

12

CHAPTER

UNIT - V

Biodiversity and its Conservation



Nilgiri tahr is an endangered species in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species due to hunting and poaching

Chapter outline

- 12.1 Biodiversity
- 12.2 Importance of biodiversity – Global and India
- 12.3 Biogeographical regions of India
- 12.4 Threats to biodiversity
- 12.5 Causes of Biodiversity Loss
- 12.6 IUCN
- 12.7 Biodiversity and its conservation
- 12.8 Restoration of degraded habitats
- 12.9 Biodiversity Act (BDA)



Learning objectives

- Acquire knowledge about concept, level and patterns of biodiversity.
- Appreciate the magnitude of India's biodiversity.
- Understand biogeographical regions and resources of India.
- Gain insight into the threats to biodiversity.
- Understand the reasons/causes and effects of extinction.
- Create awareness to restore degraded habitats and environment.
- To be aware of the Biodiversity Act and its provisions.



A wide variety of living organisms including plants, animals and micro-organisms with whom we share this planet earth makes the world a beautiful place to live in. Living organisms exist almost everywhere from mountain peaks to the ocean depths; from deserts to the rainforests. They vary in their habit and behaviour, shape, size and colour. The remarkable diversity of living organisms forms an inseparable and significant part of our planet, however, the ever increasing human population is posing serious threats to bio-diversity. In this chapter, we shall discuss biodiversity – concepts, levels, magnitude and patterns, importance of biodiversity, biogeographical regions of India, threats to biodiversity, causes of biodiversity loss, extinction, and biodiversity conservation.

12.1 Biodiversity

The 1992 UN Earth Summit defined **Biodiversity** as the variability among living organisms from all sources, including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part. This includes diversity within species, between species and ecosystems of a region. It reflects the number of different organisms and their relative frequencies in an ecological system and constitutes the most important functional component of a natural ecosystem.