

## *Conservation of Plants and Animals*

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### **Deforestation:-**

Deforestation is a process in which forests are cleared or removed at a large scale for human use. Deforestation has resulted in several ecological imbalances such as an increase in temperature, deficiency in rainfall etc. It has also resulted in extinction of several species of animals and plants.

### **Causes of deforestation:-**

- Clearing forests for cultivation, building houses and factories.
- Using wood to make furniture, as fuel and in paper manufacturing.

### **Consequences of deforestation:-**

- Increase in temperature and pollution.
- Increase in the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
- Increased chances of natural disasters like droughts and floods.
- Decrease in the level of groundwater.
- Reduces rainfall and fertility of soil.

### **Conservation of Forest and wildlife:-**

Conservation of forests and wildlife refers to the process of maintaining and preserving forests, wildlife, and ecological systems. It involves the maintenance of natural resources in forest lands so that they benefit the wildlife and humans dependent on them.

Need of conservation:

- To maintain ecological balance.
- To ensure our future generations see wildlife in their natural habitat.
- Plants and animals have become extinct due to unusual changes in their habitats. The natural food chain gets affected due to this imbalance.

Ways of conservation:

1. This is done by creating protected areas to preserve biodiversity and culture of the place.
2. Stringent laws have also been passed to protect wildlife and forests.

3. The Government of India accordingly has set up biosphere reserves, national parks, and animal reserves etc. that are meant for conservation of biodiversity.

### **Biosphere Reserves:-**

- These are large areas of land that protect natural habitat and are marked for the conservation of biodiversity.
  - Examples: Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve and great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve.
- Other protected areas may also be present within a biosphere reserve.
  - For example - Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve contains the Satpura National Park and the Bori and Pachmarhi Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- Along with the flora and fauna, indigenous human communities are also present in these areas. Their traditions and customs are also protected here.

### **Flora and Fauna:-**

The word flora represents all plant life and fauna represents all the animals found in a particular area.

#### **Flora:-**

The term flora means “Goddess of the Flower”. Flora is a collective term for a group of plant life in a particular region and the whole plant kingdom is represented by this name. Different types of flora are:- agriculture flora , garden flora.

#### **Fauna:-**

The term fauna represents the animal life native to a region. Different Faunas are:- Avifauna- Birds, Pisci Fauna- fishes, Microfauna- bacteria.

#### **Endemic species:-**

Some species of animals, birds or plants are found only in one particular area and nowhere else. They are called endemic species.

- Kangaroo – Australia
- Kiwi – New Zealand
- Indian giant squirrel and flying squirrel – India (Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve)
- Bison – India (Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve)
- Sal tree and wild mango – India (Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve)

When the man introduces a new species into a food chain or exterminates one link in the natural food chain, the natural ecological balance is upset. Endemic species can become endangered or even become extinct because of this. For example, the Dodo, a bird found in Mauritius became extinct because it was completely exterminated for food.

### **Wildlife Sanctuaries:-**

- Reserved forest areas which provide protection and suitable living conditions to wild animals are called wildlife sanctuaries.
- They provide homes to endangered species of animals.
- The killing of animals and poaching is strictly prohibited in these areas.

Example, Bharatpur Sanctuary, Lockchao Sanctuary

### **National Parks and forests:-**

- National forests are set up by the Government of India in various places to preserve fauna, flora, landscape and historic objects of that area.
  - Example, the Satpura National Forest is the first reserve forest of India and is home to the finest Indian teak.
- These forests contain whole sets of diverse ecosystems.
- National parks contain only animals that have their natural habitat in this region.
  - Example, Kaziranga National Park, Corbett National Park.

### **Red Data Book:-**

The red data book is a document which is created to account the endangered and rare species of plants, animals, fungi as well as some local subspecies which are present in a particular region.

This book is mainly created to identify and protect those species which are on the verge of extinction.

### **Migration:-**

The seasonal movement of birds from harsh cold climates to warm regions (where food is easily available and breeding is easier) is called migration. Birds generally follow the same route every year.

- For example, Siberian cranes, flamingos, pelicans commonly visit India every year.

The government has set up bird sanctuaries to protect water bodies and areas where these birds migrate to.

- For example, Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary, Pulicat Lake Reserve etc.

### **Recycling of paper:-**

Recycling is the process of converting waste and non- useful products into new and useful products for human use.

Paper is the most widely used material in today's world. Every year 400 million metric tons of paper and its products are produced globally. It is considered as a major constituent of solid waste. To fulfil the demand for paper and to protect our environment we should recycle the paper.

### **Reforestation:-**

- The planting of the species of trees originally found in a deforested area is called reforestation.
- If a deforested area is left undisturbed by human activity, reforestation occurs naturally.
- The Forest (Conservation) Act is aimed at conserving and preserving forests and providing livelihood to people living in and around the forests.

