

CHAPTER 16

Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

Effects of Deforestation:

Soil Erosion:

Removal of plant cover exposes the fertile soil to wind and water. The latter remove the top soil and make the area infertile.

Desertification:

Removal of forest cover in the plains makes the area dry. In hot season, the soil becomes loose. Air currents take away the fine soil particles leaving behind sand.

Floods:

In rainy season, many temporary rivulets are formed due to loss of absorption capacity by unprotected soil. The rivulets produce floods in low land causing loss to agriculture, property and life.

Destruction of wildlife:

Deforestation leads to destruction of natural habitats of wild animals and plants. Wildlife is, therefore, destroyed.

Climatic Changes:

In the absence of forest cover, the summer becomes hotter while the winters become extra cool. The frequency of rainfall decreases.

National Award for Wildlife Conservation:

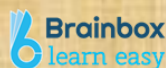
The Govt. of India has recently instituted an 'Amrita Devi Bishnoi National Award for wildlife conservation in the memory of Amrita Devi, who in 1931 sacrificed her life along with 363 other for the protection 'Khejri Trees' in Kherali Village near Jodhpur in Rajasthan.

Chipko Andolan:

Movement originated in Garhwal in early 1970's that was the result of a grassroot level effort to end the alienation of people from their forest. Thus, Chipko Movement (i.e., Chipko Andolan) is the tree hugging movement, in which the villagers compel the axeman to stop tree felling by embracing and forming ring (circle) around the marked trees.

Example:

Protection of Sal Forest in West Bengal in 1972.

Three 'R's to save the environment

Reduce means use less. Save the resource by not wasting them

Recycle
Segregate the waste that can be recycled and use to make required things

Reuse
Use the things again and again

Re-use is better than recycling as it saves energy.

Conservation of Wildlife:

It is very important to conserve wildlife to maintain the ecological balance in nature and to preserve the gene pool. Some of the measures (or steps) to be taken for the conservation of wildlife are given below:

- Laws should be made to impose a total ban on the poaching (killing) or capturing of any animal or bird belonging to an endangered species.
- The natural habitats of wild animals and birds should be preserved by establishing National Parks and Sanctuaries throughout the country.
- The Government Department connected with the conservation of wildlife should conduct a periodic survey in all the forests, National parks and Sanctuaries to have knowledge of the population of all species of wild animals and birds.
- Special attention should be paid to the conservation of endangered species of wild animals and birds to prevent their extinction altogether.

- The unauthorized felling (cutting) of forest trees for timber trade and fuel – wood should be curbed (stopped) immediately.

