

In today's session we will learn about the Hotspots of biodiversity. We will learn the definition of the term Hotspots of biodiversity. We will also learn the different examples of biodiversity of hotspots in the world.

This word biodiversity hotspot was first coined by Norman Myers in 1988 who identified the tropical forest losing its plants/animal species.

Areas which exhibit high species diversity, associated with a large number of endemic species, along with the pressures of development being very high the chances that this biodiversity could be lost are significant, hence they are declared as biodiversity hotspots.

There are two main criteria that have to be met in order to define an area as a biodiversity hotspot. First of all, the first criteria is as follows.

1. It must contain at least 500 or about 1500 species of vascular plants as endemic.
2. It should have lost at least about 75% of it, so vegetation that is the flora.

The International Union of Conservation of Nature collects data and maintains a record of all the plant and animal species. There are 34 areas which are declared as biodiversity hotspots in the world, as shown in the table.

Now let us study the biodiversity hotspots of India.

1. Indo-Burma - Asian countries of Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar, Bhutan, parts of Nepal, far off eastern India and extreme southern part of China. It also includes islands like Andaman and Nicobar in Indian Ocean and Mainan Islands in the South China Sea.

2. Western Ghats and Sri Lanka - collectively known as Sahyadri hills, the mountainous forest in the south western India, along with the Sri Lankan Islands.

3. Eastern Himalayas - Bhutan, north eastern India and southern, central and eastern Nepal.

4. Sundaland - Nicobar group of islands, separated from Andaman by 160 km.

We have seen that the biodiversity Hotspot regions have exceptional plant and animal species, facing serious habitat loss. Hence, it is our duty to protect and conserve the endemic species