

TOPICS

to be
covered

1 Forest and Wildlife Resources





FOREST AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES



Flora and Fauna in India



- India is one of the world's richest countries in terms of its vast array of biological diversity
- These diverse flora and fauna are so well integrated in our daily life that we take these for granted.
- Lately, they are under great stress mainly due to insensitivity to our environment.

→ global ecological crisis.





What all are we going to study in this Chapter?



- Conservation of Forest and Wildlife in India.
- Project Tiger.
- Types and Distribution of Forest and Wildlife Resources.
- Community and Conservation.
- Sacred groves - a wealth of diverse and rare species.



Conservation of Forest and Wildlife in India



Conservation preserves the ecological diversity and preserves the genetic diversity of plants and animals.

❖ The Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act was implemented in 1972 for protecting habitats and an all India list of protected species was 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.

❖ The central government also announced several projects for protecting specific animals. Under the Wildlife Act of 1980 and 1986, several hundred butterflies, moths, beetles, and one dragonfly have been added to the list of protected species.

Endangered

under risk of extinction

- ❖ In 1991, for the first time plants were also added to the list, starting with six species
- ❖ 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 – fresh water 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..



One Horned Rhinoceros



Kashmir Stag



Black Buck



Indian
Bustard



Snow
Leopard

❖ In 1973, the authorities realised that the tiger population had dwindled to 1,827 from 55,000

❑ REASONS?

- Poaching for trade
 - Shrinking habitat
 - Depletion of prey base species
 - Growing human population
 - Trade of tiger skins and use of their bones in traditional medicines.
- ❖ Since India and Nepal provide habitat to about two-thirds of the surviving tiger population in the world, these two nations became prime targets for poaching and illegal trading.

Project Tiger





Project Tiger



- “Project Tiger”, one of the well publicised wildlife campaigns in the world, was launched in 1973.
- Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand,
- Sunderbans National Park in West Bengal,
- Bandhavgarh National Park in Madhya Pradesh,
- Sariska Wildlife Sanctuary in Rajasthan,
- Manas Tiger Reserve in Assam
- Periyar Tiger Reserve in Kerala





Types and Distribution of Forest and Wildlife Resources



Most Imp. Topic

- Even if we want to conserve our vast forest and wildlife resources, it is rather difficult to manage, control and regulate them. In India, much of its forest and wildlife resources are either owned or managed by the government through the Forest Department or other government departments.



(i) Reserved Forests:

- More than half of the total forest land. Reserved forests are regarded as the most valuable as far as the conservation is concerned.

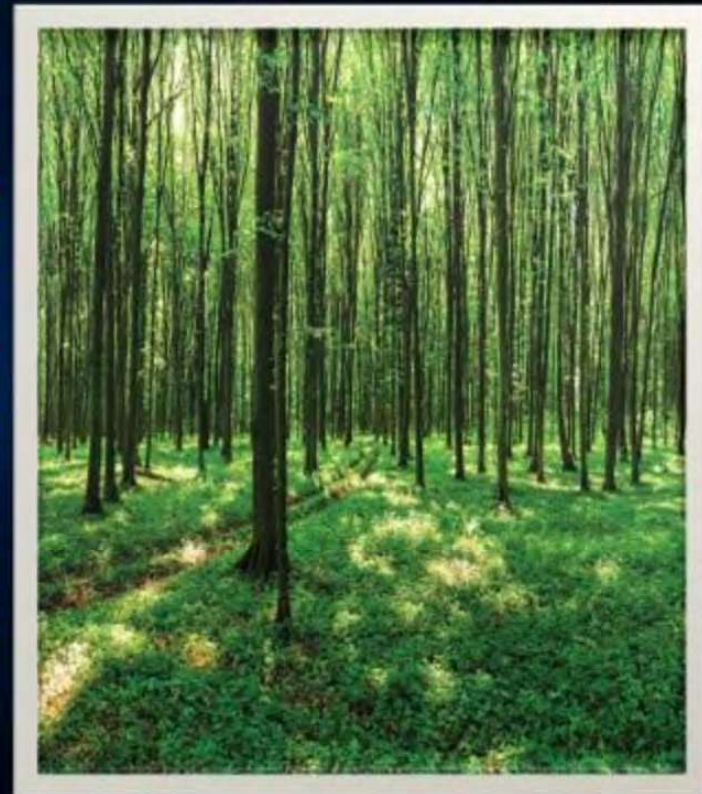
*Reserved + Protected
= Permanent*

(ii) Protected Forests:

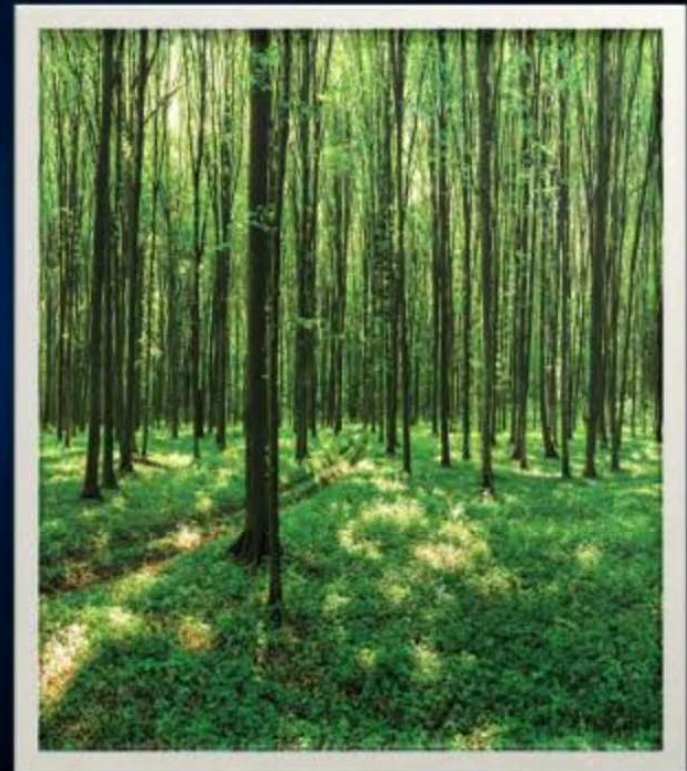
- Almost one-third of the total forest area, as declared by the Forest Department. This forest land are protected from any further depletion.

(iii) Unclassed Forests:

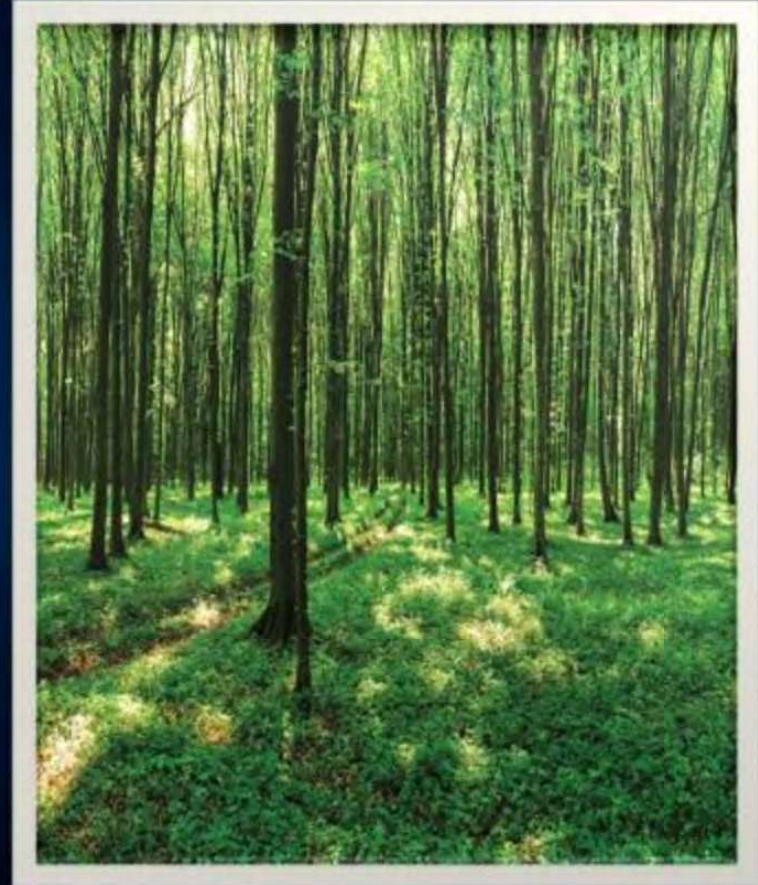
- These are other forests and wastelands belonging to both government and private individuals and communities.



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



- Jammu and Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Maharashtra have large percentages of **reserved forests** of its total forest area
- Bihar, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha and Rajasthan have a bulk of it **under protected forests**.
- All North-eastern states and parts of Gujarat have a very high percentage of their forests as **unclassed forests** managed by local communities.





Community and Conservation



1. In **Sariska Tiger Reserve**, Rajasthan, villagers have fought against mining by citing the Wildlife Protection Act.
2. The inhabitants of five villages in the Alwar district of Rajasthan have declared 1,200 hectares of forest as the **Bhairodev Dakav 'Sonchuri'**. Villages came up with their own set of rules and regulations which do not allow hunting. They are also protecting the wildlife against any outside encroachments.
3. The famous **Chipko movement** in the Himalayas was one successful attempt to resist deforestation in several areas. The movement has also resulted in community afforestation.

4. Farmers and citizen's 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.
5. India joint forest management (JFM) programme furnishes a good example for involving local communities in the management and restoration of degraded forests.

Separate
Question

Q.1 Short Note
on JFM

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 share in the timber harvested by 'successful protection'.



Sacred groves - a wealth of diverse and rare species

Nature worship is an age old tribal belief based on the premise that all creations of nature have to be protected. Such beliefs have preserved several virgin forests in pristine form called Sacred Groves (the forests of God and Goddesses). These patches of forest or parts of large forests have been left untouched by the local people and any interference with them is banned.

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, and the tribals of Odisha and Bihar worship the tamarind (**Tamarindus indica**) and mango (**Mangifera indica**) trees during weddings. To many of us, peepal and banyan trees are considered sacred.

Indian society comprises several cultures, each with its own set of traditional methods of conserving nature and its creations. Sacred qualities are often ascribed to springs, mountain peaks, plants and animals which are closely protected. You will find troops of macaques and langurs around many temples. They are fed daily and treated as a part of temple devotees. In and around Bishnoi villages in Rajasthan, herds of blackbuck, (chinkara), nilgai and peacocks can be seen as an integral part of the community and nobody harms them.



Homework



- ❖ What are the steps taken by the government to conserve and protect wildlife?
- ❖ Explain Joint Forest Management.
- ❖ Write a brief note on 'Project Tiger'.