

Forest & Wild Life Resources

Q.1. Write any three measures to conserve ecosystem? [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. Three measures to conserve ecosystem are the following:

- (i) Forest should be reserved and more and trees should be planted across the region especially in those areas where deforestation takes place.
- (ii) Wildlife must be protected by enacting laws and creating awareness among people.
- (iii) Starting various projects to save endangered species of plants and wildlife.

Q.2. Explain any three methods of forest conservation adopted by the government after independence. [2010, 2011 (T-1)]

OR

Mention any three measures take by the governments for protection of wild-life.

Ans. Government has adopted the following methods to conserve forests after independence—

- (i) The government has classified the forest into three types—Reserved forest, Protected forests andbn Unclassed forests, making it clear which activity can be carried out in which type of forest.
- (ii) To give protection to wildlife, as they fully depend on forests – various acts have been enacted like the Indian wildlife (Protection Act) 1972. Subsequently central and many state governments established national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.
- (iii) Government has started various programmes like Van Mahotsava to highlight the importance of forests among people of the country.

Q.3. How many types of forest are classified in India? Explain it. [2010 (T-1)]

OR

Write briefly about different categories of forests in India classified by government department. [2011 (T-I)]

Ans. Forests are classified under the following categories :-

- (i) Reserved Forests: - More than half of the total forests are declared as Reserved forests. They are maintained for the production of timber and other forest produce and

for protective reasons.

(ii) Protected Forests: - Almost one-third of the total forest area is Protected forests. This forest land is protected from any further depletion.

(iii) Unclassed Forests: - These are other forests and wastelands belonging to both government and private individuals and communities.

Q.4. Give three reasons why we need to save the biodiversity of our planet? [2010, 2011 (T-1)]

Ans. We must conserve or save biodiversity of our planet because :—

(i) If forests are not saved, whole wildlife will be under threat; they form an important part of food cycle which will be disturbed.

(ii) Biological loss is directly correlated with the loss of cultural diversity. Such loss marginalised and impoverished many tribal and forest people.

(iii) Women are most affected by loss of biodiversity as in many societies they collect food and fuel, fodder, water etc.,.

Q.5. What has been the contribution of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act in protecting habitats in India. Explain. [2010, 2011 (T-1)]

Ans. The Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act was implemented in 1972, with various provisions for protecting habitats. An all-India list of protected species was also published. The thrust of the programme was towards protecting the remaining population of certain endangered species by bauring hunting, giving legal protection to their habitats, and restricting trade in wildlife. Subsequently cental 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 tiger, one-harved rhinceerous, the hangul and three types of crocodiles. Many other wild animals have been given full or partial legal protection against hunting and trade throughout India.

Q.6. Write any three effective practices towards conserving forests and wildlife. [2010 (T-1)]

OR

Describe the methods of forest conservation. [2011 (T-1)]

Ans. (i) Through setting up of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries in this way special regions can be declared legally the homes of wild animals. In those areas no

hunting or cutting of forest can take place.

(ii) By Launching Specific Projects like Project Tiger etc. In this way important species whose life is in danger can be protected

(iii) Bringing together Communities with government Projects this is the most effective way to conserve forest and wildlife. Chipko movement, Beej Bachao movement and Bishnoi's love for black buck are some examples.

Q.7. Write a brief note on 'Project Tiger'. [2010, 2011 (T-1)]

Ans. Project Tiger was launched in 1973. Initially it was successful, as the tiger population went up to 4,002 in 1985 and 4,334 in 1989. But in 1993, the population of tiger had dropped to 3600. There are 27 tiger reserves in India covering an area of 37,761 sq km. Tiger conservation is also a means of preserving biotypes of sizeable magnitude. Corbett National Park, Sunderbans National Park, Bandhavgarh National Park, Sariska wildlife sanctuary, Manas Tiger Reserve and Periyar Tiger Reserve are some of the tiger reserves of India.

Q.8. Why is conservation of forest and wildlife necessary? In what way has conservation projects changed in the recent years? [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. Conservation of forest and wildlife is important because for sustainable development it is necessary to protect forest and wildlife. Conservation preserves the ecological diversity and our life support system like water, air and soils. It also preserves the genetic diversity of plants and animals and ensures better growth of species and breeding.

The conservation projects are now focussing on biodiversity rather than on a few of its components. There is now more intensive search for different conservation measures, even insects are beginning to find a place in conservation policy.

Q.9. With the help of three examples show how communities have carried out conservation of flora and fauna in India. [2010, 2011 (T-1)]

Ans.

1. In Sariska, tiger reserve, people have fought against mining by citing the wildlife Protection Act. People themselves protect forest.
2. In Alwar district of Rajasthan, people of five villages have declared 1200 hectares of forest as the Bhairondevi Dakshin Sanctuary declaring their own set of rules which do not allow hunting etc.

3. In the Himalaya region of Uttarakhand, the famous “Chipko movement” has prevented forest deforestation.

Q.10. How is biological loss of forest and wildlife correlated with loss of cultural diversity? [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. Biological loss of forest and wildlife is strongly correlated with the loss of cultural diversity as it has increasingly marginalised and impoverished many indigenous and other forest dependent communities who directly depend on various components of forest and wildlife for food, drink, medicine, culture, spiritualism etc.

Poor women are affected more than men. In many societies, women bear the major responsibilities of collection of fuel, fodder, etc. but as the resources are depleting fast, women have to walk longer to get water or fuel which is directly affecting their lifestyle.

Q.11. Explain any three reasons why forest resources are depleting after independence in India. [2010 (T-1)]

OR

Write any three factors which are responsible for large scale deforestation in India. [2011 (T-1)]

Ans. After independence, agricultural expansion has been one of the major causes of depletion of forest resources, according to Forest Survey of India, 26, 200 sq km of forest area was converted into agriculture land all over India between 1951 and 1980. Substantial parts of tribal belt in northeastern and central India, have been deforested or degraded by shifting cultivation.

Large scale development projects have also contributed significantly to the loss of forests. River valley projects have also led to clearing and destruction of forests on a large scale. Mining is also an important factor behind deforestation.

Q.12. Explain any two famous movements for the protection of forests. [2010, 2011 (T-1)]

Ans. (i) The famous Chipko movement in the Himalayas has successfully resisted deforestation in several areas of Uttarakhand. Farmers and citizen's groups like the Beej Bachao Andolan in Tehri and Navdanya have shown that large scale production of crops is possible without the use of synthetic chemicals.

(ii) Joint Forest Management (JFM) programme has been in formal existence since 1988 when Orissa passed the first resolution for joint forest management. JFM depends on the formation of local institutions that undertake protection activities mostly on degraded forest land managed by the forest department.

Q.13. Explain any three adverse effects of the destruction of forests and wildlife? [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. Three adverse effects of the destruction of forests and wildlife:—

- (i) Destruction of forests and wildlife leads to disturbances in ecological balance of the environment.
- (ii) It also affects the cultural loss of communities and their displacement.
- (iii) It also disturbs food chain, ecosystem and development of the society.

Q.14. Explain the importance of biodiversity for human beings [2010, 2011 (T-1)]

Ans. Biodiversity is very important for us because we are fully dependent on it. For example, the plants, animals and micro-organisms recreate the quality of the air we breathe, the water we drink and the soil that produces our food, without which we can not survive. Forests are also very essential for us. They play a key role in the ecological system as these are also the primary producers on which all other living beings depend.

Q.15. Highlight any three differences between endangered species and extinct species. [2010, 2011 (T-2)]

Ans. Endangered species

- (i) These are species which are in danger of extinction.
- (ii) If present condition remains, survival is extremely difficult.
- (iii) Example – Black buck, Indian wild ass, lion-tailed macaque, etc.

Extinct species

- (i) Those species which are not found after searches in areas where they were found are called extinct species.
- (ii) These species are finished, so they cannot be revived.
- (iii) Example – Asiatic cheetah, Pink-head duck etc.

Q.16. Which three human activities are responsible for the depletion of flora and fauna? Explain. [2011 (T-1)]

Ans. (i) Large scale development projects like river valley projects have submerged

large tracts of forest. For instance, Narmada Sagar project in M.P. would inundate 40,000 hectares of forest.

(ii) Mining is another important factor for depletion of flora and fauna.

(iii) Major factors behind depletion of flora and fauna are grazing and fuel-wood collection.

Q.17. What is bio-diversity? Why is bio-diversity important for human life? [2011 (T-1)]

Ans. Biodiversity is immensely rich in wildlife and cultivated species, diverse in form and function but closely integrated in a system through multiple network of interdependencies. We share this planet with all plants, birds, animals and insects. The entire habitat that we live in has immense biodiversity. Human beings along with all living organisms form a complex web of ecological system on which all are interdependent for their existence. Without bio-diversity human life cannot exist.

Q.18. How does afforestation help in maintaining ecological balance? Explain any three points to support your answer. [2011 (T-1)]

Ans. We human along with all living organisms form a complex web of ecological system in which we are only a part and very much dependent on this system for our own existence. For example, the plants, animals and micro-organism re-create the quality of the air we breathe, the water we drink and the soil that produces our food, without which we cannot survive. Forests play a key role in the ecological system as these are also the primary producers on which all other living beings depend.