

CBSE • CLASS 10 • SOCIAL SCIENCE

GEOGRAPHY

CHAPTER 02

Forest and Wildlife Resources



CHAPTER NOTES



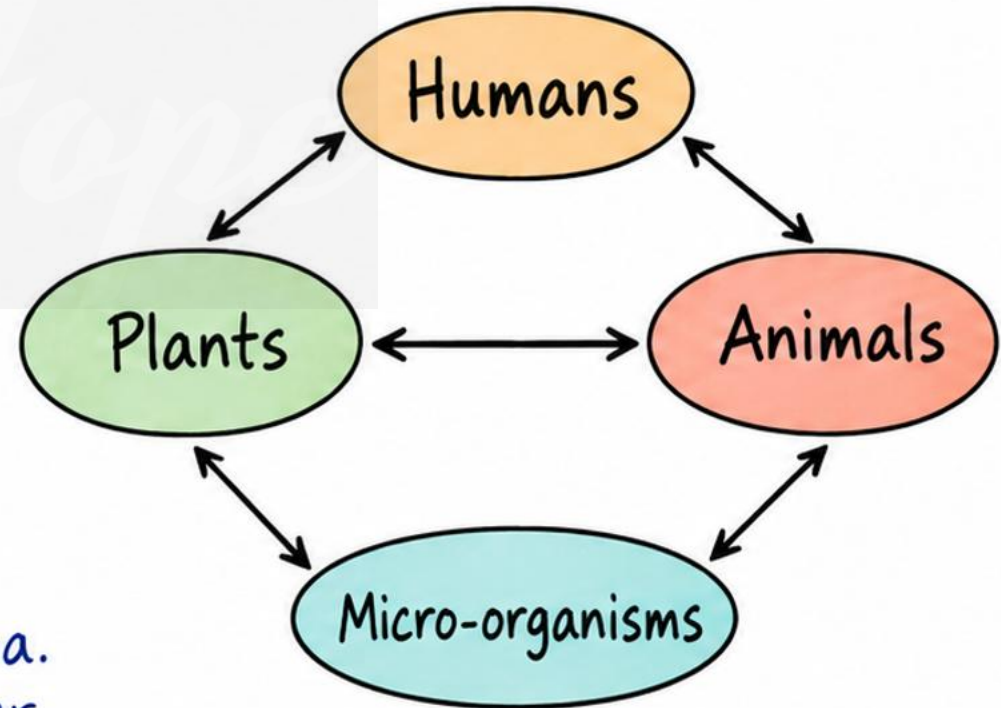
BIODIVERSITY AND INTERDEPENDENCE

Biodiversity or biological diversity means the variety of living organisms, including wild and cultivated species. They differ in form and function but depend on one another.

Flora means the plants of a region. Fauna means its animals.

A web of life

- Humans are one part of a complex ecological system, not separate from it.
- Plants, animals and micro-organisms help maintain air, water and the soil that produces our food.
- Forest plants are primary producers. Other living organisms depend on them.
- India has a very rich variety of flora and fauna. These resources support daily life but are under stress from human insensitivity to the environment.



CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Why conservation matters

- Protect ecological diversity and life-support systems: air, water and soil.
- Preserve genetic diversity, helping species grow and supporting breeding.
- Traditional crop varieties are important for agriculture.
- Aquatic biodiversity supports fisheries.
- Forest loss and declining wildlife make conservation essential. The chapter's examples of threatened gharials and bird deaths linked to polluted Yamuna water show that habitats also need protection.

Wildlife protection programme

Conservation demands: 1960s and 1970s

Wildlife (Protection) Act: 1972

- Ban hunting of endangered species.
- Give legal protection to habitats.
- Restrict wildlife trade.
- Publish a protected-species list.
- Establish national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

PROTECTED SPECIES AND BIODIVERSITY

Special protection projects

- Tiger
- one-horned rhinoceros
- Kashmir stag or hangul
- freshwater crocodile
- saltwater crocodile
- gharial
- Asiatic lion.
- Other examples include the Indian elephant, blackbuck, chinkara, great Indian bustard or godawan, and snow leopard.
- Blackbuck and chinkara are different animals, not two names for the same animal.

Beyond large animals

- Conservation increasingly protects biodiversity as a whole rather than only a few large animals.

1980 and 1986:

Notifications added several hundred butterflies, moths and beetles, and one dragonfly, to the protected list.

1991:

Plants were added for the first time, starting with 6 species.

PROJECT TIGER

1973: Project Tiger launched

Estimated population at the turn of the century: 55,000

Population reported in 1973: 1,827

These are historical figures given in the chapter, not present-day counts.

Conservation aim

Protect tigers as an endangered species and conserve large habitats and the living communities within them.

Tiger protection therefore helps preserve more than one species.

Why tigers declined

- Poaching and illegal trade.
- Shrinking habitats.
- Fewer prey animals.
- Growing human population and pressure on habitats.
- Demand for skins and bones, including use in traditional medicines.

In the chapter's account, India and Nepal provided habitat for about two-thirds of surviving tigers and became major targets for poaching.

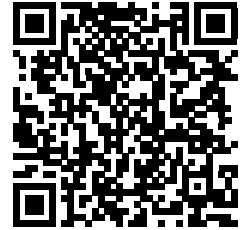


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