

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

FOREST MANAGEMENT AND BIODIVERSITY LOSS – A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY BETWEEN BANDIPUR AND MUDUMALAI FORESTS OF NILGIRI BIOSPHERE RESERVE

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Abstract: Biodiversity or Biological diversity – is the term given to the variety and variability of life on Earth. It may be elaborated as the variety within and between all species of plants, animals and micro-organisms and the ecosystems within which they live and interact. However, losses of natural and semi-natural forests, mostly to unregulated developmental projects as well as agriculture, are a significant concern for biodiversity. Regional deforestation pressure for these developmental projects in various forests of India currently poses as an evil to various endemic species populations across forests in India. This leads towards a vicious cycle that involves severe events of man-animal conflict having disastrous consequences. In this study we chose two forests located in the Nilgiri Biosphere reserve – Bandipur in Karnataka and Mudumalai in Tamilnadu as our fields and made a comparative model study between them. The study revealed how differences in forest management standards can cause drastically different consequences on biodiversity even in two adjacent forests located within the same biosphere reserve.

Keywords: Forest biodiversity loss, Nilgiri biosphere reserve, man-animal conflict, Bandipur, Mudumalai.