

## Threats to Biodiversity:

Any disturbance in an natural ecosystem tend to reduce its biodiversity.

The waste generated due to increase in human population  $\rightarrow$  industrialisation, spoils the environment  $\rightarrow$  leads to more diversity in biological species.

Any change in the system leads to a major imbalance  $\rightarrow$  threatens the normal ecological cycle.

Causes for loss of biodiversity or various threats to indian biodiversity.

### Habitat loss:

The loss of populations of interbreeding organisms is caused by habitat loss. Habitat loss threatened a wide range of animals  $\rightarrow$  plants.

### Factors influencing Habitat loss

\* **Deforestation:** The loss of habitat is mainly caused by deforestation activities. The forest  $\rightarrow$  grasslands are the natural homes of thousands of species, which disintegrate due to loss of their natural habitat.

\* **Destruction of wetlands:** The wetlands, estuaries  $\rightarrow$  mangroves are destroyed due to draining, filling  $\rightarrow$  pollution which causes huge biodiversity loss.

\* **Habitat fragmentation:** Sometimes the habitat is

divided into small and scattered patches.

This phenomenon is known as habitat fragmentation.

**Raw material:** For the production of hybrid seeds, the wild plants are used as raw material.

**production of drugs:** Many pharmaceutical companies

collect wild plant for the production of drugs.

**Illegal Trade:** Illegal trade on wildlife also reduces the biodiversity & leads to habitat loss.

**Developmental Activities:** Construction of massive dams

in the forest areas, discharge industrial effluents

which kill the birds & other aquatic organisms.

**poaching (over harvesting) of wildlife:**

poaching means killing of animals for

Commercial hunting.

\* Subsistence poaching

\* Commercial poaching

**Factors influencing poaching**

\* Human population

\* Commercial Activities

**wild life products**

**Wealth of wildlife**

**Importers of wild life:** The rich countries in Europe

North America, Japan, Taiwan are the major

importers of wildlife products.

**Ex:** Male gorilla, Blubber, Baloon, Elephant, Bushmeat

**Remedy measures:**

✓ Biodiversity laws should be strengthened.

✓ illegal hunting & trade of animals &

animal products should be stopped immediately.

## Man-wild life conflicts.

Man-wildlife conflicts arise, when wildlife starts causing immense damage & danger to the man.

Ex:

In Sambalpur, Orissa, 195 humans were killed in the last 5 years by elephants. In retaliation the villagers have killed 98 elephants and badly injured 30 elephants.

Very recently two men were killed by leopards in Powai, Mumbai.

A total of 14 persons were killed during 19 attacks by the leopards in Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Mumbai.

Factors influencing man-animal conflicts:

\* Garbage near human settlements or food crops near forest areas attract wild animals.

\* Shrinking of forest cover compels wildlife to move outside the forest and attack the fields & humans.

\* Human encroachment into the forest area induces a conflict between man & the wildlife.

\* Injured animals have a tendency to attack man. Usually the female wildlife attacks the human if she feels that her newborn cubs are in danger.

Remedial measures of biodiversity

\* Adequate Crop & Cattle Compensation Schemes must be started.

\* The development & construction work in and around forest region must be stopped.

\* Cropping pattern should be changed near the forest borders.