

A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF FACTS AND FIGURES IN HYDERABAD FOREST DIVISION

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ABSTRACT *The Hyderabad forest Reserve is a conservation initiative of the Forest Department of Telangana, undertaken for The purpose of conserving the world renowned forest species at large scale. The diversity of the area in terms of flora, fauna is associated are immense. The study of the same posses a lot of problems mainly due to the difficult terrains and hostile environment. The present paper is an attempt to document the facts and figures of the region*

Key Words: : Dulapally, Forest Reserve, Associated, environment.

INTRODUCTION

Geographically, India is a land of tremendous diversity — from bare and snowy mountains in the North to tropical rain forests in the south, from arid desert in the west, to alluvial flood plain in the east. The culture of India has exhibited diverse modes of resource control, corresponding to different agro-climatic and vegetative zones. Forests have been the traditional abode of man especially in India where the *rishis* and *acharyas*, the hermits and the monks have produced a forest culture by living along rivers and streams on the Himalayan heights. To the ancient Indians, therefore, a forest represented the mother and the queen - "*Aranyani*". It is under such a revered name that the forest history of India is heightened by an attempt to study British colonial rule, which marks an important watershed in the ecological history of India.

The study of forests is valuable because of the resources and their impact on our daily lives. Forests are believed since ancient times to provide products necessary to continue life on the surface of earth. Products such as food, shelter, fuel, timber and daily supplies such as medicinal requirements, paper etc. plays a significant role for easy and comfortable life. Forests play an important role in balancing the Earth's carbon dioxide supply and exchange, acting as a key link between the atmosphere, geosphere, and hydrosphere. It also provides habitat for numerous animal species and is an important source of medicinal ingredients (Canada Centre for Remote Sensing Tutorials, 2008). Unfortunately due to certain anthropogenic and natural calamities there has been a tremendous falloff in such resources. Thus conservation of such valuable resources is worth monitoring and the studies can provide necessary steps to initiate the programs of conservation and management by observing the significant changes which have occurred so far. The main subject regarding forest monitoring, forest management and forest conservation are depletion of forests resources due to natural causes (forest fires and natural intrusions) or anthropogenic activity (clear cutting of timber, burning as fuel, and land conversions) and monitoring of health and growth for effective exploitation. Depletion of forest resources has long term effects on climate, soil conservation, biodiversity, and hydrological regimes, and thus is a vital concern of environmental security (Fazal, 2009).

OBJECTIVE

- ® To study the facts and figures in the study area
- ® The main aim of the study is to monitor forest cover and forest cover change in study area.

METHODOLOGY

For the study we used both primary and secondary data. Primary data was through field visit to the forest reserve and secondary data was collected from various forest departments of the state and literature review from previous studies, books, journals, newspapers, grey literature and internet.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Till 1968 involvement of local people in the development and maintenance of forests was limited and foresters were functioning in isolation. **The National Commission on Agriculture** (1976) stressed the socio-economic importance of SF in the rural community as well as in the management of forest resource. This fact has been stressed by **K.M. Tiwari** (1983), when he points out that SF is an umbrella type of arrangement with several components. It may be defined in the Indian context as the science and art of growing trees and other vegetation on all land available for the purpose, mainly outside traditional forest areas, with intimate involvement of people and more or less integrated with other operations, resulting in balanced and complementary land use with a view to providing a wide range of goods and services to the individual as well as the society.

This interdependence between the local population and SF has been highlighted by **S.A. Shah** (1988), when he says that SF serves as a buffer between the people and the commercial forests. Several instances are known in India when the disappearance of this buffer has resulted in an irresistible thrust on commercial forests so much so that large chunks of such forests have been ruined. The destruction of commercial forests exclusively for meeting the bona fide needs of the rural people is to be seen to be believed.

L.K.Jha (1993) defines SF as a plantation outside the traditional forest area (marginal, submarginal private land and community land) and in degraded forest land (provided the above categories of land are not available) by the involvement of individuals below the poverty line or socially and economically depressed people with a view to meeting their requirements in respect of crops, legumes, tubers, fuel, fodder, timber etc.

In their evaluation of people's participation in farm forestry in West Bengal **D. Sen et. al.**, (1988) opine that the achievement under the programme exceeded the target by 48 per cent during this period. A large proportion of the participating families in the farm forestry programme in West Bengal belong to small and marginal farmer categories.

STUDY AREA

Hyderabad Forest Division consists of Hyderabad & Rangareddy Districts. Hyderabad Forest Division lies between latitudes 16 50' 39" N & 17 42' 28" N and Longitudes 77 21' 49" E & 78 49' 2 49" E. The Geographical Area of the Division is 7718.52 Km . The average altitude is 536 m above MSL. Twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad fall in this Division which is the capital of the state. The highest point in the city is Banjara Hills, which is 665 m above MSL. The contour level falls gradually from west to east creating almost a trough near the Musi River which runs through the city.

Land use pattern of the Division as in Hyderabad division is given in Table 1.

The climate of this Division is generally dry with temperatures ranging from 14 C to 45 C and the normal rain fall of the District is 786.8 mm, received mainly from Southwest monsoons. Granites are found in the Division. The soil types mainly are Black cotton, Red and Brown sandy loam. The population of the Division is 9.30 million (2011 Census) .The per capita forest area is 0.01 Ha 2 and the population density is 1207 persons per Km .The livestock population is 1.6 million.

Table .1: Land use pattern (for entire Geographical area)

Land use	Area in Km ²	Percentage
Forest including Scrub Land	730.75	9.47%
Agriculture	5916.47	76.65%
with Scrub	444.08	5.75%
Fallow Lands	14.15	0.18%
Grass Lands	0.79	0.01%
Settlements	424.91	5.51%
Not available for cultivation	27.36	0.35%
Water Bodies	160.01	27.07%
Total	7718.52	100%

Source: As per LULC map prepared by NRSC, Hyderabad in 2007

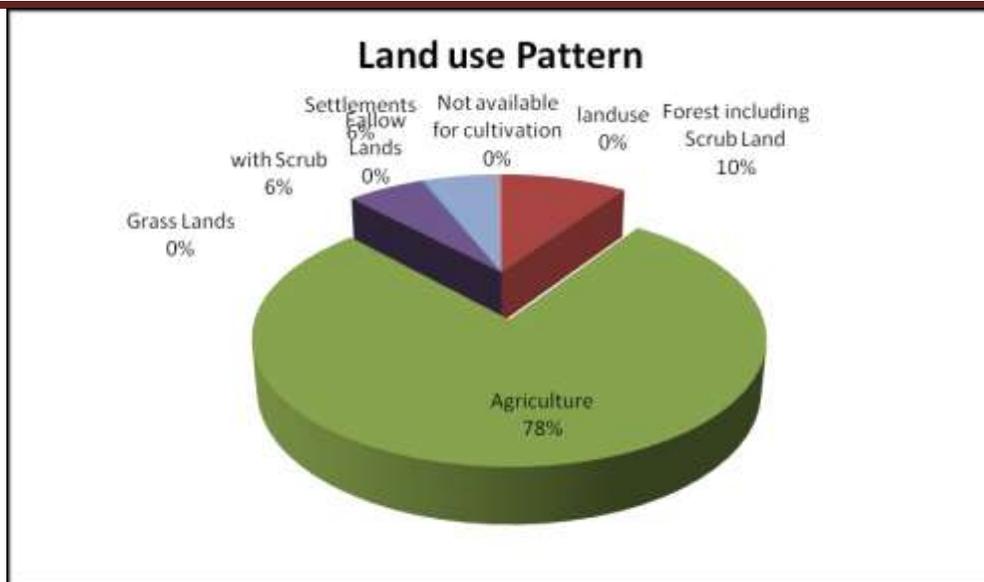


Fig: 1

RECORDED FOREST AREA:

The notified forest area of the Division is 2 730.75 Km which is 9.48% of the geographical area. Reserved, Protected and Un-classed 2 Forests Constitute 379.96 Km (52%), 244.70 Km (33.49%) and 106.09 Km (14.52%) of the forest area respectively. As per Champion and Seth’s classification the forests of Division fall under Tropical Dry Deciduous and Tropical Thorn Forest types.

PROTECTED AREA:

There are 3 Protected Areas in the Division. These are:-

- Ⓜ Chilkur National Park (4.87 Km)
- Ⓜ KBR National Park (1.70 Km) and
- Ⓜ Mahaveer Harina Vanasthali Deer Park (14.12 Km).

COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT:

There are 123 Vana Samrakshana Samities (VSSs) in the 2 Division. An area of 353.49 Km forests, which is 48.37% of the notified forests, is under the management of the VSSs.

FOREST COVER:

The forest cover in the Division based on the Interpretation of IRS R2 LISS-III 2013 data (Dec 2013) 2 and LISS-IV data (2011-2014) is 292.49 Km which is 3.79% of the Geographical area. In terms of the forest canopy density classes the Division has 110.70 Km of Moderately Dense Forest and 181.79 Km of Open Forest. The area of the Scrub is 301.59 Km , Non-Forest 162.13 Km and Water Bodies 2.67 Km .

Table: 2 PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF MAJOR WOOD BASED INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLY OF FOREST PRODUCE FROM THE FOREST DEPARTMENT

ITEM	Hyderabad Plywood Ltd., Nacharam
Product	Plywood
Raw materials	Timber Non-Teak
Production Capacity Tonnes Per Annum (TPA)	1.6 lakh Sq.K.M (640 Cum)
Supply in Nos / MTs	No Supply during 2012-13 & 2013-14

**Source: PCCF Office – Production*

SOCIAL FORESTRY

Ⓜ **64th VANAMAHOTSAVA 2013-14**

The 64th Vanamahostava 2013 was celebrated on 19th August 2013 at Kandlakoi village of Medchal Mandal in Rangareddy District. Vanamahostava celebrations were simultaneously conducted at all the District Head Quarters. The participants in the Vanamahostava Programme included, the Elected People Representatives, VSS members, NGOs, School and College Students, Government Officials and

General Public. The Forest Department had made elaborate arrangements for taking-up the planting. 1.16 lakh plants raised in 149 sites in Telangana. For the year 2013-14 under 64th Vanamahostava celebration programme, an amount of Rs. 33.00 Lakhs was allocated to the Social Forestry wing for Telangana. During the year Seedlings raised and distributed 474.710 lakhs. Block plantations raised 468.36 lakhs and Avenue plantations 742.00 Kms in Telangana.

Table: 3 PLANTING AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION OF SEEDLINGS 2013-14

Territorial	Social Forestry	Telangana Forest Department	Other Agencies	Total	% Utilized
7.26	17.25	25.01	168.78	193.79	78

*Source: PCCF Office – Social Forestry

**Table: 4 NEHRU ZOOLOGICAL PARK – HYDERABAD
STOCK POSITION OF SPECIES, BIRDS AND ANIMALS IN NZP, HYDERABAD (in Nos)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Species	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
1	Carnivores	94	91	90	94	110
2	Herbivores	268	271	287	316	303
3	Primates	24	25	28	26	30
4	Rodents	2	24	26	26	7
5	Birds	649	656	696	767	750
6	Reptiles	220	215	213	239	231
Total		1257	1282	1340	1468	1431

*Source: NZP

FOREST RESEARCH

A Research and Development circle was created in 1971-72 with headquarters at Hyderabad to ensure effective co-ordination of various research activities taken up in research centers and document research findings and disseminate information for practical application in the field. There are (8) Research Centers in Telangana under the control of (2) Research Divisions are stationed at Hyderabad & Warangal. The main objectives of these Divisions are to attend the Forestry Problems in their respective jurisdiction, Breeding programme for important species, Improve Nursery Technology, Establishment Experimental plots like Progeny & Provenance trails, collection of better seed from seed stands and innovative Methods to produce Vermicompost, Organic manure and Bio-fertilizers.

FOREST ACADEMY, DULAPALLY, HYDERABAD

The State Institute of Forestry Training (SIFT) was established in 1987 to cater the training needs of Forestry. It is renamed as Forest Academy in 2001. Forest Academy Dulapally has not been divided as it falls under schedule 10. The vision is to develop Forest Academy into a premier institute in the country. The Academy equipped with modern technologies and expertise for imparting effective training in participatory Forestry and Natural Resource Management to in-service officials, NGOs and Others. In addition to the training, the Forest Academy is also engaged in extension and publicity activities. Training programmes & Workshops conducted with an innovative approach under CAMPA – NPV, 13th Finance grants & GOI grants.

CONCLUSION

Forest ecosystems are threatened globally due to various anthropogenic activities and global climate change. Adverse effects on forest could lead to serious consequences for the adjoining fragile. Moreover, the ecological and socioeconomic values offered by the forests are innumerable, immeasurable and incomparable. So conserving the mangroves should be a priority in any nation's conservation programs. The status and species composition of forest is a basic requirement and a pre-requisite for the management and conservation of forest resource. It is necessary to collate comprehensive species specific information for the forests of India, in the absence of which it will be difficult to set up conservation priorities (Kathiresan, 2010).

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