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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,

some of the functions of forest resources

can be categorized into broad groups

Protective function.

Productive function

Regulative function.

An accessory function

Now let us have a look at each of these functions in detail.

Forest give protection against soil erosion,

drought conditions,

or flood like situations.

Coming to the productive function of the

forest forest provides with fruits,

Flowers, medicines.

It also provides raw materials for

forest based industries.

One of the important function of forest

is that it has a lot of potential

for ecotourism.

It provides habitat for wildlife

and tribal people.

Apart from this forest also

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, Vanabhajan

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.