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In order to protect the biodiversity in areas having ecological significance, the Ministry also notified Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA), which have unique biological resources, and require special attention for their conservation.



Ministry notified the ESZs under the Environment (Protection) Act, of 1986.

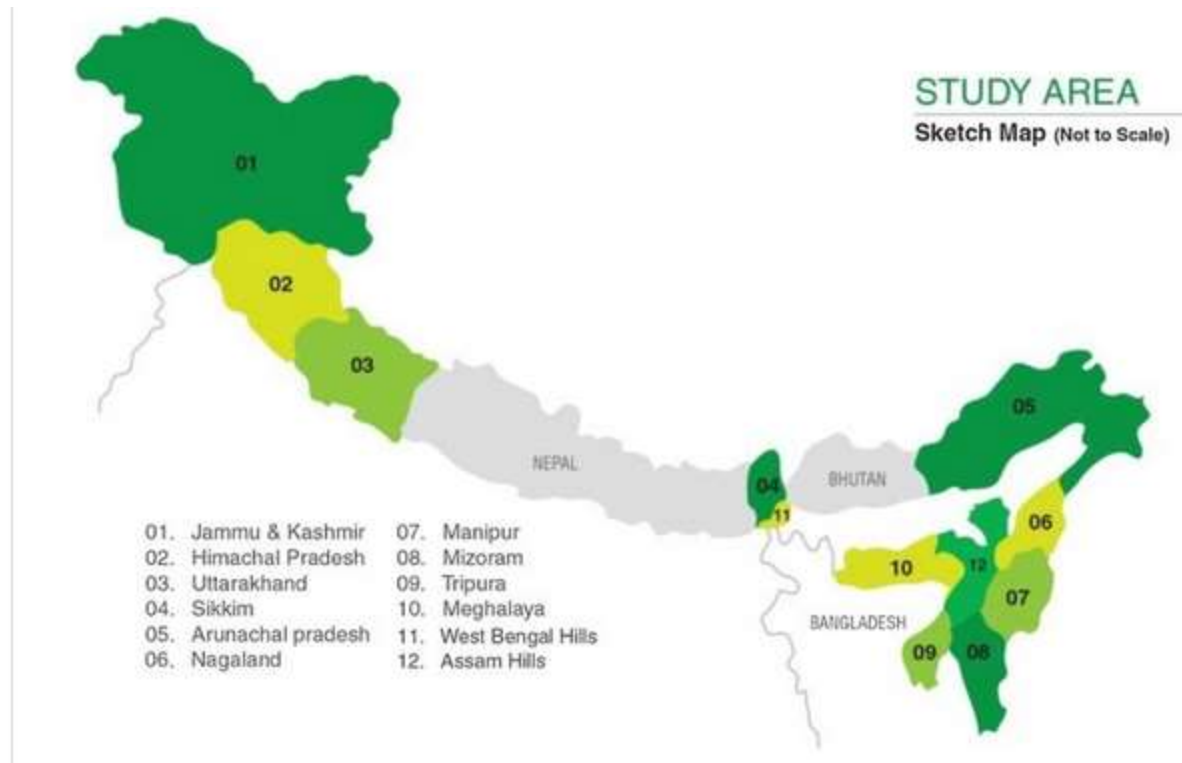


In order to protect the biodiversity, the Ministry notified Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA), which have unique biological resources, and require special attention for their conservation.

Union minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey informed Rajya Sabha that 92 Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ) have been notified in 13 states and union territories of the Indian Himalayan region



13 Indian States/Union Territories (namely Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Assam and West Bengal)





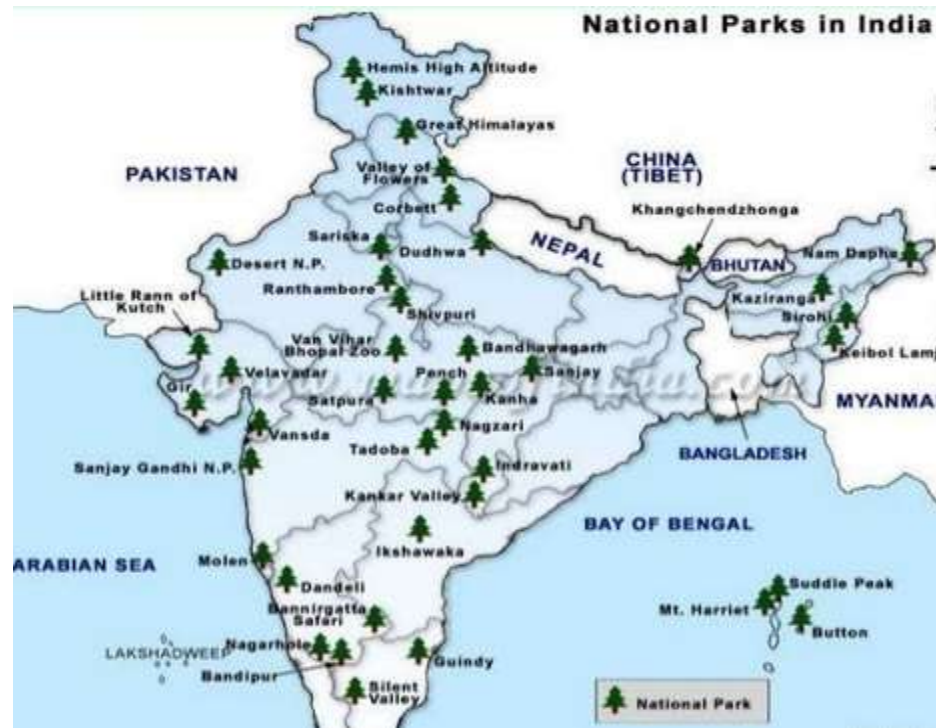
As part of the wildlife conservation strategy, in the year 2002, it was decided that an area around each protected area requires to be notified as Eco-Sensitive Zone for creating a buffer

the very purpose of declaring ESZ is to create some kind of "Shock Absorber"



Eco-Sensitive Zones

- Eco-Sensitive Zones are areas **within 10 kms around** Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- ESZs are **notified by MoEFCC, Government of India under Environment Protection Act 1986.**





➤ In case of places with **sensitive corridors, connectivity and ecologically important patches**, crucial for landscape linkage, even area **beyond 10 km** width can also be included in the eco-sensitive zone.

➤ India has **more than 600 Ecologically Sensitive Zones** declared across different states.



Activities in ESZs

Prohibited activities:

- Commercial mining,
- saw mills (wood-cutting mills),
- industries causing pollution (air, water, soil, noise etc),
- establishment of major hydroelectric projects (HEP),
- commercial use of wood,
- Tourism activities like hot-air balloons over the National Park, discharge of effluents or any solid waste or production of hazardous substances.



Regulated activities:

- Felling of trees,
- establishment of hotels and resorts,
- commercial use of natural water,
- erection of electrical cables,
- drastic change of agriculture system, e.g. adoption of heavy technology, pesticides etc, widening of roads.



Permitted activities:

- Ongoing agricultural or horticultural practices,
- rainwater harvesting,
- organic farming,
- use of renewable energy sources,
- adoption of green technology for all activities.



Procedure for Declaring Ecologically Sensitive Zones(ESZ):

Survey and identification of ESZs are conducted by the respective State Governments for consideration of the Central Government

On the basis of proposals and recommendations of the State Government, Ministry notified the ESZs under the Environment (Protection) Act, of 1986.

"Section '3' of the ESZ Notification provides the guidelines for the preparation of the Zonal Master Plan (ZMP) by the respective State Government and

mandates the preparation of the Tourism Master Plan forming part of the Zonal Master Plan on the basis of the Carrying Capacity study of the concerned ESZ



Challenges Faced by Eco-Sensitive Zones

- affect developmental activities.
- Local people: affect their daily livelihood activities.
- To deal with these challenges, the government has proposed that the boundary of ESZs had to be determined based on region-specific requirements.



Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone



Which of the following is **not** declared by state?

- A. national park
- B. wildlife sanctuary
- C. Ecologically sensitive area
- D. reserve forest

Ans- C.