

PR18

Rapid impact assessment of
Madras Refinery Limited
Expansion Project
(Manali, Tamil Nadu)
on the flora and fauna

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Salim Ali Centre For
Ornithology & Natural History
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
1997

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PROJECT TEAM

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Chapter 7

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The MRL proposes construction of a new refinery adjacent to the existing ones at Manali to augment their processing capacity by an additional 3 MTPA. The project is proposed in an area earmarked for industries.
2. The impact zone of this project is mostly built-up area. No places with thick vegetation fall under the impact zone. The vegetation in the central and northern part of the impact zone (study area) is almost completely degraded by various human pressures, growing built - up area and industries.
3. The dominant vegetation type is discontinuous thorny thickets, in a highly degraded stage, seen mostly along the villages and other human settlements.
4. Vegetation in the seashore and aquatic areas in the impact zone are in a highly degraded stage. Similar is the case with the coastal fauna.
5. No notable statistical correlation could be found between the distance from the project site and floral species diversity or evenness.
6. Nine species of amphibians, 29 of reptiles, 60 of birds and 5 of mammals were recorded in the impact zone of the proposed project during the present survey. However, it has to be noted that the list provided here may not be a complete list of all animals in the impact zone. The low number of mammal species is due to the lack of forest cover and the rapidly increasing built-up area. Most of the faunal species found in the project area and impact zone are highly adaptable and have wider distribution elsewhere in India.
7. No wildlife sanctuary or reserve forests are present in the project location or in the impact zone. Hence, no obligations under the Forest Conservation Act are applicable in the case of the present project.
8. In the long-term perspective, the project does not pose any serious environmental problem. It may lead to marginal increase in gaseous pollutants in the surroundings and pollution load, especially nutrients, in the Buckingham canal and the Ennore creek. The proposed project envisages control facilities to contain gaseous emissions and treatment facilities for the liquid discharges and solid waste disposal. A green belt of pollution tolerant species should be established in the refinery campus to make the operation of the project more environment friendly.