



Geography

CH-2 Forest and Wildlife Resources

1. Multiple choice questions.

(i) Which of these statements is not a valid reason for the depletion of flora and fauna?

- (a) Agricultural expansion.**
- (b) Large scale developmental projects.**
- (c) Grazing and fuelwood collection.**
- (d) Rapid industrialisation and urbanisation.**

Answer:

Grazing and fuelwood collection

(ii) Which of the following conservation strategies do not directly involve community participation?

- (a) Joint forest management**
- (b) Beej Bachao Andolan**
- (c) Chipko Movement**
- (d) Demarcation of wildlife sanctuaries**

Answer:

Demarcation of wildlife sanctuaries

2. Match the following animals with their category of existence.

Animals/Plants	Category of existence
Black Buck	Extinct

Asiatic Elephant	Rare
Andaman wild pig	Endangered
Himalayan Brown Bear	Vulnerable
Pink Head Duck	Endemic

Answer:

Animals/Plants	Category of existence
Black Buck	Endangered
Asiatic Elephant	Vulnerable
Andaman wild pig	Endemic
Himalayan Brown Bear	Rare
Pink Head Duck	Extinct

3. Match the following.

Reserved Forests	Other forests and wastelands belonging to both government and private individuals and communities
-------------------------	--

Protected Forests	Forests are regarded as most valuable as far as the conservation of forest and wildlife resources is concerned
Unclassed Forests	Forest lands are protected from any further depletion

Answer:

Reserved Forests	Forests are regarded as most valuable as far as the conservation of forest and wildlife resources is concerned
Protected Forests	Forest lands are protected from any further depletion
Unclassed Forests	Other forests and wastelands belonging to both government and private individuals and communities

4. Answer the following questions in about 30 words.

(i) What is biodiversity? Why is biodiversity important for human lives?

Answer:

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life forms found on earth. It is a measure of variation at the ecosystem, species and genetic level. Biodiversity is abundant in tropical areas. Tropical areas cover 10 per cent of the earth surface, but they host 90% of the world's species.

Contribution of biodiversity in human lives

1. Agriculture – A variety of plant species meet our needs for food.
2. Its contribution to business and industry
3. Leisurely activities
4. Ecological processes

(ii) How have human activities affected the depletion of flora and fauna?

Explain

Answer:

1. Various river valley projects have affected the flora and fauna.
2. Many illegal mining projects have depleted the flora and fauna.
3. Too many development projects for leisure activities in the forests have negatively affected them.
4. Too many human activities in the forest area due to rising population and lack of space has created human-animal conflict.

5. Answer the following questions in about 120 words.

(i) Describe how communities have conserved and protected forests and wildlife in India.

Answer:

Chipko Movement:

The famous Chipko movement in the Himalayas has not only successfully resisted deforestation in several areas, but has also shown that community afforestation with indigenous species can be enormously successful.

Certain societies revere a particular tree which they have preserved from time immemorial. The Mundas and the Santhals of Chota Nagpur region worship mahua (*Bassia latifolia*) and kadamba (*Anthocaphalus cadamba*) trees. The tribals of Odisha and Bihar worship the tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*) and mango (*Mangifera indica*) trees during weddings. Many people also consider peepal and banyan trees sacred.

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 are explicitly rejecting government involvement. The inhabitants of five villages in the Alwar district of Rajasthan have declared 1,200 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.

(ii) Write a note on good practices towards conserving forest and wildlife.

Answer:

In India, joint forest management (JFM) programme is a good example for the involvement of local communities in the management and restoration of degraded forests. The programme has been in formal existence since 1988 when the state of Odisha passed the first resolution for joint forest management. JFM depends on the formation of local (village) institutions that undertake protection activities mostly on degraded forest land managed by the forest department. In return, the members of these communities are entitled to intermediary benefits like non-timber forest produces and a share in the timber harvested by 'successful protection'. The clear lesson from the dynamics of both environmental destruction and reconstruction in India is that local communities everywhere have to be involved in some kind of natural resource management. But there is still a long way to go before local communities are at the centre stage in decision-making. Accept only those economic or developmental activities that are people-centric, environment-friendly and economically rewarding.