

# GLOSSARY

## **Glossary**

1. **1 Acre:** 43, 560 sq. feet.
2. **Abkari:** Revenue derived from the sale and manufacture of intoxicating liquor.
3. **Anicut:** Bykes or Bankements; diversion dams
4. **Bandhara:** A dam in Maharashtra is known as Bandhara.
5. **Baoli:** A stepwell in Rajasthan is known by the name of Baoli.
6. **Bavdi:** It's an elaborately and richly ornamented well in Gujarat.
7. **Bigha:** Measure of a land, varying widely in different parts of India. 1 bigha is less than 1 acre or about 5/8 of an acre.
8. **Biodiversity conservation:** It means the conservation of components of biological diversity in their natural habitat (is situ) or outside their natural habitat. (ex situ).
9. **Biological diversity or biodiversity:** It denotes the variability among living organisms from all resources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystem.
10. **Coppice:** A system developed in the traditional rural economy with the aim of cutting firewood and timber from the nearby forest in a way of preventing the quick deforestation of the place.
11. **Coupes:** A unit of forest for harvesting and regeneration. Coupes sizes are mostly in the order of 100 hectares.
12. **Ecosystem:** Ecosystem means a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro organism communities and their non living environment interacting as a functional unit.

13. **Gabarband:** These are the stone dam of the Zoroastrians which were built to collect a layer of alluvial soil over dry and barren rocks, combined with the retention and economic control of the distribution of the floodwater.
14. **Global warming:** Climatic changes due to green house effects (trapping of the Carbon Di Oxide and other gases in the atmosphere leading to the increase in the temperature of the earth).
15. **Habitat:** Habitat refers the place or type of site where an organism or population naturally occurs. It is by very nature, a multi dimensional concept. This concept involves not only the management and conservation of natural resource base, but also the social, institutional, and technological and cultural changes involved in it.
16. **Habitat Conversion:** When natural landscape is converted to agriculture or colony/ road any manmade system that makes it difficult for the species to survive.
17. **Habitat Degradation:** Pollution, i.e. air, land and water is the primary and most important cause of habitat degradation, and an important progenitor of the biodiversity loss. Eutrophication of soil and water initiates a severe selection pressure on the species diversity. The species tolerant to high nutrient amounts thrive and antagonize the others. The sensitivity of the species to the nutrient profiles are eventually excluded from the eutrophic habitats. This is cascading phenomena, fewer plants, fewer herbivores, fewer carnivores and so fewer micro organisms. The increasing applications of cidal material ( eg.fungicide, herbicide, pesticide, etc) for higher food production, high frequency of acid rain, depleting ozone in stratosphere due to carbon fluro carbons have been responsible for degraded diverse habitat and the resultant loss of biodiversity.
18. **Johad:** Tanks were known by this name in Kandhla, Uttar Pradesh.

19. **Kos:** 80 kos = 258 kms. (Approximately). A leather bag was known as a 'kos' used as a device to lift water from a single well. Thus if two leather bags of water is lifted from the wells, it will make two koses of water.

20. **Kund vav:** Stepped tank.

21. **Kund:** Embanked areas in Haryana were locally known as kunds; in Gujarat, the term is used for a deep octagonal silt trap; in Rajasthan it refers to a tank.

22. **Lac:** Deposit of lac insects, usually of dhak trees (*Butea frondosa*); important forest product, used for dyes and shellac.

23. **Mahalwari:** Villagewise.

24. **Mansab:** Rank in the Mughal Empire, indicator of rank and pay of the holder.

25. **1 Mile** = 1.6093 Kms.

26. **Phad system:** It is the community managed phad irrigation system, prevalent in northwestern Maharashtra, probably came into existence some 300-400 years ago; the system operates on three rivers in the Tapi basin- Panjhara, Mosam and Aram in the Dhule and the Nasik districts; a series of bandharas were built on these rivers to divert water for the agricultural use.

27. **Ryotwari:** A System of land revenue which is collected directly by the State from the ryots (cultivators).

28. **Sari:** In Gujarat water of a stepwell is called sari.

29. **Senility of species:** This is a complex concept that means aging of a species. Aging can happen due to inbreeding depression. Most commonly, though the species may just become unsuitable for the existing environment. As an example, the Chinese Panda has a very narrow food

base - it eats only bamboo. Bamboo forests are being cut down rapidly and the animal is not switching over to another diet. Therefore, too much specialization leads to vulnerability of the species to environmental change. Another reason is that fertility of the panda is very low - it produces just one baby every other year. Insects on the other hand survive any number of pesticides because they have high fertility and produce many off springs in a short span of time. With each reproduction, genes recombine in the zygote and there are chances of evolution. With lower rate of reproduction, the species has less chances of evolving genes suitable for unknown future conditions and is therefore, less adaptable and may eventually go extinct.

30. **1 Square Kilometer** = 100 Hectares = 0.3861 Square Miles.

31. **Sustainable development:** The World Commission on environment and development defined, sustainable development as the kind of development that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

32. **Sustainable use:** It indicate the use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long term decline of biological diversity, thereby, maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.

33. **Taccavi:** Low interest loan from the government for productive purposes.

34. **Wetlands:** Wetlands are lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem where water table is usually at or near the surface of land and is covered by shallow waters.

35. **Zamindar:** Intermediary between state and the cultivators.

36. **Zamindari:** Area under a zamindar