



Biodiversity Act 2002

Why in News?

The Madhya Pradesh high court ordered the state government to **enforce the regulations of the [Biodiversity Act 2002](#)** following a petition regarding the unauthorized cutting down of [Baobab trees](#) in **Dhar district**.

Key Points

- It was highlighted by the amicus curiae (impartial adviser) of the court that the **Biodiversity Act 2002** was not being enforced in Madhya Pradesh (MP).
- The committee was formed by the state govt after the MP high court took **suo motu cognizance** of media reports on the alleged illegal felling of Baobab trees and started hearing on the matter as a [Public Interest Litigation \(PIL\)](#).
- After taking the committee's report on record, the court asked the state govt to take a decision based on the committee's recommendations within a week.

The Biological Diversity Act, 2002

- The act was **enacted in 2002**, it **aims at the conservation of biological resources**, managing its **sustainable use** and **enabling fair and equitable sharing benefits** arising out of the use and knowledge of biological resources with the local communities.



Baobab Trees

- **Type of Trees:** Baobabs are **deciduous trees** ranging in **height from 5 to 20 meters**.
 - Deciduous forest is a vegetation composed primarily of broad-leaved trees that **shed all their leaves during one season**.
- **Found in:** The **African baobab (Adansonia digitata)** is one of the **nine species of baobab** and is **native to mainland Africa**. They are also found in **African Savannah**.
 - The African savanna ecosystem is a **tropical grassland** with **warm temperatures year-round** and with its highest seasonal rainfall in the summer.
- **Tree of Life:** As African baobab is a succulent, which means that during the rainy season it absorbs and stores water in its vast trunk, enabling it to produce a nutrient-dense fruit in the dry season when all around is dry and arid.

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