

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION, A GLOBAL NEED

Meshram, C.B.

Deptt. of Zoology, Shri. Shivaji Science College, Amravati.

Abstract

India is the seventh largest country in the world and second largest nation in Asia with an area of 3, 287, 263 sq. Km. The country is home of around 846 million people and 16% of world population. Physically the massive country is divided into four relative well defined regions, the Himalayan mountains, the Gangetic river plains, the southern (Deccan) plateau, and the islands of Lakshadweep, Andaman & Nicobar. In research paper the study has been carried out on the threaten species specially in animals. India reported 172 species of animal considered globally threatened by ICUN or 2.9% of world total numbers of threaten species [1] and conversation steps on biological diversity also studied.

Keyword: Biodiversity, Threats, Conservation

THREATENED SPECIES:

India contains 172 species of animal considered globally threaten by IUCN or 2.9% of the world total number of threaten species. These include 53 species of mammals, 69 birds, 23 reptiles and 3 amphibians. Bio diversity is under threats worldwide the global mammals extinction rate of 0.35% of species lost per century since 1600 is calculated to be between 17 & 377 times. The mammals background extinction rate during the past 65 million years i.e since the mass extinction that removed the dinosaurs. India has considerable bio diversity i.e. under threat as the table below (which deals only with animals) indicate [2].

Bio diversity, as measured by the number of plant and vertebrate species is greatest in the Western Ghats and the Northeast. This is because of tropical rain forests that are typically the richest habitats for species diversity. Both these areas are included in the world list of hot spots of bio diversity.

Threats to species are principally due to a decline in the areas of their habitats, fragmentation of habitats and decline in habitats quality and in the case of some mammals hunting [2]. Fragmentation raises the extinction risk because isolated sub population make it more likely that they will go extinct, and this is further exacerbated by the reduction of genetic variability in sub population resulting from isolation species with already restricted ranges are particularly vulnerable to these threats.

Decline of bio diversity:

Where does the blame for the loss of bio diversity and the degradation of biological resources? On the surface, the answer seems clear. The proximate cause includes large scale clearing and burning forest, excessive harvesting

of plants and animals, indiscriminate use of pesticide, draining and filling of wet lands, destructive fishing practices, air pollution and the conservation of wild lands to agriculture and urban use. The root causes of bio diversity loss are found in basic economic, demographics and political trends. These root causes includes the human demand for commodities, such tropical hard woods, wild life, fiber and agricultural products, the growth in human population which even without proportional economic growth.

Obstacles to conserve bio diversity:

Six main obstacles make it hard to conserve biological diversity

- ✓ National developmental programs undervalues biological resources monetarily
- ✓ Over exploitation of biological resources yield great profit for traders and manufacturers, while improvising the local people who have few other resources of lively hood and who must pay the environmental cost of over exploitation
- ✓ The species and ecosystem upon which human survival depends are still poorly known
- ✓ Scientific research often does not meet the needs of resources and protected area managers
- ✓ Conservation activities tends to be focused too narrowly
- ✓ Institution assigned responsibility for conserving bio diversity have lacked sufficient financial and organizational resources to do the job

Steps to be taken:

Conservation will succeed only if both proximate and ultimate causes of environmental degradation and species loss are addressed. The

complex threats to biological diversity call for a wide range of responses from many private and public sector. The best way to protect species is to protect habitats and most national governments have established legal means to do so. Not only established legal means but take a strict implementation steps for conservation of bio diversity. Government forms and creating national park and other type of reserves (some 4500 major reserves exist covering nearly 500 million hectares).

Ex-situ preservation programs, such as zoos, aquaria, seed banks and botanical gardens, supplements In-situ conservation by providing long term storage analysis, testing and propagation of few threatened and rare species and animals and their propagates. Ex-situ preservation particularly important for wild species, those populations are greatly reduced in number and serve as a backup to In-situ conservation.

Table No. 1 summary of animal bio diversity threats

	No. of Indian species (% of world total)	% of Indian species evaluated	Species threatened in India as % of those evaluated	No. extinct (present of those evaluated)
Mammals	386 (7%)	59%	41%	4 (1.8%)
Birds	1219 (12%)	-	7%	Unknown
Reptiles	495	73%	46%	Unknown
Amphibian	207(4%)	79%	57%	Unknown
Fresh water fish	700	46%	70%	Unknown

CONCLUSION:

Finally, there is an existence value of bio diversity. This may be negligible for the bulk of Indian population, but may be quite significant for the minority among the relatively wealthy as well for minority in developed countries. It may

be very large if future generation likely preferences are taken into account.

It is the last source of value, the preference of an elite minority, that has been the principal driver of policies to conserve the bio diversity in India.

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