

Facilitating the establishment of Protected Areas

Thane Creek in Maharashtra, is a Conservation and Sustainable Management of Coastal & Marine Protected Areas (CMPA) site. It supports a rich diversity of flora and fauna and is home to over 20,000 lesser and greater flamingos. It is also an internationally Important Bird and Biodiversity area (IBA).

On 6th August 2015, 1,690 hectares of the Thane Creek was declared a Sanctuary by a Government Resolution, partly due to the efforts of the CMPA project. On 20th August 2015 1435.78 hectares of mangroves in the Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra were notified as Reserved Forests. The CMPA project facilitated the process by commissioning satellite maps of the mangroves.

The CMPA Project in partnership with the Mangrove Cell Maharashtra has facilitated the declaration and development of the sanctuary through several measures



Photo credit Supriya Jhunjunwala

Baseline biodiversity surveys

The surveys recorded, 15 species of mangroves, 155 species of birds, 44 species of phytoplankton, 24 species of zooplankton, 22 species of molluscs, and 72 species of insects.

Fishing activities were restricted to the lower stretches of the creek and were observed to be a dying occupation due to reduction in fish catch over the years.

This study generated base-line data for the biodiversity of Thane Creek, which will help monitor the biodiversity of the region and conduct research in the future.

Agency: Sálím Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON)

Carrying Out Eco-toxicology of Fishes, Crabs and Bivalves at Thane Creek

The study was conducted to assess the impact of pollution on biodiversity and bio resources (fishes, crabs and bivalves) of Thane Creek.

Heavy metals like cadmium, cobalt, chromium, copper, iron, mercury, lead, and nickel were detected in fish, crab and bivalves. Heavy metals like iron, zinc, arsenic, and mercury were found to be above permissible levels.

Evidence of bioaccumulation of Iron, Mercury, and Arsenic was found in the feathers of Flamingos, Brown-headed gulls, and Black Kites.

Agency: Sálím Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON)

Management Plan

A ten-year management plan was prepared using participatory approaches involving various stakeholders of TCFS.

Several consultative dialogues were conducted to formulate conservation actions to minimise or remove existing threats to biodiversity.

The management plan, includes component-wise management strategies and administrative setup, frameworks for monitoring and budgeting.

Agency Wildlife Institute of India (WII)



Photo credits Supriya Jhunjunwala

CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (CMPA)



Implemented by



On behalf of:



Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

of the Federal Republic of Germany

The CMPA project is a flagship project of the Indo German Biodiversity Programme. It has been commissioned by The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), Germany. It is implemented by the, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India (MoEFCC) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). In Maharashtra the key implementation partner is the Mangrove Cell, Maharashtra Forest Department.