**FORESTS AND WILDLIFE**

**SHORT ANSWERS**

1. What is the importance of forests?

OR

“Forests play a key role in the ecological system.” Highlight the value of forests in our life.

OR

Why is it necessary to increase the area under forest cover in India?

Ans. All living organisms form a complex web of ecological system. Forest is one and an essential part of this ecological system. Following are the reasons why forests are important for the survival for other living beings:

I. Forests are the primary producers on which all other living beings depend.

II. Forests provide shelter to most of the living beings.

III. Many communities directly depend on them for food, drink, medicine, culture, spirituality , etc.

2. What has been the contribution of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act in protecting habitats in India? Explain.

Ans. The Wildlife Protection Act was implemented in 1972 with the objective to protect the wildlife in India. Following are the steps taken in this direction:

i.The Act enlisted the species that need special attention for their protection. The coerce of the Act was to protect the remaining population of certain endangered species by banning hunting, giving legal protection to their habitats, and restricting trade in wildlife.

ii. The Act encourages launching of new projects for protecting

animals, which were greatly threatened, including the tiger , the one horned rhinoceros, the Kashmir stag or hangul, three types of crocodiles–fresh water crocodile, saltwater crocodile and the Gharial, the Asiatic lion, and others.

iii. The Act emphasizes on establishing more national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and bio reserves to protect and conserve the wildlife.

3. Why do we need to conserve forests and wildlife?

Ans. Conservation preserves the ecological diversity and our life support systems such as water , air and soil. It also preserves the genetic diversity of plants and animals for better growth of species and breeding. Because in agriculture, we still depend on traditional crop varieties. Fisheries too are heavily dependent on the maintenance of aquatic biodiversity .

4. With reference to the type and distribution of forests,answer the following questions:

(i) How are they classified?

(ii) Which type of forests are regarded as the most valuable as far as the conservation of forest and wildlife resources are concerned?

Ans. (i) Forest are classified as:

(a) Reserved forests

(b) Protected forests

(c) Unclassed forests

(d) Normal forests.

(ii) Reserved forests are regarded as the most valuable as far as the conservation of forests and wildlife resources are concerned.

5. Define the following:

(i) Reserved forests

(ii) Protected forests

(iii) Unclassed forests

OR

How many types of forests are classified in India? Explain.

Ans. (i) Reserved forests: These are the forests which are permanently earmarked either to the production of timber or other forest produce and in which right of grazing and cultivation is banned.

(ii) Protected forests: These are forests in which the right of grazing and cultivation are allowed subject to a few minor restrictions.

(iii) Unclassed forests: These consist largely of inaccessible or unoccupied wastes.

5. “Nature-worship is an old age belief”. Explain how it has helped in the conservation of forests and wildlife.

Ans. Worshiping nature is an old age belief. In olden days people

use to worship nature this culture still exists in our country . Such

type of culture helps in preserving the forests and wildlife.

i. Nature-worship is an age old tribal belief based on the premise that all creations of nature have to be protected. Such beliefs have preserved several virgin forests in pristine form called sacred groves (the forest of Gods and Goddesses). These patches of forests or parts of large forests,

have been left untouched by local people and any interference with

them is banned.

ii.The Mundas and Santhal of Chota Nagpur regions worship mahua (Bassia latifolia) and kadamba (Anthocaphalus Cadamba) tree, and the tribals of Odisha and Bihar worship the tamarind (tamarindus indica) and mango (Mangifera indica) trees during weddings.

iii. Peepal and banyan trees are also considered sacred and worshipped in most parts of India.

iv. Sacred qualities are often ascribed to springs, mountain peaks, plants and animals which are closely protected.

v. In and around Bishnoi villages in Rajasthan, herds of blackbuck,(chinkara), nilgai and peacocks can be seen as an integral part of the community and nobody harms them.

6. What are the main objectives of JFM?

Ans. i. Under the Joint Forest Management programme, local communities are involved in the management and restoration of degraded forests.

ii. The major purpose of the JFM is to protect the forests from encroachments, grazing, theft and fire and also to improve the forests in accordance with an approved Joint Forest Management plan.

iii. In return, the members of these communities are entitled to intermediary benefits like non-timber forest produce.

7. Answer the following questions:

(i) Name any two states which have the largest area under permanent forests.

(ii) Name any four states which have a large area under reserved

forests.

(iii) Name any four states which have the large area under unclassed forests.

Ans. (i) T wo states having the largest area under permanent forests are Madhya Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh.

(ii) Four states having large area under reserved forests are Jammu and Kashmir , Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Kerala.

(iii) Four states having large area under unclassed forests are Gujarat, Manipur, Assam and Sikkim

8. Write four major reasons for the depletion of forest cover .

Ans. i. Deforestation for agricultural purposes.

ii. Shifting cultivation which is still practised in substantial parts of tribal belts.

iii. Large-scale development of river valley projects.

iv. Mining activities have also resulted in deforestation. For example, the tiger reserve in West Bengal is seriously threatened by the ongoing dolomite mining.

v. Environmental pollution and forest fires have also led to depletion of forest