GEOGRAPHY GRADE 12 UNIT THREE SUMMARY

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PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF ETHIOPIA AND THE HORN

NATURAL VEGETATION AND WILD ANIMALS OF ETHIOPIA

Natural Vegetation

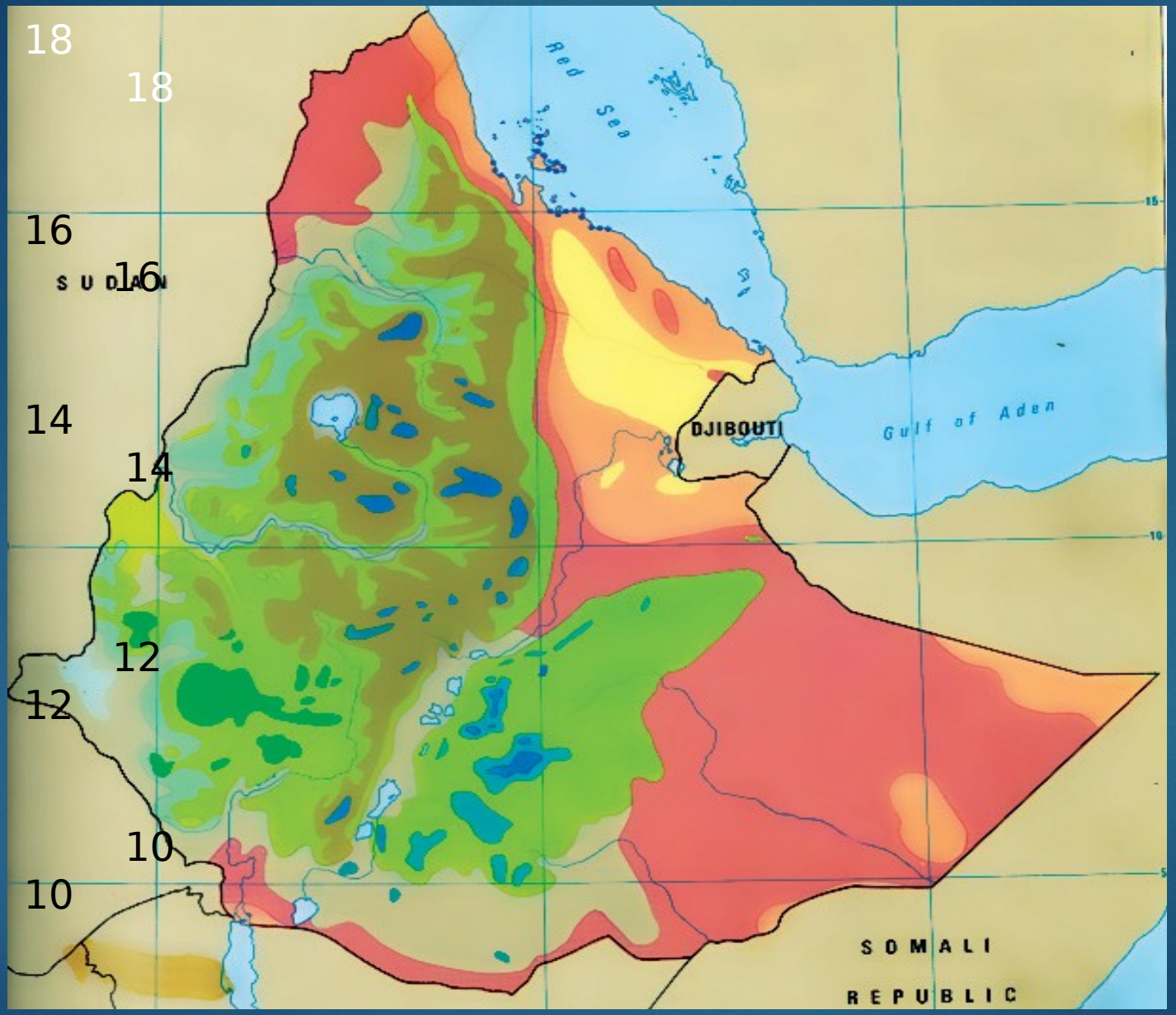
DEFINITION:

- ***Natural vegetation*** refers to any original plant grown in and covering an area without the interference of human actions.

- **In Ethiopia, the types of the natural vegetation of an area are highly correlated with *altitude* and *rainfall*, as they are with *temperature*.**

Based on altitude, we can classify the natural vegetation of Ethiopia into the following five types:

- **Afro-alpine and sub-Afro alpine**
- **Forests**
- **Woodland savanna**
- **Steppe vegetation**
- **Desert and semi desert vegetation**


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18
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Red Sea
Gulf of Aden
DJIBOUTI
SOMALI
REPUBLIC

MAP

Causes of Deforestation

- **The main causes are:**
  - ***unwise tree cutting for supplies and materials***
  - ***overgrazing***
  - ***slash-and-burn practices***
  - ***fuel wood***
  - ***furniture***
  - ***construction etc.***

Mitigation Measures

- THE FOLLOWING ARE MITIGATION MEASURES OF DEFORESTATION:
  - ✓conservation
  - ✓capacity building
  - ✓institutional development

Wild Animals of Ethiopia

Ethiopia has about

277 species of mammals and 862 species of birds.

Of these, seven species of mammals and twenty five species of birds are e***ndemic*** to Ethiopia.

Types of Wild Animals in Ethiopia

- wild animals found in Ethiopia can be grouped into the following broad categories.
  - **Common wild animals:**
  - **Game animals**
  - **Arboreals**
  - **Aquatic animals**
  - **Birds**
  - **Rare/Endemic animal ;which are found only in ethiopia.**

Endemic animals and their specific location

- *Walia Ibex → Semein highlands.*
- *Mountain Nyala → Bale mountains*
- *Chelad baboon, → Semein highlands.*
- *Menilik's Dikula → Shoan and Bale highlands.*
- *Swayne's Hartebeest ('Korkay') → Nechsar park and the Sankalle sanctuary.*
- *Semein Fox ('Key Kebero'), → Bale and Semein Highlands.*
- *Wild Ass (Yedur Ahiya), → Afar and Southeast Low*

Causes of the Extinction of Wild-Animals in ethiopia

- *rapid expansion of farmland, settlements, and industrialization*
- *expansion of grazing land*
- *wide spread practices of illegal hunting*
- *frequent wild fires*
- *migration of the wild animals to neighboring countries*

Conservation Measures

- *establish national parks, game reserves and sanctuaries*

  national park: is are conservation areas for wild animals in which legal hunting is allowed, with some restrictions.

  the largest national park in Ethiopia gambella national park and the smallest one semein mountaion national park. (p133-135)

  game reserve: are wild-animal conservation areas where tourists are allowed to practice licensed hunting .

  *sanctuaries :*are wild-animal conservation areas where hunting is strictly prohibited

- *Monitor and administer existing conservation areas properly.*
- *establish and implement strong laws that effectively prohibit illegal hunting.*
- *educate the public about environment protection.*
- *protect habitats.*
- *educate and encourage local communities to protect their animals' habitats and resources*

SOILS OF ETHIOPIA

- ***Soils*** are the uppermost loose or unconsolidated material overlying the earth’s crustal rocks.

Formation of Soils

- The major components of soils are
  - Water
  - Air
  - Organic materials and
  - Inorganic materials
- Soils of Ethiopia owe their origin to :
  - *parent rock material*
  - *climatic conditions*
  - *vegetation cover*

Types of Soil in Ethiopia

- The soils of Ethiopia are basically derived from *crystalline, volcanic and Mesozoic sedimentary rocks*.
- According to the latest classification made by the FAO, there are eighteen classes of soil in Ethiopia.

- Main soil types which cover more than 85 percent of the country are :
- Nitosol
- Vertisol
- Acrisol
- Cambisol
- Regosol
- Xerosol
- Yermosol
- Luvisol
- Lithosoland
- Fluvisol

(Read your text book p 139-141)

Soil Problems and Conservation in Ethiopia

- **Ethiopia's Soil Problem** – **Erosion-** by Running Water is the main problem related to soil in Ethiopia .

  Eg. *River Abbay alone carries away 3000 – 4000 million cubic metric tons of soil annually*

Factors that Accelerate Soil Erosion in Ethiopia

- **Factors** A. Natural Factors .***Topography***

  .The heavy summer rains

  B. Human-Made Factors ***.Deforestation***

  .Bad cultivation practices

Conservation Measures to Combat Soil Erosion

Conservation measures that have been recommended are:

- *Reforestation –*
- *Afforestation,*
- *terracing.*
- *Intercropping –.*
- *Controlling livestock populations.*
- *Developing improved grass types that can feed more livestock.*
- *Installing fences.*
- *Proper construction of tracks and routes check dams.*
- *Installing shelter-belts and windbreaks*