



KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT

REPORT RECONSTITUTED EXPERT COMMITTEE - I



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RECONSTITUTED EXPERT COMMITTEE – I

ARANYA BHAVANA, BANGALORE.

INDEX		
SL. No.	Particulars	Page No.
1	Introduction	1
2	Review of Expert Committee I report and Affidavit filed by Government of Karnataka	2-3
3	Deliberations of the Reconstituted Expert Committee-I	4-14
4	Findings of the Reconstituted Expert Committee-I a)Details of Notified forest area of Karnataka b) Details of Deemed forest area of Karnataka c) Details of Notified forests and Deemed forest in various circles and their divisions	14-42
5	Suggestions	43
Annexures		
I	Interim report of Expert Committee-I	44-52
II	Summary of the report of Expert Committee-I	53-59
III	Final report of Expert Committee-I	60-67
IV	Affidavit of Government of Karnataka – 05.04.1997	68-84
V	Affidavit of Government of Karnataka – 25.07.1997	85-90
VI	Government Order of Reconstituted Expert Committee –I	91-93
VII	Meeting Proceedings of Reconstituted Expert Committee –I held on 30.09.2002	94-96
VIII	Proforma for area compilation	97-98
IX	Meeting Proceedings of Reconstituted Expert Committee –I held on 30.10.2002	99-100

I INTRODUCTION

The Government of Karnataka vide G.O.No.FEE.270.FGL.2002, Bangalore, dt: 25/9/2002 has reconstituted the Expert Committee-I and entrusted to verify the figures with regard to various categories of forests identified and classify them into two broad categories: and to furnish the details by village and survey number wise.

- a. Notified Forests area as per the govt. records and
- b. Deemed Forests

Further a time limit of two months was given to furnish the report.

1. The **background** is that as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in their Interim Order dated: 12/2/96 in the Writ Petition Civil No.202/1996 had ordered the State Government to constitute Expert committee-I to

- (i) Identify areas which, are forests irrespective of whether they are so notified, recognised or classified under any law irrespective of the ownership of the land of such forests.
- (ii) Identify areas which were earlier forests but stand degraded, denuded or cleared and
- (iii) Identify areas covered by plantation trees belonging to the Govt. and those belonging to private persons.

2. Accordingly the Government of Karnataka vide G.O.No.FEE/(2)/FFM/97, Bangalore, dated: 10/1/97 had constituted the Expert Committee I and directed to submit the report. The Committee had submitted the interim report vide letter No.A2/CCF/WP & E/C.CR.15./96-97, dated 17th February 1997 and a final report dated 2/4/1997 with summary of the report of the Expert Committee

(Annexure-I)

3. Based on this the Government of Karnataka had filed 2 Affidavits dated 5.4.97 and 25.9.97

(Annexure II)

4. The Central Empowered Committee has observed that although the State govt. had undertaken to complete the work of compiling detailed information on forests within one year of filing the Affidavit, it has not been able to do so. It was directed that this work should be completed immediately on priority basis, accepting the report for ii) and iii) above para-1,.
5. It is now the duty of the Reconstituted Expert Committee-I to classify 46,32,615 Ha. of land into
 - a) Notified forests area as per Govt. records and
 - b) Deemed forests with Survey number wise, Village wise detail

II. Review of the Expert Committee-I report and Affidavit filed by Govt. of Karnataka.

1. The Expert Committee-I had identified 35 categories of forest areas as per records after deliberations, but reported only 17 categories totaling 45,89,506 Ha.

STATEMENT – I : DETAILS OF TOTAL AREAS RECORDED AS 'FORESTS' IDENTIFIED BY COMMITTEE-I.

Sl. No	Particulars	Area in Ha.
1	Reserved Forests	2818905.63
2	Protected Forests	411533.54
3	Village Forest	9504.17
4	Private Forest	31228.90
5	C & D Class of Lands	203982.61
6	Wooded Areas	703309.67
7	Uruduve	2634.76
8	Bane Lands	107481.65
9	Coffee Saguvali Malai	3218.38
10	Devara Kadu	7747.76
11	Paisaris	55111.77
12	Kumki	6853.42
13	Amruth Mahal Kaval	22328.92
14	Mangroves	927.00
15	River Catchments & Erosion prone areas	3031.06
16	Assessed Waste Land	197154.36
17	Inam Land	4552.40
	Total	4589506.00

2. The Government of Karnataka had filed an Affidavit before the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 5/4/97 giving details of various forests identified by the Expert Committee-I. It was submitted in the Affidavit, that the areas identified by Expert committee-I were based on the records and publications. It was further submitted that the areas identified by the Expert Committee-I would be got verified in the field in consultation with the Field Level Officers and this would be completed within one year. The Expert Committee has identified 17 broad categories with the total extent of 45,89,506 Ha. Subsequently the Government had filed another Affidavit on 25/7/1997 indicating that there are some differences between extent of forest areas as per the Government records and what has been given by the Expert Committee – I in certain categories, excluding the 4 categories of lands from the purview of the forests. They are bane lands, coffee Saguvali Malais, paisaris and kumki lands. As per the Govt. records there are 14 broad categories covering a total extent of 46,32,615 Ha. that includes unclassified forests to an extent of 5,23,100 Ha.

III. STATEMENT II: DETAILS OF TOTAL AREAS RECORDED AS 'FORESTS' AND OTHER AREAS, WHICH COULD BE CALLED AS 'FORESTS'.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Area in Ha.
1	Reserve Forest	2868996
2	Protected Forest	393072
3	Village Forest	12420
4	Private Forest	30842
5	Unclassed Forest	523100
6	C & D Class of lands transferred to forest Department from Revenue Department	203983
7	Thickly wooded areas	368826
8	Uruduve (Village Wood Lots)	2635
9	Devara Kadu (Temple Forests)	7748
10	Amrith Mahal Kaval	22329
11	Mangroves	927
12	River Catchments and Erosion Prone Areas	3031
13	Assessed Waste Land	197154
14	Inam Land in the possession of Govt.	4552
	Total	4632615

1. When the broad categories of Expert Committee-I and the Affidavit of the Govt. of Karnataka were analyzed it was found that these categories were not based on any definite classification. Whereas these categories are derived out of different groups namely:-

- a) Notified forest area as per the Karnataka Forest Act and Karnataka Forest Rules
- b) Land Tenure Classification
- c) Land capability classification and
- d) Vegetation Classification

1. Further the information was obtained from available records of the Forest Department and from the revenue records, as provided by the local level Revenue Officers. These above said factors have all possibility of duplicating the area figures.

2. The Government of Karnataka now desires to group these categories into two broad groups namely: -

- a) Notified forest areas as per the Govt. records and
- b) Deemed Forests

IV DELIBERATIONS OF THE RECONSTITUTED EXPERT COMMITTEE-I

1.The Reconstituted Expert Committee met thrice on 16/9/2002, 30/9/2002 and 31/10/2002 deliberated on the subject thoroughly. Further a workshop on the classification of forests and compilation of forest area figures was conducted from 1/10/2002 to 9/10/2002. In the Work Shop all the Conservators of Forests – (Territorial), Conservator of Forests – (Wild Life), Deputy Conservator of Forests – (Wild Life), Deputy Conservator of Forests – (Territorial) and Deputy Conservator of Forests – (Working Plans) with their concerned Case Workers had participated.

2.The word “Forest” and “Forest Area” has been discussed in detail and understood as follows: -

‘Forest’ has been defined in the Govt. Forest Act 1865 (Act of VII of 1865) as “land covered with trees, brushwood or jungle, and declared to be Government forest under the act.” But as a matter of fact, it has been recognized that no legal definition is practicable or use. The later acts like the Indian Forest Act, 1878 (Act VII of 1878), the Indian Forest Act, 1927 (XVI of 1927), the Mysore Forest Act, 1900 (Act XI of 1900) and the Karnataka Forest Act, 1963, (Act No.5 of 1964) have not defined the ‘forest’. However, the forest has been interpreted for the purpose of Chapter 5 of Karnataka Forest Act 1963, as ‘forest’ includes any land containing trees and shrubs, pasture lands and any land whatsoever which the State Government may, by notification under this section, declare to be a forest.

3.Forest Areas as per Rule 2 (2) of the Karnataka Forest Rules 1969 includes all lands notified as forest under any law or administered as forest whether State owned or private and whether wooded or maintained as potential forest land;

4.Forest Conservation Act 1980 Rules and Guide lines.

The term ‘Forest land’ mentioned in Section 2 of the Forest Act refers to reserved forest; protected forest or any area recorded as forest in the Government records. Lands that are under Section 4 of the Act would also come within the purview of the Act.

(As per Paragraph 1.1 in the book “Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 Rules and guidelines”, published by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi).

5.The Forest Conservation Act 1980 was enacted with a view to check further deforestation which ultimately results in ecological imbalance and therefore, the provisions made therein for the conservation of forests and for matters connected therewith, must apply to all forest irrespective of the nature of ownership or classification thereof. The word ‘forest’ must be understood according to its dictionary meaning. This description covers all statutorily

recognized forests, whether designated as reserved, protected or otherwise for the purpose of Section 2 (1) of the Forest Conservation Act. The term 'forest land' occurring in Section 2 will not only include 'forest' as understood in dictionary sense, but also any areas recorded as forest in the Govt. record irrespective of the ownership. The provisions enacted in the Forest Conservation Act 1980 for the conservation of forest and the matters connected therewith must apply clearly to all forest so understood irrespective of the ownership or classification thereof.

6. Further the deliberations of the Expert committee Meeting is briefed as follows:

The first meeting of reconstituted Expert Committee - I was called on 16/9/2002 based on the proceedings of the meeting held on 24/8/2002 in the chambers of the Principal Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment, to discuss the report to be filed before the Central Empowered Committee regarding the identification of forests as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India's definition in Order dt. 12/12/1996 recognising the urgency. In the meeting the proceedings dt. 24/8/2002 was read out. The information provided by the Conservator of Forests to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Working Plans and Chairman, Expert Committee-I was discussed. The urgency of compiling the information was stressed. It was brought to the knowledge of the members that out of 37 forest divisions, for 31 divisions written Working Plans are available and they can make use of the same. Further the Conservator of Forests, - (Territorial) are also Controlling Officers for Wild Life Divisions therefore can incorporate those information also. The Conservator of Forests, Wild Life and Conservator of Forests, Project Tiger will be requested to furnish the information of their jurisdiction to the Committee directly.

7. The 2nd meeting of reconstituted Expert Committee- I was held on 30/9/2002. **(Annexure-III)**

The following decisions were taken:

- i. To furnish survey number wise, village wise details to the notified forest areas and also to the deemed forest areas with notification number.
- ii. It was agreed to conduct a Workshop on classification of forest areas and compilation of area figures to deliberate on the forest area figures already furnished by the Deputy Conservation of Forests to the Expert Committee I. The figures available with Working Plan Report, and the figures now available with Deputy Conservator of Forests, should be compared and to arrive at actual area figure with the village names and survey Number.

8. As desired by the Committee Members a Workshop was held from 1.10.2002 to 9.10.2002 at Kadugodi. In the Workshop the classification of forests within the meaning of the Supreme Court W.P.No.202/95 was deliberated. Only three categories of forests have

been be identified i.e., notified forests, district forests and deemed forests.

- ◆ The notified forests are those areas which have been notified as per Karnataka Forest Act and Rules.
- ◆ The district forests are those areas which have been not notified in any provisions of Karnataka Forest Act/Karnataka Forest Rules, but must have been notified in other Acts like the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, The Karnataka Land Reforms Act etc., and recognised in any other law.
- ◆ The deemed forests are those areas, which have not been notified, but recorded as forests in the Govt. records.

9.To collect area information a Proforma was developed.

(Annexure-IV)

10.The last meeting of the Committee was held on 30.10.2002, and the following discussions were held.

(Annexure-V)

- a) Deliberated on the out come of the Workshop held on 1/10/2002 to 9/10/2002. The details of village wise, sy.no wise areas were collected from the Territorial Divisions and Wild Life Divisions of the State. It was observed that there is a difference in areas provided to the erstwhile Expert Committee-I and the figures provided to the Annual Administration Report. And now the figures provided with village name and survey number wise, does not tally with any of the above said two reports. The reasons for variation in figures were discussed in length, the members were expressed unanimously that the figures from the annual administration report, there are anomalies in the Annual Administration Report, because whatever information furnished by the Division is not reflected in the Annual Administration Report. The Conservator of Forests for Communication and Information in charge of preparing the annual administration report opined that the Annual Administration Report is being submitted to the Govt. since last 20 years with the same figures. And also explained that there is a communication gap between the Statistics Wing of the Department and the Divisions. So it is decided that the Annual Administration Report figures with regard to the notified areas needs to be updated.
- b) The anomaly with reference to the figures provided to the earlier Expert Committee-I and the figures provided now with village wise and survey number wise is due to
 - i. Typographical error.

- ii.* Under reserve forests and protected forests, notifications have been issued for the same area two or three times and there is duplication in areas.
 - iii.* Some C and D class land, which has been transferred to the Department, has reserved forest and protected forest areas. Hence it is reflected in both the categories, amounting to duplication.
- c) It was decided that the figures provided now with village name and the survey numbers is to be taken as final. As this exercise of collecting the area details with available other relevant records. These figures are endorsed by the Conservator of Forests and the concerned Deputy Conservator of Forests- territorial and working Plan that it is true and correct to their best of knowledge.
 - d) The committee unanimously decided that the identification of Forest areas is a continuous process. Any land which is identified after the compilation of the state figure is finalised, shall be reported to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests to update the information.
 - e) The Expert Committee-I included in its report the bane lands, Coffee Saguvali Malai, Paisari and Kumki, but the Government had deleted the above said areas while filing the Affidavit before the Apex Court. The Committee Members deliberated on this issue and suggested that the Coffee Saguvali Malai is a private land, but other lands like bane, Paisari and kumki lands should be considered as district forests, which has the features of the Forest. All the members accepted it and resolved to be included in the reconstituted Expert Committee-I report.
 - f) The re deemed and unredeemed are purely private lands. However, the members pointed out that wherever the grantee has not put unredeemed lands into proper use as per terms and conditions of the grant, the same may be withdrawn and treated as Government forest. Further the members are of the opinion that the thickly wooded areas with Revenue Department should be handed over to the Forest Department for protection and management. The thickly wooded areas should not be diverted to non-forestry purposes without bringing it to the notice of Forest Department and the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.
 - g) The details of the area with regard to the district forests like bane, Betta, Jamma Malai, Paisari, forest Perampoke, Kans, Kumki, Assessed waste land, Kharab land, inam land, river Catchment and sea erosion areas, thickly wooded areas, the C & D lands, and unredeemed lands are with Revenue records of the district. The

area information now furnished is collected by our field level forest officers from local revenue officers. To make the information more authenticated the area figures must be got confirmed from the High Level Revenue Authorities. For this the Committee is of the opinion that a High Level Officer at Principal Secretary should confirm at Government Level.

- h) The Committee has deliberated once again on forestland classification. As the Committee has to group all categories into two main categories i.e., Notified Forests: & Deemed Forests, it is decided to club district Forest and Deemed forest and call it as deemed Forest. The following classification is followed keeping in view the G.O.No.FEE.270.FGL.2002, Bangalore dated 25.09.2002.

IV a) Notified Forests:

1.The **Reserved forests** are those forest areas, which are as per Section 2 (14) of the Karnataka Forest Act. It means land notified in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 2 of Karnataka Forest Act 1963. Also as per Section 17 of Karnataka Forest Act any forest which has been notified as State Forest under the Section 17 of Mysore Forest Act 1900, reserved forest under Section 20 Indian Forest Act 1917, the Section 16 of Madras Forest Act 1882, Section 19 of Hyderabad Forest Act 1935, prior to the date on which this Act comes into force shall be a reserved forest under the Karnataka Forest Act 1963.

2.**Village Forests:-** As per Section 2 of the Karnataka Forest Act 1963 Village Forest means any land notified as such in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 3 Section 29 of the Karnataka Forest Act.

3.**Protected Forests:-** As per Section 2 (13) in the Karnataka Forest Act 1963 protected forests means any area at the disposal of the Government which has been placed under special protection under Clause 2, of Sub Section 2, of Section 33 are declared to be protected forest under Section 35. As per the rule 31 in the Karnataka Forest Rule 1969 the rules for management of district forest shall mutatis-mutandis be applicable to protected forests and Section 28 of Indian Forest Act they are called Devara Kadus, Uruduves, others like Sandal Reserves, Teak Reserves, also declared under Section 4 of Karnataka Forest Act 1963.

Minor forest as per Section 38 of the Karnataka Forest Act are those forest in the State which were notified as minor forest under Mysore Forest Act 1900 or as protected forests under Indian Forest Act 1927 or Hyderabad Forest Act 1935. Also as per the Rule 27 (a) in Karnataka Forest Rules any areas set apart for forest reserve under Section 71 of Karnataka Land Revenue Act is a protected forest. Besides this, any area transferred to the Forest Department under the

provisions of Sub Section 3 of Section 77 of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act 1961 is also the protected forest.

4.Private Forests: - As per Section 36 and 39 of Karnataka Forest Act 1963 any land notified by the State Government under this Section for the Protection of Forests for special purposes in a Private Forest.

IV b) DEEMED FORESTS:-

(1). **District Forests:** - As per Section 2 of Karnataka Forest Act District forest includes the lands at the disposal of the Govt. not included within the limits of any reserved or village forest nor assigned in the survey settlement as free grazing ground or for any public or communal purpose. Provided that it shall be competent for State Government to modify the said assignment and constitute any such land as reserved, village or district forest or de-reserve the same to any other purpose it may deem fit.

As per the Karnataka Land Revenue Act 1964, Chapter 7 Land & Land Revenue, Section 67 **Public roads, etc., and all lands which are not the property of others belong to the Government: -**

(1). All public roads, streets, lanes and paths, bridges, ditches, dikes and fences, on or beside the same, the bed of the sea and of harbours and creeks below high water mark and of rivers, streams, nallas, lakes and tanks and all canals and water courses and all standing and flowing waters and all lands wherever situated which are not the property of individuals or of aggregate of persons legally capable of holding property, and except in so far as any rights of such persons may be established, in or over the same, and except as may be otherwise provided in any law for the time being in force, and are hereby declared to be with all rights in or over the same or appertaining thereto, the property of the State Government.

Explanation: - In this section, 'high water mark' means the highest point reached by ordinary spring tides at any season of the year.

(2). Where any property or any right in or over any property is claimed by or on behalf of the State Government or by any person as against the State Government it shall be lawful for the Deputy Commissioner, or a Survey Officer not lower in rank than a Deputy Commissioner after formal inquiry to pass an order deciding the claim.

(3). Any person aggrieved by an order made under sub-section (2) or in appeal or revision therefrom may institute a civil suit contesting the order within a period of one year from the date of such order and the final decision in the civil suit shall be binding on the parties.

Read with Sub Section (1) & (2) of Section 79 , of The Karnataka Land Revenue Act 1964.

Section-79 of Karnataka Land Revenue Act 1964 - Regulation of supply of firewood and timber for domestic or other purposes: -

(1). In any village or land in which the rights of the State Government to the trees have been reserved under Section 75 subject to certain privileges of the villagers or of certain classes of persons to cut firewood or timber for domestic or other purposes and in any land which has been set apart under Section 71 for forest reserve subject to such privileges, and in all other cases in which such privileges exist in respect of any alienated land, the exercise of the said privileges shall be regulated by such rules as may be prescribed, or by orders to be made either generally or in any particular instance by the Deputy Commissioner or by such other officer as the State Government may direct. In any case of dispute as to the mode or time of exercising such privileges, the decision of the Deputy Commissioner or of such officer, shall be final.

(2). Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1) but subject to such general or special orders that may be issued by the State Government from time to time the privileges in respect of Kumki lands, Bane lands and Kane lands in South Kanara District, Betta lands and Hadi lands in North Kanara District, Kan and Soppina Betta lands in Mysore Area, Jamma and Bane in Coorg District and (Motashal wet lands) in Hyderabad Area shall continue.

IV. b. (2). As per the above, the districts forest are the lands such as Betta Lands, Bane Lands, Jamma Malai, Forest Peramboke, Paisari, Kans, Kumki, Amruth Mahal Kaval, Assessed Waste, Kharab, Inam and Wet Lands,. Lakes, Kumki lands or the lands classified as forests in revenue records. These are the privilege lands assigned for various purposes at the time of survey settlement or assigned for certain privileges with certain conditions.

IV. b. (3) The district forest, are basically the forest lands, but in order to protect the reserve forests, certain area were delineated for privileges, which were extended to the public and these lands have characteristics of forests and falls within the meaning of forest as defined in Section 2 of Forest Conservation Act and in the Order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated: 12/12/96 in the W.P.No.202/95. These district forests are notified by the Revenue Department, and basically managed by Revenue Department. All pertinent records, are with Deputy Commissioner's and management prescription is supposed to be prepared by Deputy Commissioner for the privileges provided to the public and it should be managed in such a way that the land is still in the possession of the Government and to use, only

the produce by the public is the main intention of the Government. The privileges are the part of concessions but not as right over the land.

IV .b. (4) As these are located in the Western Ghats which are Eco-sensitive and rich in bio-diversity. They have to be managed and protected. With the advancement in agricultural improved practices and General Scientific Management the privileges provided in the forest lands needs to be reexamined.

IV .b. 5) The deemed forests are those of the land which is having the characteristic of the forests, irrespective of the ownership and gives the dictionary meaning, and enshrined in the Forest Conservation Act, Section 2. There are the thickly wooded areas with Revenue Department but not handed over to forest Department. The thickly wooded areas recommended to be taken over by the Government, to hand it over to the Karnataka Forest Department, but not notified. The thickly wooded land distributed to grantees but not cultivated. Such of the land can be treated as deemed forests. The C & D class lands which is handed over to Forest Department can be treated as deemed forests including the plantations raised in the above said areas.

- 5.1) **Proposed for Section 4 of Karnataka Forest Act.** All these areas where the proposals has been submitted to the govt. under Section 4 of Karnataka Forest Act 1963 is treated as District Forests.
- 5.2) **Betta lands:-**Betta lands are defined in the Karnataka Forest Manual Chapter 10 as Forest privileges according to 131 F. Basically Betta lands are protected forests which is assigned to gardeners in the North Canara District of Karnataka with certain conditions that they can graze their own cattle. Betta lands in other districts is a district Forest.
- 5.3) **Bane Lands:-** Bane is also part of the protected forest land granted for service of holding of wet land which is allotted to be held free of revenue by cultivator for grazing and to supply leaf manure and fire wood and small timber required for agricultural and domestic purposes of the cultivator. So long as he continues in possession of wet lands as per Section 79 (2) of Karnataka Revenue Act 1964 also as per Appendix 3 of Coorg Land Revenue Regulation Act 1899.
- 5.4) **Jamma Malai:-** Jamma Malai is also a protected forest. Jamma Malai are basically given for the cultivation of Cardamom but do not hold any right on Malais and these are treated as enclosure within the reserve forest, according to Rule 141 of Karnataka Forest Manual.

- 5.5) **Forest Perampoke:-** As per para 53 (93) of Karnataka Revenue Survey Manual, Perampoke means rocky portions of land void of earth, which cannot be ploughed if, and on which even grass does not grow, and also land which in consequence of being with thick jungle cannot be cultivated.
- 5.6) **Paisari Lands:-** As per para 53 (97) of Karnataka Revenue Survey Manual, Paisari lands are all waste and forest lands which are declared to be the property of the Government and which have not be notified as protected forests or as forest reserved.
- 5.7) **Kans:-** Kans are protected forests which is given for the privilege of the public for Coffee, Pepper, Gum and Honey and also Green Manure as per the Section 134(3) and 138(3) of Karnataka Forest Manual.
- 5.8) **Kumki:-** Kumki is Government waste land, with certain privileges to the villagers as per Chapter 10 of Karnataka Forest Manual Rule 138.
- 5.9) **Amrith Mahal Kaval:-** Amrith Mahal Kaval is a district forest. According to Section 33 of Karnataka Forest Rules 1969 the Rules for Management of District Forests shall Mutatis – Mutandis applied to Amrith Mahal Kaval which mean and include the land assigned for the Govt. for the pasturage of Amruth Mahal Cattle owned by the Government.
- 5.10) **Assessed Waste Lands:** - Assessed waste is a wasteland at the disposal of the Govt. It has all the characteristics of district forests.
- 5.11) **Kharab Land:** - Kharab land is a wasteland, non-aerable land that is in possession of the Government.
- 5.12) **Submerged Lands:** - Lands, which has been submerged due to hydroelectric project and other project, has been taken under the Reserve Forest.
- i) The mangroves is basically the areas, which are adjacent to coastal land and in delta region, can be treated as district forests and is Eco-sensitive in nature.
- ii) Wet Lands:- The lands, which are marshy, and are in possession of Government. It is Eco-sensitive in nature.
- 5.13) **River Catchment and Sea Erosion Area:** - The river Catchment areas are the areas where planting has been done on the ridges, and in the valleys, these lands are under the possession of the Government. The sea erosion areas are those

lands that lay all along the coastal area. Which are sea erosion prone areas, which has been either planted or treated is to be taken as Eco-sensitive area and it also has characteristics of district forests.

- 5.14) **Land classified as Forest/ Jungle in Revenue records:-** These are the lands classified in revenue records as forest or jungle.
- 5.15) **Inam Lands:** - Inam lands are district forests it has all the characteristics of the district forests and at the disposal of the Government. As per Section 100 of Karnataka Forest Act 1964 and Section 119 of Karnataka Forest Manual, procedures have been laid out to remove any forest produce.
- 5.16) **Gomal Lands where the plantations have been raised:-** Gomal lands where plantations have been raised also thickly wooded, so it has been included as deemed forests.
- 5.17) **Thickly Wooded Areas of Revenue Department have not handed over to KFD:** - Thickly Wooded Areas are the lands with the high canopy density, and is in possession of Revenue Department. Also thickly wooded areas which has been noted as forests or wooded areas in revenue records which has been recommended to be taken over by the Karnataka Forest Department and some of the thickly wooded areas which is already distributed to the public but not felled any trees is taken as deemed forests.
- 5.18) **C & D Land with out any plantations but with KFD:-** The C & D class of lands which has been handed over to the Forest Department in 1981. It has been afforested and some of the lands continued to be under the Forest Department.
- 5.19) **Thickly Wooded Areas noted as Forest in revenue records and recommended to be taken over by the KFD:-** These are the lands which have been earmarked by the Revenue Department to be taken over by the Karnataka Forest Department.
- 5.20) **Thickly Wooded lands distributed but not cultivated, not felled any tree:-**Thickly wooded lands which has been granted but the grantee has not cultivated and not felled any tree such of the lands recommended to take over by the KFD, because it is Eco-sensitive in nature.
- 5.21) **Water Bodies –**
- i) **Lakes:** - Some of the lakes which has been handed over by the Government to the Forest Department for forest

protection and management is also included as a deemed forests.

- ii) **Tanks:** - Certain tanks, which have been recommended by the concerned authorities, are handed over to Karnataka Forest Department for management purpose. The differences between lakes and tanks is that lakes will have perennial source of water, whereas in Tanks the water depth is shallow and water retention is temporary.

5.22) **Plantations:**-The Government plantations are outside the reserve forests, has been taken as deemed forests, The Committee decided not to include Strip, Roadside, Canal bank plantations, as they do not have the characteristics of forests.

5.23) **Others:-** Any other category of land other than mentioned above.

Certain area which has been recommended by the Expert Committee-I but has not been incorporated in this report.

The Expert Committee-I has collected information on private lands as follows:-

Malki Lands	:	7151 Ha.
Hadi Lands	:	66752 Ha.
Un-redeemed Lands	:	44127 Ha.
Redeemed Lands	:	<u>16187 Ha.</u>
Total	:	<u>1,34,217 Ha.</u>

These are basically owned by private persons and have the characteristics of forests and have naturally grown shrubs and trees of various canopy densities. The tree felling in these areas are been controlled following the Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act, 1976 (Karnataka Act No. 76 of 1976) and the Karnataka Preservation of Tree Rules, 1977 provisions. The Forest Officers have not maintained any records of these areas. Deputy Commissioner of the District is issuing the ownership of these lands. The Village and survey number wise details have not been incorporated in this report, due to paucity of time. These details could be got from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Bangalore and incorporated at a later stage.

VI Findings of the Reconstituted Expert Committee:

1.The Committee has verified the figures regarding various categories of forests identified by the Expert Committee I and Government of Karnataka and with little/suitable modifications classified the same into the two broad categories namely a) notified forest area as per Government records and b) deemed forests. The total area for the Karnataka State under each broad category is as follows: -

Sl.No.	Category	Extent/Area in Ha.
1	Notified forest area as per Government records	3323855.00
2	Deemed Forests	994881.00
	Grand Total	4318736.00

The area details of :

- a. Notified forests and deemed forests of Karnataka
- b. Notified forests and deemed forests of various forest circles and their Divisions is given in the following tables I to 14

VII SUGGESTIONS: -

- (1) Identification of Forestlands, is a continuous process. The custodian of the forests be entrusted with the task of identifying the forests whether so notified or otherwise and report to the concerned authorities besides updating in their own records.
- (2) Thickly wooded areas irrespective of the ownership should never be diverted/granted for non-forestry purposes.
- (3) Regarding Deemed Forests, the land details are with the Revenue Department, which should be involved in the process of updating the records and delivering the information to the Forest Department for Scientific Management.
- (4) Details of lands having characteristics of forests available with the revenue authorities be made responsible to give the information to the Forest Department.
- (5) Management of all District Forests shall lie with the Forest Department.
- (6) Privileges granted to the villagers in respect of Betta, Bane and Paisari lands land other district forests needs to be re looked in the light of improved agricultural practices and technological advancements.