



## CHAPTER-5

### NATURAL VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE

#### NOTES:

The natural growth of plant without any interference from human being is known as natural vegetation. Natural vegetation is classified as:

1. Forest- in regions of heavy rain
2. Grasslands- in region of moderate rain
3. Shrubs and scrubs- in dry regions
4. Tundra vegetation- in polar region

#### Forest

**Tropical Evergreen Forests** are found in equatorial regions, hot and receive abundant rainfall throughout the year. Trees are tall and remaining green throughout the year. They have spectacular wildlife.

**Tropical Deciduous Forests** are found in monsoon regions of Asia, Central America and northern Australia. The trees shed their leaves in dry season to conserve moisture.

**Temperate Evergreen Forests** are mainly found in south-eastern U.S.A, southern China and south eastern Brazil. They have mixes variety of trees.

**Temperate Deciduous Forests** have moderate temperature and rainfall. Most of the trees have thick trunks and broad leaves. They shed their leaves in autumn and remain leafless throughout winter.

**Mediterranean Forests** are found in areas around the Mediterranean Sea and California in U.S.A. This region experiences wet winter and dry summer. The trees adapt very well to the long dry season as they have thick barks and waxy leaves.

**Coniferous Forests** are also called the taiga. They are evergreen forest. They exist in the northern hemisphere between 50° and 70° latitudes. Trees are tall and conical in shape. They have needle-shaped leaves to reduce transpiration. The animal of this region have fur on their bodies to protect the severe cold.

#### Grasslands

Extensive grasslands occur in regions of moderate rainfall.

**Tropical grasslands** occur on both sides of the equatorial region. The grass is 3 to 4 meters tall and is known as 'Elephant Grass'. These grasslands are known as Savanna in Africa and Campos in Brazil.

**Temperate grasslands** are found in the interior parts of the continents in temperate regions. The grasses are short and trees are absent. Cattle are reared in these grasslands.

### **Shrubs and Scrubs**

Shrubs and thorny bushes occur in desert or semi-desert regions where rainfall is very low. The plants have long roots and waxy leaves. Camel adapt to the desert conditions as it can survive without water for long periods of time.

### **Tundra vegetation**

Tundra type of vegetation occurs in the extreme northern parts of Europe, Asia and northern America. During summer there is a short growing season of about three months. The tundra region is also known as the cold desert.

### **Ecosystem**

The animals and the plants interact with each other as well as with their natural environment. The study of the interactions between organisms and their natural environment is called ecology, while the system of interactions between the two is known as ecosystem.

Clearing of forests for agriculture, industries and settlement has disturbed the balance in the nature. Due to the loss of balance many plant and animal species have faced extinction.

### **Some indigenous plants/trees of Manipur**

Manipur is rich in her flora and fauna. Teak, pine, oak, uningthou, leihao, bamboo, cane etc are important forest resources. Indigenous trees of Tairen, Heikrang, Khok, Uyung, Koubiliya, Tera, Khongnang etc are growing plenty in the valley districts . Chumbrei, Heikha, Heitup, Heibong, Theibong, Heinoujom are fruit bearing trees grows in the state. The important species of bamboos are Khokwa, Utang, Saneibi, Maribob, Watangkhoi, Unal etc are grown in Manipur.

### **Wildlife in Manipur**

Keibul Lamjao National Park in Manipur was established in the year 1966 as a Sanctuary and in the year 1977 as a National Park . It is the only floating sanctuary in the world with floating vegetation (phumdi). The brown antlered deer, *Cervus eldi eldi*, called Sangai is an endangered, rare animal. Other rare species are Kharsa (hog deer) ,Sakil(Sambar), Barking deer(red deer) etc.

## **National Park**

An area which is strictly reserved for the betterment of the wildlife and biodiversity, and where activities like developmental forestry, poaching, hunting and grazing on cultivation are not permitted is called National Park. The Keibul Lamjao National Park of Bishnupur District, Manipur is a National Park.

## **Wildlife Sanctuary**

Wildlife Sanctuary is an area, which is of adequate ecological, faunal, floral, geomorphological, natural of Zoological significance.

Two sanctuaries in Manipur are

### 1. Yangoupokpi Lokchao Wildlife Sanctuary

It is located at the Indo Myanmar border at Chandel district. The sanctuary is rich in endemic bird species such as Green Peafowl Pavo (Wahong Asangba).

### 2. Khongjaingamba Ching Wildlife Sanctuary

It is located near Keibul Lamjao National Park. Lam Ok, Barking deer, Wild boar and migratory birds are found in the sanctuary.



मानिगोरोनासाल एके नसुणुमले (एम)  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)**  
Government of Manipur