



UNIT IV
NATURAL VEGETATION AND WILD LIFE

NOTES

1. **Natural vegetation** - Natural vegetation refers to a plant community which has grown naturally without human aid.
2. **Virgin vegetation** - Plant community that has been left undisturbed by human beings for a long period.
3. **Diversity in Flora and Fauna** - The diversity in flora and fauna is caused by the following factors- Relief (land), Soil, Climate (temperature), Photoperiod (sunlight) and Precipitation.
4. **Ecosystem** - Groups of plant communities occur in areas having similar climatic condition. In general the nature of the plants in an area determines the animal life in that area. Hence all the plants and animals in an area are interdependent to each other and form an ecosystem.
5. **Biome** - A biome is a large ecosystem on land having distinct types of vegetation and animal life. The biomes are identified on the basis of plants.
6. **Types of Vegetation** - Five major vegetation types can be identified. They are:
 - Tropical Evergreen Forests
 - Tropical Deciduous Forests
 - Tropical Thorn Forests and Scrubs
 - Mountain Forests and
 - Mangrove Forests
7. **Wild Life** –
 - India is rich in wild life which has more than 89,000 of animal species and 1200 species of birds.
 - Moreover, there are 2,500 species of fish in its fresh and marine waters.





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8. Measures for Conservation of wild life –

- The Government has taken various measures to protect the natural ecosystem of the country.
- To protect the flora and fauna, the government has set up **18 Biosphere Reserves** in different parts of the country. **e.g.** Sundarbans in West Bengal, Nanda Devi in Uttarakhand etc.
- The Government has been providing financial and technical assistance to many Botanical Gardens in the country since 1992.
- **Project Tiger**, Project Rhino, Project Great Indian Bustard and many other eco-development projects have been introduced by the Government.
- In order to preserve National heritage, many National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Zoological Gardens have been set up in different parts of the country.
- Now, we know the importance of the Natural Ecosystem for our own survival.
- **So, every one of us has a responsibility to protect and preserve the Flora and Fauna of the country.**



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