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Plant Biodiversity and Its Conservation in Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC) Campus, Bangalore: A Case Study

Sunil Nautiyal

Centre for Ecological Economics and Natural Resources (CEENR), Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Dr V K R V Rao Road, Nagarabhavi, Bangalore 560 072, Karnataka, India

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ABSTRACT This study was undertaken to understand that how academic institutions could play a significant role in conserving biodiversity and this study is one of the preliminary efforts in this endeavor. Phytosociological study was carried out for enumeration of plant species on the ISEC campus. Geographical Information System (GIS) and satellite data were also used in developing the land cover maps of the ISEC at two points of time. ISEC campus is home to more than four hundred plant species belonging to 90 different families of the plant kingdom. Several threatened/vulnerable/ endangered plant species such as *Santalum album, Leptadenia reticulata and Ficus benghalensis var. krishnae* are being conserved on the campus, and they exhibit a high degree of regeneration potential. This study has its own importance since the survival of numbers of species is in jeopardy. In this regard academic institutions could play a very significant role in conserving biodiversity with minimal effort which might support other institutions concerned with conservation and management of biodiversity. A study of this aspect has its own importance since the existing biodiversity is being lost at an alarming rate and scientists have reported that a significant number of species is expected to be lost in the next couple of decades. This paper discusses how a few additional efforts can save biodiversity and contribute to "promote innovative solutions to reduce threats to biodiversity", one of the objectives of International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) 2010.