Biotic factors play a significant role in the destruction of vegetation. Man is the most important agency as biotic factors that causes serious damages to vegetation in various ways such as illicit cuttings, removal of climbers (forest clearing), setting fire, allowing his domestic animals for grazing in the forests etc.

V.1 Tree cutting

Every year, a number of trees are being cut down by the forest department. Damage by illicit cutting of forest trees for timber and fire wood is common all over, especially in the areas adjoining the villages. Under 'Grow More Food' campaign too many forests were authoritatively cleared for cultivation. Even today, many areas in the interior forests are being cleared by locals unauthoritatively for cultivation. They select some areas for cultivation, built their huts nearby places in forests. After 3-4 years they shift their cultivation
and living places. During this, they do not shift the timber of old huts for their new ones, instead they do cut some other trees nearby the newly shifted areas. The old timber will be sold to the local contractors. Similarly, the tribals cut many valuable forest trees usually at pre-maturity for various other purposes like making agricultural implements, roof and wall thatching etc. The extensive cutting of bamboos to meet the various needs in daily life of tribals is observed at many places (Plate ). The over exploitation of just arising tender shoots of bamboos for making curries and pickles prevents the growth and distribution of bamboos.

V.2 Exploitation of medicinal and economically important products

The local contractors badly exploit the medicinal and economically important plants by paying meagre wages to the tribals for collection of various products like bark, gum, roots and fruits/seeds. While collecting the leaves of Bauhinia raddiussa, Diospyros melanoxylon, Lawsonia inermis etc., the tribals cut the entire branches rather flucking the desired leaves. Whereas bark of medicinally important plants will be removed without considering the damage to the further growth of those species. Growth of many climbers, shrubs and herbs are severely affected during collection of roots which are medicinally important.

V.3 Forest clearing

Seasonally, climbers and hedges are removed by the forest department for the better growth of limited, desired tree components. During this process unknowingly and indirectly many herbaceous components in hedges are highly disturbed. This leads to the ecological imbalance.
V.4 Grazing

Constant grazing is badly affecting the vegetation of the area (Plate 9A & 9B). It is observed that the domestic animals of the tribals are always freely moving with no limitations in all the forest areas.

V.5 Road construction

Now-a-days, efforts are being made by Gujarat Government to construct roads leading to each and every village scattered in all corners of the forests. These efforts damage vegetation directly by cutting down of several trees and indirectly by removal of soil and rocks from many places of the forest which causes soil erosion (Plate 9.1).

V.6 Fires

Natural and accidental fires are almost nil in the present area, but most often they are intentionally caused by tribals in the forests (Plates 11A). The tribals cut branchlets of several trees in addition to the litter from various places, distribute this mixture as carpet in selected areas for cultivation, incinerate it for soil fertility as well as removal of weed-seeds, plant pathogens. This fire highly affects the ground layer of vegetation as well as tree species (Plate 11B).
Plates 9. A. Cattle congregating water-hole in the forest; Kerval.

B. Illicit cutting of Bamboo at an early stage; Kaprada.
Plate 9.1. A road passing through the forest; Tattarkhed.
Plate 10. A. A view showing stunted growth of vegetation due to grazing.

B. Exploitation of Bamboo by local adivasis (a part of their daily life).