

Chapter 2: Forest and Wildlife Resources – CBSE Notes

◆ 1. Biodiversity and Its Importance

✓ **Repeated Question:** *What is biodiversity? Why is it important for human life?*

- **Biodiversity:** Variety of plants, animals, microorganisms in an area.
- **India** is among the top 10 countries in plant & animal diversity.
- **Importance:**
 - Maintains ecological balance (air, water, soil).
 - Supports agriculture, fisheries, and life processes.
 - Ensures food, medicine, climate stability.

◆ 2. Loss of Flora and Fauna

✓ **Frequently Asked:** *How human activities lead to biodiversity loss?*

Major Causes of Depletion:

1. **Deforestation** for agriculture & industry
2. **Poaching** of wild animals
3. **Overgrazing**
4. **Mining and large infrastructure projects**
5. **Pollution and climate change**
6. **Growing human population & encroachment**

◆ 3. Need for Conservation

✓ **CBSE Focus Area:** *Why do we need to conserve forests and wildlife?*

- **Reasons:**
 - Maintain ecological balance (air, water, food chains).
 - Protect endangered species.
 - Ensure sustainable use of resources.
 - Preserve genetic diversity for future crop and animal breeding.

◆ 4. Conservation Measures in India

✓ **Repeated in Board Exams:** *Wildlife Protection Act, Project Tiger, community involvement*

 **Wildlife Protection Act (1972):**

- Legal protection to endangered species.
- Banned hunting and restricted trade.
- National parks and sanctuaries established.

 **Project Tiger (1973):**

- Aim: Save the declining tiger population.

- Initial count (1973): ~1,827 tigers (down from 55,000 in 1900).
- **Threats:** Poaching, habitat loss, prey depletion.
- **Tiger Reserves:** Corbett (Uttarakhand), Sunderbans (WB), Bandhavgarh (MP), Sariska (Rajasthan), Manas (Assam), Periyar (Kerala).

◆ 5. Types of Forests (Ownership Classification)

✓ **Common Question:** *Distinguish between reserved, protected and unclassed forests*

Type of Forest	Description	Example States
Reserved Forests	>50% of total forest; most protected	MP, J&K, AP, Uttarakhand
Protected Forests	~33%; limited human access	Bihar, Haryana, Punjab
Unclassed Forests	Government + community ownership	NE States, Gujarat

◆ 6. Community Participation in Conservation

✓ **Often Asked in 120-word Questions**

🌿 Examples of Local Conservation:

- **Chipko Movement (1970s):** Villagers in Uttarakhand hugged trees to protect forests.
- **Sariska, Rajasthan:** Villagers protested mining to save tiger habitat.
- **Bhairodev Dakav 'Sonchuri'** (Alwar, Rajasthan): 1,200 hectares declared protected by villagers.
- **Sacred Groves:** Forest patches worshipped, left untouched. Found in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Odisha, Meghalaya.

🔄 **Joint Forest Management (JFM) – Since 1988:**

- Forest Dept. + local people manage forests.
- Benefits: Access to forest produce (timber, fruits, fuelwood).
- First launched in **Odisha**.

◆ 7. Sacred Trees and Animal Protection in Traditions

- **Peepal, banyan, mahua, kadamba:** treated as sacred.
- In Rajasthan's **Bishnoi villages:** Blackbuck, nilgai, peacock roam freely; hunting strictly banned.

✓ CBSE Exam Hotspots – Summary Table

Topic	Why It's Important
Biodiversity definition & need	2–3 mark questions
Causes of forest depletion	Very frequent
Wildlife Protection Act, 1972	Legal framework
Project Tiger	Repeated case study
Forest types	Often asked to differentiate
Chipko & community efforts	Key for 5-mark/long answers
Sacred groves & cultural links	Often used in descriptive answers