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# Major Terms Related to Biogeography

LESSON 13 OF 13



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# Course: Biogeography

LESSON: Major terms related to biogeography and books to read

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# About me


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# Target audience

- ✓ UPSC-CSE aspirants
- ✓ Geography as optional

## Wildlife protection act, 1972 (Amended 1991, 2002)


 The act was passed by the Parliament of India to protect India's wildlife.

 Before 1972, India only had five designated national parks. Among other reforms, the Act established schedules of protected plant and animal species; hunting or harvesting these species was largely outlawed.

 The main objective of the Act are as follows:

- ✓ *Prohibition on hunting of specified plants and/or animals.*
- ✓ *Setting up and management of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.*
- ✓ *Control of trade and commerce in wildlife, and wildlife products.*
- ✓ *Setting up of wildlife advisory board from state level to block and panchayat levels and empowering zoo authorities with control and management of zoos and for captive breeding.*
- ❖ *The amendment to this Act in 2002 brought in the concept of Community Reserves and made the provision of the Act more*

# International rules and laws



Many nations have reached bilateral/multilateral agreements and have framed rules and regulations for protection and conservation of wildlife.

Some of these are:

- **AFRICAN CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES, 1968.**
- **CONVENTION OF WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE (RAMSAR CONVENTION), 1971**
- **CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURE AND NATIONAL HERITAGE ACT, 1972**

# Major terms related to biogeography

- ❖ **Abiotic elements:** Abiotic elements means non-living elements like space, land forms, water bodies, climate , soils, rocks, mineral wealth etc.
- ❖ **Biotic elements:** **Biotic components** are the living things that shape an ecosystem. **Biotic components** usually include: Producers, i.e. autotrophs:
  - ❖ e.g. plants, they convert the energy [from photosynthesis (the transfer of sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide into energy), or other sources such as hydrothermal vents] into food.

❖ **Agro-forestry:** **Agro forestry** or **agro-sylviculture** is a land use management system in which trees or shrubs are grown around or among crops or pastureland. It combines shrubs and trees in agricultural and forestry technologies to create more diverse, productive, profitable, healthy, ecologically sound, and sustainable land-use systems.

❖ **Alfisoils:** these are moist, mineral rich, grey to brown surface soils with medium to high productivity.

❖ **Aridisoils:** desert soils with low organic content, high salinity, high alkalinity, which lack leaching.

- ❖ **Alien species:** when plants and animals are introduced in new areas crossing their own physical boundaries on land and sea, these are known as alien species. Alien species could either be introduced accidentally or deliberately (their deliberate, introduction could be for the sake of food, sport and aesthetics, or for necessity).
- ❖ **Oxisoils:** these are deeply weathered, highly leached soils, rich in iron and aluminium oxides, which are washed down.

❖ **Biodiversity decline** : it is estimated that about 20,000 species become extinct every year indicating a rapid decline in biodiversity. Factor causing decline in biodiversity include:

destruction of habitat

hunting and fishing

controlling predators and pests

introduction of exotic species

pollution

genetic assimilation etc.

- ❖ **Clay soil**: in a clay soil, individual soil particle has a diameter of less than 0.002 mm
- ❖ **Australian biome**: eucalyptus dominates land-scape in the Australian biome. Karri is the tallest species of eucalyptus . Height of Australian eucalyptus reaches around 70m
- ❖ **Holozoic** : these animals take their food through their mouth.

❖ **Zonal soils:** there are seven types of zonal soils based on climate. These are:

- ✓ Tundra soils (soils of tundras) podzols (soils of cool and humid regions)
- ✓ Brown forest soils (south of podzol in milder climate)
- ✓ Lateritic soils (soils of tropical and sub-tropical areas)
- ✓ Chernozem, prairie, or steppe soils (in grassland of moderate rainfall)

- ✓ Grumosoles or reddish brown soils (dark clayey soils of savanna grassland in drier margins of laterites)
- ✓ Desert soils or sierozem (grey desert soils in mid-latitude deserts).
- ❖ **Xerosere**: dry region (for example sand dune) site for biotic change for succession.



❖ **Transpiration** : loss of water through plant leaves is called transpiration.

❖ **Soil erosion**: soil removal is a natural process of wearing of land surface by running water, winds, waves, moving ice etc.

❖ **Thermosphere**: it is the upper most layer of atmosphere and is divided into ionosphere and exosphere.



## *Books to read*

- ✓ Savinder singh-physical geography
- ✓ Rupa made simple-physical and human geography
- ✓ Majid hussain-evolution of geographical thought
- ✓ Goh cheng leong-certificate physical and human geography

- ✓ K.siddhartha-economic geography
- ✓ Ncerts – 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> old and new
- ✓ Map-the orient black swan atlas (or)oxford.