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**IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF NORTH-SOUTH GUJARAT
LNG PIPELINE (GAS AUTHORITY OF INDIA LTD.)
ON THE FLORA AND FAUNA**

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PA Azeez, S Bhupathy, A Rajasekaran and PR Arun



**Salim Ali Centre For Ornithology & Natural History
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
2001**

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9. SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) The Gas Authority of India (GAIL) proposes to lay a 318km long pipeline from Dahej to Mahesana, traversing seven districts of Gujarat, 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 quadrat sampling method was adopted along the route at an average interval of 10 km.
- 2) Mostly the pipeline passes through agricultural, fallow and waste lands.
- 3) One hundred and sixteen species of plants comprising 7 species of climbers, 45 of herbs, 19 of shrubs and 45 of trees were 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) Around 5100 trees will be felled during the creation of new RoU.
- 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, nine species of mammals, eighty eight species of birds, fourteen species of reptiles, eight species of amphibians and twelve species of butterflies were recorded in the environs of the pipeline route, of which only fourteen are listed in schedule I & II of the Wildlife Protection Act. Most of these species are highly adaptable and are not prone to short-term disturbances that are likely during the pipeline laying and periodic maintenance.
- 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.

- 10) The impact of the proposed pipeline project on the local ecological make-up especially on flora and fauna of the area would be negligible.