

Prepared by, Akbar Khan, Assistant Professor, Geography
HOD, D.K. College

Muzoon

Bio-Diversity depletion

Since the last few decades, growth in human population has increased the rate of consumption of natural resource. It has accelerated the loss of species and habitats in different parts of the world. Tropical regions which occupy only about one-fourth of the total area of the world contain about three-fourth of the world human population. Over exploitation of resources and deforestation have become rampant to fulfill the needs of large population. As these tropical rain forests contain 80 percent of the species on the earth, destruction of natural habitat have proved disastrous for the entire biosphere.

Natural calamities such as earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions, forest fires, drought etc. cause damage to the flora and fauna of the earth, bringing change the biodiversity of respective affected regions. Pesticides and other pollutants such as hydrocarbons

and toxic heavy metals destroy the weak and sensitive species, species which are not the natural inhabitants of the local habitat but are introduced into the system are called as "Exotic species".

There are many examples when a natural biotic community of the ecosystem suffered extensive damage because of the introduction of the exotic species. During the last few decades, saw animals like tigers, elephants, rhinoceros, crocodiles, birds and birds were hunted accidentally by poachers for their horns, tusks, hides etc. It has resulted in the endangering of certain types of organisms in the endangered category.

The International Union of Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources has classified the threatened species of plants and animals into three categories for the purpose of their conservation.