

# Forest and Wildlife

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Vegetation growing naturally to a particular region because of land formation, climate and similar other factors controlled by the environment is called natural vegetation. Forest is also a natural vegetation but it has more organized economic usefulness to man. Thus, a forest is understood and studied in a different way than natural vegetation.

India has different physical features and different climates; therefore it has different natural vegetation across the country.

## **Tropical Evergreen Vegetation**

It is found in the regions where rainfall is very high, above 300cm annually. The dry season is short. Trees do not shed their leaves. Trees grow very tall, up to 60m and above. Forests are very dense and every type of plant life grows. Grass is almost absent. This vegetation is found in Western Ghats of Kerala, Karnataka and North Eastern Hills. Mahogany, chincona, bamboos and palms are some of the plants found in this vegetation.

## **Tropical Semi-evergreen Vegetation**

It is found in the region where rainfall is 250cm to 300cm annually. The dry season is little longer. Vegetation is evergreen and deciduous. Deciduous vegetation is that in which trees shed leaves once a year. The vegetation is less dense than the evergreen. This vegetation is found in Meghalaya plateau, Sahyadris and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Rosewood and ebony are two economically important products.



India – Natural Vegetation

### **Tropical Deciduous Vegetation**

It is found in the region where rainfall is 100 to 200cm annually. The dry season is three to four months. Vegetation shed leaves once a year in dry season. This is the most wide spread vegetal cover of India. This vegetation is found in Sahyadris, the Himalayan foot hills in the Siwaliks. Teak, sal, sandalwood, shisham, cane and bamboo are important trees of these forests.

### **Dry Tropical Deciduous Vegetation**

It is found in the region where rainfall is 70 to 100cm annually. The dry season is three to four months. Vegetation shed leaves once a year in dry season. This

vegetation is found in parts of Uttar Pradesh, parts of Madhya Pradesh, parts of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Characteristics of this vegetation are long stretches of grass land between groups of trees. Teak is the dominant tree of this type of vegetation.



Barren hill slopes cause land slides

### **Dry Tropical Thorny Vegetation**

It is found in the region where rainfall is less than 70 cm annually. The dry season is three to four months. Vegetation shed leaves once a year in dry season. This vegetation is found in parts of north and northwestern parts of India. Characteristics of this vegetation are vast, poor and coarse grass land with widely spaced trees and bushes. Acacia and cacti are dominant tree of this type of vegetation.



Pine forests

## Tidal Vegetation

It is found in delta region. It is found in deltas of the Ganga, Mahanadi, Godavari and Krishna. These are flooded by the tidal waves. Mangrove is the representative of this type of vegetation. Sundari is the typical tree of this vegetation. The name Sunderban is derived from it.



India – Wildlife Parks and Sanctuaries

## The Mountain Vegetation

India has broadly two types of mountains. These are:



### **(a) Mountains of Peninsular Plateau**

These include Nilgiri, Annamalai, Mahabaleshwar in Western Ghats, Satpura and Maikal hills. Mostly these are covered with grass and part of these with mosses and ferns. Magnolia, elm are common trees. Eucalyptus has been brought in later.

### **(b) The Mountain Vegetation of The Himalayan Ranges**

It provides very wide variety. In brief, the vegetation changes with altitude and location. There is no vegetation near snow line. Tree composition changes with altitude and there is wide variety. Altitudes determine the character of vegetation in many ways. Deodar, silver fir, spruce, oak, birch, pine and rhododendron are common trees at various altitudes and climatic condition available on mountains.

### **Conservation of Forests**

Forests are very important ecologically. **Ecology is a science which tells us about the relationship between different living beings (organism) and to their physical surroundings.** Every forest is a world by itself. Animal world, insect world and plants are closely linked. If one of these is disturbed, the others also get disturbed. Sometimes, some of these get extinct because the others got disturbed.



Forests conserve soil, help in adding more water to the underground water, maintain the humidity level in the surrounding atmosphere, and add to the natural beauty. These help controlling flooding of the surrounding areas and dust storms. Economically forests have different uses depending upon the nature of trees and animals in a particular forest. Generally, planned logging, grazing, paper and other exploitations add to the economy of the region.

Tree felling is totally banned in certain places in the Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Wild life is protected all over India by an act of the Central Act and wild life sanctuaries have been set up. These animals are tiger family, one-horned rhino, peacock and many others.

You can find their names from the given map.

**Tips:**

- Vegetation growing naturally in a particular region is natural vegetation. Forests are also natural vegetation.
- Forests are natural vegetation which is exploited economically.
- There are seven types of natural vegetation. These are
  1. Tropical Evergreen vegetation
  2. Tropical Semi-evergreen vegetation
  3. Tropical Deciduous vegetation
  4. Dry tropical Deciduous vegetation
  5. Dry tropical thorny vegetation
  6. Tidal vegetation
  7. Mountain vegetation Forests are very important ecologically.
- Every forest is a world by itself because of the relationships between the animal world, insect world and the plants.
- Wild life is protected all over India by a Central Act