

Conservation of Plants and Animals Class 8 Notes

➤ **Deforestation and its causes.**

- There is a diversity of plants and animals which exist on earth. a major threat to survival of these organisms is deforestation.
- Deforestation: It means clearing of forests for using land for other purposes.
- Trees in forest are cut for Procuring land for cultivation, Building houses and factories etc.
- Some natural causes of deforestation are forest fires and severe droughts.

➤ **Consequences of Deforestation**

- i. Can lead to increase in temperature and pollution level on the earth.
- ii. It increases the level of carbondioxide in the atmosphere and Ground water level also gets lowered.
- iii. If cutting of trees continues,rainfall and the fertility of the soil will decrease.
- iv. It will lead to increased chances of natural calamitiessuch as floods and droughts.
- v. it can lead to global warming
- vi. The increase in temperature on the earthdisturbs the water cycle and may reducerrainfall. This could cause droughts.
- vii. It leads to the change in soil properties.
- viii. Fewer trees result in more soil erosion.
- ix. Desertification: deforestation leads to soil erosion by removal of the top layer of the soil and by exposing the lower, hard and rocky layers. This soil becomes less fertile.Gradually the fertile land gets convertedinto deserts.
- x. Deforestation also leads to a decreasein water holding capacity of the soil.
- xi. Theother properties of the soil like nutrientcontent, texture etc., also changebecause of deforestation

➤ **Conservation of Forestand Wildlife**

- i. Biosphere: It is that part of the earth inwhich living organisms exist or which supports life.
- ii. Biological diversity: It refers to diversity oforganisms existing on the earth, their interrelationships and their relationship with the environment. biodiversity is the variety of plants, animals and microorganisms generally found in an area
- iii. Wildlife Sanctuary: It is the areas where animals are protected from anydisturbance to them and their habitat.
- iv. National Park: The areas reserved forwild life where they can freely use the habitats and natural resources.

➤ **Biosphere Reserve:**

Biosphere reserves are the areas meantfor conservation of biodiversity.Thebiosphere reserves help to maintain thebiodiversity and culture of that area.

➤ **Flora and fauna:** The plants and animals found in a particular area are termed flora and fauna respectively of that area.

➤ **Species:** it is a group of populationwhich are capable of interbreeding to reproduce fertile offspring.

- **Endemic species:** Species of plants and animals which are found exclusively in a particular area and are not naturally found anywhere else. E.g., *sal* and wild mango
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Sanctuaries like reserve forests provide protection and suitable living conditions to wild animals. Killing, poaching or capturing animals in general is strictly prohibited and punishable by law in all such places.
- **National Park:** these are large and diverse areas enough to protect whole sets of ecosystems. They preserve flora, fauna, landscape and historic objects of an area.
- **Project Tiger:** It was launched by the government to protect the tigers in the country. The objective was to ensure the survival and maintenance of the tiger population in the country.
- **Endangered species:** the species whose numbers are diminishing to a level that they might face extinction are known as the endangered animals.
- **Ecosystem:** An ecosystem is made of all the plants, animals and microorganisms in an area along with non-living components such as soil, river etc.
- **Red Data Book:** This book is the source book which keeps a record of all the endangered animals and plants. Red Data Book is maintained internationally by an organization.
- **Migratory birds:** Birds who cover long distances to reach another land are known as migratory birds. These birds fly for laying eggs as the weather in their natural habitat becomes unsuitable
- **Paper recycling:** Generally, paper can be recycled five to seven times for use. One can save, reuse used paper and recycle it. It also helps us to save energy and water needed for manufacturing paper.
- **Reforestation:** It is the restocking of the destroyed forests by planting new trees. Generally, the same species which were found in that forest are replanted. Plant at least the same number of trees we cut. Reforestation can take place naturally if the deforested area is left undisturbed, it reestablishes itself.
- **The Forest Conservation Act:** The act aims at preservation and conservation of natural forests and meeting the basic needs of the people living in or near the forests.