources. Articles 51-68 address guidelines for the conservation and utilization of the living resources, different types of highly migratory species, marine mammals, anadromous stocks, catadromous species, and

sedentary species. Articles 116-120 deal with provisions regarding conservation and management of the living resources of the high seas. Articles 192-203 contain provisions covering protection and preservation of the marine environment. Monitoring and environmental assessment comes within the scope of articles 204-206. Articles 207-233 deal with international rules and national legislation to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment, enforcement and safeguards mechanisms. Articles 238-265 ensure guidance for marine scientific research and scientific research installations or equipment in the marine environment. Articles 267- 278 address provisions for the development and transfer of marine technology.

This Convention is much broader in scope. But there are some provisions which permits the States to explore and exploit natural resources within their national jurisdiction (Article 56), permits utilization of the living resources (Article 62). Marine Scientific Research may also cause a great harm to the environment of living organism. The system of dispute settlement mechanism is not in itself free from defection. Most of the States are not satisfactorily maintain the duties imposed upon for the protection of marine environment and it is necessary to develop a proper treaty monitoring body.

Bangladesh ratified the UNCLOS in 2001. In the National Programme of Action (NPA) 1999 under the Global Programme of Action (GPA) of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) ensures certain provisions against pollution. According to the survey conducted by the 'World Casualty Statistics' 2011, by IHS Fair play Bangladesh is one of the largest ships recycling countries in the world. Obviously ships recycling is a great source of marine pollution and causes a great loss to marine living resources.

The Convention on Bio-diversity 1992

One of the basic objectives of this convention is to protect living organism and natural species for maintaining balanced biodiversity. Article 8 ensures the 'protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings, rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems and promote the recovery of threatened species, *inter alia*, through the development and implementation of plans or other management strategies'.

Article 9 obligates State parties 'to adopt measures for the recovery and rehabilitation of threatened species and for their reintroduction into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions, regulate and manage collection of biological resources from natural habitats for *ex-situ* conservation purposes so as not to threaten ecosystems and *in-situ* populations of species, except where special temporary *ex-situ* measures are required under subparagraph (c) above'. Article 22 inserts provisions for protecting marine environment. Annex I addresses provisions regarding endemic or threatened species, or wilderness, species and communities which are: threatened: wild relatives of domesticated or cultivated species.

Bangladesh has ratified this convention on 3rd May 1994. There are several laws, rules, policies and action plan in national management system for the proper management and conservation of biodiversity. Still there is a lot of things to be done such as to ensure compliance mechanism, implementation procedures etc.

Animal Welfare and National Legal Framework

This point will disclose the legislative attempts, success and achievements of Bangladesh. As the supreme law of Bangladesh, the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (1972) under article 18A obliges the State to protect and improve the environment and to preserve and safeguard the natural resources, bio-diversity, wetlands, forests and wild life for the present and future citizens. It is one of the fundamental principles of State policy.

Major legislative attempt includes the Cruelty to Animals Act, 1920; The Environment Conservation Act (ECA) of 1995 (amended 2010), followed by the Environment Conservation Rules (ECR) of 1997; The Environment Courts Act, 2010; the Wildlife (Conservation and Safety) Act, 2012 and Bangladesh Biodiversity Act, 2017.

Other attempts include the Forest Act, 1927; Pond Development Act, 1939; Fisheries Protection Act, 1950; Fisheries Conservation Act, 1950; Animals Slaughter (Restriction) and Meat Control Act, 1957; Marine Fisheries Ordinance 1983; Fisheries and Fisheries Products (Inspection and Quality Control) Rules 1983 II; Shrimp Culture Tax Act, 1992; Shrimp Culture Tax Rules, 1993; Water Resource Act, 2000; Bangladesh Animal and Animal Products Contraction Act, 2005; Animal Disease Act, 2005; Animal Disease Rules, 2008; Fisheries Food and Animal Feed Act, 2010; Fisheries Food Rules, 2011; Animal Feed Rules, 2013; Fisheries Hatchery Act, 2010; Fisheries Hatchery Rules, 2011; Animal Slaughter & Meat Quality Control Act, 2011; Deer and Elephant Rearing Regulation 2017; Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute Act, 2017 (draft).

Major national policies include National Environment Policy, 1992; National Forestry Policy 1994; Bangladesh Forestry Sector Master Plan 1995; National Fisheries Policy 1998; National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (NBSAP), 2004; National Livestock Policy 2007; National Poultry Development Policy, 2008; Bangladesh Spotted Deer Rearing Policy-2009; National Bio-safety Framework, 2010; The Shrimp Plot Lease, Renewal, Management and Development Policy, 2013; National Shrimp Policy, 2014, National Forest Policy, 2016.

Recent initiatives include Bangladesh Biodiversity Regulation, 2012; Ecologically Critical Area Regulation, 2016; Bangladesh Vulture Conservation Action Plan 2016-2025.

There are a lot of enacted laws, rules, regulations and policies dealing with wildlife, marine resources, fishes, and livestock and so on. But majority of these rules are very ambiguous, particularly in the areas of animal welfare. There are some rules and policies which have not come into force in reality. Administrative implementation mechanisms of existing laws are not visible. The people of our country are not conscience about animal rights and animal welfare that's why violation of animal friendly laws are common but legal initiatives in this regard and judicial controls is rare.

Cruel activities towards animal seem to be a significant and common incidents in Bangladesh. But prosecution against these cruelties is uncommon. In 2015 three people were arrested under the Cruelty to Animals Act, 1920 for abusing a dog in the street of Dhaka and this was the first time in the country's history that anyone has ever been arrested for abusing an animal a major leap for animal rights. A total of three cases were filed in connection of animal cruelty till January 2018 (Islam and Rahman, 2018). Our neighbouring country India steps ahead in several landmark decisions NA Nair vs. India (2000), People for Ethical

Treatments of Animals vs. India (2006) and Gauri Mulekhi vs. India (2014) which have facilitated protection of the animals against torture, cruelty and maltreatment (Mahdi, 2016).

RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to ensure animal welfare sometimes it is recommended to adopt a uniform international treaty covering all aspects of animal rights and animal welfare. Universal Declaration of Animal Rights is an attempt to this end but it also prove ineffective because it is a soft law and not binding upon the parties. Keeping in view the deficiencies in existing international instruments and current initiatives regarding animal welfare the following exhortation may be taken into consideration.

- **International Initiatives:** A uniform international treaty is necessary where there is a question of animal health standards, international trade and transboundary crime relating to animals. Again it is necessary to adopt an international treaty regarding domestic animal and livestock.

There is a massive increase of adaptation of international instrument addressing wildlife but harmonization of international standard among different countries is still lacking. There are some regional arrangement (e.g. European Convention for the Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes, 1976, European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals, 1987,) relating to farm animals, companion animals and aquarium but there is no such global initiatives in this regard.

- **Regional Initiatives:** Regional attempt can be proved effective because there are some transboundary crimes which have been committed within the borders of neighbouring countries. Regional cooperation like Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, Migratory Bird Treaty with Canada, Signed by Great Britain 1916, Migratory Bird and Game Mammal Treaty with Mexico 1936, Environmental Protection Treaty with the Russian Federation 1973, Polar Bear Treaty 1974, Agreement for the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Sea (ASCOBANS) 1991 may be proved effective. But south Asian region fails to take this types of initiatives. It is necessary for this region to take this types of measures under the auspicious of SAARC. Even though there is a cooperation agreement between the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) on 2005 but its application is not visible. On 2008, SAARC nations join to fight against illegal wildlife trade. But in reality this arrangement did not prove fruitful. On June 2017 the Regional Support Unit of FAO, in collaboration with SAARC has organized a four-day regional training on 'Safe Trade in Live Animal and Animal Products' but it is necessary to take effective steps relating to wildlife, migratory species, and transboundary crimes and so on.
- **Organizational Initiatives:** Distinguished International Organisation can take effective measures. The World Organization for Animal Health is the prime world Organisation is dealing with animal health. World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Cooperation with CITES published a report on 2005 regarding international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora. WTO also take some initiatives in animal welfare through trade rules by imposing environmental policies and sometimes by

settling disputes. Such as WTO upheld a European Union ban on imports of seal products, rejecting an appeal by Canada and Norway, in a landmark ruling that said animal welfare can trump trade (“The Straits Times” 2014). But there is also some lacking in WTO’s policies. In particular, animal welfare is classified as a non-product related process and production method (PPM) - WTO rules do not generally allow for distinctions to be made between products on this basis (Farm Animal Welfare and the WTO, 2000). Organizational arrangement is to be systematically developed for ensuring animal welfare.

- **National Initiatives:** Integration of international principles at the national level is also important. Rational international and regional rules must usually be implemented by the adoption of specific domestic rules. There are some treaties which impose excessive obligation on state parties. Many countries do not have the capacity to adapt international standard due to institutional and financial constraints. It is worth mentioning that least developed countries may not fully implement international conventions due to financial or economic crisis. It is also true in case of Bangladesh because our country also lacks sufficient technical and legal expertise and also suffering from budgetary allocation.

CONCLUSION

The interdependence of living resources, relationship between them and with other natural resources, within ecosystems of which they are part is pivotal for ecological balance. But now a day different species of wildlife, marine resource and livestock are now under the threat of extinction. There are millions of species for which international trade is not regulated, and certain cases reviewed for this report suggest that these species can be legally traded internationally, even when harvested or exported contrary to national law (UNODC 2016).

It is true that there is a significant attempt in framing animal friendly treaties but most of the international conventions lack effective compliance mechanisms and they are not comprehensively enforceable. Essentially, international law cannot accomplish more than what the world’s diverse and changeable national administrations, and ultimately the societies they represent, want it to—or are capable of realistically implementing (Trouwborst et al. 2017). Enforcement of all international treaties including international animal friendly instrument in national arena basically depend on accession to treaties, national legislative arrangement, political participation, intention of policy makers, financial condition and economic integration.

This research work give more emphasis on the implementation of international standard but the reality is that a universal international treaty addressing animal welfare may be proved ineffective because there are thousands of laws, rules, religious cultures, customs, rites and rituals which vary from country to country and the greater number of people would not allow change which may be a threat to their religious believe. That’s why apart from global, regional and national arrangement moral and ethical treatment and compassion to the animals can be proved significant. An inconsiderable initiative from individual level may open notable door of possibilities for the future endeavour.

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