



Conservation of Biodiversity

The enormous value of biodiversity due to their genetic, commercial, medical, esthetic, ecological and optional importance emphasizes the need to conserve biodiversity.

There are two approaches of biodiversity conservation:

(a) In situ conservation (within habitat): This is achieved by protection of wild flora and fauna in nature itself. E.g. Biosphere Reserves, National Parks, Sanctuaries, Reserve Forests etc.

(b) Ex situ conservation (outside habitats): This is done by establishment of gene banks, seed banks, zoos, botanical gardens, culture collections etc.

In Situ conservation:

At present in our country we have:

- ★ 7 major Biosphere reserves,
- ★ 80 National Parks,
- ★ 420 wild-life sanctuaries and
- ★ 120 Botanical gardens
- ★ They totally cover 4% of the geographic area.

The Biosphere Reserves conserve some representative ecosystems as a whole for long-term in situ conservation. In India we have:

- ✓ Nanda Devi (U.P.),
- ✓ Nokrek (Meghalaya),
- ✓ Manas (Assam),
- ✓ Sunderbans (West Bengal),
- ✓ Gulf of Mannar (Tamil Nadu),
- ✓ Nilgiri (Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu),
- ✓ Great Nicobars and Similipal (Orissa)

A National Park is an area dedicated for the conservation of wildlife along with its environment. It is also meant for enjoyment through tourism but without impairing the environment. Grazing of domestic animals, all private rights and forestry activities are prohibited within a National Park. Each National Park usually aims at conservation specifically of some particular species of wildlife along with others.



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Some major National Parks of our country are enlisted in the Table 2 below:

Table 2 Some important National parks in India

Name of National Park	State	Important Wildlife
Kaziranga	Assam	One horned Rhino
Gir National Park	Gujarat	Indian Lion
Bandipur	Karnataka	Elephant
Periyar	Kerala	Elephant, Tiger
Sariska	Rajasthan	Tiger

Wildlife sanctuaries are also protected areas where killing, hunting, shooting or capturing of wildlife is prohibited except under the control of highest authority. Some major wildlife sanctuaries of our country are shown in table 3.

Table 3 Some Important Wildlife Sanctuaries of India

Name of Sanctuary	State	Major Wild Life
Ghana Bird Sanctuary	Rajasthan	300 species of birds (including migratory)
Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary	Haryana	Migratory birds
Mudamalai Wildlife Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu	Tiger, elephant, Leopard
Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu	Water birds
Wild Ass Sanctuary	Gujarat	Wild ass, wolf, nilgai, chinkara

For plants, there is one gene sanctuary for Citrus (Lemon family) and one for pitcher plant (an insect eating plant) in Northeast India.