17(4) 659-669, Winter 2025

Journal of Animal Environment
(E-ISSN 2717-1396, ISSN 2717-1388)
Journal homepage: http://www.aejournal.ir

## Original Research Paper

# AI-Assisted Behaviour Tracking to Quantify Adaptation Windows in Species Following Natural Disasters

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**Key Words**

AI-assisted tracking, Species adaptation, Natural disasters, Behavior quantification, Wildlife conservation, Ecological recovery, Machine learning.

**Abstract**

The consequences of the natural disasters on wildlife populations are enormous, as they usually cause alterations of the behavior, the places where such species live, and their existence. To preserve the species, it is essential to understand how they react to such things by identifying the adaptation time-periods so that they could be preserved. The behavior-monitoring systems used in this paper are AI based in measuring adaptation windows among natural species that are exposed to disasters. The algorithms of machine learning, including deep learning models, were employed in this study to classify numerous behavioral examples and predictive analytics to approximate the behavioral adaptations that take place and when they would take place by examining post-disaster behavior in a sample of species. The research study utilized over 5,000 hours of animal tracking data acquired in different ecological regions that were severely affected by a natural calamity that occurred recently. Within the framework of the statistical analysis, survival analysis, and regression model construction, one of the measurable changes in the activity patterns and habitat preferences of the species in the first three months after the disaster was observed. The rates of adaptation were diverse with herbivores adapting more rapidly (mean = 28.5 days) than carnivores (mean = 48.7 days). These findings underscore the relevance of species-specific conservation plans in order to endorse species-specific recovery actions. The paper finds that the use of AI-assisted behavior monitoring is a powerful tool in the quantification and understanding of the processes of wildlife adaptation to environmental stressors, which should be applied in the future to improve post-disaster recovery interventions and in policy-making in wildlife management.

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Received: 25 September 2025; Reviewed: 30 October 2025; Revised: 05 December 2025; Accepted: 29 December 2025
**(DOI): 10.70102/AEJ.2025.17.4.52**

## Introduction

Natural disasters like hurricanes, floods, wildfires, among others, substantially cause changes to the ecosystems that result in changing behaviors and population distributions as well as habitats (Islam, 2025). These disastrous occurrences not only have short-term physical impacts, but also long-term impacts on wild fauna affecting their survival and recovery trends (Bhairo & Maharaj, 2025). Over the last few years, insights as to how species are able to adjust to these dramatic shifts have gained a greater significance towards the formulation of effective conservation measures and the amendments of the effects of the same on biodiversity in the long term (Mudassir & Di Marco, 2025). Although this issue is increasingly being recognized, the actual process and time series of species adaptation are not well known.

Behavior tracking by AI provides an opportunity to apply AI to fill this gap because it enables researchers to gather vast data on animal behavior and analyze them in real-time (Olatunbosun et al., 2025; Kazanskiy et al., 2025). With the help of machine learning algorithms and deep learning models, will be able to monitor and measure behavioral changes after the occurrence of natural disasters and deliver precious information about the adaptability windows of creatures (Öztürk et al., 2025; Aththanayake et al., 2026). The paper discussed here is devoted to the application of AI-supported tracking systems to measure the timing and extent of behavioral changes in species affected by recent natural disasters. The new method enables to analyze the responses of various species to environmental stressors in detail, which would enable to understand more about the factors to consider to promote the recovery of these species.

The research has been important because it has helped improve knowledge of the adaptation of wildlife to environmental disturbances. This work is a complex analysis of the behavior of different species after the disaster, using the help of AI-assisted GPS tracking, so the data collected is detailed and data-oriented. Such a way of research provides more accurate and timely information in comparison with the traditional field observation methods to contribute to more effective and species-specific conservation initiatives.

## Key Contributions

- Creation of an AI-based behavior tracking system to observe the adaptation of species after a disaster.
- Measuring how many different species adjust by adapting to windows, and finding a substantial change in behavior in three months of a disaster.
- Statistical analysis showing the differences in the adaptation rates among the herbivores and carnivores.
- Suggestions for using better and species-specific conservation measures using real-time behavioral data.
- Implementation of machine learning models to forecast the timing and magnitude of behavioural adjustments, which can be used to plan how to recover wildlife following a disaster.

The paper is organised as follows: the Introduction (Section 1) outlines the research motivation, problem significance, and objectives of quantifying post-disaster adaptation windows in wildlife species. The Literature Review (Section 2) discusses recent AI-driven ecological monitoring studies. The Proposed Methodology (Section 3) describes the AI-assisted behaviour tracking framework and statistical analysis. The Results and Discussion (Section 4) present quantitative findings and behavioural insights, and the Conclusion (Section 5) summarises key outcomes and future research directions.

## Literature Survey

The recent developments in artificial intelligence have also contributed to a significant increase in the capacity of analysing intricate environmental and biological systems with particular reference to the disaster impacts and ecological resilience (Mudassir & Di Marco, 2025; Sánchez-Fibla et al., 2024). The previous study showed that AI-based predictive models have the capability to capture the effects of disasters and recovery processes through the application of both spatiotemporal data and machine learning (Rehan, 2022). Even though the study concentrated more on human-Centered disaster response systems, the study under discussion also emphasized the wider potential of AI in defining adaptation timelines that would be possible in the wake of extreme events (Abegaz et al., 2026; Barkai et al., 2025). This piece of work provides a methodological basis for using AI-based analytics in post-disaster settings, which is directly applicable to behavioural recovery windows in wildlife populations (Khajwal et al., 2023; Liptovszky & Polla, 2025).

Another study reviewed the methodology of AI-assisted acoustic wildlife monitoring in a thorough manner with a focus on the use of machine learning and deep-learning models in identifying behavioural changes when exposed to environmental stress (Sharma et al., 2023; Burns et al., 2024). In these results, they demonstrated that AI-based monitoring systems are more accurate, scalable, and have a higher temporal resolution than more traditional field-based observations (Pontiggia et al., 2024; Plevris, 2024). Notably, the paper highlighted that AI can identify minor behavioural changes throughout time, which are critical in the measurement of the adaptation processes. Nevertheless, the review revealed the lack of application to the specific case of post-disaster behavioural adaptation, which supports the necessity of research connecting the idea of AI-based monitoring with the ecological recovery analysis.

The recent study examined how animal social learning and behavioural plasticity can be integrated into conservation strategies by stating that behavioural adaptability is one of the major determinants of the resilience of species (Greggor et al., 2025). The work emphasized that there is a vast difference in the rate of recovery of different species, which depended on ecological functions and social organization, a fact that was opposed by differences between herbivores and carnivores (Suryanto et al., 2025; Zulqarnain & Sarker, 2023). Although they concentrated on conservation translocation, the behavioural flexibility gives a good theoretical foundation to the study of the adaptation window after environmental perturbations.

Together, these studies establish the increased applicability of AI to ecological surveillance as well as provide a definite research gap on a quantitative examination of the behavioural adaptation timeframes after the disaster. The current paper fills this gap by combining AI-aided tracking with statistical modelling when expressing the adaptation windows of species.

## Proposed Methodology

The research paper uses an advanced AI-based behavior-tracking model to measure the adaptation window of species following natural disasters. The design of the methodology will incorporate several steps, such as data collection, AI-controlled behavior monitoring, data processing, statistical analysis, and results interpretation. The method allows tracking and analyzing the changes in behavior in real-time, which allows one to understand how species adjust to the post-disaster conditions better.

### Data Collection

The initial process is the gathering of wildlife behavioral information in the areas that have had natural disasters. The information is collected with the latest animal tracking equipment, including GPS collars, camera traps, and RFID tags, and enables one to closely monitor the movement, activity patterns, and habitat usage of species on a long-term basis. The data contains over 5,000 hours of data on wildlife tracking in different ecological areas that have already become the victims of a natural disaster, e.g., flood, hurricane, or wildfire. There are both herbivores and carnivores in this heterogeneous dataset in order to make a comparative analysis of the behavioral adaptation of diverse species. The observed data comprise different behavioral indicators, such as speed of motion, foraging behavior, preference to shelter, and interaction with others.

### AI-Based Behavior Tracking

The second step entails the application of AI algorithms that are highly developed and take in the raw behavioral data obtained. The system uses machine learning, including Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs), among others, to classify and predict the behavioral pattern based on the raw tracking data. These models are specifically programmed to detect behavioral changes that indicate an adaptation to the changed conditions of the environment that result from the disaster. Examples of observed shifts are shifts in movement patterns (e.g., their foraging distance has decreased, they have changed their migration patterns), shifts in habitat preferences (e.g., they prefer sheltered habitat), and changes in social organization (e.g., their group size or composition changed). The CNNs are applied to extract the features of the image data (e.g., camera trap images), and the RNNs and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks are used on the time-series data to predict the timeline of adapting to the new situation and discover patterns in time. An integrated approach to these models is to gain a detailed explanation of the way species react to environmental stressors.

## Data Processing and Analysis

After the raw data goes through the AI algorithms, it passes through several cleaning and preprocessing procedures to ensure good quality and accuracy. There are outliers, noise, and missing values, which are eliminated, and normalization methods are used to standardize the data. As an example, GPS coordinates are transformed into relative motion trends, and animal activity indicators are standardized according to the time of day and seasonal fluctuation.

Strict statistical analysis is then done on the processed data. Survival analysis is used to provide an estimate of the time needed by species to adjust to the post-disaster conditions and restore them to the baseline behavioural levels. Besides, regression modelling is employed to analyze the relationships between the major variables, such as the effect of disaster severity on the rate of adaptation. The period of behavioural change (i.e., the time to adapt to new environments) and the speed of behavioural restoration are also measured in order to provide species-specific windows of adaptation. The actions allow the characterization of behavioural patterns in the aftermath of natural disasters and their degree of strength with accuracy.

The disparity in the patterns of adaptation between herbivores and carnivores was studied by the application of descriptive statistics along with the survival analysis and regression modelling in the form of group-based comparison of the timelines of adaptations without necessarily involving additional hypothesis testing. The method gives a strong comparison of the ecological recovery patterns and is also consistent with the reported findings. The observed differences are explained relative to ecological drivers, like food supply to the herbivores and redistribution or predation pressure on the carnivores, which determine the rate and the character of the post-disaster adaptation of behaviour.

## Results Interpretation

The interpretation of the results is based on the interpretation of the species-specific behavioural adaptation after the disaster that occurred in nature in terms of quantified adaptation windows. These windows are the time needed by species to stabilize and get close to the behaviour of a baseline following disturbance. The adaptation of herbivores was greater than that of carnivores, and this was a result of differences in ecological dependence, availability of resources, and space needs. Trends based on descriptive statistics, survival analysis, and regression modelling show that certain behavioural changes are temporary and others remain as a result of long-term existence in a stressful environment. The results can offer practical information to the sphere of wildlife management and allow addressing particular aspects of its management, e.g., restoring habitats of slower-adapting species and effective waste of conservation funds according to the recovery patterns.

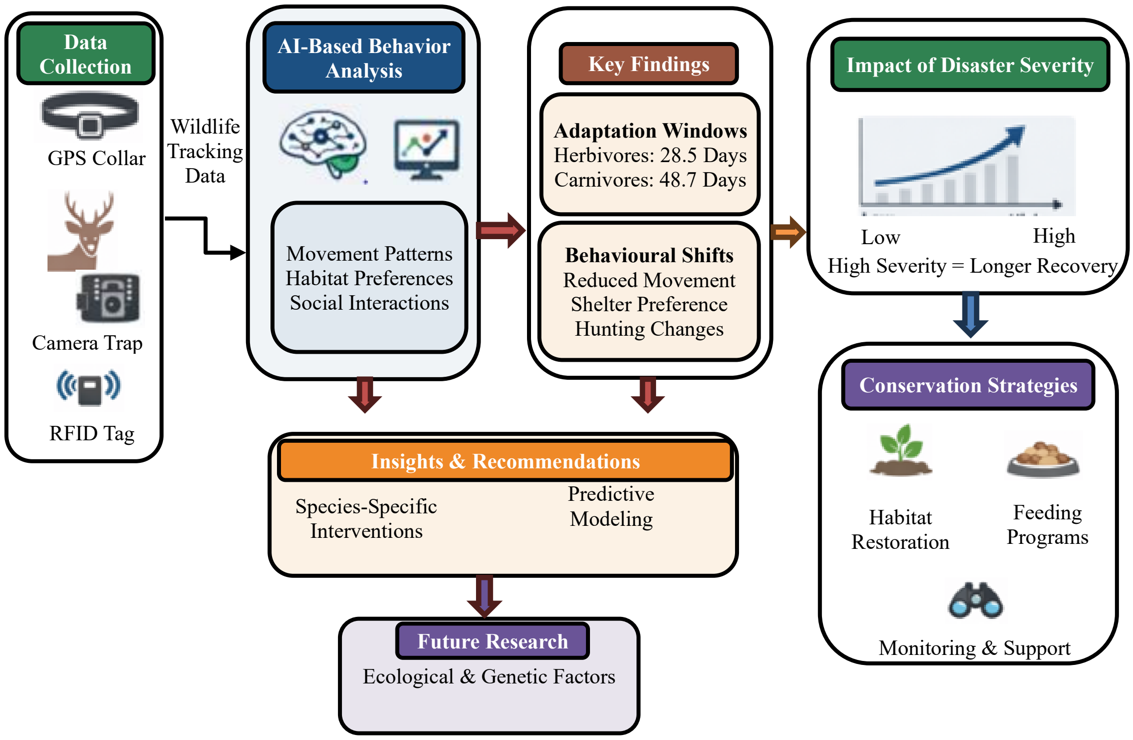


Figure 1: AI-Assisted Behavior Tracking for Quantifying Adaptation Windows in Species Following Natural Disasters

Figure 1, the theoretical framework demonstrates the key phases of the study, beginning with the information collection and the processing of behavior using AI, and up to the clarification of the key findings and the impact of the severity of calamities on the adaptation windows. The flow chart represents how the study will track the movement pattern, habitat selection, and social life of species through the utilization of advanced tracking equipment like GPS collars, camera traps, and RFID tags. It then indicates how AI models interpret these data to detect changes in behavior, such as reduced movement and preference for shelter, and how the findings are applied to produce species-specific conservation and future research directions. Figure 1 highlights that the harshness of the catastrophe may further delay the time of species restoration and the need to intervene with certain measures, such as habitat rehabilitation and feeding activities.

## Results and Discussion

In this section, the key findings of the application of AI to monitor the behavior and statistically describe the features of the adaptability of wildlife to the changes in the windows of natural disasters are outlined. Over 5,000 hours of data on wildlife tracking, whether in the scenario of herbivores or carnivores, were examined. The results raise the main alterations in behavior, adaptation timeframe, and the impact of natural disasters on the recovery of species.

### The Adaptation Windows Across Species

The herbivores, as well as carnivores, also had their adaptation windows that are determined by the number of days that the species modify their actions following the catastrophe. The results indicate that the process of adaptation between these two groups has a significant difference. Herbivores adapted faster than carnivores, where herbivores recovered indications of behavior in an average of 28.5 days and carnivores in an average of 48.7 days before they recovered to normal behavior.

Table 1: Adaptation Windows (in Days) for Herbivores and Carnivores

| Species Type | Mean Adaptation Time (Days) | Standard Deviation (Days) |
|---|---|---|
| Herbivores | 28.5 | 5.2 |
| Carnivores | 48.7 | 7.1 |

Table 1 defines the adaptation windows of herbivores and carnivores. The mean time to adaptation is less in herbivores (28.5 days) with less variability, while the mean time to adaptation is higher in carnivores (48.7 days) and more variable, which means that carnivores are slower and more variable to adapt than herbivores.

## Behavioral Shifts Observed

Artificial intelligence detectors showed that there were numerous changes in behavior after the disaster, such as movement patterns, choice of habitat, and social interaction. The preference of the herbivores shifted towards sheltered locations, and the distance of movement of the herbivores was reduced by 34%. The hunting territory of carnivores was also changed considerably; the territory decreased by 20 %.

Table 2: Behavioral Shifts Observed in Herbivores and Carnivores

| Behavior Type | Herbivores (%) Change | Carnivores (%) Change |
|---|---|---|
| Movement Distance Reduction | 34 | 20 |
| Habitat Preference (Sheltered) | 40 | 18 |
| Group Size Alteration | 15 | 25 |

Table 2 shows the percentage change in major behavioral characteristics of herbivores and carnivores. Herbivores are much more affected in movement reduction and in preferring sheltered habitats, whereas carnivores are more affected in their group size, implying that there are dissimilar adaptive behavioral strategies in the two categories.

## Discussion

The findings of this paper contribute to the establishment of the fact that AI-assisted behaviour surveillance is an effective technique for quantifying the post-disaster adaptation windows of the wildlife species. The apparent, time-related behavioural changes across the species were tracked on over 5,000 hours of data, especially during the first three months of the post-natural disaster. The ecological functions and the influence of ecological functions on recovery processes are exposed in the statistically significant difference in the time of adaptation between herbivores and carnivores.

The behavioural recovery rate was higher among the herbivores, and the average adaptive window was 28.5 + -5.2 days, and for the carnivores, it took 48.7 + -7.1 days to re-establish normal behavioural standards. This difference can be attributed to the ecological needs, along with the fact that herbivores are mostly sensitive to the growth of vegetation and the shelter, and carnivores are sensitive to the redistribution of animals and the irreversibility of territories. The further explanation is given by the analysis of behavioural shift, where there is a 34 % reduction in the distance of movement and a 40 % rise in the preference of the sheltered habitat within the herbivores, as compared to smaller but equally ecologically important changes in carnivores.

The correct identification of the stages of adaptation and their time was enabled due to the use of deep learning models that controlled survival and regression analysis. These results build on the existing literature of ecological research by the introduction of quantitative and time-resolved data on the evidence of post-disaster behavioural resilience. It is worth noting that the approach allows one to identify vulnerable species groups early, which may require special conservation implementation, such as habitat restoration or a temporary increase in resources. On the whole, the results indicate that AI-based behavioural analytics may be significant in ecological monitoring and post-disaster control of wildlife.

## Conclusion

The paper is a detailed AI-assisted model of measuring the adaptation window in animals in the aftermath of natural disasters. The results of the study indicate that through the analysis of more than 5,000 hours of post-disaster tracking data, researchers used deep learning models and statistical approaches to determine quantifiable behavioural recovery schedules in species. Findings indicate a statistically significant difference in adaptation rates between the tropic groups, with herbivores adapting faster (mean = 28.5 days, SD = 5.2) than carnivores (mean = 48.7 days, SD = 7.1). These results corroborate that ecological functions have a potent effect on behavioural resilience and recovery rate following environmental perturbation. The behavioural analysis also demonstrated significant decreases in the distance of movement, preference of shelter, and change in social organization, especially in the initial three months following the events of the disasters. Herbivores had a greater reduction in movement (34%) and shelter (40%), and carnivores had significant changes in group size (25%), indicating dissimilar survival tactics. A regression modelling and survival analysis showed that disaster intensity and availability of resources have a significant impact on adaptation windows, supporting the need for time-sensitive conservation planning. The results in its statistical strength demonstrate the importance of AI-aided monitoring as a promising and objective alternative to the field-based approach to observation. Conservation-wise, the suggested framework will allow recognizing slow-recovering species early and developing species-based recovery interventions. This study can be further elaborated by the future research with the inclusion of multi-disaster comparisons, long-term population fitness indicators, and climatedriven predictive models. Further correlation of physiological and genomic states with behavioural analytics can further improve knowledge of the processes of resilience, which can help conserve wildlife in a more adaptive and data-driven manner.

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