

Chapter - 2

Forests and Wildlife Resources

Explain the following terms -

1. **Biosphere**: Part of the earth which is covered by living organisms both plants and animals.
2. **Ecosystem**: An integrated unit consisting of the community of living organisms and the physical environment.
3. **Flora**: Plants of a particular region or period are referred to as flora.
4. **Fauna**: Species of animals are known as fauna.
5. **Wildlife Sanctuary**: A reserved area for preserving natural beauty e.g - Wildlife.
6. **Biodiversity**: It is the sum total of all the varieties of species of plants, animals and microorganisms living on the earth.



4. Endangered species: The species which are in danger of extinction.

8. Vulnerable species: These are some species whose population has declined to levels from where it is likely to move into endangered category in the near future if the negative factors continue to operate.

⇒ Question - Answer -

1. What has been contribution the Indian wildlife protection act in protecting habitats in India. Explain.

Ans: (i) An all-India list of protected species was also published. The thrust of the programme was towards protecting the remaining population of certain endangered species by banning hunting, giving legal protection to their habitats, and restricting trade in wildlife.

(ii) - The central government also announced several projects for protecting specific animals, which were greatly threatened, including tiger, one-horned rhinoceros, the Kashmir stag or hangul, three types of crocodiles - Gharial, the Asiatic Lion and others.



(iii) Many national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and biospheres were established to protect and conserve the wildlife.

2. What steps taken by the government for conservation of forest and wildlife in India? Explain.
Ans. Steps taken by the government -

i) - National parks, biosphere and wildlife sanctuaries: To protect biodiversity, the Indian government has established 100 national parks, 515 sanctuaries and 17 biosphere reserves.

ii) - The Indian wildlife protection Act: The Indian wildlife protection act was implemented in 1972, for protecting habitats. An all India list of protected species was also published. The thrust of programme was towards protecting the remaining population of certain endangered species by banning hunting, giving legal protection to their habitats and restricting trade in the wildlife.

iii) - Projects for protecting specific animals: The central government has also announced several projects for protecting specific animals which were gravely threatened, including tigers, shi-



moose, Kashmir stag, three types of crocodiles - the Gharial, the Ganges crocodile and the Asiatic lion and others.

(iv) Forest policy: India is one of the few countries which has a forest policy since 1894. It was revised in 1952 and again in 1988. The main plank of the forest policy is protection, conservation and development of forests.

3. What is a Bio-Diversity? Why is biodiversity important for human lives?

Biodiversity is the sum total of all the varieties of species of plants, animals and micro-organisms living on earth. It also includes the habitats in which they live. Some scientists estimate that more than 10 million species live on the earth and some believe that this no. can be more than 100 million.

⇒ Important of Biodiversity :

1. Planet for all : The planet Earth is not only for human beings alone. All living beings share this planet with million of other living beings, starting from the micro-organisms to blue whales. There are different kinds of animals, plants and other



living as well as non-living things.

2. Complex web: We humans along with all other living organisms form complex web of ecological system in which we are only a part and very much independent on this system of our own existence. There is multiple network of interdependence, i.e., all organisms depend upon each other for their survival.

4. How have human activities affected the depletion of flora and fauna? Explain.

Ans (i)- Overutilisation of forests: In earlier, man's was dependent on forests only for few things, although a lot of things can be obtained from forests. Forests are being used to fulfill man's needed directly and indirectly. We are obtaining woods, rubber, medicine, dyes etc. from forests.

(ii)- Colonial plantation: The greatest damage inflicted on Indian forests was during the colonial period due to expansion of railways, agriculture, commercial and scientific forestry and mining activities.



iii - Agricultural expansion : Even after independence, agricultural expansion continues to be one of the major causes of depletion. Between 1951 and 1980, according to forest survey of India, over 26,200 sq. km of forest areas were converted into agricultural lands all over India.

iv - Multi-purpose river projects : Multi-purpose river projects have also contributed significantly to the loss of forests. Since, 1951, over 5,000 sq. km of forests were cleared for river valley projects and is still continuing with projects like the Narmada river projects in M.P. which would inundate about 40,000 hectares of forest area.

v - Mining : Mining is another important factor behind deforestation. Mining operation needs big machines, labour, roads, railways etc. All these lead to deforestation. The mining activities have blocked the migration route of several species, including the great Indian elephants, thus, disturbing their natural habitat.

vi - Grazing and fuel wood collection : Overgrazing of land also leads to soil erosion. In many parts of India, hill sides have been



come basin because of grazing by animals. According to some foresters and environmentalists, deforestation has also been caused by wood collection.

5. With the help of examples show how communities have carried out conservation of flora and fauna.

Ans. Refer Q. No 2.



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