



INDIAN SCHOOL NIZWA

Class: X	Department: Social Science	Subject : Geography
Chapter 2	Topic: Forest and Wild Life	Year :2025-26

1. How do the human activities affect the depletion of flora and fauna? Explain.

Human activities like shifting Agriculture, mining, grazing, fuel food collection and construction of river valley projects like Narmada Sagar Project have led to large scale deforestation and loss of habitat of animals. For example, the Buxa Tiger reserve in West Bengal is damaged by dolomite mining.

2. What are the steps taken by the government towards the conservation of wildlife?

The government has taken many steps in order to protect Indian wildlife. They are

1. **The Indian Wildlife Act** was passed by the government in **1972** for the protection of plants and animal species.
2. **The Act banned hunting and poaching** of animals and provided legal protection to their habitats.
3. The central and state governments have established many **wildlife sanctuaries and national parks** in order to protect forests and wildlife.
4. **Various projects** regarding the conservation of endangered species such as tiger and one-horned rhino have been initiated by the government.
5. The government, through the introduction of a **joint management programme**, has involved local communities in the management of forests.

3. Write five examples of the conservation of biodiversity at community level.

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Attempts to revive the traditional conservation methods or developing new methods of ecological farming are now widespread. 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. In **India joint forest management (JFM)** programme furnishes a good example for involving 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

4. Explain the significance of "Project Tiger" and the major threats that led to its implementation.

"Project Tiger" was launched in 1973 as a major conservation initiative to protect tigers from extinction. It was necessary because the tiger population in India had drastically declined from an estimated 55,000 at the beginning of the 20th century to just 1,827 by 1973. The major threats to tigers included:

Poaching for trade – Tigers were hunted for their skins and bones, which were used in traditional medicines, especially in Asian countries.

Shrinking habitat – Deforestation and human encroachment led to the loss of natural tiger habitats.

Depletion of prey base – The reduction in prey species due to habitat destruction affected the tiger population.

Growing human population – Increased human activities in forest areas led to conflicts and habitat

fragmentation.

Project Tiger aimed not only to save tigers but also to preserve the ecosystems in which they lived. Several tiger reserves, including Corbett National Park, Sunderbans National Park, and Periyar Tiger Reserve, were established to support conservation efforts.

5. What is 'Biodiversity'?

Ans. Biodiversity or Biological Diversity is immensely rich in wildlife and cultivated species, diverse in form and function but closely integrated in a system through multiple network of interdependencies.

6. Explain the different types of forests in India and their significance in the conservation of forest and wildlife resources.

In India, forests are classified into three main types based on their management and conservation status:

Reserved Forests: More than half of the total forest area in India is classified as reserved forests. These forests are considered the most valuable for the conservation of wildlife and forest resources. They are strictly protected and are not open to any form of exploitation or degradation without government approval.

Protected Forests: About one-third of India's forest area falls under the category of protected forests. These forests are safeguarded to prevent further depletion, but they may still be used for sustainable activities like controlled timber extraction and grazing. Protected forests are essential for maintaining biodiversity and preventing deforestation.

Unclassed Forests: These forests include wastelands and forests managed by both the government and private individuals or communities. They are not classified as reserved or protected, and their management varies. In some regions, such as the northeastern states and parts of Gujarat, local communities play a significant role in managing these forests.

Together, reserved and protected forests are referred to as permanent forest estates, which are vital for producing timber and other forest products and for maintaining ecological balance. These forests play a crucial role in wildlife conservation and in protecting the environment.

7. How are flora and fauna integral to our daily life, and what are the major threats they face?

Flora and fauna are essential to our daily life as they form a complex ecological system that supports our survival. Plants, animals, and microorganisms play key roles in maintaining the quality of the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the soil that nourishes our food. Forests, in particular, are primary producers in this system, providing resources that all living beings depend on.

India is one of the richest countries in terms of biological diversity, with numerous unique plants and animals. This biodiversity contributes significantly to the environment and human well-being. However, these resources are under great stress primarily due to human insensitivity toward the environment. Factors such as deforestation, habitat destruction, pollution, and over-exploitation of natural resources are putting immense pressure on India's flora and fauna, threatening their existence.

8. "Nature-worship is an old age belief". Explain how has it helped in the conservation of forests and wildlife.

(i) 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.

(ii) The Mundas and the Santhal 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.

(iii) Peepal and banyan trees are also considered sacred and worshipped in most parts of India.

(iv) Sacred qualities are often ascribed to springs, mountain peaks, plants and animals which are closely protected.

(v) 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.