

Conservation of Plants & Animals

Q1. What is a species? Give an example.

Ans: They are a group or class of animals or plants having certain common and permanent characteristics that clearly distinguish it from other groups and which can inter-breed among themselves. For example, Homo sapien, in which sapien refers to one type of animal species.

Q2. Why do some places show higher diversity than others?

Ans: Depending on climatic conditions and geographical area, some regions show higher biodiversity than others.

Q3. Why do some animals show migration?

Ans: Some animals travel long distances at certain times of the year in order to escape unfavourable conditions or to find more suitable conditions for feeding and reproducing.

Q4. Why are trees felled for wood?

Ans: Wood is required for fuel, for making furniture, in construction, and for making paper, boat, ship, artwork and rayon.

Q5. Define poaching. Name any three animals that are commonly poached.

Ans: Illegal hunting is called poaching. The Indian rhinoceros, Asian elephant and alligators are examples of commonly poached animals.

Q6. With the help of an example, define invasive species.

Ans: When new species are introduced to a new region, they grow and multiply rapidly, hindering the growth of already existing plants and animals, thus causing their gradual decrease and consequently death. Water hyacinth growing over the surface of water bodies is a common example of this.

Q7. What does IUCN stand for? Name the book it comes out with, that lists threatened species.

Ans: : The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. IUCN publishes a catalogue, called the Red Data Book, which lists rare species and those in danger of extinction.

Q8. List the nine categories of species in the IUCN list.

Ans: The nine categories are:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| 1. Not Evaluated | 2. Data Deficient | |
| 3. Least Concern | 4. Near Threatened | |
| 5. Vulnerable | 6. Endangered | |
| 7. Critically Endangered | 8. Extinct in the wild | 9. Extinct |

Q9. Explain biodiversity in detail.

Ans: Our planet has many types of living organisms found in places like forests, deserts, rivers, and oceans. The variety and number of these organisms is called biodiversity. Biodiversity can refer to a specific region or the whole Earth. Some areas have more biodiversity due to their climate and location.

Q10. Explain the major causes for loss of biodiversity on Earth.

Ans: Some main reasons for loss of biodiversity are:

- **Deforestation:** Cutting down forests destroys the homes of many plants and animals.
- **Pollution:** Dirty air, water, and land harm living things.
- **Climate change:** Natural and human activities have led to global climatic changes. Species that are not able to adjust to the changing climate become extinct.
- **Invasive species:** New species in an area can grow fast and harm the ones already living there.
- **Hunting:** Illegal hunting (poaching) for animal parts is a big threat to wildlife.
- **Natural disasters:** Events like floods, earthquakes, and droughts also reduce the number of plants and animals.

Q11. Define conservation. Explain the role of NGOs in conservation of biodiversity in India.

Ans: The preservation and careful management of plant and animal species in order to prevent their extinction is called conservation.

In India, some NGOs help the government in protecting the environment. Some spread awareness, others help enforce rules, and some work to restore natural habitats. Well-known conservation efforts include Project Tiger, Van Mahotsava, and the Chipko movement.

Q12. Explain with examples what we mean by extinct, endangered and vulnerable species.

Ans: Endangered species: Species that face an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild are called critically endangered species. Example-The Indian Gharial

Vulnerable species: Species that face a high risk of extinction in the wild are called vulnerable species. Example-The Indian Bison

Q13. Explain briefly the different kinds of protected areas and how they have helped in conservation of biodiversity.

Ans: To protect biodiversity, many areas have been declared as protected zones:

- **Forest reserves:** Large forests protected from human use.
- **Wildlife sanctuaries:** Areas where limited human activity is allowed; cutting trees and hunting are banned.
- **National parks:** Stricter than sanctuaries, with very little or no human activity to protect wildlife.
- **Zoological parks (zoos):** Places where animals are kept for public viewing to spread awareness about wildlife conservation.
- **Botanical gardens:** Gardens that protect rare and threatened plants. They also store seeds to help conserve plant species.