

Forest and Wildlife Resources

2



Short Answer Type Questions-II _____ (3 marks each)

Q. 1. Describe the Project Tiger launched by the Indian government.

[CBSE, Term 1, 2016]

Ans. The Project Tiger Conservation programme was initiated in 1973 in Corbett National Park of Uttarakhand for the purpose of saving the tiger population from extinction in India. The objective of this project was to ensure the survival and maintenance of the tiger population of India. This is one of the success stories of wildlife conservation in the whole world. An estimate of the tiger population in India at that turn of the century places the figure upto 40,000. Subsequently, the first ever all India-Tiger census was conducted in 1972 which revealed the existence of only 1827 tigers. The project of conservations of tiger population was launched by the government of India with the help of international agencies like World Wildlife Fund etc. Nine Tiger Reserves in nine state with the total area of 13,017 km² were set aside with a tiger population of about 300.

The main achievements of this project are excellent recovery of the habitat and consequent areas from a mere 268 in

9 reserves in 1972 to 2,226 in 27 reserves in 2015. Out of the total area an area of 4,936 km² was set apart as a core zone free from all human interference. Cattle grazing in this area has been stopped and many villages have been move out.

Q. 2. Explain how communities have conserved and protected forest and wildlife in India.

[CBSE, Term 1, 2015]

Ans. Role of communities in the conservation of forest and wildlife can be explained as follows:

- (i) 'Sariska Tiger Reserve' is situated in Rajasthan, here the people of nearby villages have fought against mining activities and protecting the natural habitat of wildlife.
- (ii) In Alwar, Rajasthan, the people of five villages have declared 1200 hectare of forest as the "Bhairodev Dakav Sanctuary". They set their own rules and regulations which do not allow hunting etc.
- (iii) Chipko movement by locals in Himalayas successfully resisted the deforestation.



Long Answer Type Questions _____ (5 marks each)

Q. 1. What is bio-diversity? Why is bio-diversity important for human lives? Analyse.

[CBSE, Term 1, 2016]

Ans. The variety of flora and fauna in a given geographical area is called biodiversity of that area. Each species on this earth lives in a system of interdependencies on various biotic and abiotic factors. Human beings also depend on several biotic and abiotic factors for their survival. We may be directly taking some resources

from certain species, but we indirectly depend on many other species. Hence, biodiversity is important for human lives. Biodiversity boosts ecosystem productivity where each species, no matter how small, all have an important role to play. For example, a large number of plant species means a greater variety of crops. Greater species diversity ensures natural sustainability for all life forms. In addition, the richer the diversity of life,

the greater the opportunity for medical discoveries, economic development, and adaptive responses to such new challenges as climate change. A healthy biodiversity provides a number of natural services for everyone.

(i) Ecosystem services, such as

- Protection of water resources
- Soils formation and protection
- Nutrient storage and recycling
- Pollution breakdown and absorption
- Contribution of climate stability
- Maintenance of ecosystems
- Recovery from unpredictable events

(ii) Biological resources, such as

- Food
- Medicinal resources and pharmaceutical drugs
- Wood products
- Ornamental plants
- Breeding stocks, population reservoirs
- Future resources
- Diversity in genes, species and ecosystems

(iii) Social benefits, such as

- Research, education and monitoring
- Recreation and tourism
- Cultural values