

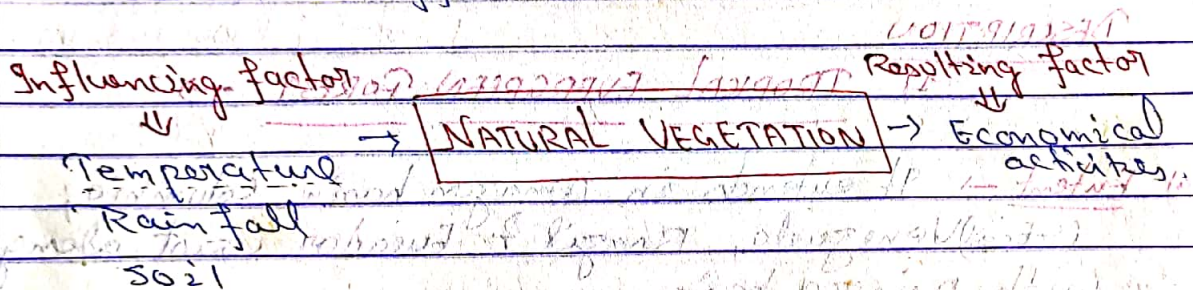
Q. Explain the regional character of vegetation in South America giving reasons?

Ans INTRODUCTION:-

Natural Vegetation is the assemblages of floral varieties including trees, grasses etc; which is grown on a landman left undisturbed for a period of time.

OR It refers to assemblage of plant species grown & flourish in a specific set of physical conditions.

Natural vegetation of a region is a true index of its physical traits like temperature, rainfall & soil structure & it affects the human activities.

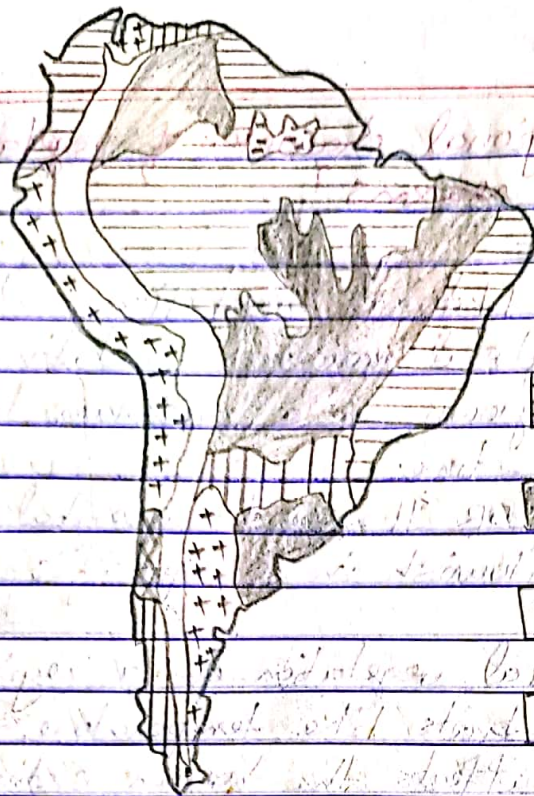


SOUTH AMERICA :- NATURAL VEGETATION

South America exhibit a wide range of physiographic features & its effect is very well seen in types of Natural vegetation which are as follows:-

- 1) Tropical / Equatorial evergreen forest
- 2) Tropical Monsoon forest
- 3) Tropical grasslands
- 4) Mediterranean Vegetation
- 5) Temperate grassland
- 6) Desert Vegetation
- 7) Mountainous Vegetation
- 8) Temperate mixed forest

South America is a large continent where one can find marked variations in climate from one part to another which results in marked variation among the natural vegetation also.



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- TROPICAL GRASSLAND
- MEDITERRANEAN VEGETATION
- TROPICAL EVERGREEN
- TEMPERATE GRASSLAND
- DESERT VEGETATION
- TEMPERATE FOREST
- MOUNTAIN VEGETATION

DESCRIPTION

1) TROPICAL EVERGREEN FOREST

a) Extent → It extends in Amazon basin, Columbia, (S-East) Venezuela, Brazil & Ecuador coast along with Orinoco basin.

b) Climatic Features → It occurs where rainfall is more than 200 cms & high temp. above 27°C & high humidity is found.

c) Features/Characteristics →

- 1) It is dense forest commonly known as selva in South America.
- 2) Trees are tall & have dense epiphytes all round it.
- 3) Foliage is leathery in texture.

main species :- Ebony, Mahogany, Brazil Nut, rosewood, rubber, palm etc.

commercial utility :- widely used in furniture industry. Fuel & medicines or raw material for drug.

2) TROPICAL MONSOON FOREST →

a) Extent → It is found in East Brazil in between 10° s to Tropic of Capricorn.

b) Climatic features → It is found where winter is dry & 80-100cm annual rainfall occurs in summer.

c) Characteristics → 1) It drop its leaves before summer in order to preserve moisture.
2) Trees are broadleaved & no dominance of single species.

Main species → Eucalyptus, Oak, Sal

3) TROPICAL GRASSLAND →

a) Extent → Also known as Savanna grassland it is found mainly Brazilian highland, Guiana pt, Venezuela with Orinoco basin too.

b) Climatic features → It is found where temp. is $20-26^{\circ}\text{C}$ & annual rainfall is less i.e. 75-100cm.

c) Characteristics → It is of two types

A) CAMPOS → mainly found in south of Amazon basin. It has more grasses & trees are far and wide. (In Brazil)

B) LIANOS → It is found in North of Amazon basin. Here both trees & grasses are equally found. (In Venezuela)

4) MEDITERRANEAN VEGETATION →

a) Extent → It is extended in a narrow part of Northern Chile & Central Chile.

CLIMATE → It is found where summers are dry & winters are wet receiving 50-100 cm rainfall.

CHARACTERISTICS → 1) Vegetation here is bushy evergreen.
2) It has long roots, spines in stems to reduce moisture.

Main Species → Fruits like ORANGE, LEMON
Pine, Eucalyptus, Redwood etc.

5) TEMPERATE GRASSLANDS →

a) Extent → It is extended between 25°S to 40°S in North Argentina, South Paraguay & South-East Brazil. Locally known as PAMPAS grasslands.

b) climatic features → It receives scanty rainfall between 25-30 cm.

c) Features → 1) Grasses are of 3 meters in height and generally soft.
2) Roots of it are scattered under the soil.

c) DESERT VEGETATION →

a) Extent → It is found in Atacama desert in North Chile & Peru and Patagonia desert in Argentina.

b) Climate → Rainfall here is less than 50 cm.
Temp. is high more than 40°C.

c) characteristics → There are modified for moisture reduction. They are short heighted having leaves reduced to spines, long roots & swollen stems.
Main Species → Acacia

7) MOUNTAINOUS VEGETATION →

a) Extent → It is found in the western side of the continent mainly at Andes mt. at 2,700 m & Patagonia in Tierra Del Fuego at 400 m.

b) climate → Due to height temperature decreases

c) Features → Gradation is found here at 1800 m. Broad leaved forest occurs; at 3000 m coniferous forest occurs. After that bushes, grasslands & ultimately permanent frost region occurs.
Species - Fir, Marican, Pine etc.

8) TEMPERATE MIXED FOREST →

a) Extent → It is found in South Brazil, Southern Chile.

b) Climate → It occurs in heavy rainfall region with temp. more than 10°C .

c) Features → Trees are evergreen, broad leaved & hardwood type.

SPECIES → Koebrack in S.E. Brazil; Larch, spruce, Eucalyptus, Decid. etc.

These were the major vegetation belts of South America.

IMPORTANCE OF VEGETATION

Pastureland

Agriculture
(Medicanean)

Economic
importance

Environmental
balance

Country	Forest 1000ha	% of land area
South America	831,540	47.7
a) Suriname	11,776	94.7
b) French Guinea	2,063	91.8
c) Brazil	477,698	57.2

Need for CONSERVATION:-

Forest/Vegetation conservation is the need of the hour to maintain ecological equilibrium so different conservation strategies should be adopted as:-

- 1) Promotion of Afforestation & Agro-forestry
- 2) Social/communitive forestry
- 3) Construction of gene banks
- 4) Use of alternative resources
- 5) Better awareness among people
- 6) Ban on endangered areas etc.

Conclusion:-

Thus, we can say that due to variations in physiography, relief, climate etc; there is a direct influence on the vegetation of this continent.

Hence, the interrelationship between climate & natural vegetation proves that climate is a true index of natural vegetation.