

CONSERVATION POLICIES & ISSUES



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The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is the nodal agency for the planning, promotion, coordination and overseeing the implementation of the various environmental programmes.

Conservation and survey of flora and fauna, prevention and control of pollution, regeneration of degraded areas and protection of environment are mandates of the ministry.

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- These tasks are being fulfilled by the Ministry through environmental Impact Assessment, eco-regeneration, assistance to organizations implementing environmental programmes.
- The ministry also looks after the programmes, concerning promotion of environmental research, extension, education and training to augment the requisite manpower, dissemination of environmental information, international cooperation and creation of environmental awareness among all sectors of the country's population.

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These objectives are well supported by legislative and regulatory measures. Some of them are

1. Air (Prevention and control of pollution) Act – 1974
2. The Environment (Protection) Act – 1986
3. The Public Liability Insurance Act – 1991
4. The National Environment Tribunal Act – 1995
5. The National Environment Appellate Authority Act – 1997
6. Wild life Protection Act – 1972
7. Forest (Conservation) Act – 1980
8. National Conservation Strategy and Policy Statement on Environment and Development – 1992
9. National Forest Policy – 1988
10. Policy statement on Abatement of Pollution – 1992

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The Organizational structure of the Ministry indicating various divisions associated and autonomous offices / agencies

- Environment and Ecology, including environment in coastal waters, in mangroves and coral reefs but excluding marine environment on the high seas.
- Zoological survey of India
- Botanical survey of India
- National museum of natural history
- Biosphere reserve programme
- Indian Forest services
- Wildlife preservation and protection of wild birds and animals
- Central Ganga authority
- Forestry survey of India
- National Afforestation and Eco development board

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Activities of Ministry and its associates

■ Survey of Natural Resources

Flora

- About 30 exploration tours were undertaken
- A total of 6,000 specimens were collected out of which 3,100 specimens were identified
- Ex-situ conservation of 153 rare and threatened species were carried out
- 1000 specimens of economic & medicinal value were collected

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Fauna:

- A total of 75 faunistic surveys were undertaken
- Faunal survey in Gulf of Mannar was undertaken
- A total of 2,562, 7 species belonging to chaetognatha were identified
- Additionally 24,678 specimens belonging to 1,025 species including 8 sp new to science.

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Conservation of Natural Resources

- Wetlands, mangroves & Coral reefs
- Management action plan for wetlands have been prepared
- Under Global Environment facility (GEF) programme, a project on conservation and sustainable use of globally significant threatened wetland of India has been approved.
- Management action plans for sundarbans Mangroves, Mahanadi delta, Bhitarkanika Sanctury; Pichavaram & Muthupet; Goa & Achra – Ratnagiri were recommended.
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Gulf of Mannar and Gulf of Kutch have been identified for conservation and management of coral reefs.
- Monitoring action plan on Coral reefs in Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep and Gulf of Mannar has been prepared for implementation.

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Biodiversity Conservation

- “National policy and Action strategy on Biological Diversity” was released.
- All India coordinated project has been drawn up for capacity building in taxonomy and nine centers for research and two centers for training.

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Environmental Impact Assessment

Sanctioning projects for EIA studies prevention and control of pollution. Identifying the highly polluting industries and were taken action.

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Research Programmes

Provide the fund for major research schemes namely, Environmental Research Programme, Eco systems.

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Fellowship and Awards

- To encourage and appreciate the awards have been provide

Eg: 1) Indira Priyadhashini Vrikshamitra Awards

- 2) The Rajiv Gandhi National wildlife conservation award

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Centres of Excellence

- To create awareness among all sections of the society especially students & teachers

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Environmental Information

The Environmental Information systems (ENVIS) network with the Focal Point in Ministry and 25 subjects – area nodes. Environmental Information collection, collation, Storage, retrieval and dissemination to its users.