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Impact Assessment of Tatipaka - Kondapalle Gas Pipeline for LANCO Power plant on the Flora and Fauna



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Salim Ali Centre For Ornithology & Natural History
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
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5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) The Gas Authority of India (GAIL) proposes to lay a 200km long pipeline from Tatipaka to Kondapalle, traversing three districts of Andhra Pradesh, to transport natural gas. The entire stretch of the route of the pipeline was examined following sample survey method. For intensive survey of flora and fauna 2-3 quadrats of 100 X 100 m were laid along the route at an average interval of 10 km.
- 2) Mostly the pipeline passes through private owned cultivable lands, fallow and waste lands.
- 3) One hundred and forty three species of plants comprising 11 species of climbers, 68 of herbs, 32 of shrubs and 32 of trees are recorded along the path of the pipeline and its environs.
- 4) No notified sanctuary or national park, occur along the pipeline route. No diversion of forest land is also proposed.
- 5) About 4335 trees, mostly planted species will be felled during the creation of RoW.
- 6) Since, no forest land is proposed to be diverted for the project, compensatory afforestation is not mandatory. Nonetheless compensatory tree planting programme may be undertaken for the betterment of local environment. In compensatory tree-planting programme, preference may be given to local species.
- 7) In all, five species of mammals, seventy nine species of birds, twelve species of reptiles and eight species of amphibians and fifteen species of butterflies were recorded in the environs of the pipeline route, of which only eight are listed in schedule I & II of the Wildlife Protection Act. However, most of these animals are highly adaptable and are not prone to short-term disturbances that are likely during the pipeline construction.
- 8) An attempt to grade the ecological sensitivity / significance of the route based on the occurrence of animals belonging to schedule I & II, floral and faunal endemism, and legal status of the area indicate that the route passes through area of low ecological sensitivity.
- 9) The major impact of the pipeline project is during the construction. During the operation phase the underground pipeline practically does not pose any threat to the local ecological makeup, except in case of accidents such as leakage which have low probability.