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Forest & Wildlife Resources

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IMPORTANT TERMS

- **Normal Species:** Species whose population is normal for their survival, such as cattle, sal, pine, rodents, etc.
- **Endangered Species:** Species which are in danger of extinction. For example; black buck, crocodile, Indian wild ass, Indian rhino, lion tailed macaque, sangai (brow antler deer in Manipur), etc.
- **Vulnerable Species:** Species whose population has decreased over a period of time and they are in danger of extinction. For example; blue sheep, Asiatic elephant, Gangetic dolphin, etc.
- **Rare Species:** Species which are small in number and in danger of extinction if not been taken care of. For example; brown bear, wild Asiatic buffalo, desert fox and hornbill etc.
- **Endemic Species:** These are species which are only found in some particular areas usually isolated by natural or geographical barriers. Examples of such species are the Andaman teal, Nicobar pigeon, Andaman wild pig etc.
- **Extinct Species:** These are species which have vanished from a local area, region, country, continent or the entire earth. Examples of such species are the Asiatic cheetah, pink head duck.
- **Reserved Forest :** They are regarded as most valuable as far as the conservation of forest and wildlife resources are concerned



Jammu and Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Maharashtra have large areas of reserved forests.

- **Protected Forest :** Almost one-third of total forest area is protected forest. This forest land is protected from any further depletion. Bihar, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha and Rajasthan have a bulk of it under protected forests.
- **Unclassed Forests :** There are other forests and wastelands belonging both government and private individuals and communities. All north eastern states and parts of Gujarat have high percentage of their forests as unclassed forests.





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1. The species which are in danger of extinction are called:

- (a) Vulnerable species
- (b) Rare species
- (c) Endangered species
- (d) Normal species

2. The forest cover in our country has recently increased due to:

- (a) Increase in natural forest growth
- (b) Increase in net sown area
- (c) Plantation by different agencies
- (d) None of the above

3. The species whose population has declined to a level from where it is likely to move into the endangered category in the near future if the negative factors continue to operate are called:

- (a) Endemic species
- (b) Extinct species
- (c) Vulnerable species
- (d) Normal species

4. The Himalayan brown bear is an example of:

- (a) Vulnerable species
- (b) Rare species
- (c) Endemic species
- (d) Extinct species

5. Substantial parts of the tribal belts in north-eastern India, have been deforested by:



- (a) Shifting cultivation
- (b) Mining
- (c) Infrastructure development
- (d) None of the above

6. Species which are only found in some particular areas isolated by geographical barriers are called:

- (a) Extinct species
- (b) Endemic species
- (c) Rare species
- (d) Critical species

7. The Asian cheetah was declared extinct in India in the year:

- (a) 1951
- (b) 1952
- (c) 2010
- (d) 1975

8. The Buxar Tiger Reserve is seriously threatened by:

- (a) Iron ore mining
- (b) Oil exploration
- (c) Dolomite mining in that area
- (d) Volcanic eruption in that area

9. The Himalayan yew is:

- (a) an insect
- (b) a medicinal plant
- (c) a mammal



(d) a bird

10. The Himalayan yew is found in parts of:

- (a) Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Punjab and Haryana
- (c) West Bengal and Kerala
- (d) Madhya Pradesh and Goa

11. Extensive planting of a single commercially valuable species is called:

- (a) Jhumming
- (b) Intensive subsistence farming
- (c) Mixed farming
- (d) Enrichment plantation

12. Teak monoculture has damaged the natural forests in:

- (a) Ganga Plain
- (b) South India
- (c) Brahmaputra Plain
- (d) None of the above

13. Chir Pine plantations in the Himalayas have replaced the:

- (a) Himalayan Oak and Rhododendron
- (b) Teak and Sal
- (c) Babul and Mexican kikar
- (d) None of the above

14. Which one of the following is not responsible for the decline in India's biodiversity?

- (a) Mining activities



- (b) Hunting and poaching
- (c) Forest fire
- (d) Afforestation

15. Which one of the following is not a direct outcome of environmental destruction?

- (a) Biological loss
- (b) Loss of cultural diversity
- (c) Severe droughts
- (d) River Valley Projects

16. We need to conserve our forests and wildlife:

- (a) to preserve the ecological diversity
- (b) to preserve the genetic diversity
- (c) for maintenance of aquatic biodiversity
- (d) so that we are able to over-extract plant and animal species

17. The Indian Wildlife Protection Act was implemented in:

- (a) 1972
- (b) 1971
- (c) 2010
- (d) 1982

18. Which is not a threat to tiger population in India?

- (a) Shrinking habitat
- (b) The trade of tiger skins
- (c) Use of their bones in traditional medicines
- (d) "Project Tiger"



19. Reserved and protected forests are also referred to as:

- (a) Unclassed forest
- (b) Permanent forest estate
- (c) Open forest
- (d) Mangrove forest

20. Unclassed forests are mainly found in:

- (a) All north-eastern states and parts of Gujarat
- (b) Kerala and Tamil Nadu
- (c) Punjab and Haryana
- (d) West Bengal and Bihar

ANSWERS

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. c | 11. d |
| 2. c | 12. b |
| 3. c | 13. a |
| 4. b | 14. d |
| 5. a | 15. c |
| 6. b | 16. d |
| 7. b | 17. a |
| 8. c | 18. d |
| 9. b | 19. b |
| 10. a | 20. a |



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Important Questions

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1. Name six groups of flora and fauna under which they are classified by International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).

Ans: Normal species: Species, whose population levels are considered to be normal for their survival.

- Endangered species: Species, which are in danger of extinction because their population is declining. For example, Black buck, Indian rhino, lion-tailed macaque and Indian wild ass.
- Vulnerable resources: These are the species whose population has declined so much that they are likely to move into endangered category in the near future, if negative factors continue to operate. For example, Blue sheep, Asiatic elephant, Gangetic dolphin.
- Rare species: Species with small population. If care is not taken they may also become endangered species. For example, Himalayan Brown bear, desert fox, wild Asiatic buffalo, hornbill.
- Endemic species: Species which are only found in particular areas usually isolated by natural or geographical barriers. For example, Andaman teal, Nicobar pigeon, Andaman wild pig.
- Extinct species: These are species which are not found after searches of known or likely areas where they may occur, i.e., the species which were existing earlier, but are not seen today.

2. Write four major reasons for the depletion of forest cover.

Answer: Reason for depletion:

- Deforestation for agricultural purposes.



- Shifting cultivation which is still practised in substantial parts of tribal belts.
- Large-scale development of river valley projects.
- Mining activities have also resulted in deforestation. For example, the tiger reserve in West Bengal is seriously threatened by the ongoing dolomite mining.
- Environmental pollution and forest fires have also led to depletion of forests.

3. "The destruction of biodiversity is highly correlated with the loss of cultural diversity." Give four facts to support this statement.

Ans: Such losses have:

- Increasingly marginalised and impoverished many forest dependent communities.
- Among the poor, women are affected more than men, for women bear the major responsibility of basic subsistence needs. With the depletion of these resources, the drudgery of women increased for they had to walk for more than 10 km to collect these resources which, in turn, affected their health and negligence of home and children.
- The indirect impact of degradation, eg. drought or floods etc. also hits the poor the hardest.
- Poverty is a direct outcome of environmental destruction.

4. Why do we need to conserve our biodiversity?

Ans: Conservation of biodiversity is necessary because it:



- Preserves the ecological diversity.
- Preserves our life support systems, i.e., water, air and soil.
- Preserves the genetic diversity of plants and animals for better growth and breeding of species.
- Fisheries too are heavily dependent on the maintenance of aquatic biodiversity.

5. List various provisions made by "The Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972" for protecting habitats.

Ans: An All India list of protected species was published. The thrust was on protecting the remaining population of certain endangered species by-

- banning hunting;
- giving legal protection to their habitats and
- restricting trade in wildlife.

6. Write four steps taken by the Government for conservation of wildlife.

Ans: Five steps that have been taken to protect the wildlife in India:

- Under the Indian Wildlife Protection Act 1972, an All India list of protected species was published. The thrust was on protecting the remaining population of certain endangered species by – banning hunting, giving legal protection to their habitats and restricting trade in wildlife.
- Many wildlife sanctuaries have been developed and National Parks have been set up.



- Many projects have been started for protecting specific animals which were gravely threatened, eg. Project Tiger, One-horned Rhino, the Kashmir Stag (hangul), three types of crocodiles – the fresh water, salt-water and Gharials, the Asiatic Lion, etc.
- Most recently, some animals have been given full or partial legal protection against hunting and trading throughout India, eg., Indian elephant, black buck, great Indian bustard and the snow leopard, etc.
- Setting up of biosphere reserves for conserving flora and fauna in their natural surroundings and protection of wetland ecosystems is another step taken in this direction.

7. Which agency manages forests in India? Name three broad categories in which the forests are classified.

Ans: The forests in India are owned and managed by the Government through the Forest Department.

They are classified under the following categories:

- Reserved Forests
- Protected Forests
- Unclassed Forests

8. What are 'Permanent Forest Estates' and why? Which state has maximum forest cover falling under this category? Write its percentage share in the total forest area of this state.

Answer: Reserved and protected forests are referred to as the Permanent Forest Estates maintained for the purpose of producing timber and other



forest produce. Madhya Pradesh has the largest area under permanent forests, constituting 75% of its total forest area.

9. What are unclassed forests? Name two areas which have high percentages of their forests as unclassed forests.

Answer: Unclassed forests are the other forests and waste lands belonging to both Government and private individuals as well as local communities.

Two areas with high percentage of unclassed forests are: North-Eastern states and parts of Gujarat.

10. Write three examples of conservation of biodiversity at community level.

Answer: Three examples of community participation:

- In ' Sariska Tiger Reserve' , Rajasthan, villagers have fought against mining by citing the Wildlife Protection Act. In many areas, villagers themselves, are protecting habitats and explicitly rejecting Government involvement.
- The inhabitants of five villages in the Alwar District of Rajasthan have declared 1200 hectares of forest as the ' Bhairodev Dakav Sonchuri' , declaring their own set of rules and regulations, which do not allow hunting, and are protecting the wildlife against any outside encroachments.
- The famous Chipko Movement in the Himalayas has successfully resisted deforestation and has also shown that community afforestation with indigenous species can be a great success.

11. Explain the 'Beej Bachao Andolan' and 'Navdanya' concept.



Ans: 'Farmers and Citizens' groups like the Beej Bachao Andolan in Tehri and Navdanya have shown that adequate levels of diversified crop production without the use of synthetic chemicals are possible and economically viable.

12. Write two characteristics of Joint Forest Management Programme and its two benefits for the community. Which Indian state started this programme first of all and when?

Ans: Joint Forest Management Programme involves local communities in the management and restoration of degraded forests. It was first started in Orissa in 1988.

Two characteristics: It depends on—

- the formation of local (village) institutions that undertake protection activities mostly on degraded forest land managed by the Forest Department and
- the local communities also work towards restoration of such degraded forests.

Two benefits:

- The members of these communities are entitled to intermediary benefits like non-timber forest products.
- They are also entitled to share in the timber harvested by 'successful protection' .

13. What is biodiversity? Why is biodiversity important for human lives? Give three points.



Ans: Biodiversity denotes variety of living beings, including all types of organisms, plants and wildlife, diverse in form and functions but closely integrated in a system through multiple network of interdependencies. Its importance: We humans along with all living organisms form a complex web of ecological systems in which we are only a part and are dependent on this system for our own existence. For example, the plants, animals and micro-organisms recreate—

- the quality of the air we breathe,
- the water we drink and

the soil that produces our food without which we cannot survive. Forests play a key role in the ecological system as these are also the primary producers on which all other living beings depend not only for food but indirectly for many other forest products which are used for varied purposes. So this biodiversity maintains an ecological balance and our life support systems (air, water and soil).





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Case based Questions

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Read the passage carefully and answer the following questions

PASSAGE:1

In the 1960s and 1970s, conservationists demanded a national wildlife protection programme. The Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act was implemented in 1972, with various provisions for protecting habitats. 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. Subsequently, central and many state governments established national parks and wildlife sanctuaries about which you have already studied. The central government also announced several projects for protecting specific animals which were gravely threatened, including the tiger, the one-horned rhinoceros, the Kashmir stag or hangul, three types of crocodiles - freshwater crocodile, saltwater crocodile and the Gharial, the Asiatic lion, and others. Most recently the Indian elephant, black buck (chinkara), the great Indian bustard (godawan) and the snow leopard, etc, have been given full or partial legal protection against hunting and trade throughout India.

Q1 Which act was implemented in 1972?

- (i) The Indian Wildlife Act was implemented in 1972**
- (ii) The Indian Environment Act was implemented in 1972.**
- (iii) The Indian Forest Act was implemented in 1972.**
- (iv) The Indian Environmental Impact Assessment Act was implemented in 1972.**



Q2 Who demanded the national wildlife protection programme?

- (i) The politicians demanded the national wildlife protection programme**
- (ii) The conservationists demanded the national wildlife protection programme.**
- (iii) The forest dwellers demanded the national wildlife protection programme.**
- (iv) The common masses demanded the national wildlife protection programme.**

Q3 Which animals have been recently given full or partial legal protection against hunting and trade throughout India?

- (i) The Indian elephant, Bengal tiger, the vulture and the snow leopard etc.**
- (ii) The Indian elephant, Bengal tiger, the great Indian bustard and the cheetah, etc.**
- (iii) The Indian elephant, black buck the great bustard and the snow leopard, etc. great indian tiger**
- (iv) The Indian elephant, Bengal tiger, the great Indian bustard and the snow leopard, etc.**

Q4. The central government has announced projects for the protecting which of the following set of species?



- (i) The Asiatic lion, Vulture and Snow leopard**
- (ii) The Indian elephant, Asiatic lion and Gangetic dolphins.**
- (iii) The Gharial, tiger and the Asiatic lion.**
- (iv) The Indian elephant, dolphins and the Bengal tiger**

ANSWERS:

- 1. (i)**
- 2. (ii)**
- 3. (iii)**
- 4. (iii)**

Passage: 2

The issues involved in the conservation and sustainable use of resources like forests, wild-life and water. These can meet our needs perpetually if we were to use them in a sustainable manner. Now we come to yet another important resource fossil fuelsthat is, coal and petroleum, which are important sources of energy for us. Since the industrial revolution, we have been using increasing amounts of energy to meet our basic needs and for the manufacture of a large number of goods upon which our lives depend. These energy needs have been largely met by the reserves of coal and petroleum.

i) How does coal and petroleum are formed?

Ans: When plants and animals died and they degrade and get buried deep inside the earth. Over millions of year ago they converted into coal and petroleum.



ii) What are the effects of using coal on our environment?

Ans: They contains sulphur, nitrogen, hydrogen, so when they are burnt in air they produce CO₂water, oxides of sulphur and nitrogen. It leads to global warming.

iii) When does carbon monoxide is formed?

Ans: when coal is burnt in insufficient air(insufficient oxygen) eg: closed room, so it form carbon monoxide instead of CO₂.

iv) Which one is highly poisonous CO & CO₂? Why?

Ans: Carbon monoxide is poisonous, if a person inhale CO in large amount, it cause to severe health issues, may cause death, severe respiratory problems.

