

# The Snow Leopard in Prospective of Climate Change

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## Abstract

Since last few years we have been observing the natural calamities here and there in the world and it took lot of lives from us with unrecoverable damage to Nature and property. We also come across drastic change in Natural cycle, we watch news on television which focuses on why Natural calamity took place, its reasons, effects and solution on it. Common man begins to think over this issue, writer an emotional person who looks into matter in deep cannot keep himself away from whatever happening around him. Many writers have written novels, poem, drama etc. on this issue. They made it international burning issue and compel govt. to do some reform in this regard to save Nature. Peter Matthiessen provides us new outlook towards the Nature and all Natural elements living or non-living which can bring change in human attitude to look after Nature.

**Aim of research Paper** - The aim of this research is to make realize human being how climate change affect wild life and how wild life is important to save this world destruction.

**Method** - Critical analyses method will be use in research paper.

**Importance** – A smooth running of Natural Cycle is pre requirement of our existence on the Earth. Hence this issue is top most valuable for us and we must pay proper attention over it. If man realizes his mistake and his place in Cycle of the Nature, he can come on forefront to save this world. A literary work can definitely play major role in this regard as Matthiessen does in his writing.

## Introduction

Peter Matthiessen wrote on wild Nature, vanishing culture and human society with deep passion as he was deeply come under influence of Zen Buddhism. He was born in New York city, from childhood he attracted towards animals and Nature and this attraction paved his way as wildlife and naturalist author. He was also a passionate traveler, he joined navy in second world war and later on travelled in many countries across the world. In 1959 he published his first edition of 'Wildlife in America'. His belief in Buddhism and passion of traveling brought him in India and he gifted us The Snow Leopard in 1973, a masterpiece on Himalaya mountains. Peter Matthiessen and his friend George Schaller came to Himalaya in search of a snow leopard in 1973. They hauntedly wandered Himalaya in hope to see a snow leopard, a large, majestic cat with fur the color of smoke. This leopard belongs to the genus Panthera, inhabit some of the highest mountain ranges in the world. While searching this cat Matthiessen depicted the beauty of Himalaya, though he talks about a leopard in particular but in general he is worry about all vanishing animals across the Globe. In 20th century we observed rapid change in overall population of snow leopard and it was rare incident to see this cat in open forest. It is passionate journey of author which creates thrill in us like a detective story.

From childhood Matthiessen attracted toward the Nature and wild life and later on he became Buddhist Monk which deepen his attraction for it. Buddhist philosophical stand toward Nature and all living beings brought complete change in his outlook. His attraction about Nature and wild life change into compassion. Compassion moves man toward right action in any regard which is in welfare of human being. Gautam Buddha said, "every living being has equal important in this universe and we must love every living being" The Buddha is worshiped across the world for his compassion for all living beings. Matthiessen was too much worry about vanishing wild animals, he wanted to save them because without them this chain of Nature is incomplete and may destroy all living non-living things. Matthiessen writes, "the Snow Leopard is also an austere Buddhist memoire in which the snow leopard is alluring and mysterious as enlightenment itself". A

snow leopard was a beauty of Asia, in absence of this wild cat Asian forest is incomplete, it loses its charm. Matthiessen knows by heart that nobody saw it in last 25 years. His friend Schaller took the first recorded photos of leopard in Pakistan in 1970. Schaller says, “there are thousands and thousands of square miles that no one has ever checked. Nobody knows if the population has increased or decreased. To this day, doing census is extraordinary difficult”.

In winter the surrounding of Himalaya is too much cold, its temperature is below zero degree, and wandering there in this period is big challenging task. Rodney Jackson, a biologist travelled to western Nepal in 1982 and he found only four leopards within five years. He tracked them with radio signal, though it was very difficult task he did it because of passion and dedication. After four decades Schaller says, “To this day, doing a decent census is extraordinarily difficult, there are thousands and thousands of square miles that no one has ever checked the population of this wild cat. Nobody knows if the population has increased or decreased.” Maccarthy only found one leopard in 2008. It shows how rare this cat was and why Matthiessen madly went in search of it. Hekkala, an associate professor of biology remarks that we lost variation of snow leopards, we have very few snow leopards across India so we must keep them for next generation. Matthiessen loves Nature with an insight into being living being and non-living thing, as Gautam Buddha said, hate only produce hate in return but we get love in return of love. A modern man becomes too much greedy and selfish to achieve material progress that cruelly killed uncountable living beings, he destroyed many mountains, rivers, trees, historical places and forests etc. Can any true Buddhist tolerate this damage which is going on before us.

In 1916 Matthiessen’s son went out in Himalaya in search of snow leopard with his friend Schaller. In this journey he retraced the route described the Snow Leopard. He tried to find out the leopard as his father caught in photographs and he gets surprise after visiting how ice mountain were melting, forests were rapidly vanishing and wild life taking last breath

In this situation. John Farrington remarks, the wildlife researcher conservationist who had studied snow leopards since 2000, Climate change is already bringing about “the drying up of surfaces -water sources, and the transformation of moist alpine meadows into less productive steppe-type ecosystem.” Matthiessen’s son Alex also visited the places described in the Snow Leopard and his finding is different from his father. He noticed many glaciers seemed diminished since those pictures had been taken, there are fewer snowy peaks, and less snow on the ones that do have cover.” First Matthiessen then many other and at last his own son too attracted by Snow leopard along with the forest and sea. Story telling is simple, but writing on wild life and vanishing natural elements from the Earth is too much difficult. By writing on wild life not only animals but natural elements were taken into account by the people and organized to look after it seriously. UNO unanimously passed a resolution on destroying this valuable wild life. After undergoing very bad effects of climate change all nations passed prevention of wild life Act to protect animal and forest from it. But yet developed as well as undeveloped countries are not serious to implement this law and situation becomes more harmful than the time of Matthiessen.

## Conclusion

From the beginning of present age, we have been experiencing attack of climate change in several forms and felt helpless before Nature. Uncountable people, animals and trees were passed away from this world before our eyesight. When we will become serious about whatever going on around us? Do we not like to save the Earth which is a beautiful than any other planets. Only law will not help us to recover from it. Social awareness is necessary to awake common people and artists can do it for all living and non- living things. Peter Matthiessen get success in making us serious because he poured feelings in his writing. If we like to become serious about climate change and its bad effects on the Earth, we must read Mr. Matthiessen. He has Buddha’s compassion for all living being.

## References

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