UNIT 7 : AGENCIES OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

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7.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to:

- identify the agencies of formal and non-formal environmental education
- explain the activities of the government or national environmental organisations of India
- discuss the activities of some of the well-known national level NGOs of India
- discuss some of the noted state level environmental NGOs of Assam
- highlight the activities of some of the important international environmental organisations.

7.2 INTRODUCTION

The term 'Environmental Education' is usually used to imply education within the formal education system, from primary to university level. However, in the wider perspective, the term is used more broadly to include all the efforts, both formal and non-formal, including print materials, websites, media campaigns, etc. to sensitise and educate general masses regarding the various issues related to the natural environment so that people can have a better understanding of the world around them and know how to take care of it properly in order to make the world a better place.

In this connection, an in-depth discussion on the various programmes of Environmental Education, both formal and non-formal with their importance at different levels of education - primary, secondary, college and university has been carried out in unit 5 of this course.

The present unit particularly focuses on the different agencies or organisations -government, non-government; regional, national, international etc. involved in protection of environment and providing education to students and general masses in connection with the environment through formal and non-formal means and methods.

7.3 AGENCIES OF FORMAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

You may be aware of the fact that environmental education has become an integral component of primary, secondary and tertiary level education. This inclusion of environment education in the formal education system plays a very important role in creating awareness among the younger generation of the society by exposing them to the diverse issues related to the conservation and protection of the environment. ***(Please refer to Unit-5: Programmes of Environmental Education of this course, where programmes of environmental education imparted at various levels of education at schools, colleges and universities are being discussed in detail.)***

The formal education institutions like schools, colleges, universities,

and other professional institutions which provide formal environmental education following a well-defined and systematic curriculum. In order to strengthen the curriculum of environmental education in the formal sector, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GOI (formerly known as Ministry of Environment and Forest, GOI) has been closely interacting with the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT), University Grant Commission (UGC), the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the State Education Departments so as to ensure effective integration of environmental concept into the curricula of formal education.

For various stages of school education, NCERT has been playing vital role in designing and developing syllabi, text-books, TLMs related to the environmental education at the national level. At the state level, the same has been carried out by the SCERTs of individual states.

At the college and university level, environmental education is being looked after by the UGC. There is a high-powered committee to suggest areas of environmental education at post-graduate level.

It has been reported that there are nearly two hundred departments of environmental studies in the universities and colleges across India. They offer degree or diploma programs covering all aspects of environmental sciences and engineering. There are also diplomas, bachelor's degree, M.Sc., M.Phil. and Ph.D. programs in Environmental Sciences or Environmental Studies. Besides these, M.E., M.Tech, and Ph.D. programs in environmental engineering are offered by Civil Engineering and Chemical Engineering departments. Postgraduate degree programs in Environmental Management and courses that lead to M.Sc. in Environmental Chemistry/ Biology/Geology or Environmental Toxicology, are also available. Environmental Education at the doctoral level is also available in a large number of autonomous Research and Development (R & D) institutions founded by the central government, state governments, and agencies such as CSIR, ICAR, and ICMR i.e. formal education in environmental science or engineering is available in India up to the highest possible level. (Source: https://lotusarise.com/environmental-education-in-india-upsc/)



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: What is implied by the tern 'formal agencies of environmental education'?

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Q 2: Name the Ministry that looks after the curriculum of formal environmental education at various levels. Name the organisation with which the Ministry interacts with regard to curricula of environmental education for various stages of school education at the national level?

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7.4 AGENCIES OF NON-FORMAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Environmental education is not only limited to students belonging to formal education system. It is a lifelong process essential for welfare of mankind and development of the society. Therefore, it is designed for any age group participating in social, economic, cultural development of the communities. Since the environmental scenario of India is very wide and is highly diverse in nature - climatically, geographically, edaphically, ethnically, socially and economically, therefore, Environmental Education has also to be essentially location-specific. As such, different communities, institutions and individuals choose methods and practices that best suit their local needs and capacities.

Agencies of non-formal environmental education include various community-based groups, service organisations, government and non-government agencies, boys' and girls' clubs, parks and reserves, state and national forests, residential centres, nature centres, zoos, museums, scouting organisations, etc. All such type of organisations is involved in non-

formal Environmental Education.

Environmental Education, awareness and training play a very significant role in encouraging and enhancing participation of general masses in activities aimed at conservation, protection and management of the environment that is essential for achieving sustainable development. Accordingly, utmost priority is being accorded by the Ministry for promotion of non-formal Environmental Education to create awareness among all the sections of the society through diverse activities using traditional and modern media of communication. The programmes like National Environmental Awareness Campaign (NEAC), Green India Mission (GIN) etc. undertaken by the GOI also come under the non-formal sector of environmental education.



LET US KNOW

The **National Environmental Awareness Campaign (NEAC)** programme was started in the year 1986 for creating environmental awareness at the National Level. An action component was introduced in the awareness campaign in the year 2001-02. The programme continued throughout the year with the main theme of "Solid Waste Management". The sub-themes of the campaign included household waste and composite or vermi-composing, municipal waste, bio-medical waste plastic waste, waste management at higher altitude, electronic or e-waste and industrial waste including flash.

Some other major activities undertaken under the non-formal environmental education activities include the following:

- **Environmental Awareness Through Informal Agencies of Education:** Special events, lectures, field trips, seminars, periodicals, posters, films, etc. organised by both the Government and Non-Government organisations serves the purpose of sensitising general public to the need of environmental actions.
- **Environmental Awareness and Extension Programmes:** Various programmes for environmental awareness including campaigns,

community mobile education and extension programmes, audio/visual programmes, billboards with conservation messages, street theatres, etc. organised at local level, particularly for celebration of days like World Environmental Day, World Forestry Day, World Wetland Day, Wildlife Week, Biodiversity Day, etc. helps to create environmental awareness among the local communities. These special days which are celebrated by students, teachers, local NGOs and community-based organisations prove to be effective for disseminating information about the importance of biodiversity, its conservation and sustainability.

- **Awareness Through Mass-Media:** Mass-media, including electronic media can play a vital role in making people aware about environment and conservation of natural resources by means of its multi-channel services. ***(Please refer to the next unit, i.e., Unit 8: Media of Environmental Education in which a detailed discussion regarding the use of various media for environmental awareness and education has been carried out.)***



LET US KNOW

Content of Non-Formal Environmental Education

- **Adult Education:** Adults may influence the other members of the society to protect the precious environments by generating posters, slides, audio-visual and information pictures in regional languages.
- **Tribals / Forest Dwellers:** They are an important media to protect the forest wealth. The programmes of education can be taken by involving community leaders, women and youth of the locality.
- **Public Representatives:** There are Environmental Forums in India for MPs and MLAs to discuss environmental problems of the country. They may build up sound public opinion and stimulate public interest as well.
- **Training Executives/Administrators:** Regular courses should be arranged for various institutes imparting such training. These

are environmental management, industry-specific environmental management, etc.

- **Research and Development Programmes:** Such Research and Development efforts are supported by Department of Environment in Biosphere and Man.
- **Foundation Courses:** The courses for the probationers selected for the IAS, IFS, IPS and cadets of three wings of Armed Forces need to be supplemented with foundation courses on environment relevant to their area of specialisation.
- **Centres of Excellence:** Department of Environment has established two Centres of Excellence in the country. They generate knowledge, methodology and training in areas of Tropical Ecology (in Bengaluru) and Environmental Education (in Ahmedabad).
- **Development of Educational Material and Teaching Aids:** Materials for media (T.V, radio, films, newspapers etc.), audio, mobile exhibitions, audio-visual materials must be designed by competent manpower. One such centre is Centre of Environmental Education, Ahmedabad.
- **World Environment Day:** All the State Government, UTs, universities, schools, colleges, academic institutions and voluntary organisations organise suitable activities on World Environment Day, i.e., 5th June of each year. Department of Environment supports the functions financially.
- **Children Activities:** Department of Education with the help of United Schools Organisations of India organises various events for children. On the spot painting, modelling and poster design competitions, etc. are organised for children by the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH).
- **Eco-development Camps:** These camps help in forming sound rural development involving youth. In this regard, a set of a guidelines has been prepared by the Department of Environment in 1984 to create awareness among students

and other youth as well as to acquaint them with the practices of sustainable development.

- **Non-government Organisations:** There are a large number of NGOs throughout the country engaged in Environmental Education covering various dimensions of environmental issues, viz., raising awareness, nature conservation, pollution control, afforestation and social forestry floristic and faunal studies, rural development, wildlife conservation, waste utilisation, eco-development, etc..



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 3: Mention some of the agencies involved in non-formal environmental education.

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Q 4: Name a non-formal environmental awareness programme undertaken by the Government of India.

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7.5 GOVERNMENT/ NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

Most of the governmental bodies involved in environmental studies in India are either put directly under the administrative control of, or assisted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India (MoEFCC). Initially, Department of Environment was set up in 1980 to serve as the focal point in the administrative structure of the Central Government for planning, promotion and coordination of programmes related to environment, which later turned into Ministry of Environment and Forests in 1985. The Ministry was renamed again to the current title of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in the year 2014.

Let us briefly go through the Ministry in the following sub-sections.

7.5.1 Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) serves as the nodal agency in the administrative structure of the Central Government for the planning, promotion, co-ordination and overseeing of the implementation of India's environmental and forestry policies and programmes.

The broad objectives of the Ministry are:

- Conservation and survey of flora, fauna, forests and wildlife
- Prevention and control of pollution
- Afforestation and regeneration of degraded areas
- Protection of the environment
- Ensuring the welfare of animals

These objectives of the Ministry are well supported by a set of legislative and regulatory measures, aimed at the preservation, conservation and protection of the environment.

The Ministry serves as the nodal agency in the country for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and for the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The Ministry is also entrusted with issues relating to multilateral bodies such as the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and of regional bodies like Economic and Social Council for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) and South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) on matters pertaining to the environment.

There are **19 Regional Offices** of the Ministry throughout the country covering all the states and union territories.

The various organisations under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change are given below:

Sub-ordinates offices:

There are 7 sub-ordinate offices, which are:

1. Forest Survey of India
2. Botanical Survey of India
3. Zoological Survey of India
4. Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy
5. Directorate of Forest Education
6. National Zoological Park
7. National Museum of Natural History

Autonomous Organisations:

1. Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment
2. Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education
3. Indian Institute of Forest Management
4. Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training
5. Wildlife Institute of India

Authorities/ Tribunals:

1. Central Zoo Authority
2. National Biodiversity Authority
3. National Tiger Conservation Authority
4. National Green Tribunal

Boards:

1. Central Pollution Control Board
2. National Afforestation and Eco Development Board
3. Society of Integrated Coastal Management
4. Wildlife Crime Control Board

Institute:

There is one institute, named National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management under the MoEFCC, GOI with the following vision and mission:

Vision: Promote sustainable coasts through increased partnerships, conservation practices, scientific research and knowledge management for the benefit and well-being of current

and future generations

Mission and Role: Support integrated management of coastal and marine environment for livelihood security, sustainable development and hazard risk management by enhancing -

- Knowledge
- Research and Advisory Support
- Partnerships and Network
- Coastal Community Interface

7.5.2 Other National Agencies

Some other important organisations created and funded by Government of India involved in environmental issues are as follows:

- Industrial Toxicology Research Centre (ITRC), Lucknow
- National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur
- National Natural Research Management System (NNRMS)
- Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM)
- Several Research Institutes under I.C.A.R. including I.G.F.R.I., Jhansi, Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 5: Fill in the blanks:

i. The Ministry of Environment and Forests was renamed in the year 2014 with the current name of .....

ii. There are ..... Regional Offices of the Ministry throughout the country covering all the states and union territories.

iii. There is one institute, titled ..... under the MoEFCC, GOI.

iv. The full form of NEERI is .....

7.6 NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) are very effective agents as far as environmental education is concerned. The problems pertaining to environment cannot be handled by the Government agencies alone. Moreover, in a vast country like India, the Government departments cannot reach out to every nook and corner of the country. Further, in a democratic country like India, where one of the most effective ways of convincing people is by making them aware and responsible for their actions; when it comes to environmental education, it has a limited scope as a substantial section of population of the country is still out of the formal education system. The NGOs, on the other hand have the advantage over Governmental agencies as they are in direct contact with the general masses. NGOs can persuade the general public, educate them through various means and do their part for the protection of environment. Moreover, NGOs can also serve as a link between the local community and the government agencies by informing the concerned departments regarding the problems of local environment. There are many NGOs working at various levels - international, national, state and even local levels to make people aware of the environmental issues.

7.6.1 National Level Not-for-Profit Institutes/NGOs/Other Agencies

- **Centre for Environmental Education (CEE):** Centre for Environmental Education was set up in the year 1984. The head office of CEE is based at Ahmedabad and they have offices across the country. The main aim of CEE is to create environmental awareness in the communities. They conduct widespread environmental education and training programmes through a very vast network. They also take up projects related to conservation of biodiversity and eco-development.
- **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS):** Bombay Natural History Society started its work in September 1883 at Mumbai.

The society aims to disseminate knowledge of flora and fauna by means of lectures, field trips, literature and expeditions. It also conducts field research projects on bird migration, studies on the movement and population structure of Indian avifauna and certain endangered species of wildlife. It has undertaken a wide range of projects in conjunction with both local and overseas counterpart organisations on birds, reptiles, mammals etc.

- **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI):** TERI is an independent not-for-profit research institute established in 1974. Its mission is to develop and promote technologies, policies and institutions for efficient and sustainable use of natural resources. It has been imparting environmental education through projects, workshops, audio-visual aids and quiz competitions. TERI also has a major programme in biotechnology, the applications of which are oriented towards increased biomass production, conversion of waste into useful products and mitigating the harmful environmental impacts of several economic activities.
- **Development Alternatives group (DAG):** It is a non-profit organisation engaged in research and action for sustainable development. It was established in 1983. The activities of DAG broadly cover the three primary areas that underlie any form of sustainable development process; they are: design and large-scale dissemination of appropriate technologies, environmental management systems and effective people-oriented institutions and policies. The mission of the Development Alternatives Group is to promote sustainable national development.
- **CPR Environmental Education Centre (C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation):** CPR Environmental Education Centre is based at Chennai and was set up in 1989 with an aim - to promote environmental awareness, to produce and

disseminate basic educational and reference material on environment and to take up environmental projects. It provides guidance on environmental laws, environmental impacts and management studies.

- **Vanarai:** Vanarai is based in Pune and was first set up in 1982 to promote environmental protection, afforestation and sustainable integrated rural development. Their activities are spread over the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan. They are working in the area of Environmental Education for school children and teachers and help them in forming eco-clubs.
- **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE):** Centre for Science and Environment is based in New Delhi. It was founded in 1980 as an independent public interest organisation that aims to increase public awareness on science, technology, environment and development. CSE has been actively involved in searching for solutions that people and communities can implement by themselves, challenging India to confront its problems, inspiring it to take action, pushing the government to create frameworks for people and communities to act on their own.
- **Kalpavriksh:** It is a voluntary group started in 1979 and has been working on Environmental Education, research, campaigns and direct action. Kalpavriksh believes that a country can develop meaningfully only if ecological sustainability and social equity are guaranteed. As such, its activities are directed to ensuring conservation of biological diversity, challenging the current destructive path of development, helping in the search for alternative forms of livelihoods and development, assisting local people in empowering themselves to manage their natural resources, and reviving a sense of oneness with nature.
- **World Wide Fund for Nature, India:** Established as a

Charitable Trust on 27 November, 1969, World Wildlife Fund in India (WWF, India) began with the aim of reducing the degradation of Earth's natural environment and building a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. The organisation changed its name from the World Wildlife Fund to World Wide Fund for Nature India in 1987. This organisation has been working in the field of biodiversity conservation including field projects, consultancy and research and support to other organisations, forest management, wildlife trade monitoring, tiger conservation programme, fresh-water and wetlands programme, river dolphin conservation programme and Environmental Education and awareness. Over the years, its perspective has broadened to reflect a more holistic understanding of the various conservation issues facing the country and seeks to proactively encourage environmental conservation by working with different stakeholders- Governments, NGOs, schools and colleges, corporates, students and other individuals.

7.6.2 State Level Not-for-Profit Institutes/NGOs/Other Agencies

- **Assam Science Society (ASS):** It is a voluntary organisation established in the year 1953 as "Gauhati Science Society", which was later renamed as "Assam Science Society" in the year 1956 in order to encompass the entire state of Assam. In addition to working for popularisation of Science and Mathematics throughout the state by publishing various types of literatures in Assamese language, organising workshops, popular talks, seminars, exhibitions, symposiums, talent search competitions, etc., the Assam Science Society also impart environmental education and training to both teachers and students through camps and conduct surveys on environment.
- **Kaziranga Wildlife Society (KWS):** It is a nature conservation

organisation founded in the year 1969 with Dr. Robin Banerjee as the founder president of the society. The Society works for protection, preservation and promotion of wildlife and their habitat not only in Kaziranga National Park but in the entire NE India.

- **Nature's Backon:** It is an environmental activist group established in the year 1982 by Soumyadeep Dutta, an Ashoka Fellow and was registered under the Registration of Societies Act, India in 1991. The head office of the organisation is located in Dhubri, Assam. In addition to working for the conservation of wildlife, the organisation has also been working in the area of environmental awareness and education, scientific research and documentation and socio-economic development of the rural masses of the region.
- **Centre for Environment Education, North East (CEE, NE):** CEE, NE organisation located in Chenikuthi, Guwahati is the regional branch of CEE Ahmedabad which was established in 1984 under the aegis of Nehru Foundation for development. It was during the same time that Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) came which was more action and policy oriented. So, a need was felt to have an organisation that would look after the educational aspect of the environment. The organisation started promoting the objectives of the Ministry by providing educational training and material. The main thrust of CEE is education for sustainable development. Its activities comprised three major components: capacity building, field study demonstration, and policy intervention. CEE-NE's main work has been in the field of Environment Education and it generally works in collaboration with government departments such as, MoEF / MoEFCC, MoT etc., as well as with other international agencies.
- **Aaranyak:** Aaranyak is a Guwahati based leading wildlife NGO. It was started by a group of young environment enthusiasts in



Ashoka Fellow

An Ashoka Fellow is a person who has been recognised as one of the World's leading social entrepreneurs and changemaker by an international organisation with the same name, i.e., **Ashoka** (branded **Ashoka: Innovators for the public**).

the year 1989. They started with a nature club with a mission to foster conservation of biodiversity in Northeast India through research, environmental education, capacity building and advocacy for legal and policy reform to usher a new era of ecological security. They formulated a number of conservation strategies or divisions specific to North East India to address crucial environment issues. There are 14 major divisions that form the core of Aaranyak's conservation strategy, out of which 8 revolves around some of the key threatened species of North East India. The other divisions undertake various focussed approaches for biodiversity research and conservation in the region.

- ENVIRON: ENVIRON was founded with an effort to address issues of environmental degradation and economic development of North-eastern region of India in 2003. ENVIRON is amalgamation of students, researchers and think-tanks who believe that proper management and utilisation of renewable natural resource is the key to sustainable development of this region. Dr. Amarjyoti Kashyap, an environment and solid waste management scientist is the founder & chief functionary of ENVIRON. The major objective of ENVIRON involves survey of natural resources and utilisation of natural resources in a sustainable way. It claims to be the sole organisation which works in the area of solid waste management in urban areas. To tackle this problem, it focuses on resource base of trained personnel who can take leadership role in waste management in particular and environmental protection in general. The organisation is strongly dependent on bonafide students to take up different initiatives in this regard. Organisation of awareness camps is one of its regular activities.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 6: Name any five well-known national level Non-Government Environmental Organisations of India.

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Q 7: Name any five well-known state level Non-Government Environmental Organisations of Assam.

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Q 8: What are the various types of works undertaken by the Assam Science Society (ASS)?

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7.7 INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES

Some of the important international bodies involved with different areas of environment, forestry, wildlife and other relevant aspects of environment are discussed below:

- **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):** It is a UN agency, responsible for cooperation of inter-governmental measures for environmental monitoring and protection. It was set up in 1972. Its Headquarters are in Nairobi, Kenya. UNEP was founded to study and formulate international guidelines for management of the environment. UNEP is assisting many such programmes in India too.
- **International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN):** It is an autonomous body, founded in 1948 with its Headquarters at Morges, Switzerland for initiating and promoting scientifically based conservation measures. It also cooperates with United Nations and other intergovernmental agencies and sister bodies

of World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

- **World Wildlife Fund (WWF) / World Wide Fund for Nature:** It is an international non-governmental organisation with its headquarters at Gland, Switzerland founded in 1961 that works in the field of wilderness preservation and the reduction of human impact on the environment. WWF is one of the world's largest conservation organisations working in more than 100 countries. It was initially named the World Wildlife Fund, which remains its official name in Canada and the United States.
- **European Economic Community (EEC):** It is community of 12 European nations with sound political, economic and legal base. It has programmes of framing and implementation of coordinated policy for environmental improvement and conservation of natural resources. Central Pollution Control Board, India has taken up projects on air quality monitoring with assistance of EEC.
- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES):** It is an international forum, whose membership for agreement is open to all countries. For India, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change functions as nodal agency for participation in international agreements.
- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO):** It is a United Nations agency, founded in 1945 to support and implement the efforts of member states to promote education, scientific research and information, and the arts to develop the cultural aspects of world relations. Its Headquarters are in Paris. Independently as well as in collaboration with other agencies like UNEP, it supports activities related to environmental quality, human settlements, training to environmental engineers and other socio-cultural programmes related to the environment.
- **South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP):** This organisation has been set up for exchange of professional knowledge and expertise on environmental issues among member countries - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):** This is an independent

Federal Agency of the U.S. Government established in 1970. It deals with protection of air, water, solid wastes and management of radiation, pesticides, noise etc.

- **Human Exposure Assessment Location (HEAL):** The project is a part of the Health-Related Monitoring Programme by WHO in co-operation with UNEP.
- **World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED):** This is a 23-member commission, set up in 1984 in pursuance with a UN General Assembly resolution in 1983 to re-examine the critical environmental and development issues and to formulate proposals for them. The commission makes an assessment of the level of understanding and commitment of individuals, voluntary organisations and governmental bodies on environmental issues.
- **Earth Watch Programme (EWP):** It is a worldwide programme, established in 1972 under the terms of the Declaration on the Human Environment. It monitors trends in the environment, based on a series of monitoring stations. Its activities are coordinated by UNEP.
- **Project Earth:** It is developed in collaboration with UNEP to inspire and educate young people worldwide on the crucial issues facing the Earth's Environment.
- **Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB):** MAB was conceived as an outcome of International Biological Conference of UNESCO in 1968, where it was realised that collaboration of natural and social scientists, planners and managers and the local people are necessary to solve environmental issues. It was formally launched by UNESCO in November 1971.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 9: Name any five important International Environmental Organisations.

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Q 10: Write the full form of SACEP. What are the member countries of SACEP.

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7.8 LET US SUM UP

- Environmental Education offered by the formal education sector plays a very important role with regard to the education and awareness of younger generation of the society by exposing them to the diverse issues related to the conservation and protection of environment.
- Environmental education is a lifelong process essential for welfare of mankind and development of the society. Therefore, it is designed for any age group participating in social, economic, cultural development of the communities.
- Some major activities undertaken under the non-formal environmental education activities include awareness through various informal agencies of education, organisation of environmental awareness and extension programmes and awareness through mass-media.
- Most of the governmental bodies involved in environmental studies in India are either put directly under the administrative control of, or assisted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India (MoEFCC). There are 19 Regional Offices of the Ministry throughout the country covering all the states and union territories, 7 sub-ordinate offices, 5 autonomous organisations, 4 authorities or tribunals, 4 boards and 1 institute.
- Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) are very effective agent as far as environmental education is concerned. They have the advantage over Governmental agencies as they are in direct contact with the general masses.

- There are many NGOs working at various levels - international, national, state and even local levels to make people aware of the environmental issues.
- State level well-known NGOs of Assam discussed in this unit are - Assam Science Society (ASS), Kaziranga Wildlife Society (KWS), Nature's Bacon, Centre for Environment Education, North East (CEE, NE), Aaranyak and ENVIRON
- There are many important international bodies involved with different areas of environment, forestry, wildlife and other relevant aspects of environment.



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7.10 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: The term formal agencies of environmental education implies the educational institutions, such as, schools, colleges, universities, and other professional bodies which provide formal environmental education following a well-defined and systematic curriculum.

Ans to Q No 2: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GOI,

was formerly known as Ministry of Environment and Forest, GOI. The Ministry interacts with the NCERT for school level environmental education curricula.

Ans to Q No 3: Agencies of non-formal environmental education include various community-based groups, service organisations, government and non-government agencies, boys' and girls' clubs, parks and reserves, state and national forests, residential centres, nature centres, zoos, museums, scouting organisations, etc

Ans to Q No 4: National Environmental Awareness Campaign (NEAC)

Ans to Q No 5:

i. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
ii. 19
iii. National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management
iv. National Environmental Engineering Research Institute

Ans to Q No 6: Five of the well-known national level environmental NGOs of India are: (i) Centre of Environmental Education (CEE), (ii) The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), (iii) CPR Environmental Education Centre, (iv) Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) and (v) World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), India.

Ans to Q No 7: Five of the well-known state level environmental NGOs of Assam are: (i) Kaziranga Wildlife Society (KWS), (ii) Nature's Backon, (iii) Aaranyak, (iv) CEE, NE and (v) ENVIRON

Ans to Q No 8: Assam Science Society basically works for the popularisation of Science and Mathematics throughout the state of Assam by publishing various types of literatures in Assamese language, organising workshops, popular talks, seminars, exhibitions, symposiums, talent search competitions, etc. Further, the society also imparts environmental education and training to both teachers and students through camps and conduct surveys on environment.

Ans to Q No 9: Five of the important international environmental organisations are: (i) United Nations Environment Programmes (UNEP), (ii) International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), (iii) Environment Protection Agency (EPA),

(iv)World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) and (v) Earth Watch Programme (EWP).

Ans to Q No 10: The full form of SACEP is South Asia co-operative Environment Programme. The member countries of SACEP are: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.



7.11 POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

A. Short Questions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q 1: What is meant by the term formal agencies of environmental education? Name the organisations involved with the framing of environmental education curricula at various levels of formal education system.

Q 2: "Environmental education is not only limited to students belonging to formal education system" - explain.

Q 3: Mention some of the agencies of non-formal environmental education. What type of major activities are generally undertaken by the agencies of non-formal environmental education?

Q 4: What is the full form of MoEFCC? Write the board objectives of MoEFCC.

Q 5: Mention the various sub-ordinate offices, autonomous organisations, tribunals, boards and institutions working under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GOI.

Q 6: How do the Non-Government Organisations have advantages over the Government Organisations in connection with environmental education of general people? Explain.

Q 7: What is the full form of TERI? Write briefly about its activities in the field of environment.

Q 8: Write a short note on Narmada Bachao Andolan.

Q 9: Write shortly on any two of the well-known state level environmental NGOs of Assam.

Q 10: What is the full form of UNESCO? State the activities of UNESCO.

B. Long Questions (Answer each question in around 300- 500 words)

Q 1: Discuss in detail the agencies of formal and non-formal environmental education.

Q 2: Write a note on the role of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) with regard to the environmental education in the country.

Q 3: Discuss any five of the noted environmental NGOs working either at the national level or at the state level of Assam with special focus on their activities related to environmental issues.

Q 4: Discuss some of the important international bodies working in the field of environmental issues.

Q 5: Critically evaluate the role of Non-Government Organisations in raising environmental awareness among the common masses. Write from your own point of view.

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