

Lesson No. 2

Forest and Wildlife Resources

MODULE-2

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WHY DO WE NEED TO CONSERVE OUR FOREST AND WILDLIFE?

- Conservation preserves the ecological diversity and our life support systems- water, air and soil.
- it also preserves the genetic diversity of plants and animals for better growth of species and breeding.

CONSERVATION OF FOREST AND WILDLIFE IN INDIA

- The Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act was implemented in 1972.
- The aim 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.
- Central and many state governments established national parks and wildlife sanctuaries
- The central government also announced several projects for protecting specific animals, which were gravely threatened, including the tiger.

Types and Distribution of Forest and Wildlife Resources:

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. These are classified under the following categories.

(i) Reserved Forests: More than half of the total forest land has been declared reserved forests. Reserved forests are regarded as the most valuable as far as the conservation of forest and wildlife resources are concerned.

(ii) Protected Forests: Almost one-third of the total forest area is protected forest, 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.

Types and Distribution of Forest and Wildlife Resources:

- (i) Reserved Forests: 54.4 % of total forest lands.
- (ii) Protected Forests: 29.2 % of total forest lands.
- (iii) Unclassed Forests: 16.4 % of total forest lands.

Project Tiger

- Tiger is one of the key wildlife species in the faunal web.
- In 1973, the authorities realised that the tiger population had dwindled.
- “Project Tiger”, one of the wildlife campaigns in the world, was launched in 1973.
- Tiger conservation has been viewed not only as an effort to save an endangered species, but with equal importance as a means of preserving biotypes of sizeable magnitude.
- 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 and Periyar Tiger Reserve in Kerala are some of the tiger reserves of India.

New Trends in Conservation Policy:

Increase Biodiversity: The conservation projects are now focusing on biodiversity rather than on a few of its components. There is now a more intensive search for different conservation measures. Increasingly, even insects are beginning to find a place in conservation planning. In the notification under wildlife Act of 1980 and 1986, several hundred butterflies, moths, beetles, and one dragonfly have been added to the list of protected species. In 1991, for the first time plants were also added to the list, starting with six species.

Thank You