Unit 4
Biodiversity and Conservation Lecture 5

India as a megabiodiverse nation

Megabiodiversity approach looks at biodiversity priorities by political units, in this case sovereign nations, rather than by ecosystems

It recognizes that a very small number of units (17 countries out of a global 200+) are home to an inordinately large share of world's biodiversity

USA, Mexico, Columbia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa, India, Madagascar, Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Philippines,

Papua New Guinea and Australia

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- India currently has 80 National Parks
- National Parks house largest number of tigers found in the world
- Largest number of one-horned rhinos found in the world, now almost extinct Asiatic Lions, and a large percent of elephants.
- 500 species of mammals that have made India their natural home. Apart from the mammals, India is also blessed with over 2000 species of birds, over 500 species of reptiles and amphibians and around 30000 species of insects including colorful butterflies