UPSC PRELIMS

FACT FILES

ENVIRONMENT

BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOTS, BIOSPHERE RESERVES

for Civil Services Examination

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Biodiversity Hotspots

- A biodiversity hotspot is a region with a high level of endemic species that are under threat from humans.
- The term hotspot was introduced in 1988 by Norman Myers.
- According to the Conservation International the criteria for determining a hotspot are:
  - The area should support >1500 endemic species,
  - It must have lost over 70% of the original habitat
- The North American Coastal Plains is the latest addition to the list of Biodiversity Hotspot of the world to become the 36th Biodiversity Hotspot. Quantitative analysis showing the probability of extinction in wild in at least 50% in their 10 years
  - It is therefore considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the world.
## World’s 36 Biodiversity Hotspots

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I. Africa</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Cape Floristic Region</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Eastern Afro-montane</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Guinean Forests of West Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Horn of Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Madagascar* It has been declared as the hottest hotspot.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The Succulent Karoo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** Eastern and Coastal Forests of Tanzania/Kenya have been declared as the hottest hotspot.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>II. Asia-Pacific</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- East Melanesian Islands</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Himalaya</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Indo-Burma</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Japan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mountains of Southwest China</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- New Caledonia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- New Zealand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Philippines</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Polynesia-Micronesia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Southwest Australia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Forests of Eastern Australia (new)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Sundaland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>III. Europe and Central Asia</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Caucasus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Irano-Anatolian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mediterranean Basin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mountains of Central Asia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IV. North and Central America</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- California Floristic Province</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Caribbean Islands* It has been declared as the hottest hotspot.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Madrean Pine-Oak Woodlands</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mesoamerica</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- North American Coastal Plains</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>V. South America</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Atlantic Forest* It has been declared as the hottest hotspot.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cerrado</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Chilean Winter Rainfall-Valdivian Forests</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Tropical Andes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Biodiversity Hotspots in India

- **Himalaya:** Includes the entire Indian Himalayan region (and that falling in Pakistan, Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, China, and Myanmar).

- **Indo-Burma:** Includes entire North-eastern India, except Assam and Andaman group of Islands (and Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and southern China).

- **Sundaland:** Includes Nicobar group of Islands (and Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Philippines).

- **The Western Ghats and Sri Lanka:** Includes entire Western Ghats (and Sri Lanka).

**NOTE:** Except Himalaya Hotspot, other biodiversity hotspots in India have been declared as the hottest hotspot.
Conservation International (conservation.org) defines 35 biodiversity hotspots—extraordinary places that harbor vast numbers of plant and animal species found nowhere else. All are heavily threatened by habitat loss and degradation, making their conservation crucial to protecting nature for the benefit of all life on Earth.
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Biodiversity Hope Spots

- Hope Spot are special places that are critical to the health of the ocean.
- Dr. Sylvia Earle introduced the concept of Hope Spot because a very less number i.e. only 6% of the ocean is protected while comparing with the land which is 12% protected.
- Hope Spot Network is a joint initiative of Mission Blue and International Union Of Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- The Andaman and Nicobar and the Lakshadweep islands have been designated as ‘Hope Spots’ by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 2013. The two islands are the first spots in India to be named hope spots and part of 31 new spots across the world in addition to the existing 19 hope spots.

Biosphere Reserves

- The first biosphere reserve of the world was established in 1979. There are 701 Biosphere reserves across 124 countries in the world which also include 21 trans-boundary sites.
- The largest Biosphere reserve in India is the Gulf of Mannar and the smallest Biosphere Reserve in India is Panna in Madhya Pradesh.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>MAB List</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Key Features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Western Ghats</td>
<td><strong>Key Species:</strong> NilgiriTahr, Lion-Tailed Macaque</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>National Parks:</strong> Mukurthi National Park, Bandipur National Park, Nagarhole National Park, Silent Valley National Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Wildlife Sanctuary:</strong> Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Wayanad Wildlife sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Nokrek</td>
<td>Meghalaya</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>East Himalayas</td>
<td><strong>Key Species:</strong> Asian Elephants and Red Panda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Nanda Devi</td>
<td>Uttarakhand</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Western Himalayas</td>
<td><strong>Key Species:</strong> Nilgiri Tahr, Snow leopard, Himalayan Black Bear, and bharal/ blue sheep. Drained by Rishi Ganga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Zone</td>
<td>Key Species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
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<td>------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>----------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve</td>
<td>Andaman and Nicobar Islands</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Islands</td>
<td>Saltwater Crocodile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Gulf of Mannar</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Coasts</td>
<td>Dugong or Sea Cow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Sundarbans</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Gangetic Delta</td>
<td>Royal Bengal Tiger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Manas</td>
<td>Assam</td>
<td></td>
<td>East Himalayas</td>
<td>Golden Langur, Red Panda, Bengal Florican, Pygmy Hog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Simlipal</td>
<td>Odisha</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Deccan Peninsula</td>
<td>Gaurs, Royal Bengal Tiger, Wild elephant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Dibru-Saikhowa</td>
<td>Assam</td>
<td></td>
<td>East Himalayas</td>
<td>Golden Langur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wildlife Sanctuary: Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Key Species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Khangchendzonga</td>
<td>Sikkim</td>
<td>Key Species: Snow Leopard, Red Panda, Sloth Bear, Russell’s Viper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>There are many glaciers in the park famous one is Zemu Glacier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve</td>
<td>Kerala, Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>Key Species: Nilgiri Tahr, Elephants, Lion Tailed Macaques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wildlife Sanctuary: Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (TN), Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary, Shenduruny Wildlife Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Achanakamar - Amarkantak</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh</td>
<td>Key Species: Chital, Wild Bear, Leopard, Tiger Panthera, striped Hyaena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rivers: The Narmada, the Johilla and the Son River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Great Rann of Kutch</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>Key Species: Indian Wild Ass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rivers: Luni River drains into it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wildlife Sanctuary: Indian Wild Ass Sanctuary, Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary, Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary, Kutch Bustard Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Banni Grasslands Reserve and Chari-Dhand Wetland Conservation Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Cold Desert</td>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
<td>Key Species: Snow Leopard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>National Park: Pin Valley National Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wildlife Sanctuary: Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary; Sarchu Wildlife Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Seshachalam Hills</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>Key Species: Red Sanders and Slender Loris.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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The first Biosphere Reserve in India is the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve that is a part of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala.

NOTE: The Bold Biosphere Reserves have been included in UNESCO’s MAB List.
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