

Conservation of forests:

Why there is a need to conserve forests?

If we don't protect our forests, how will we clean the air, store carbon, and purify water — for the entire planet?

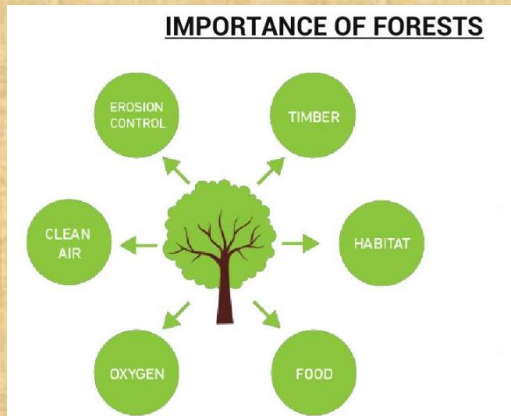


Forests are “biodiversity hot spots”. Forests are home to a number of life forms. So one of the main aims to conserve forests is to try and preserve the biodiversity we have inherited.

Industries consider the forests as a source of raw materials for their factories. So the damage caused to these reserves by industrial people, and tourists are leading towards deforestation. Agricultural needs due to the increase in population are also leading to deforestation. The conservation of forests should reverse deforestation and environmental pollution.

Importance of forests:

- ✚ The important function of forests is that it produces mass amounts of oxygen. Oxygen is the main respiratory gas needed for the survival of animals and humans.



- ✚ Forests reduce air pollution by absorbing carbon dioxide during the process of photosynthesis. Plants take in carbon dioxide, one of the main pollutants, and release the oxygen needed for the survival of the organisms.
- ✚ Forests prevent soil erosion and play an important role in the water cycle and ecological balance.
- ✚ They are an important source of timber, fuelwood, cane, resins, lac, oils, fruits, nuts, firewood, fodder for animals, honey etc.

How to conserve forest resources?

By following a few steps, we can conserve our forests.



- ✚ **Controlled cutting or deforestation:** while cutting of trees cannot be avoided completely, we must try to control it. By adopting methods like clear-cutting and selective cutting at regular time intervals, there will be a chance for re-growth of trees. It means the young and immature trees should not be felled immediately. Only

matured trees should be selected for cutting and this process has to be followed in rotation.

- ✚ **Control over forest fire:** Destruction of forests due to fire is very common and the trees are highly exposed to fire. Once the fire started it becomes very difficult to control it. Here the formula is simple the larger the forest, the drier the air, the bigger the fool, the bigger the fire you will have. It may be due to nature or humans. Fire suppression techniques, firefighting techniques, and trained staff are necessary to reduce forest loss at times.
- ✚ **Reforestation and afforestation:** Any forest land which has been destroyed by fire or mining activities has to be reforested. Fresh afforestation programs should be started. New plantations will not only increase the forest cover but also help in making up the eco-balance.
- ✚ **Check over forest clearance:** For the purpose of agricultural land and the development of villages, cities, and towns, forestlands have been cleared and this process still continues to this day causing loss of forest cover. This should be checked and green belts of plants around cities should be developed.
- ✚ **Protection of forests:** The existing forests should be protected by using chemical sprays or antibiotics to save the trees from different parasite-affected diseases.
- ✚ By utilizing the forests and forest products in a proper way.
- ✚ Government should be very particular in the conservation of forests.
- ✚ Management of forest resources is the key to all conservation efforts. Survey of a forest, development of new techniques for conservation of forests, research and training programs towards conservation of forests can be done through proper management system is necessary to conserve our forests which are the lungs of our environment.