

CBSE CLASS X
Social Science (087)

ANSWER KEY

AI-generated question paper

Code: 79Q3PY

Questions: 27

Maximum Marks: 74

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SELECTIONS USED

Subject	Social Science
Lessons	2 Forest and Wildlife Resources
Level of understanding	Thorough understanding
Question selection	Curated chapter coverage (~5 questions per section + 8 synthesis)
Model	claude-sonnet-4-6

Composition — Difficulty: 4 straightforward · 13 medium · 10 deep | Types: 17 Short · 4 Long · 3 Very short · 3 MCQ

Q1. medium thorough-understanding § Flora and Fauna in India

[3]

Plants, animals and micro-organisms are said to 're-create' the quality of air, water and soil. Explain what this means and why it makes forests particularly critical to this process.

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Model Answer

Plants, animals and micro-organisms constantly maintain the natural quality of air, water and soil through their life processes — this is what "re-creating" means. Without them, the air we breathe, the water we drink and the soil that produces our food would deteriorate, and we could not survive.

Forests are particularly critical because they are the **primary producers** on which all other living beings depend. They form the base of the entire ecological system, sustaining the complex web of interdependencies among millions of organisms. Loss of forests therefore disrupts the entire system, not just individual species.

Source: *Flora and Fauna in India, Chapter 2 — Introduction / Ecological system*

Explanation

- The key phrase from the textbook is "**re-create the quality of the air we breathe, the water we drink and the soil that produces our food**" — use this directly.
- The second key phrase is "**primary producers**" — examiners expect this term for the forest's role.
- Avoid writing vague points like "forests give us oxygen"; instead link forests to the **ecological web** as the textbook does.
- At 3 marks, two clear points with brief explanation each is sufficient — no need for elaborate examples.

Q2. deep thorough-understanding § Flora and Fauna in India

[2]

India is considered one of the world's richest countries in biological diversity, yet a large portion of that diversity remains undiscovered and undocumented. What does this imply about the actual scale of biodiversity loss occurring in India today? Explain with reference to the threats currently faced by India's flora and fauna.

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Model Answer

Since much of India's biodiversity remains undiscovered, species may be going extinct **before they are even identified or studied**. This makes the true scale of biodiversity loss far greater than records show. Threats like poaching, habitat destruction, shrinking forests, depletion of prey base, and illegal trade in wildlife continue to push flora and fauna toward extinction.

Source: *Conservation of Forest and Wildlife in India, Chapter 2*

Explanation

- The key inference examiners expect: **unknown species = unrecorded extinctions**, making loss invisible and underestimated.
- Support with **specific threats** mentioned in the chapter (poaching, habitat loss, human encroachment, trade).
- Avoid generic statements; link undiscovered biodiversity directly to the *scale* of loss — that is the crux of this application-based question.
- 2 marks: one for the implication of undiscovered diversity, one for relevant threats with explanation.

Q3. deep thorough-understanding § Flora and Fauna in India

[3]

Fisheries and agriculture are economic activities that appear unrelated to forests, yet both depend heavily on maintaining biodiversity. Justify this statement with specific examples from the relationship between biodiversity, ecosystem services, and these economic sectors.

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Model Answer

Conservation preserves the genetic diversity of plants and animals, which is directly linked to both agriculture and fisheries.

- **Agriculture:** Farmers are still dependent on traditional crop varieties, whose genetic traits are preserved through biodiversity. Loss of biodiversity means loss of these varieties, threatening crop improvement and food security.
- **Fisheries:** Fisheries are heavily dependent on the maintenance of aquatic biodiversity. Disruption of aquatic ecosystems reduces fish populations, directly harming this sector.

Both sectors rely on the complex web of ecological interdependencies that healthy biodiversity sustains.

Source: *Conservation of Forest and Wildlife in India, Chapter 2*

Explanation

- The key line examiners expect is directly from the textbook: *"In agriculture, we are still dependent on traditional crop varieties. Fisheries too are heavily dependent on the maintenance of aquatic biodiversity."* — quote or paraphrase this closely.
- Always link biodiversity → ecosystem services → economic sector to show the chain of dependence.
- Do not add outside examples; the passage does not give specific fish species or crop names, so keep it general as the source does.

Q4. straightforward thorough-understanding § Conservation of Forest and Wildlife in India

[1]

The Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, was a landmark step in conserving India's biodiversity. Explain any two significant provisions of this Act and describe how they helped protect endangered species and their habitats.

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Model Answer

The Act banned hunting of protected species and gave legal protection to their habitats. It also published an all-India list of protected species, helping prevent poaching and trade in wildlife.

Source: *Conservation of Forest and Wildlife in India, chapter 2*

Explanation

For a 1-mark question, examiners expect only two brief, distinct points — one line is sufficient. Name the two provisions clearly: (1) ban on hunting/trade and (2) legal habitat protection or protected species list. Do not elaborate or add examples; that would suit a 3-mark answer.

Q5. medium thorough-understanding § Conservation of Forest and Wildlife in India

[3]

Project Tiger was launched not only to save an endangered species but also to preserve 'biotypes of sizeable magnitude'. What does this mean, and why is conserving a tiger's habitat more valuable than protecting the tiger alone?

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Model Answer

Biotypes of sizeable magnitude means large natural habitats or ecosystems — forests, grasslands, and wetlands — that support entire communities of plants and animals, not just one species.

Conserving a tiger's habitat is more valuable because:

- A tiger's territory is vast and ecologically rich, so protecting it automatically safeguards countless other species, plants, insects, and soil and water systems.
- It preserves **ecological diversity and life-support systems** — air, water, and soil — benefiting far more organisms than a single species.
- Losing the habitat ultimately destroys the tiger too, while saving the habitat saves everything within it.

Source: *Project Tiger*, Chapter 2 — Forest and Wildlife Resources

Explanation

- The key phrase "**biotypes of sizeable magnitude**" is directly from the passage; define it clearly — examiners look for this.
- Then contrast *species-only* conservation with *habitat* conservation — show the examiner you understand the ecological argument (food web, biodiversity, life-support systems).
- Avoid writing vague statements like "nature is important." Be specific: other species, water, soil, air.
- 3 marks = definition + 2 well-supported reasons. Keep it tight.

Q6. medium thorough-understanding § Conservation of Forest and Wildlife in India

[3]

Tiger populations in India declined drastically during the twentieth century due to human activities. Identify TWO distinct human-driven causes behind this decline and explain how each factor specifically threatened the tiger's survival.

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Model Answer

Two human-driven causes behind the decline of tiger population:

1. **Poaching for trade:** Tigers were illegally hunted for their skins and bones. Tiger skins were sold in markets, and bones were used in traditional medicines especially in Asian countries. This directly reduced tiger numbers, pushing them to the verge of extinction.
1. **Shrinking habitat due to growing human population:** Expanding human settlements and activities led to large-scale deforestation, destroying tiger habitats. Loss of habitat also caused depletion of prey base species, leaving tigers without adequate food and space to survive.

Source: *Forest and Wildlife Resources, Chapter 2 (Project Tiger section)*

Explanation

- The question asks for TWO **distinct** causes — examiners want separate points, not overlapping ones. Pick poaching + habitat loss (or prey depletion) as these are explicitly stated in the passage.
- Each cause needs a brief explanation of *how* it threatened survival — don't just name the cause.
- At 3 marks, two developed points (not just headings) are expected. About 60–80 words is ideal.
- Use textbook terminology: "depletion of prey base species," "shrinking habitat," "trade of tiger skins," "traditional medicines."

Q7. deep thorough-understanding § Conservation of Forest and Wildlife in India

[5]

Conservation planning in India has gradually shifted from protecting a handful of high-profile animals to including insects and, eventually, plants. Analyse why this broadening of scope reflects a more scientifically sound approach to conservation. Use the idea of biodiversity and ecological interdependence to support your answer.

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Model Answer

Early conservation in India focused only on high-profile animals like tigers, rhinoceros, and crocodiles. While this was necessary, it was ecologically incomplete.

Why broadening scope is more scientific:

1. **Biodiversity is interdependent:** All species — animals, insects, and plants — are linked in food webs and ecological processes. Protecting only tigers without protecting their prey base or habitat plants is insufficient.
1. **Insects are ecologically critical:** Butterflies, beetles, and moths perform pollination and decomposition. Their inclusion under the Wildlife Act (1980, 1986) reflects understanding that ecosystem health depends on these smaller species.
1. **Plants are the foundation:** In 1991, plants were added to the protected list for the first time. Since all animal life ultimately depends on plants, their conservation is essential.
1. **Genetic diversity matters:** Conservation preserves genetic diversity of plants and animals, which is vital — agriculture still depends on traditional crop varieties and fisheries on aquatic biodiversity.
1. **Ecosystem over species:** As the text states, conservation projects now focus on **biodiversity rather than a few components**, preserving entire biotopes rather than single species.

This holistic approach acknowledges that ecological interdependence makes every species — however small — indispensable to the survival of the whole system.

Source: *Conservation of Forest and Wildlife in India, Project Tiger — Chapter 2*

Explanation

- The key phrase from the passage is: "*conservation projects are now focusing on biodiversity rather than on a few of its components*" — quote or paraphrase this directly.
- Examiners expect you to link **insects** → **plants** → **genetic diversity** → **ecological interdependence** as a logical chain.
- Mention the specific years (1980, 1986 for insects; 1991 for plants) — these show factual accuracy and earn marks.
- Avoid writing a vague essay. Use numbered/bulleted points for a 5-mark answer; it shows organised thinking and is easier to mark.

Q8. medium thorough-understanding § Project Tiger

[3]

Tiger populations in India witnessed a dramatic decline over the twentieth century. Identify TWO specific threats responsible for this decline and explain how each threat directly endangered the tiger's survival.

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Model Answer

Two major threats to tiger population in India:

1. **Poaching for trade:** Tigers were hunted illegally for their skins and bones. Tiger skins were traded internationally, while bones were used in traditional medicines in Asian countries. This relentless poaching pushed the tiger population to the verge of extinction.
1. **Shrinking habitat:** Growing human population led to encroachment and destruction of tiger habitats. As forests shrank, tigers lost their territory and prey base, making survival increasingly difficult.

These threats reduced tiger numbers from an estimated 55,000 (early 1900s) to just 1,827 by 1973.

Source: *Project Tiger, Chapter 2*

Explanation

- This is a 3-mark question, so two threats with clear explanation of **how** each endangered the tiger is sufficient.
- Examiners expect: identification of threat (1 mark each) + brief explanation of impact. The statistic (55,000 → 1,827) adds credibility and is directly from the text.
- Do not simply list threats — explain the **direct danger** each posed, as the question demands.

Q9. medium thorough-understanding § Project Tiger

[3]

Project Tiger was launched in India in 1973 primarily to protect an endangered species. Beyond saving the tiger itself, what broader ecological purpose did the project serve, and why is that purpose considered equally important?

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Model Answer

Launched in 1973, Project Tiger aimed to save the tiger from extinction, as its population had fallen sharply from an estimated 55,000 to just 1,827. Beyond protecting the tiger itself, the project served the equally important purpose of **preserving biotopes (habitats) of sizeable magnitude**. By safeguarding the tiger's habitat, entire ecosystems — including prey species, vegetation, water sources, and other wildlife — were protected. Since the tiger is a key species in the faunal web, its conservation ensured the health and balance of the broader ecological system it inhabits.

Source: *Forest and Wildlife Resources, Chapter 2*

Explanation

- The key phrase examiners expect is "**preserving biotypes/biotopes of sizeable magnitude**" — use it directly from the textbook.
- Two-part answer is needed: (1) the direct purpose — saving the tiger, and (2) the broader ecological purpose — habitat/ecosystem preservation.
- Mentioning the tiger as a "**key wildlife species in the faunal web**" adds accuracy and earns marks.
- Avoid padding with lists of tiger reserves unless specifically asked.

Q10. deep thorough-understanding § Project Tiger

[5]

Conservation planning in India has progressively shifted from protecting a few high-profile species like the tiger to protecting biodiversity as a whole, eventually including insects and plants. Analyse why this broader approach represents a more effective conservation strategy than focusing only on large, well-known animals.

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Model Answer

The broader approach to conservation is more effective for the following reasons:

1. **Ecological diversity and life support:** Conservation preserves ecological diversity along with essential life support systems — water, air, and soil — which cannot be sustained by protecting only a few large animals.
1. **Genetic diversity:** It preserves the genetic diversity of plants and animals, which is vital for species breeding and agricultural improvement. Traditional crop varieties and aquatic biodiversity for fisheries depend on this.
1. **Interdependence in food webs:** Tiger conservation itself was recognised not just as saving an endangered species but as preserving entire biotopes. All species, including insects, are part of interconnected food webs.
1. **Legal expansion:** Under the Wildlife Act (1980, 1986), hundreds of butterflies, moths, beetles, and a dragonfly were protected. In 1991, six plant species were added — acknowledging that ecosystems depend on all components.
1. **Completeness:** Focusing only on high-profile animals ignores the plants and insects that sustain entire ecosystems, making conservation incomplete and ineffective in the long run.

Source: *Conservation of Forest and Wildlife in India, Chapter 2; Project Tiger, Chapter 2*

Explanation

- The examiner expects you to go **beyond Project Tiger** and explain *why* biodiversity-level conservation matters — ecological interdependence, genetic diversity, life support systems.
- Use evidence from the passage: legal additions of insects (1980/86) and plants (1991) show the progressive shift.
- Avoid padding; five crisp points with brief explanation each is ideal for 5 marks.
- Key terms to use: *ecological diversity, genetic diversity, biotopes, life support systems, Wildlife Protection Act.*

Q11. straightforward thorough-understanding § Types and Distribution of Forest and Wildlife Resources

[1]

[very_short_answer] What are 'reserved forests', and why are they considered the most valuable forest category in India from a conservation standpoint?

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Model Answer

Reserved forests are areas where more than half of India's total forest land is declared protected by the government. They are considered most valuable because they offer the highest level of conservation for forest and wildlife resources.

Source: Types and Distribution of Forest and Wildlife Resources, Chapter 2

Explanation

This is a 1-mark question, so one clear sentence defining reserved forests and one reason for their value is sufficient. The examiner looks for two key facts: (1) they cover more than half the total forest land, and (2) they are regarded as most valuable for conservation. Avoid writing extra details about protected or unclassified forests – that wastes time and adds no marks.

Q12. medium thorough-understanding § Types and Distribution of Forest and Wildlife Resources

[3]

Reserved forests and protected forests are both called 'permanent forest estates'. Despite both being permanent, they serve different purposes. Explain the distinction between them in terms of what activities or uses are permitted or restricted in each.

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Model Answer

Both reserved forests and protected forests are called **permanent forest estates**, maintained for producing timber, other forest produce, and for protective purposes.

- **Reserved Forests:** Regarded as the most valuable for conservation of forest and wildlife resources. They are most strictly controlled, with the highest level of restrictions on activities like felling, grazing, and other uses.
- **Protected Forests:** These forest lands are protected from **any further depletion**. They allow slightly more regulated use compared to reserved forests, but activities that cause further degradation are restricted.

In essence, reserved forests have stricter conservation status, while protected forests are primarily safeguarded against further depletion rather than being fully closed off.

Source: *Types and Distribution of Forest and Wildlife Resources, Chapter 2*

Explanation

- The textbook does not explicitly list specific permitted activities in each type; examiners expect students to use the exact definitions given — "most valuable for conservation" for reserved forests and "protected from further depletion" for protected forests.
- The key distinction to highlight is the **degree of restriction**: reserved forests are more strictly conserved; protected forests are shielded from further harm but are less restrictively managed.
- Quoting or closely paraphrasing the textbook definitions scores full marks. Avoid over-inferring details not present in the passage.

Q13. deep thorough-understanding § Types and Distribution of Forest and Wildlife Resources

[3]

[short_answer] North-eastern states and parts of Gujarat have a large share of their forests classified as 'unclassed forests' managed by local communities. (a) How does community management of such forests differ from government-managed reserved or protected forests? (b) Explain one way in which community management can support conservation and one way in which it may pose a challenge to it.

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Model Answer

(a) In reserved and protected forests, the government (Forest Department) controls management, regulates access, and restricts use. In unclassed forests, local communities themselves manage the land, set their own rules, and decide how resources are used, as seen in North-eastern states and parts of Gujarat.

(b) Support: Communities can effectively conserve forests by imposing self-made rules — e.g., villagers in Alwar declared 1,200 ha as 'Bhairodev Dakav Sonchuri', banning hunting and preventing outside encroachment.

Challenge: Unclassed forests lack formal legal protection and structured oversight, so unregulated community use (grazing, felling) can lead to gradual depletion if community institutions are weak or interests conflict.

Source: *Types and Distribution of Forest and Wildlife Resources; Community and Conservation — Chapter 2*

Explanation

- **(a)** tests the basic distinction between state-controlled permanent forests and community-managed unclassed forests. Keep it factual and brief.
- **(b)** CBSE expects one concrete example for the "support" side — the Alwar/Bhairodev example from the passage is ideal. For "challenge," draw on the passage's hint that "there is still a long way to go" and the lack of formal regulation in unclassed forests.
- Avoid writing about JFM or Chipko in detail here — stay on-topic and within word limits for 3 marks.

Q14. medium thorough-understanding § Community and Conservation

[3]

[short_answer] In Alwar district, Rajasthan, villagers collectively declared a large patch of forest as a community-protected area with their own rules, explicitly keeping the government out. What does this example reveal about the tensions between community-based conservation and state-managed forestry? What advantages might community ownership offer that formal government management may lack?

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Model Answer

The Bhairodev Dakav 'Sonchuri' example in Alwar reveals a fundamental tension: local communities often distrust government forest management, feeling excluded from decision-making over resources they depend on for their livelihoods. By declaring 1,200 hectares under their own rules — banning hunting and resisting outside encroachments — villagers asserted that state control can be ineffective or indifferent to local needs.

Community ownership offers key advantages:

- **Stronger enforcement** — locals have a direct stake in protecting resources.
- **Traditional knowledge** — indigenous conservation practices suit the local ecosystem.
- **Sustained motivation** — communities protect what benefits them long-term, unlike distant officials.

This shows that people-centric, environment-friendly management is often more effective than top-down government control.

Source: *Community and Conservation, Chapter 2*

Explanation

- The examiner expects you to identify the **tension** (community distrust of government; exclusion from decision-making) and the **specific example** (Bhairodev Dakav Sonchuri, Alwar, 1,200 hectares).
- Then give **2–3 clear advantages** of community ownership: local stake, traditional knowledge, motivation.
- Don't write a long essay — 3 marks = ~75 words max, tight points preferred.
- Linking to the textbook phrase "people-centric, environment-friendly" scores well.

Q15. straightforward thorough-understanding § Community and Conservation

[1]

[very_short_answer] Under the Joint Forest Management (JFM) programme, what is the basis of the partnership between local communities and the Forest Department — what does each party contribute and what does each gain?

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Model Answer

Under JFM, local communities protect degraded forest land managed by the Forest Department; in return, they receive non-timber forest produce and a share in timber from successful protection.

Explanation

The answer must cover both sides of the partnership: **community contribution** (protection of degraded forests) and **community gain** (non-timber produce + share in timber). Examiners look for both elements. The programme began formally in Odisha in 1988. Keep it to one line for 1 mark.

Q16. medium thorough-understanding § Community and Conservation

[3]

The Chipko movement is often described as achieving two distinct conservation outcomes. What were these two outcomes, and how does the second one go beyond simply stopping destruction?

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Model Answer

The Chipko movement achieved two distinct conservation outcomes:

1. **Resisting deforestation** — It successfully prevented the cutting down of forests in several areas of the Himalayas, directly stopping the destruction of existing forest cover.
1. **Community afforestation with indigenous species** — It demonstrated that local communities could actively *restore* forests by planting native species, and that this can be "enormously successful."

The second outcome goes beyond merely halting destruction by taking a **positive, restorative action** — rebuilding forest cover using indigenous species — showing that communities can not only protect what exists but also regenerate what has been lost.

Source: *Conservation of Forest and Wildlife in India, Chapter 2*

Explanation

Examiners look for **both outcomes named clearly** (1 mark each) and a **specific explanation** of how afforestation is proactive/restorative rather than just preventive (1 mark). The key phrase from the textbook is "*community afforestation with indigenous species can be enormously successful*" — use it or paraphrase it. Avoid vague answers like "they helped nature"; be precise about *stopping* destruction vs. *actively restoring* forests.

Q17. medium thorough-understanding § Community and Conservation

[2]

Villagers in Sariska Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan, used a legal instrument to fight against mining in the reserve. Which law did they invoke, and what does this episode reveal about the role ordinary citizens can play in wildlife conservation?

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Model Answer

Villagers in Sariska Tiger Reserve invoked the **Wildlife Protection Act** to fight against mining in the reserve. This episode reveals that ordinary citizens can actively use legal provisions to protect wildlife and habitats. It shows that conservation is not solely a government responsibility — local communities can be powerful agents in safeguarding natural resources.

Source: *Community and Conservation, Chapter 2*

Explanation

- Examiners expect the **exact law named**: Wildlife Protection Act (not just "a law").
- The second part needs a clear, crisp statement about citizens' role — avoid vague phrases; say *legal empowerment, community agency, or active participation*.
- Don't confuse this with the Bhairodev Dakav example (which is about self-declared rules) — Sariska is specifically about invoking the Wildlife Protection Act.

Q18. straightforward thorough-understanding § Community and Conservation

[1]

Which of the following best describes the main purpose of 'Sacred Groves' as practised by tribal and local communities across India?

- (A) Patches of forest reserved by the government for timber extraction
- (B) Forest areas set aside as buffer zones around national parks
- (C) Virgin patches of forest left untouched and protected from interference based on religious or cultural belief
- (D) Community-managed forests where selective logging is permitted under traditional rules

A Patches of forest reserved by the government for timber extraction

B Forest areas set aside as buffer zones around national parks

C Virgin patches of forest left untouched and protected from interference based on religious or cultural belief

D Community-managed forests where selective logging is permitted under traditional rules

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Model Answer

(C) Virgin patches of forest left untouched and protected from interference based on religious or cultural belief

Explanation

The source passage directly states that Sacred Groves are patches of forest "left untouched by the local people and any interference with them is banned," rooted in age-old tribal nature worship. Options A, B, and D involve government management or logging — both contradicted by the passage. Examiners expect you to link the key terms: *virgin patches*, *untouched*, and *religious/cultural belief*.

Q19. deep thorough-understanding § Community and Conservation

[5]

A government forester argues that trained professionals should manage forests alone, without involving local communities. Using evidence from community conservation efforts in India, write a reasoned argument against this view.

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Model Answer

The forester's argument is flawed because evidence from India clearly shows that local communities are indispensable to effective conservation.

Community success stories:

- In **Sariska Tiger Reserve**, villagers cited the Wildlife Protection Act to fight illegal mining — showing communities actively enforce conservation law.
- In **Alwar, Rajasthan**, inhabitants of five villages declared 1,200 hectares as *Bhairodev Dakav 'Sonchuri'*, enforcing their own rules against hunting and outside encroachment — without government help.
- The **Chipko Movement** successfully resisted deforestation and demonstrated that community afforestation with indigenous species is highly effective.
- **Joint Forest Management (JFM)**, formally operational since 1988 (Odisha), partners local institutions with the Forest Department to restore degraded forests, benefiting both ecology and livelihoods.
- Sacred groves preserved by tribal communities (Mundas, Santhals, Bishnoi) have protected biodiversity for generations.

The textbook itself concludes: *"The clear lesson... is that local communities everywhere have to be involved in some kind of natural resource management."* Professional management alone cannot replace this local knowledge, commitment, and stake.

Source: *Community and Conservation, Chapter 2 — Forest and Wildlife Resources*

Explanation

- Examiners expect **specific named examples** (Sariska, Alwar/Bhairodev Dakav, Chipko, JFM, Bishnoi) — vague answers lose marks.
- Quote or closely paraphrase the textbook's concluding line about communities — it directly answers the question and shows textual grounding.
- Structure as brief bullet points + a closing statement; this reads clearly and earns full marks within the word limit.
- Do **not** discuss Project Tiger or Wildlife Protection Act in detail — stay focused on *community* conservation as the question demands.

Q20. deep thorough-understanding § Community and Conservation

[3]

[short_answer] The Joint Forest Management programme specifically targets degraded forest land for community-based protection. What does this design choice suggest about the role local communities can play in ecological restoration, and why might involving communities be more effective than relying solely on government agencies for rehabilitating such land?

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Model Answer

The JFM programme targets **degraded forest land**, showing that local communities can actively participate in **restoring** ecosystems, not merely protecting existing ones. This design reflects the understanding that communities living near forests have a direct stake in their recovery, ensuring sustained effort.

Involving communities is more effective than relying solely on government agencies because:

- Communities have **long-term livelihood dependence** on forests, motivating genuine protection.
- Local members undertake **daily protection activities** and receive intermediary benefits like non-timber forest produce and a share of harvested timber, creating direct incentives.
- Government agencies alone lack the reach and constant presence that local institutions provide.

As the text states, "local communities everywhere have to be involved in some kind of natural resource management."

Source: *Community and Conservation, Chapter 2*

Explanation

- The examiner wants you to **link the design choice (targeting degraded land) to community motivation and effectiveness**.
- Key points: direct livelihood stake, daily on-ground presence, benefit-sharing mechanism (non-timber produce + timber share), and the limitation of government-only approaches.
- Always quote or paraphrase the textbook for authenticity — the line about local communities being essential is directly from the passage.
- Don't write a general essay; keep it focused on JFM's specific features.

Q21. medium thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis)

[3]

India classifies its forests into reserved forests, protected forests, and unclassified forests. Compare the level of government control and legal protection offered by each category. Which category is most commonly managed by local communities, and why?

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Model Answer

Reserved Forests have the highest level of government control and legal protection — over half of India's forest land falls in this category, managed strictly for conservation of forest and wildlife resources.

Protected Forests cover about one-third of forest area and are protected from further depletion, but have slightly less stringent control than reserved forests.

Unclassed Forests belong to both government and private individuals/communities and have the least formal legal protection.

Unclassed forests are most commonly managed by local communities. This is because all North-eastern states and parts of Gujarat have a very high percentage of unclassified forests, where traditional community practices and local ownership make community management natural and practical.

Source: *Types and Distribution of Forest and Wildlife Resources, Chapter 2*

Explanation

- Examiners expect a clear comparison of all **three categories** in order — don't skip any.
- The key phrase from the textbook for reserved forests is "most valuable for conservation"; for protected forests, "protected from further depletion"; for unclassified, "government and private individuals and communities."
- For the second part, directly quote the textbook reason: North-eastern states and parts of Gujarat have high percentages of unclassified forests managed by local communities. Mentioning regional examples shows you read carefully.
- Avoid padding — three short points + one explanatory line for the community part is sufficient for 3 marks.

Q22. deep thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis)

[1]

Assertion (A): Project Tiger was launched not merely to save an endangered animal but also to preserve large biotypes.
Reason (R): The tiger occupies a key position in the faunal web, and its survival depends on the health of the entire ecosystem it inhabits. Which of the following is correct?

- (A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (C) A is true but R is false.
- (D) A is false but R is true.

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Model Answer

(A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

The tiger is a key species in the faunal web, so preserving it requires protecting entire biotypes — this directly explains why Project Tiger aimed beyond saving just one species.

Explanation

The passage states: "Tiger is one of the key wildlife species in the faunal web" and "Tiger conservation has been viewed not only as an effort to save an endangered species, but... as a means of preserving biotypes of sizeable magnitude." This confirms both A and R are true, and R logically explains *why* large biotypes needed preservation — because the tiger's survival depends on a healthy, complete ecosystem.

Q23. medium thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis)

[3]

Distinguish between the Chipko Movement and the Joint Forest Management (JFM) programme in terms of their origin, structure, and the role they assign to local communities. What does each approach reveal about the relationship between communities and the government in managing forest resources?

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Model Answer

Chipko Movement originated as a grassroots community protest in the Himalayas, where local people physically resisted deforestation. It had no formal government structure — communities acted independently, sometimes **rejecting government involvement**. It revealed communities as autonomous protectors of forests.

Joint Forest Management (JFM) began formally in 1988 (Odisha's first resolution). It is a government-initiated programme where village institutions work *with* the Forest Department to restore degraded forests. Communities receive non-timber produce and a share of timber as incentives.

Together, they show a shift from conflict/independence (Chipko) to **collaborative governance** (JFM), though communities are still not fully at the centre of decision-making.

Source: Community and Conservation, Chapter 2

Explanation

- Examiners expect a **clear contrast** on three points: origin, structure, and community role.
- Chipko = bottom-up, independent; JFM = top-down, cooperative — state this explicitly.
- Mention 1988/Odisha for JFM to show factual accuracy (easy mark).
- The final line on the relationship between communities and government ties both parts of the question together — don't skip it.
- Do not write more than ~80 words; this is a 3-mark answer.

Q24. deep thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis)

[3]

India has established reserved forests specifically for the conservation of forest and wildlife resources, yet some of India's most celebrated conservation successes — such as the protection of blackbuck and peacocks near Bishnoi villages — have occurred entirely outside formally reserved areas. What does this suggest about the relationship between legal classification of forests and actual conservation outcomes?

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Model Answer

Legal classification of forests as "reserved" or "protected" does not automatically guarantee successful conservation. The example of Bishnoi villages, where blackbuck, nilgai, and peacocks thrive due to community reverence and cultural protection, shows that **community participation and traditional beliefs** can be more effective than formal legal status alone.

Reserved forests are managed by government departments, but real conservation outcomes often depend on local communities' willingness to protect wildlife. Sacred groves, Bishnoi traditions, and initiatives like JFM suggest that legal classification is a necessary but **not sufficient** condition — social ownership and community involvement are equally, if not more, critical to actual conservation success.

Source: *Forest and Wildlife Resources, Community and Conservation — Chapter 2*

Explanation

- The examiner expects you to **contrast legal/formal conservation** (reserved forests, government management) with **community-driven conservation** (Bishnoi villages, sacred groves).
- The key insight the question tests: legal status ≠ conservation success; community involvement is essential.
- Always cite the textbook examples — Bishnoi villages, blackbuck/peacock, and JFM — these are direct source references and fetch marks.
- Avoid writing a long essay; 3 marks = ~3 clear points in 2–3 tight paragraphs.

Q25. medium thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) [2]

Genetic diversity of plants and animals is listed as one of the key reasons for conserving forests and wildlife. How does the work of groups like the Beej Bachao Andolan and Navdanya directly reflect this conservation goal?

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Model Answer

Beej Bachao Andolan (Tehri) and Navdanya promote diversified crop production without synthetic chemicals, thereby preserving traditional and indigenous crop varieties. This directly conserves the **genetic diversity of plants**, which is essential for better growth, breeding, and sustained agricultural productivity – a core goal of forest and wildlife conservation.

Source: *Conservation of Forest and Wildlife in India; Community and Conservation – Chapter 2*

Explanation

- The key phrase from the textbook is: "Conservation also preserves the genetic diversity of plants and animals for better growth of species and breeding."
- Link this explicitly to what Beej Bachao Andolan/Navdanya do: they save traditional/diverse crop varieties, which = preserving plant genetic diversity.
- Examiners look for: (1) naming what these groups do, and (2) connecting it to the genetic diversity conservation goal. Both points needed for full 2 marks.

Q26. medium thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) [1]

Which of the following statements best explains why a very high percentage of forests in North-eastern states are managed as unclassified forests rather than as reserved or protected forests?

- (A) The North-east has very little forest cover, making formal classification unnecessary.
- (B) The central government has not yet surveyed these forests, so they remain temporarily unclassified pending notification.
- (C) These forests are traditionally managed by local communities, making community-based management the dominant approach in the region.
- (D) The Forest Department lacks jurisdiction over forests in the North-eastern states.

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Model Answer

(C) These forests are traditionally managed by local communities, making community-based management the dominant approach in the region.

Source: *Types and Distribution of Forest and Wildlife Resources, chapter 2*

Explanation

The textbook explicitly states: "All North-eastern states and parts of Gujarat have a very high percentage of their forests as unclassified forests **managed by local communities.**" Options A, B, and D are not supported by the text. Examiners expect you to link "unclassified forests" directly to community management, not to lack of survey, jurisdiction, or forest cover.

Q27. deep thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis)

[5]

Conservation of forests and wildlife is described as essential for preserving both ecological diversity and genetic diversity. Trace how the loss of a single apex predator like the tiger could, through a chain of consequences, ultimately affect the soil quality and agricultural productivity that human communities depend on.

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Model Answer

Chain of Consequences from Loss of Tiger (Apex Predator):

1. **Collapse of prey control:** Tiger is a key species in the faunal web. Without it, herbivore populations (deer, wild boar) grow unchecked.
1. **Overgrazing and forest degradation:** Exploding herbivore numbers strip forest vegetation — shrubs, saplings, and ground cover — leading to deforestation.
1. **Loss of ecological diversity:** As the textbook states, conservation preserves ecological diversity and our life support systems — water, air, and **soil**.
1. **Soil degradation:** Tree roots hold soil together. Without forest cover, topsoil erodes, losing fertility and structure. Micro-organisms that recycle nutrients decline.
1. **Impact on agriculture:** Since plants, animals, and micro-organisms "re-create the quality of the soil that produces our food," degraded soil directly reduces agricultural productivity, threatening human food security.

Thus, one apex predator's loss cascades into soil loss and crop failure.

Source: *Conservation of Forest and Wildlife in India; Project Tiger — Chapter 2*

Explanation

- Examiners look for a **clear chain/cascade**: tiger → prey population rise → overgrazing → deforestation → soil erosion → agricultural loss. Each link must be stated.
- Anchor your answer in textbook language: "faunal web," "ecological diversity," "life support systems — water, air, soil."
- Avoid vague statements like "environment is harmed." Be specific at each step.
- 5 marks = roughly 5 linked points. Numbering or a short paragraph-chain both work; numbering is cleaner for this type of question.

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