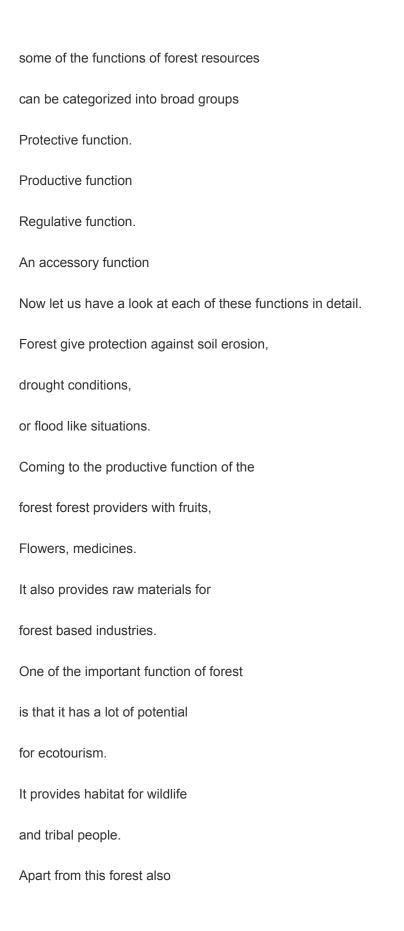
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In this module we are going to cover
Learning outcomes,
Introduction
Forest as a resource.
Functions of forest resources.
Causes of deforestation.
Consequences of deforestation and
Lastly forest conservation measures.
At the end of this module,

students will be able to understand the importance of forest as a resource. Analyze the consequences of intensive deforestation and describe some of the forest conservation methods. Forest as a resource Resources are basically means of satisfying human needs and wants something that human society give value to. Forest provide numerous social, economic, and environmental benefits, and therefore it is regarded as an important natural resource. Now resources can be natural, human made or human resource. Forest is a natural resource, highly complex and constantly changing environment made up of variety of living beings such as trees or

wildlife as well as non living things such as water, air and so on,



regulate temperature, oxygen level and maintains water cycle. So these are some of the functions forest. Forest cover only 31% of the global land area that accounts for 4.6 billion hectares, but forests are not evenly distributed all over the world. More than half of the world's forests are only located or are found in only five countries. They are Russia, Brazil, Canada, United States of America, and China. Since 1990, hectares of forest have been lost or have been degraded due to anthropogenic activities. Anthropogenic activities are human induced activities. This rapid destruction of forests is due to the explosion or expansion of human population at a very rapid scale

which has led to expansion of

agricultural area as well as

expansion of settlement area,

which in turn has led to large

scale developmental activities in

the form of construction of dams,

expansion of transport network

mining activities and so on.

Some of the consequences of

deforestation are soil erosion,

landslide, flood, drought,

loss of habitat and biodiversity,

Global warming.

So we can see that the consequences

of deforestation are enormous.

They are life threatening,

so we need to take some

conservation measures.

Timely conservation measures so that

depleting rate of forests is reduced.

The first method of forest

conservation can be afforestation. Afforestation is nothing but the large scale planting of trees. Replanting of trees can be undertaken on degraded land or the land which is unfit for agriculture. This will not only increase the forest cover, but it will also maintain the ecological balance. Only thing we need to keep in mind is the selection of trees should be favorable for the geographical conditions around. Lot of care should be taken during the initial stage so that we ensure the proper growth of trees. Next method of conservation of forests, Reforestation Reforestation is basically regrowing of forests that have been previously cut down. Silviculture is one of the

important program started to replenish depleting forests, this kind of programs are mainly undertaken by forest based industries such as lumber or timber industries or paper industries. Cutting trees in a planned and regulated manner can also save a lot of trees from further depletion. Diseased trees which occupy a lot of space should be cut down. Young and immature trees should not be cut down as far as possible. Large scale commercial deforestation should be avoided. Also, the reduction of wastage not only in the forested areas, but also in the industrial plants should be initiated. Also, we can introduce substitutes.

Wooden furniture can be replaced with steel or plastic furniture. Also. the alternate source of fuel can be used. We can make use of solar energy. Also preference would be given to the soft copies, then hard copies. This will minimize a lot of use of paper. Forest fires can be most deadliest cause of loss of forest. Installation of lookout towers or air patrol should be initiated which will give warning signs of forest fire. Latest fire fighting equipment should be used to extinguish accidental forest fires. Common people can play an important role in conservation of forest, most importantly spreading awareness. People should be made aware of

the sustainable use of forests

and it's important. Also, community forestry should be initiated among those people who are living in the vicinity of the forest. Programs like Vanamohatsav, Vanabhojan should be initiated specially among the school students or college students to inculcate among them love for the forest and also forest conservation practice. Planting trees along the roadsides along the railway tracks or waste lanes will reduce air pollution and also maintain good climatic condition. Encourage recycling This will reduce lot of paper. Farming practices such as slash and burn agriculture, Overgrazing of cattles should

be dealt with in a controlled manner and better farming practices should be initiated. Some of the initiatives taken for forest conservation are: categorizing forest area, proper delimitation of reserve forest areas, Regular checks on spraying with insecticides can prevent the spread of pests in the forests. Also imposing strict laws can prevent over using the forest resources. With this we have finished with some of the measures taken to conserve forest resources. Thank you.