

## What is a Habitat?

• A habitat is a "home ground" or an environment in which an organism or group of species normally lives or occurs. In this sense, a habitat is any particular place that supports animal or plant life. From the habitat is where plants or animals get their survival essentialities such as water, food, shelter, and breeding grounds.



• Different plant or animal species have different necessities for water, shelter, nesting and food. Thus, each and every plant or animal is adapted to survive in a specific kind of habitat. For instance, some turtles live in the seas while others live on land. Some plants grow in the deserts, some in the seas, and some in swampy areas. This shows different species have different needs. Examples of habitats include oceans, streams, or forests.

## Reasons For Habitat Loss and Destruction

• When a habitat is dramatically altered due to natural or anthropogenic activities such as earthquakes, agriculture, pollution or oil exploration, these places may no longer be able to provide shelter, food, water, or breeding grounds for the living organisms.

- Such kind of events lessens the places where plants or animals such as wildlife can live and threatens the survival of various species. That sort of habitat degradation or fragmentation is what is termed as habitat loss and destruction. Habitat loss and destruction are influenced by several drivers which include:
- Agriculture
- Waste Pollution
- Industrial and Automobile Pollution
- Land Use and Development
- Global Warming

## Rainforest Clearing In Southeast Asia

• One of the worst modern day examples of habitat destruction is the **deforestation** of the Indonesian and Malaysian rainforests. Humans are slowly but surely clearing the rainforests to make way for palm oil plantations and to harvest their valuable wood resources. Across the world, rainforests are disappearing at an incredible rate. Rainforest destruction threatens iconic animals like the orangutan, the tiger, and the Asian elephant.