

Difference Between Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserves and National Park

Preservation of biodiversity is a must for the continued functioning of the planet as a whole. Any imbalance on account of human activity will lead to the extinction of species that are necessary for human survival. Thus, wildlife sanctuaries, biosphere reserves and national parks are designated places for protecting wild plants, animals and natural habitats.

A wildlife sanctuary is an area of nature owned by the government or a private agency for the protection of particular species of flora or fauna during a part of the year or in its entirety.

A national park is a reserved area of land owned by the government which is protected from industrialization, human exploitation and pollution.

A biosphere reserve is a term given to an area for the conservation of the resources of the biosphere and for the improvement of the relationship between man and the environment.

ANALYZE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, BIOSPHERE RESERVES AND NATIONAL PARKS

WILDLIFE SANCTUARY	BIOSPHERE RESERVE	NATIONAL PARK
Less Restrictions	Moderate Restrictions	Heavy Restrictions
Category IV type of Protected Area	MAB Programme by UNESCO	Category II of Protected Area
Preserves animals, insects, birds etc	Protects the Biodiversity of a Designated Area	Flora, fauna, landscape, historical objects

This article will further highlight the difference between the three within the context of the IAS Exam

The differences between a wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve and a national park are given in the table below:

Differences between Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserves and National Parks		
Wildlife Sanctuary	Biosphere Reserves	National Parks
It is a natural habitat, owned by the government or private agency, that safeguards a particular species of birds and animals	A reserved area of land established by the government to protect the environment as a whole	Notified areas which cover a larger area of land which may cover multiple National Parks, Sanctuaries and reserves as well.

Animals, birds, insects, reptiles, etc	Meant to preserve the biodiversity of a specified area	Flora, fauna, landscape, historical objects etc
Restrictions are less and open to visitations by the general public	<p>A typical biosphere reserve is divided into the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core (no human activity is there), • Buffer (limited human activity is permitted), • Manipulation zone (several human activities can occur in this zone). 	Highly restricted, random access to the general public is not allowed
Not required	Subject to the particular area of the biosphere reserve	Permission is required
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has defined it as a Category IV type of protected areas	It is internationally recognized within the framework of UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme and nominated by national governments.	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and its World Commission on Protected Areas, has defined it as a Category II type of protected areas