

Deforestation and Reforestation

Deforestation is the clearing of forests to use the land for **cultivation, building** houses and **factories**, making **furniture**, and the construction of dams, or for using wood for fuel. Cases where human beings are responsible for deforestation are known as **man-made** causes, while cases such as forest fires are known as **natural** causes. Other causes of deforestation include **forest fires**, severe **floods** and severe **droughts**. For the survival and well-being of the human **species**, a vast variety of plants and animals exist on the earth.

A consequence of deforestation is global warming that has a severe impact on the **environment**.

Reforestation means planting new **trees** in destroyed forest area. **Carbon dioxide** released into the atmosphere traps sunlight reflected by the earth's surface, and results in an increase in temperature levels on the earth.

This increase in the temperature levels is called **global warming**. It is advisable to **replant** trees of the same species that are found in a forest. In India, we have the **Forest Conservation Act**, which is aimed at preserving and conserving natural forests. Significance of the **recycling process** of paper - Used paper is sent back to the factories for recycling, after the **recycled paper** has been used, the amount of waste paper being **disposed** off would be much lesser. It takes 17 fully grown trees to make one **tonne of paper**. Even **harmful chemicals** are used in making paper. Trees are cut down and the wood is taken to a **paper factory** for producing paper. The paper that is produced is then sent to **towns and cities** for use.

Conservation of Forest and Wildlife

Humans cleared up forests, leaving animals homeless and hungry, so there is a need for **conservation of forests**. **Documentaries** on 'Conservation of Forests and Wildlife' are usually shown on television.

Biosphere means the regions of the earth, where living organisms exist. A **biosphere reserve** is a place reserved for all life forms found in a particular area. **Biodiversity** is the diversity of plant and animal life found in a particular area. A biosphere reserve consists of a number of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, like the **Rajiv Gandhi National Park, the Silent Valley National Park, the Mukurthi Wildlife Sanctuary** and the **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve**. The **Mudumalai National Park** hosts a variety of flora such as the *Begonia malabarica*, rosewood, coral trees, etc. The **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve** is the first Indian biosphere reserve. Plants and animals confined to a particular area are referred to as the **flora and fauna**.

Endemic species found in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve are Nilgiri langurs, great Indian horn bills, thorny costers, blue mormons etc. **Endangered species** or **threatened wild animals** in the **Waynad Wildlife Sanctuary** are the black buck, marsh crocodile, python, etc. **Killing or poaching** of animals is prohibited in the **Waynad Wildlife Sanctuary**. The only way to protect these animals from **extinction** is by increasing awareness. **Project Tiger** is a government initiative, launched to ensure the survival of the tiger population. Information about endangered species is recorded in the **Red Data Book**. A number of birds migrate to the Vedanthangal **Bird Sanctuary**. When natural habitats are not conducive for breeding, birds move to safer areas to breed, which is called **migration**. Birds that fly from far-off places to reach a new habitat are known as **migratory birds**.