

FOREST AND WILDLIFE

Conservation - Why is it needed?

- »» Preserves ecological diversity and our life support systems - water, air, soil
- »» Preserves genetic diversity of plants and animals for better growth of species and breeding
- »» 1960s & 1970s - conservationists demanded a national wildlife protection programme
 - ↓
 - »» 1972 - Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act implemented, various provisions for protecting habitats
 - »» All India list of protected species published.
 - »» Thrust of the programme - protecting the remaining population of certain endangered species by banning hunting, giving legal protection to their habitat, restricted trade in wildlife.
 - »» Central govt. announced projects for protecting:
 - The Tiger
 - The one-horned rhinoceros
 - The Kashmir stag or hygul
 - Three types of crocodiles
 - Freshwater
 - Salt water
 - the Gharial
 - The Asiatic Lion
 - The Indian elephant
 - The Black Buck (chinkara)
 - The Great Indian bustard (godawan)
 - The Snow leopard
 - etc.

»» Given full or partial legal protection against hunting and trade throughout India

Establishments of Protective Institutions

Wildlife Sanctuary	Biosphere Reserve	National Park
Natural habitat, owned by govt.	Reserved area established by govt. to protect the environment as a whole	Notified areas that cover a larger area of land
Less Restrictions - India has 566 of them	Moderate Restrictions - India has 18 of them	Heavy Restrictions - India has 104 of them

»» 1973 - Tiger population had dwindled to 1,827 from an estimated 55,000 at the turn of century

»» "Project Tiger" launched in 1973.

»» Major Tiger Reserves:

- Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand
- Manas Tiger Reserve, Assam
- Periyar, Kerala
- Sariska Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan
- Sundarbans National Park, West Bengal

»» Wildlife Act of 1980, 1986 - butterflies, moths, beetles (hundreds of species), one dragonfly added to list of protected species

»» 1991 - Plants added to the list first time, starting with 6 species

Types of Forests

1. Reserved Forests
2. Protected Forests
3. Unclassed Forests

1. Reserved

- »» More than half of the forests of total
- »» Most valuable

2. Protected

- »» $\frac{1}{3}$ of total forest area
- »» Protected from further depletion

3. Unclassed

- »» wasteland, belongs to both community and govt
- »» North-east states and parts of Gujarat have high percentage ~~now~~ managed by local communities.

CHIPKO MOVEMENT, Himalayas

- »» Started by Sunder Lal Bahuguna
- »» Showed that community afforestation with indigenous species can be successful
- »» attempts to revive traditional conservation methods or developing new methods of ecological farming

»» Citizen groups - Beej Bachao Andolan in Tehri and Navdanya → shown:

diversified crop production without synthetic chemicals is possible.

Joint Forest Management Programme (JFM)

- »» involved local communities in management and restoration of degraded forests
- »» since 1988 - Odisha passed 1st resolution
- »» depends on formation of local (village) institutions that undertake protection activities ↓ in return
- »» members of these communities entitled to intermediary benefits, like:
 - non-timber forest produces
 - share in timber harvested by 'successful protection'

