

# Forest Conservation

Did you know that forests are called the lungs of the environment?

They are a factory of **oxygen** and various other very important natural resources. **Can humans live without their lungs?** Similarly, the **environment** too would not survive without forests. Let us take a look at forest conservation.

## Forest Conservation



Forest conservation as the name suggests is the preservation and the protection of forests. It also involves the reversal of **deforestation** and **environmental pollution**. The preservation of all **natural resources** is absolutely essential for the balance of our ecosystem.

## Importance of Forests

Let us take a look at why forests are so very important to us and our environment. We are basically dependent on forests for our survival. And so their conservation is of essential importance.

- The most important function of forests is that it produces mass amounts of oxygen as a by-product of **photosynthesis**. Oxygen is the main respiratory **gas** for all animals, it ensures our survival.
- And while photosynthesis, trees also absorb **carbon dioxide** from the air. This is one of the main pollutants of air pollution. Hence forests also reduce **air pollution**.
- Forests also prevent soil erosion and keep **soil pollution** in check. Deforestation, in fact, leads to soil erosion on a large scale since the topsoil comes loose.
- Forests also play an important part in the water cycle and control moisture levels of our ecosystem.
- And finally, forests are the natural home and habitat for millions of species of **animals**, **birds**, and insects.

## Ways to Conserve the Forest

### Controlled Deforestation

While deforestation cannot be avoided completely, we must look to control it. Young and immature trees should not be felled as far as possible. We must look to avoid large-scale commercial deforestation as well. Adapting practices such as clear-cutting or selective cutting will be beneficial in the long run.

### Protect against Forest Fires

Forest fires are the most common and deadly cause of loss of forests. They can start due to natural causes or can be accidents caused by man or even intentional in some cases. Once a fire spreads in a forest it is very difficult to control. Precautions must be taken for such incidents. Making fire lanes, spreading chemicals to control fire, clearing out [dry leaves and trees](#) etc.

*Learn more about the [Effects of the Earthquake here in detail.](#)*

### Afforestation

This is the process by which we plant more trees in the area. We try to increase the forest cover by manual transplantation, or fresh plantation

of trees. It is an attempt to balance our ecosystem to reduce the effects of deforestation and environmental pollutions of all types.

### Better Farming Practices

Slash and burn farming, overgrazing by cattle, shifting **agriculture** are all farming practices that are harmful to the environment and particularly to forests. We must keep all these practices under control.

Jhoom farming is one such practice we can employ to combat forest pollution. In the North-east areas of India, where the land is kept barren after cutting the **crops**. Weeds and creepers and wild plants grow on this land and make it **fertile** again in time. And then the **land** is cultivated again

### Solved Question for You

Q: Write a small note on the Forest Conservation Act 1980.

Ans: India had a commercial deforestation problem, Forest covers were fast disappearing. So the government introduced the Forest Conservation Act 1980. The act helps conserve forests and protects

forest land. It restricts the use of forest land for commercial purposes without a thorough regulation process.