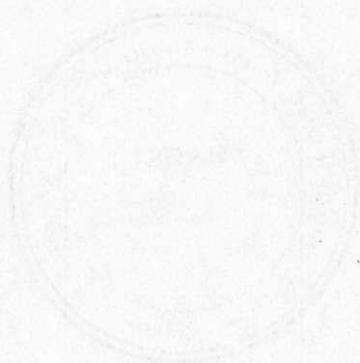




DANIDA - DEE
Environmental Master Plan Study

Environmental Master Plan Study



Study on Biodiversity

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Executive Summary

The district of Dakshina Kannada (DK) has a unique significance in the biodiversity profile of top hot spot areas of the world. The diversity of habitats, ecosystems and existence of seasonal rain forest is unique. This is the only district in the entire Western Ghats that has a substantial extent of lowland evergreen forest. Because of its locational significance the district has also unique distributional records for plants, mammals, reptiles, fishes and birds.

The study of biodiversity of DK has focussed on conative factors for loss of biodiversity. Floristics and vegetational analysis, the adequacy of present day protected area network with respect to representativeness of wide groups of organisms ranging from plants to amphibians. Strategies for biodiversity conservation and monitoring programme by selecting indicators.

An overview of the distribution of vegetation biomes, mammals, amphibians and fishes indicate five major divisions of DK. These are coast, coastal plains, northern central and southern Western ghats. In each of the three Western Ghat divisions status of two important flagship species viz. the Lion Tailed Macaque and the Malabar Civet was reviewed and a number of conservation actions were advocated. The most prominent of these suggested actions on an effective networking of protected areas (PAS), and corridor linkages between disjunct PAS and creating a biosphere reserve in the southern Western Ghats. For the coastal plains, it is suggested that a network of protected areas of lowland evergreen forests be declared for long term genetic conservation and as a possible study sites.

A whole gamut of interventions are suggested to achieve a better conservation status for DK. Prominent among these include some policy issues to expansion of smaller sanctuaries to a wilderness of viable size, preparation of a model management plan for Someshwar Sanctuary, formulating conservation strategy for flagship species and promotion of value added technologies benefitting rural population and selection and inclination of Integrated Conservation Development Programmes (ICDP).