

# Conservation of Plants and Animals

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- **Deforestation:** Deforestation is the process of clearing of forests in order to use the land for industrial, agricultural, and other purposes.
- **Causes of deforestation**
  - **Natural causes**
    - Forest fire
    - Severe droughts
  - **Man-made causes**
    - Using land for agricultural purposes
    - Rapid urbanization
    - Procurement of wood for fuel and furniture
- **Consequences of deforestation**
  - Increase in the level of carbon dioxide in atmosphere, which leads to global warming
  - Lowering of ground water levels
  - Increase in pollution level and temperature
  - Decrease in fertility of soil and amount of rainfall
  - Increase in frequency of droughts and floods
  - **Desertification-** conversion of fertile lands into deserts.

**Biodiversity** is the species richness of the biosphere. It is defined as the number and variety of life forms such as plants, animals and microorganisms in an area.

- It supports all the essential living resources such as wild life, fisheries and forests.
- Forests help in maintaining the delicate balance of nature.
- Animals living in forests are called wild animals.
- The plants found in a particular area are known as **flora** of that area.
- The animals found in a particular area constitute **fauna** of that area.

- Those species of plants and animals, which are found only in a particular area, are called **endemic species**. (**Species** is a group of organisms in population which are capable of interbreeding)
- The animals, whose numbers are diminishing to a level that they might face extinction, are called **endangered animals**. For example: tiger, lion, and elephants
- **Project tiger** was launched by the government of India to protect endangered tigers in their natural habitat.
- The flora and fauna of a particular habitat can be protected through special **protected areas**.

### **Protected areas**

- **Wildlife sanctuary:**

It is the place where wild animals are protected from hunting and are provided with suitable living conditions. For example: Madhumalai wildlife sanctuary in Tamil Nadu, Chilika bird sanctuary in Orissa, etc.

- **National parks:**

These are the areas reserved for wildlife. They are maintained and preserved by the government for the public to visit. For example: Ranthambore National Park in Rajasthan, Kanha National Park in Madhya Pradesh, etc. Satpura National Park is the first reserve forest of India.

- **Biosphere Reserves:**

It is a large protected land for conservation of wild life, plant and animals resources, and the traditional life of the tribal groups living in the area. For example: Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve and Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve in India.

### **Red Data Book:**

It is the source book maintained by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural resources). It keeps a track record of various endangered species of plants and animals.

### **Migration**

- It is the movement of birds and animals from their original habitat to other places at a particular time.
- Migratory birds fly to distant areas every year during a particular time because of
  - climatic changes- their original habitat becomes very cold and inhospitable
  - lack of food availability

- Numerous migratory birds including ducks, geese, flamingos, and cranes fly to India every year.

- **Recycling of paper**

- One ton of paper is made from about seventeen fully-grown trees.
- Papers should be recycled and reused to conserve forest.
- Each paper can be recycled three to seven times.
- Recycling of paper saves trees, energy and water.
- It prevents the release of harmful chemicals emitted during paper manufacturing in nature.

- **Reforestation**

- Restoring of destroyed forests by planting new trees is called **reforestation**.
- It helps in checking environmental degradation.