

Environmental Problems: Causes and Solutions

- Editors -

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ECOLOGICAL DEGRADATION: AN ALARMING SIGNAL TO BIODIVERSITY

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INTRODUCTION: Environmental or ecological degradation is nothing but the dissipation of the environment due to depletion of various natural resources viz. water, soil, air as well as destruction of habitat, wildlife extinction and pollution. The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction defines environmental degradation as "The reduction of the capacity of the environment to meet social and ecological objectives, and needs". Depletion of natural resources results into species extinction. Most of the natural resources with special reference to India are in a serious state of degradation. Changing lifestyle and unwanted anthropogenic practices in all the sectors of environment increasing day by day finally results into permanent loss of environment and biodiversity. Extensive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides including weedicides, insecticides and fungicides acts as principal factors for degradation of soil quality, soil erosion, increasing soil salinity, decreasing soil flora and fauna which finally responsible for loss of fertility of agricultural land and production. Increased number of bore-wells in urban areas, highly polluted status of surface