

Name of the Centre : **ENVIS Center on “Floral Diversity”**

Host Organization : **Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Kolkata, West Bengal**

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Year of Establishment : **1994**

About Host Organisation

Botanical Survey of India was established in 1890 with the basic objectives of carrying out floristic surveys of the country. It was reviewed and reorganised in 1954. During the successive plan periods its functions have been gradually expanded. After reorganisation and establishment of 10 different regional centres throughout the country, the aims and objectives of the Survey were redefined in 1976 with a view to encourage taxonomic research and to accelerate the scientific expertise for the preparation of a comprehensive flora of the country. The objectives and perspectives of BSI were thoroughly reviewed in 2002 by the subcommittee constituted by Programme Advisory Committee for BSI & ZSI. Activities like survey and exploration of plant resources, listing of endangered species, publication of national flora, preparation of national Data Bank on herbarium and live collection, plant distribution and nomenclature were strengthened.

Activities of the Center

- The Center collects field based practical data on sustainable use of Plant diversity for socioeconomic developments.
- The centre collects data on floristic Diversity of North-Eastern Region (Arunachal Pradesh), some wetlands of India, Godavari Krishna Delta, flora of Tiger Reserve in India, Plant Resources & Ecological, Investigation of Chilka Lake in Orissa and Kowar lake in Bihar
- Development of a software like “COBOMAN”
- Data collection on Rare and Endangered plant species: - Regular data from the field and published literatures.
- The Center collects data on Floral diversity of Indian Mangroves and Coastal Ecosystems of India.

ENVIS Publications

ENVIS Newsletters

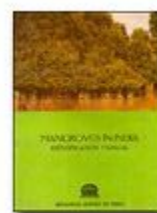
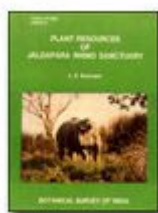
- ◆ ENVIS newsletter is being published regularly on a yearly basis since 1994 which provides information on floral diversity of the country, emphasising current status of endangered plant species, diversity and richness of significant protected areas and significant ecosystems.



Publications

Books

- ◆ Mangroves, Associates and Salt Marshes of the Godavari and Krishna Delta (1998, Publisher: ENVIS, Botanical Survey of India, Author: A.R.K.Sastry, L.K.Banerjee & D.Ghosh)
- ◆ Diversity of Coastal Plant Communities of India (2002, Publisher ENVIS, Botanical Survey of India, Author A.R.K.Sastry, T.A.Rao, L.K.Banerjee, & D.Ghosh)
- ◆ Red list of Threatened Vascular Plant species in India - Compiled from the 1997 IUCN Red list of threatened plants. - In press.
- ◆ Pictorial identification manual of CITIES plants – in progress.



Services

Abstracting Services

- ◆ Databases are available on Mangroves of India, Medicinal plants, rare and endangered plants, Coastal plants of India. The center also has information on Floral Diversity of India.

○ Query Answer Services

- ◆ Query response service is being provided and will continue. The Centre responds to more than 150 queries from India and abroad in a year.

ENVIS-BSI Website (<http://www.envisbsi.org>)

- The website contains details of activities, services of the centre and under the publication head - books, newsletter and papers published by the centre are listed. Databases on Medicinal Plants, coastal plants, Rare and endangered plants of India are online.



Future Plans

- Thrust area of the ENVIS Centre, BSI is disseminating information on Floral Diversity from different eco-regions of India. Entry of data and scanning of photographs and illustrations of the plants include in the Red Data Book of Indian Plants will hence be continued. Economic and medicinal plants included in red list categories will be given special emphasis. An identification manual of CITIES plants will be prepared and published from the ENVIS centre.
- Data base for Key works to the Flora of India will be developed with the input of Dr. M.P.Nayar's monumental work.
- **COBOMAN - Software for database management on Rare & Endangered plant species:** 300 Rare and Endangered plants will be listed along with their short description and photographs in this database.

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- Survey of **Flora of Kawar Lake, Bihar** will be Continued.
 - **Indigenous drugs of India:** Data on nearly 100 medicinal plants along with their botanical and local name, distribution, parts used and medicinal uses will be stored for disseminating information.
 - **Identification manual of CITES plants:** Recently the center has taken up preparation of Identification Manual of CITES plants. Descriptions with colour photographs and trade data will be prepared and published from the ENVIS Center.
 - **Key works to the Flora of India:** List of taxonomical works done in India will be updated and stored in a structured database.