

PREVIOUS WORK

The UNEP-WCMC Protected Areas Data Unit was set up in 1981 to compile information on the world's protected areas, and to be a resource for those requiring such information. The World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) is the world's premier network of protected area expertise. It is administered by IUCN's Programme on Protected Areas.

Important work on floristic diversity of India:

Effective biodiversity conservation depends on accurate, up-to-date and accessible information. Several important publications have been made on biodiversity, its importance and conservation. (Synge, 1981; Raven, 1985; Wilson, 1988; Mc Neely, et al. 1990; Anonymous, 1992; Castri and Younes, 1996; Oza, 1999; Coates and Atkins, 2001). Every publication on biodiversity has emphasized on biodiversity crisis and need for extensive studies in the field of biodiversity for welfare of human beings. (Yadav, 1999; Klooster and Maser). India possesses rich biodiversity. Need for studies on biodiversity have been realized, and number of books has been published on biodiversity, rare endemic plants, and their conservation. (Jain and Sastry, 1980; Jain and Mehra, 1983; Jain and Rao, 1983; Ahmedullah and Nayar, 1986; Rao, 1994; Nayar, 1996; Kunar and Asija, 2000, Singh and Singh, 2002). Bombay flora of Western India up to Goa has been explored by various foreign botanists from time to time dating back from Garcia da Orta (1563) to T. Cooke (1908). Roxburgh's 'Flora Indica' (1820 and 1824) also contains references for the plants of the region. More comprehensive works on the region is, 'Bombay Flora' by Dalzell and Gibson (1861) and the 'Flowering plants of Western India' by Nairne (1894).

Important work on floristic diversity of Maharashtra:

Theodore Cooke published 'The Flora of the Presidency of Bombay' (1901 -1908) covering plants of Sind, Gujrat, Maharashtra and North Karnataka. Talbot published, 'Forest Flora of Bombay Presidency and Sind' (1909-1911). Blatter (1926-1935) revised flora of the area and published series of papers. Santapau did extensive work on plants of Bombay presidency and published number of important books. (1952, 1953, 1962, 1966, 1973). During last three decades, number of workers in their individual capacity have contributed to the understanding of plant wealth of Maharashtra. Flora of Osmanabad has been worked out by Naik (1979). Western Circle of Botanical survey of

India, Pune has published floristic account for some districts of the state viz, Akola (Kamble and Pradhan, 1988), Sindhudurg (Kulkarni, 1988), Nasik (Lakshminarasimhan and Sharma, 1991), Raigad (Kothari and Moorthy, (1993), Mahableshwar-Satara (Deshpande et.al., 1993-95), Yawatmal (Karthikeyan and Anandkumar, 1993) and Buldhana (Diwakar and Sharma). Flora of Savantwadi taluka has been fairly well explored by Almeida (1990). Botanical survey of India has published a floristic account of Monocotyledons (Sharma et.al., 1996) and Dicotyledons of Maharashtra state in two volumes (Singh and Kartikeyan, 2000; Singh et al., 2001). Other very important publication on floristics of Maharashtra include 'Flora of Marathwada' (Naik, 1998) and 'Flora of Kolhapur district' (Yadav and Sardesai, 2002).

Previous work on floristic diversity of Protected areas of India and Maharashtra:

The role of Protected areas in conserving global biodiversity has been emphasized by Johnston (1992). The botanical account of protected areas is important for the conservation and management of biodiversity and ecosystem. Anand Prakash and Singh (2003) have recognized 12 floristic element types in the vegetation of Rajaji national park in Uttaranchal and documented common species in various ecosystems. Bora and Kumar (2003) have reported 724 species under 492 genera for 142 families of vascular plants for the Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam. Srivastava (2004) recorded 503 species belonging to 383 genera under 121 families for the Bandhavgarh National Park in Madhya Pradesh. Datt et al. (2004) have recorded about 741 species of angiosperms for Corbett Tiger Reserve, Uttaranchal. Sathe and Patil (2006) reported 140 species of flowering plants belonging to 41 families for the Sagarshwar Wildlife Sanctuary. Kanade et al. (2008) have assessed the vegetation of woody plant species at Chandoli National Park, Maharashtra by transect method. After a detailed literature survey on floristic diversity of protected areas of Maharashtra, it was found that the detailed floristic diversity was not documented.