



Administration, Powers and Functions of Forest Department in Telangana State - A Review

Dr. K. Chokkaiah (Rtd. Professor)

ICSSR Senior Research Fellow

Department of Public Administration & HRM

Kakatiya University, Warangal – 506009

Abstract:

Forest Department is one of the administrative divisions of Government of Telangana state, it is headed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, and the primary function of the department is protection conservation and management of forests in the Telangana. The Forest Department is organized into 55 territorial 15 functional circles and total 70 divisions, in addition, one senior officer of the rank of Deputy Conservator of Forests functions as planning and Extension Officer in each district. Forests are one of the most biologically rich and evolving terrestrial systems harboring vast majority of the world's floral and faunal species. The forest biodiversity provides livelihoods for people worldwide and plays important environmental, economic, social and cultural roles in the lives of many local communities and serves as a key reservoir of biodiversity. Forest biodiversity includes, multitude of plants, animals and microorganisms and it provides habitat for large number of wild animals. The direct benefits of forests include the provisioning of fuel wood, timber, bamboo, food, Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), etc. The indirect benefits include conservation of soil, free flow of pure drinking water, mitigation of climate change & natural disasters (droughts and floods) and providing manure, soil carbon, etc. In view of the multiple roles they play, now and in the future, the forests need to be conserved and nurtured. In India, forest is the second largest land use sector after agriculture.

Keywords: Administration, Animals, Functions, management, powers, timber

Introduction:

The Population of India according 2011 census is 121,05,69,573 and tribal population 10,42,81,034 consisting about 8.61% of the total population of the India. There are 140 hill districts and 218 Tribal districts identified by the Government of India across 27 states and union territories with Tribal population. The Tribal people have been relation with the Land, Water, Forest for survival of the life. the natural resources are protected with friendly by the Human being of population. In this Connection all the living species have an exceptional ability to adopt to changing environments, our growing towns and cities have caused large tracts of forests and grass lands disappear affecting the availability of food and habit of many animals and birds.

The Conservation of plants and animals in the natural eco system or even man made ecosystem. this type of conservation applied only to wild fauna and flora and not to the domestic animals and plants. This conservation is achieved by protecting the population. The tribals work for the welfare of air, earth, water, trees, birds, animals and other people. The Tribal people have a great affinity towards forests though they live off the forest produce, their relationship with forests is sustainable and healthy. hence the forest are in save protection. the India forest and tree cover area now cover almost one-fourth of its total area.

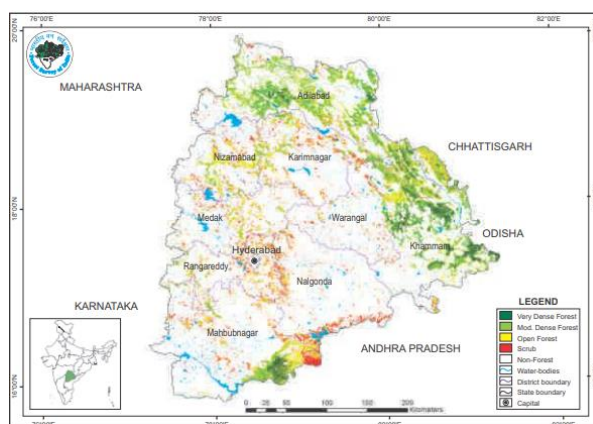
Because the forest cover in some of the developed and developing countries USA 30.84%, Brazil 56.10%, China 18.21% is a stark reminder that India has a long way to go in improving its forest cover. The forest cover of some of the adjoining states are as follows; Orissa 37.50%, Chhattisgarh 46.07%, Maharashtra 16.93%, Karnataka 16.13%, Tamil nadu 16.31%, Andhra Pradesh 21.81% and Telangana 23.98% national Forest Policy of India 1988 envisages 33% of forest cover. Hence there is a gap of about 9% in the forest cover in the state of Telangana.

The National planning policy was started in India from 1951, the first five year plan to thirteenth five year plan, the crores of the Budget allocated to protect the forest (trees) canopy expansion and improvement of the plants density area under inside of the forest and outside of the forest areas have been taken with the social forestry massive plantation achieve activities by the forest administration in India.

The country's forest cover includes all patches of land with a tree canopy density of more than 10% and more than 1 ha in area, irrespective of land use, ownership and species of trees. It is assessed by a wall-to-wall mapping exercise using remote sensing technique followed by intensive ground truthing. Results of the exercise is a nation-wide forest cover map of the country on 1:50,000 scale in three canopy density classes viz Very Dense Forest with a canopy density more than 70%, Moderately Dense Forest with a canopy density between 40-70% and Open Forest with a canopy density between 10-40%. The tree cover is assessed following a methodology involving remote sensing based stratification and observations on sample plots laid in the strata as part of the National Forest Inventory. Tree cover includes all patches of trees less than 1 ha.

According to IFR 2011 census FSI reports of Indian geographical area is 32,87,263 sq/kms, the forest covered 7,68,437 sq/kms, and the forest has been classified with 74.8 million hectares of land as follows Very dense forest –83969 sq/kms, Dense forest-342438 sq/kms, Open forest –299853 sq/kms, Scrub forest –42177sq/kms total forest area is 7,68,437 sq/kms and percent 23.37%.

Telangana State Forest Covered Area



Telangana, covers an area of 1,12,196.41 sq km, which is 3.41% of the geographical area of the landmass of the country. The State lies between 15°50'N to 19°55'N latitudes and 77°14'E to 81°19'E longitude and is bordered by Maharashtra in the north & northwest, Karnataka in the west, Andhra Pradesh in the south & southeast and Chhattisgarh in the east. Being located in the Deccan Plateau in the central stretch, the State has sub-tropical climate. The annual rainfall ranges between 1,100 mm to 1,200 mm and

the annual 0 0 temperature varies from 15 C to 45 C. The Telangana has two physiographic zones, the hilly region having an altitude of 500 to 1324 M; the plateau having an altitude of 46 m to 1000M Godavan and Krishna are the 2 principal rivers of the region which drain into the Bay of Bengal through state. The State is drained by a number of rivers which include Godavari and Krishna. The River Godavari with its tributaries Pranahita, Manjeera, Maneru, Indravati, Kinnerasani, Pamuluru and Sileru, flows through the northern parts of the state into Bay of Bengal. The River Krishna with its tributaries Tungabhadra, Yedhavati, Musi, Paleru and Munneru flows through the southern parts of the state Land use pattern of the state is given in table.

Table-1
Land use pattern of the Telangana State

Land Use	Area in Sq. Km.	Percentage
Forest including Scrub	24510.98	21.87
Agriculture	70904.91	63.25
Land with Scrub	5785.49	5.16
Fallow Lands	2219.58	1.98
Grasslands	204.50	0.18
Settlements	1220.66	1.09
Vegetation outside Forest	3645.61	3.25
Water Bodies	3610.55	3.22
Total :	112102.28	100%

Source: PCCF office-G.S-2017-p-3

Forests in Telangana:

In this connection as per the FSI & APSF report the Andhra Pradesh total forest area is 63,814,15 sqkms. the very Dense Forest 931.73 sqkms, modern dense forest 18,408.48 sqkms, open forest 22,651.28 sqkms, scrub forest 13,550,31sqkms, Nm Forest 7,622,49 sqkms and water bodies was 649.86 sqkms, the state geographical area is 2.75.068 sqkms as per the census of 2011 and percent is 23.20% in the state. At that time the A.P Forest is 63814.15 sqkms and The Telangana state (region) Forest is 29,242.62 sqkm as per the census of 2011 before bifurcation, details are shown below table.

Table-2
Region Wise, District Wise & Division Wise Forest Cover in
Telangana state census-2011

(Area in Sq. Kms)

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Division	VDF	MDF	OF	SF	NF	WB	Total	Encroach
1	Adilabad	Adilabad	52.31	925.03	337.82	382.16	194.26	7.37	1898.95	0.88
		Bellampalli	72.82	801.22	240.97	107.25	130.65	5.88	1524.79	0.15
		Kagaznagar	59.17	377.26	162.05	75.33	116.39	3.09	893.29	0.31
		Mancherial	50.23	576.63	280.03	115.28	82.79	10.41	1115.37	0.00
		Nirmal	7.18	650.23	200.43	68.55	92.40	6.37	1025.16	0.59
		Jannaram (WLM)	41.22	222.25	228.78	64.41	85.37	1.71	643.74	0.04
Total			482.93	3552.62	1450.08	872.98	707.86	34.83	7101.30	26.40
2	Nizamabad	Nizamabad	0	309.20	310.12	80.37	82.12	5.32	787.13	1.19
		Kamareddy	0	327.40	489.38	85.07	75.44	4.00	981.29	0.37
Total			0	636.60	799.50	165.44	157.56	9.32	1768.42	6.57
3	Medak	Medak	0	92.65	495.50	279.77	45.98	2.68	916.58	0.90
		Medak (WLM)	0	20.56	21.68	3.58	0.70	0.02	46.54	0.00
Total			0	113.21	517.18	283.35	46.68	2.70	963.12	3.58
4	Hyderabad	Hyderabad	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	RangaReddy	Ranga Reddy	0	121.95	272.94	385.44	35.79	2.75	758.87	2.82
6	Nalgonda	Nalgonda	0	1.57	38.35	241.36	158.36	2.36	442.00	0.03
		N.Sagar(WLM)	0	8.49	181.98	441.72	133.29	29.50	794.98	0
Total			0	10.06	220.33	683.08	291.65	31.86	1236.98	0.03
7	Mahabubnagar	Mahabubnagar	0	16.20	291.26	308.98	2.88	0.16	619.48	0.06
		Achampet (WLM)	0.33	479.11	1032.14	782.23	69.60	59.96	2423.37	0.00
Total			0.33	495.31	1323.40	1091.21	72.48	60.12	3042.85	11.31
8	Warangal	Warangal (N)	0	951.75	1013.41	91.80	246.56	6.73	2310.25	2.72
		Warangal (SL)	0	307.03	425.39	78.76	341.18	22.29	1174.65	2.90
		Warangal (WLM)	0	218.91	276.44	15.30	26.13	1.77	538.55	1.03
Total			0	1477.69	1715.24	185.86	613.87	30.79	4023.45	14.96
9	Karimnagar	Karimnagar (E)	0	657.93	413.59	258.72	50.31	6.26	1386.81	0.01
		Karimnagar (W)	0	501.42	336.27	120.31	14.69	1.78	974.47	0
Total			0	1159.35	749.86	379.03	65.00	8.04	2361.28	8.78
10	Khammam	Khammam	0.41	349.97	507.73	355.00	106.65	2.58	1322.34	3.80
		Kothagudem	0.04	353.96	584.54	451.79	290.04	3.51	1683.88	4.89
		Bhadrachalam N	9.26	377.05	545.93	368.15	131.44	3.74	1435.57	1.27
		Bhadrachalam S	83.57	619.16	369.35	179.74	38.84	3.00	1293.66	5.41
		Paloncha	38.77	415.78	640.16	292.36	132.43	4.02	1523.52	2.35
		PalonchaWLM	1.43	220.64	271.44	125.84	54.28	12.75	686.38	1.56
Total			133.48	2336.56	2919.15	1772.88	753.68	29.60	7945.35	79.28
Telangana State Total			616.74	9969.35	9907.68	5759.27	2738.57	210.01	29,201.62	30.78

Source: TSD PCCF Hyd-book, facts & figures-2015-16-pp-23-37

Telangana state in India with a population of 3,51,93,978 the geographical area of the state as per 2011 census is 114944.52 sqkms. the density of population of the state is 307. The male population of the state is 17704078 and female population is 17489900. The sex ratio of the state is 988.

The geographical area of the Telangana state is 112196.41 sq kms stood at 12th in India, having 26,903.71 sq kms which amounts to 24.00%. The percapita forest area is 0.077 Ha as against the all Indian average if 0.240 Ha. The state is administered in (10) districts which are further subdivided in (584) revenue mandals and 33 districts.

Table-3
District Wise Forest Cover Changes-Matrix December 2014-2019

Sl. No.	District	Very dense forest (VDF)	Moderate dense forest (MDF)	Open forest (OF)	Scrub Forest (SF)	Non-Forest (NF)	Water Bodies (WB)	Total
1	Adilabad	267.93	2661.23	1464.47	1030.06	1661.54	16.07	7101.30
2	Karimnagar	0	1123.96	697.20	304.98	227.24	7.90	2361.28
3	Khammam	18.58	1322.60	2024.95	848.91	1755.83	24.39	5995.26
4	Mahabubnagar	0.15	493.25	1291.27	983.53	216.07	58.59	3042.86
5	Medak	0	109.28	474.71	227.56	149.02	2.55	963.12
6	Nalgonda	0	7.71	172.02	414.24	286.80	8.38	889.15
7	Naizambad	0	604.06	690.24	110.38	355.10	8.64	1768.42
8 & 9	Rangareddy & Hyderabad	0	110.70	181.79	301.59	162.12	2.67	758.87
10	Warangal	0	1356.69	1431.54	105.67	1117.05	12.50	4023.45
	Total	286.66	7789.48	8428.19	4326.92	5930.77	141.69	26903.71

Source: Govt of Telangana Forest Department Annual Administration Report 2014-15 pp-3 and T.S. Forest at a glance.2017.book.pno.5.

There was an observation made on the density of the forest is decreased in VDF modern dense forest and open forest 34.85 sqkms and as well as alterly by the same area 34.85 sqkms increased under scrub forest and non-forest density in forest the change in forest cover in scrub and non- forest has been increased after bifurcation.

The State Government has taken up a massive greening programme, 'Telangana Ku Harita Haram' in the State to plant and protect 243 crore seedlings over a period of 5 years. This initiative aims at achieving the twin objectives of increasing the forest cover from 24% to 33% and reduce pressure on the existing forest resources, through massive community participation by Vana Samrakshna Samithis (VSS) and Eco-Development Committees (EDCs) in Protected Areas and Watershed Development Committees in the Watershed areas the fuse wise achievements and expenditures incurred under afforestation statement given below table.

Table-4
Statement of Budget-Expenditures on Seedlings Planted Achievements under TKHH Afforestation fund on Greenery (FOREST) Statistics During the Years 2015-16 TO 2019-20

S.no	Stages	Years	Target in crores	Achievements	Budget	Expenditure of lakhs
1.	1 st stage	2015-16	40	15.86(39.00%)	170,00	15,598
2.	2 nd stage	2016-17	40	31.67(79.17%)	190,00	17,826
3.	3 rd stage	2017-18	40	34.07(85.08%)	140,00	11,075
4.	4 th stage	2018-19	40	31.98(84.00%)	140,00	12,177
5.	5 th stage	2019-20	83	38.18(80.00%)	140,00	2,776
Loosed 91.97		(37.85%) plants	243	151.03(62.15%)	780.00	59.452

Sources: - Forest department statistics & newspapers-2020

Recorded Forest Area (RFA) in the State is 26,904 sq km of which 20,353 sq km is Reserved Forest, 5,939 sq km is Protected Forest and 612 sq km is Unclassed Forests. In Telangana, during the period 1st

January 2015 to 5th February 2019, a total of 9,420 hectares of forest land was diverted for non-forestry purposes under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 (MoEF & CC, 2019). As per the information received from the State during that last two years, 12,730 ha of plantations including avenue plantations in the State.

Based on the interpretation of IRS Resourcesat-2 LISS III satellite data of the period Nov 2017 to Jan 2018, the Forest Cover in the State is 20,582.31 sq km which is 18.36 % of the State's geographical area. In terms of forest canopy density classes, the State has 1,608.24 sq km under Very Dense Forest (VDF), 8,787.13 sq km under Moderately Dense Forest (MDF) and 10,186.94 sq km under Open Forest (OF). Forest Cover in the State has increased by 163.31 sq km as compared to the previous assessment reported in ISFR 2017.

The State has reported extent of recorded forest area (RFA) 26,903.71 sq km which is 24.00% of its geographical area. The reserved, protected and unclassed forests are 75.65%, 22.07% and 2.28% of the recorded forest area in the State respectively. However, as the digitized boundary of recorded forest area from the State covers 26,989.00 sq km, the analysis of forest cover inside and outside this area is 18,269sq km and 2,313 sq km for green wash in Telangana.

The state of Telangana is endowed with rich diversity of Flora and Fauna with over 2939 plant species, 365 bird species, 103 mammal species, 28 reptile species and 21 amphibian species in addition to large number of invertebrate species. Important endangered species found in the state are Tiger, Leopard, Indian Gaur, Four Horned Antelope, Black Buck, Marsh Crocodile etc. The state is also bestowed with dense Teak forest along the banks of river Godavari right from Nizamabad through Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal up to Khammam district. These forests are home for several deciduous species like Nallamaddi, Yegisa, Rose Wood, Narepa, Bamboo in addition to Teak.

As per goals and directives set in the National Forest Policy 1988, the 1993 and the Revised 2002 State Forest Policy, vision 2020, Forest department implements various development schemes to protect and develop existing forests, to improve its productivity and economic value. The main objectives of programmes are Community Forest Management, National Afforestation Programme (NAP) (Centrally Sponsored), RIDF Projects, Soil & Moisture Conservation, Social Forestry, Wildlife Management and Human Resource Development are enriching existing low density forests and alleviating rural poverty. Forest resource surveys of catchments were undertaken from 1965 to 1975 and most of the important forest zones of the state were covered under schemes sponsored either by the Government of India or by the State.

The department has set a programme under RIDF, CAMPA, 13th FC and other schemes executed various types of water harvesting structures such as Check dams, Contour Trenches, Rocks fill dams, Percolation tanks etc in forest areas. These structures help in recharging of ground water in turn improve forest vegetation besides stabilizing the status of agriculture in adjoining fields. Almost all programmes/schemes of the Forest Department are being implemented through participation of local tribal people, vana samrakshna samithis (VSS) and Eco-Development Committees (EDCs) in protected Areas and watershed Development Committees in the Watershed areas.

The forests of the Telangana State are distributed in different agro-climatic zones with varying composition and forest types. Majority of which are classified as (1) tropical Dry Deciduous (2) Southern Tropical Moist Deciduous and (3) Southern Tropical Thorn forests. Most of the forest area was highly degraded owing to biotic pressure and over use of forest resources. Since last one decade most of the degraded areas have been reclubbed with the implementation of Community Forest Management programs.

The state has a varied topography ranging from the hill ranges of Eastern Ghats and Nallamala to Deccan Plateau, River Valleys of Godavari and Krishna and supports a variety of Eco types, rich in their Bio-diversity and support a variety of Floral and Faunal forms.

Recorded Forest Area

The notified forest area of the legal status is 27,291.99Sq. kms, which is 23.99% of the geographical area. Reserved, Protected and Un-classed forests occupy 19629.54Sq. kms(71.92%), 6988.95Sq. kms(25.61%) and 673.50Sq. kms(2.47%) of the forest total area 27291.99 respectively. The Adilabad District has the highest notified forest area of 7101.31Sq. kms and the Rangareddy the lowest of 725.70Sq. kms, in the region. As regards the ratio of notified forest to geographical area, Khammam District has the highest (45.49%) and Nalgonda the lowest (6.25%). As per Champion and Seth's classification, the Forests of the region fall under Dry Teak Forest, Southern Dry Mixed Deciduous Forest, Dry Deciduous Scrub, Dry Savannah Forest, Hardwickia Forest, Dry Bamboo Brakes, and Southern Thorn Forest. According to state government of Telangana presently statistics has been shows the forest coverage only 26,903.71 sq/kms as follows and percent is 23.98%

1. Very dense forest –	286.66
2. Modernly dense forest –	7789.48
3. Open forest –	8428.19
4. Scrub forest –	4326.93
5. Non forest –	5930.76
6. Water baby forest –	141.69

Total forest -	26,903.71
----------------	-----------

Sources – PCC forest department at a glance Hyd 2017-p-5.

Protected Area:

The region has 12 Protected Areas, consisting of 9 Wildlife Sanctuaries & 3 National Parks. 2 Wildlife Sanctuaries have been “notified as Tiger Reserves i.e. Amrabad Tiger Reserve and the Kawal Tiger Reserve. Out of 26903.71Sq.kms of notified forest area, 5856.04Sq. kms is included in the P.A network. Telangana State was formed during the year 02nd June, 2014 covering 5.08% of the geographical area.

Forest Administration in Telangana state :

Forest Department is one of the administrative divisions of Government of Telangana state, it is headed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, and the primary function of the department is protection conservation and management of forests in the Telangana. The Forest Department is organized into 55 territorial 15 functional circles and total 70 divisions, in addition, one senior officer of the rank of Deputy Conservator of Forests functions as planning and Extension Officer in each district.

Table – 5
Statement Showing the Circles, Divisions, Ranges, Sections and Beats in the Forest Department

Sl. No.	Organization	Territorial	Functional	Total
1.	Circle	12	3	15
2.	Divisions	55	15	70
3.	Ranges	188	39	227
4.	Sections	930	759	1689
5.	Beats	2611	305	2916

The TSPCCFs, CCFs and CFs as the case may be are in the administrative charge of forest circles or special circles and are responsible within their respective areas for the General Direction and Supervision of all Forest works, control of establishment expenditure sales and supplies and general management of forests, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (wild life) and Chief Wild Life Warden is responsible for implementing the program of wild life conservation – sponsored by the State of Central Government and deals with the National Parks wild life sanctuaries, Zoo etc., the Director T.S. Forest Academy Dulapally plans for the in-service training of different cadres of Forest Officers in the State, the Divisional Forest Officers (D.F.Os) are responsible for the general managements and protection of forests situated in their division. He administers the division under his charge supervises the execution of all forest works and exercises direct control over the forest establishment. He is often assisted by a Sub-DFO/Assist C.Fs and Sub DFO assisted by a Range Officer (FDO+FRO) are responsible for the protection of forests situated in their sections and beats under control of the range area and administration powers, supervises. The execution of all forest works and under control DFO. The DFO is also assisted by a Superintendent (accounts), Superintendent (Administration).

The Forest Department Functions:-

The present Forest Department is headed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, who acts as a Team leader and a coordinator of all activities and programmes of the Forest Department, Forest Development Corporation of Telangana Ltd. and Social Forestry Department which is manned by personnel deputed from forest department and work outside the forest areas on non forest waste lands and community lands.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests is assisted by Additional Principal Chief Conservators of Forests (Human Resources Management and Administration), Additional Principal Chief Conservators of Forests (Budget, Planning and Development), Additional Principal Chief Conservators of Forests (Production and Management), Chief Conservators of Forests (Policy Technology and Strategic Planning), Chief Conservators of Forests (Conservation) Chief Conservators of Forests (Evaluation and Nationalization), Chief Conservators of Forests (Protection) who deal with the subjects allotted to them.

The T. S. F.D.C Ltd :-The Telangana Forest Development Corporation Ltd. is headed by Managing Director in the rank of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests. He is assisted by one General Manager in the rank of Chief Conservators of Forests & two Regional Managers in the rank of Conservators of Forests in the headquarter & five in charge of territorial Regions in the rank of Conservators of Forests and 7 Divisional Managers in charge of territorial or functional Divisions in the rank of Dy. Conservator of Forests. At subordinate level, the organization consists of 39 Range Forest Officers. The present strength of the corporation is 89 only.

The Social Forestry Department:-

The Social Forestry Department is headed by the Director, Social Forestry in the rank of Chief Conservator of Forests, assisted by 3 Joint Directors in charge of (10) territorial circles, corresponding to Revenue Divisions and 1 Joint Director at the Head quarters. There are 10 Divisions corresponding to the 33 Districts and 3 Divisions at Head quarters headed by Dy. Directors of Social Forestry in the rank of Dy. Conservator of Forests. The Social Forestry Organization is provided with 33 Assistant Directors, (3) in the field and rest in the office of the Director and Joint Directors) in the rank of Assistant Conservator of Forests, Forest Range Officers and section Officers.

The actual structure of the state forest departments is not well documented in scholarly literature (Fleischman 2012). A representative organizational chart of a state forest department. Each state's forest department is headed by a Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), assisted by senior staff, drawn from the senior-most IFS officers in that state. State forest departments are under the control of ministries led by a minister who is a member of the state legislative assembly and staffed by senior bureaucrats who are not foresters. Most forest department staff work in the territorial wing of the state departments, which

are organized in descending order into circles, divisions, ranges, sections, and beats. The size of these units varies somewhat between states. Circles are headed by a Conservator or Chief Conservator of Forests, generally an IFS officer with a minimum of 16-year service, and often encompass several districts. The circle primarily serves as an administrative linkage between the head office and the smaller divisions, but also contains staff specialized in the preparation of working plans. Divisions are headed by divisional forest officers (DFO), junior IFS officers, or promotes from the lower ranks and have primary responsibility for personnel management and administration. Divisions are often coterminous with districts, although densely forested districts may contain multiple forest divisions. The DFO and forest range officer (FRO) is the lowest level official in the department whose job requires a college education, and they are often referred to as the “backbone” of the department, since it is ultimately their job to insure that field staff follow directives from above. While the DFO spends much of his time at his desk, the FDO&FRO is expected to be in the field, supervising his staff most of the day. His staff consist of forest section officers (also called round officers, block officers, or foresters), and forest guards (FBOs), who live in remote forest areas or villages, and have daily responsibility for law enforcement patrols, as well as for supervising any projects or programs going on in the field.

In addition to the territorial wing, a number of more specialized units follow the same hierarchical structure. The wildlife wing, headed by the Chief Wildlife Warden and responsible for the management of protected areas and the enforcement of wildlife law, contains circles and divisions (often corresponding to larger and smaller protected areas), as well as ranges, sections, and beats. There are also smaller wings responsible for specialized areas such as research and education, with all of these wings reporting directly to the head office, although in practice there is also substantial coordination between wings at the field level, with offices and official residences of the different forest department wings often located in the same compounds in district headquarter towns.

In spite of the modest degree of specialization in function, there is no particular specialization in staff titles or training. A forest guard (FBOs) or a chief conservator of forests might serve a few years in the territorial wing, then be transferred to work in a protected area, and then be transferred to another specialized job. The training of officers of the rank of FRO and above is extensive, so the presumption is that any forester should be capable of undertaking any job in the department.

Powers; Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force):

General Administration and all establishment matters, Forest Policy, Budget and Finance, the respective units provided with the power of allocation of budget to unit offices both under non-plan and plan schemes, shall have to get the approval of the PCCF in deciding the physical and financial targets duly getting the programme of works approved. Any future deviation shall be with the prior approval of PCCF, Internal Audit & Accounts of all the wings of the Department. Forest lands, Mines, Minerals, Forest Conservation Act, Works relating to CAMPA, Medicinal Plants., Updating, amendment, enforcing of the Forest Act and Rules, Manuals, Codes, Tree, Preservation Act. Wildlife Act and Rules and other statutory provisions of the Department, Consolidation of Replies of Public Accounts Committee matters, Subject Committee etc. from all the wings of the Department, Principal Advisor to Government on all matters relating to Forestry and Wildlife. PCCF (Head of Forest) is assisted in the office in the respective matters by Addl. PCCF (Head Quarters & Co-ordination), Addl. PCCF (Head Quarters), CCF (Land Records), CCF (Communication & Information), CCF(Personnel), CCF(Forest Conservation), CCF(Legal Cell), CCF, CAMPA, CF(Budget & Audit), CF (Head Quarters), DCF(Head Quarters).

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife Chief Warden):

Administering the works allocated to PCCF, Wildlife and Chief Wildlife Warden, Fixing up the physical and financial targets pertaining to Wildlife Wing, Consolidating Replies to Audit objections, Public Accounts Committee matters and Subject Committee matters in respect of Wildlife wing and submission to PCCF (Head of Forest Force) (4) Administrative inspections of the wing under its control, Administering all

the Wildlife units, sanctuaries & National Parks. (9) Wildlife Management, Protection and Development, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries, Zoos including Zoo Authority of Telangana and Safaries, Biosphere Reserve and Biosphere Reserve and Bio-diversity Parks.

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Community Forest Management):

Administering Territorial Circles & Divisions on matters relating to Audit and Accounts under the projects including reimbursement of the claims under JFM, CFM and C.A. Projects, Forest protection, Development and Forest Resource Management, Forest Sales and Forest Industries. Rights and Privileges, Annual Administrative Inspections, Any other works assigned by Govt. & PCCF(Head of Forest Force). He is assisted in the Head Quarters by CF (Forest Resource Management), Village Forest Committee.

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Evaluation, Working Plan & Training)

Administering the works allocated to CCF, Working Plan, Evaluation and Training, Evaluation of plantations raised under various budget heads both plan and non-plan including externally aided project, administering the time bound task of writing up working plans. (4) Training in the Department, Fixing up the physical and financial targets to the CCF, Working Plan, Training in consultation and approval of the PCCF, Consolidating the replies to Audit objections, Public Accounts Committee matters and subject Committee in respect of the wings attached and it is further submission to PCCF. (7) Administrative inspections of the wings under its administrative control.

Additional Chief Conservator of Forests (Working Plan):

Writing and Revision of Working Plans, Survey and Demarcation of Forest Lands, C&D Lands and Government Land (Under the control of F.D.), Implementation of GIS and Forest Documentation Information System, Constitution of Reserve Forests under Section 4 and till their notification under Section 17.

Additional Chief Conservator of Forests (Training)

Overseeing the functioning of the Training Institutes, Conducting induction training to Foresters, Forest Guards, Organizing Refresher course to executive sub-ordinates and ministerial. (4) Training too NGOs, VFC Presidents, Members.

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Development):

All Plan Schemes (other than the schemes monitored by other wings) viz. DDF, Building, RIFD, Red Sandal Development, Ecotourism, Bio Fuel, Mangroves, Central DDF, Buildings, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS). (3) National Forestry Afforestation Programme (NFAP) & Bamboo Mission, Greening of urban areas, Tribal sub-plan and Special Component Plan, Replies to audit objections, Public Accounts Committee matters, Subject Committee etc., and further submission to PCCF, Compiling and submission of CAMPA & FDA Reports. He is assisted in the Head Quarters by CF (Development) and MNREGS, NFAP & Bamboo Mission through respective CCFs.

Powers and duties of Territorial Conservators of Forests

- They are the officers in administrative charge of Forest Circles and are responsible within their respective areas, for the general direction and super vision of all forest works, for the control of establishment, of expenditure, sales and supplies and for the general management of forest
- They are immediately subordinate to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) as the case may be in all matters. They will obtain orders and instructions from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/ Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) on professional questions such as working plans, Silvicultural operations, protection of forests and such other matters.
- He should also as certain that the Deputy Conservator of Forests and other member of the controlling staff are conversant with their duties, that discipline is maintained and the forest works are properly supervised.
- He will regulate the budget allotment with in his Circle and exercise control over the expenditure. He will also determine the physical and financial targets and sanction the annual plan of operations and implement.
- He will make tours of inspection, visiting every Division in his charge as frequently as possible During these inspection tours, he will particularly inspect important forest works, see that the several forest operations are being carried out according to plan, examine the adequacy or other wise of the protective measures and assess the work of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Assistant Conservator of Forests and Range Forest Officers and their subordinate and the discipline and control maintained by them.
- He will conduct detailed inspection once a year of each Division.

Powers and duties of Conservators of Forests working in functional posts:

Conservator of Forests (Training and Eco-tourism):

He is responsible for the induction training of Forest Guard and Foresters. He is responsible for in-service training to the staff as well as officers of the department. He is responsible for the JFM related training to the departmental officials as well as non- officials of the Village Forest Committees.

Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation)

He is the Nodal officer to deal with all matters related to forest conservation Act 1980. He will keep the details of forest lands granted and released for cultivation or other non forestry purposes, etc., He will maintain the account of revenue lands transferred to the department, mutations of such lands, etc., He is responsible for keeping account of the Forest encroachments and deal with all the encroachment related cases. He is responsible for the keeping the account of compensatory afforestation budget, planning and raising of compensatory afforestation.

Field Director, Project Tiger.

He is responsible for implementing the tiger project drawn and approved by the Government of India, for preserving the existing tiger population, and further increases its population. The proper administration of all wildlife divisions coming under administrative control including proper implementation of all schemes coming under his jurisdiction. He is responsible for the Wildlife management in the National Parks/ Sanctuaries coming under his jurisdiction. He is responsible for the regulation of Wilderness Tourism in his jurisdiction.

Silviculturists

Silviculturists and director Telangana will work to the orders issued by government and the Chief Conservator of forests in collaboration with territorial officers and his establishment conduct research into silvicultural problems, the silviculturists will also undertake investigation of methods for the improvement of growing stock and soil fertility, for introduction of new species of high economic value and for the successful afforestation of waste lands.

Conservator of Forests, Working plans

The duties of the Conservator of Forests, Working Plans consist of the survey of the growing stock, enumeration of trees, determination of rate of growth and calculation of annual increment of the principal species with special reference to the soil and climatic conditions of each locality and on the basis of data so collected, regulation of yield and preparations of Working Plans for exploitation, regeneration, Silvicultural treatment and protection of forests, while providing for the due exercise of the rights and privileges of the people including grazing of cattle.

Deputy Conservator of Forests(Territorial)

The Deputy conservator of Forests is responsible for the general management of the forests situated in his Division, the administration of the Division under his charge, the execution of all forest works in the Division and possesses direct control over the forest establishment employed therein he is immediately subordinate to the Conservator of Forests of the Circle in all matters and regeneration, improvement, exploitation and protection of forests Territorial should make surprise inspections of the ACF and SDFOs Office/Range Offices when they are touring in the neighborhood of such inspection and verifications.

Powers and duties of Officers in charge of Flying Squad Parties:

- The administrative control of squad is vested with the Deputy Conservator of Forests or Conservator of Forests depending up on the administrative convenience and the officer in charge of a squad may thus be under the immediate control of the Deputy Conservator of Forests or Conservator of Forests as the case may be, and from whom he will receive instructions and orders.
- The squad Officer will exercise proper control over the establishment under him and will see that they maintain discipline and do their work properly.
- He will keep regular contacts with the territorial controlling, executive and protective staff and detect cases.
- He should always be Vigilant and maintain informants at strategic places to obtain information regarding the activities of the smugglers of forest produce.
- He and his staff should constantly patrol the forest and the customary routes through which forest produce is smuggled and see that the incidence of smuggling of Forest produce is reduced. vi) Checking of forest produce in trans it and detection of cases violating the trans it rules would be the most important duty of the Mobile parties.
- The squad Officer and his staff may seek the assistance and cooperation of the Officers of the Police Department/Special Police C.I.D., (Forest cell)

Powers and Duties of Divisional Forest Officers and Employees:

Divisional Forest Officers:-

- The Divisional Forest Officer is responsible for the general management and protection of the forests situated in his division, the administration of the division under his charge the execution of all forest works in the division and exercise direct control over the forest establishment employed therein.
- He is immediately subordinate to the Chief Conservator of Forests, of circle in all matters and will receive orders and instructions from him, as well as the instruction of the Head Office under exigencies of service.
- He will arrange for generation, improvement, exploitation and protection of forests according to sanctioned working plans, management plans or other orders.
- He will conduct sales, enter into contracts and supply timber and other forest produce to other Departments and to the public. (Excluding supplies to Industries).
- He should make surprise inspection of Range Offices and verify the maintenance of office, records, stores and cashbook.
- He will conduct annual inspection of Range Offices, depots and test check the beat inspections of each Range. He shall, however, inspect all vulnerable beats prone to smuggling once in a year.

Forest Divisional Officers:

- Sub-Divisional Forest Officer is immediately subordinate to the Divisional Forest Officer in all matters, receives orders and instructions from him and assists him in supervision and inspection of works, including check measurement and in control of the establishment.
- He will inspect the Range Offices, depots etc., in his Sub-Division and see that the accounts, register and books are maintained in order and posted up to date.
- He will carry out inspection of beats and wherever the Range Officer has not reported the illicit fellings and encroachment, he will make a detailed report to the Divisional Forest Officer.
- He will compound or deal with forest offence cases booked by him or Range Officers as per delegation of powers in Forest Act 1967.

Forest Range Officer:

- Forest Range Officer is the officer in executive charge of the Range and he is responsible for the efficient management of the Range, for the custody and condition of all Government Property in his charge and for the discipline, conduct and work of all his subordinate staff.
- He is responsible for the execution of all works in the Range, with the help of Forest Section Officers and Forest Beat Officers, according to the instructions and orders of Divisional Forest Officer.
- He must carry out his inspections in detail and see that all the subordinates do their work properly. In the event of serious misconduct of any subordinate, the Range Officers should report the case to Divisional Forest Officer for disciplinary action.
- He should take effective measures to protect the forest Wealth in his custody. Where illicit fellings are observed, the stumps should be examined to find out if they bear the impression of the Forest Beat Officer's hammer mark and they were reported through Forest Beat Officers dairy book and preliminary offence report (P.O.R). Range Officer is responsible for the protection and he should investigate Forest Offences in his Range and file charge sheets for the cases ordered for prosecution by Divisional Forest Officer.

- He should always wear the prescribed uniform whenever he is on duty, and he should see that all Section Officers, Forest Beat Officers and Assistant Beat Officers wear the uniform when on duty.
- All correspondence connected with the works in the Range should pass through Range Officer or other superior. Officer may do so only through him. Court summons issued to any subordinate should similarly be served through the Forest Range Officer, who has to arrange for the duties of the subordinate being carried out during his absence.
- He shall inspect the beats as per the programme given by Divisional Forest Officer, and each beat in his Range should be inspected at least once in a calendar year, and submit a detailed report regarding state of boundaries, condition of forests, damage due to biotic pressures, nature of offences etc.
-

Deputy Range officer / Forest section officer:

- A Section Officer (either Deputy Ranger or Forester) is directly responsible to the Forest Range Officer for the proper protection of forests and other Government property included in his Section and for the execution of such works as may be ordered to be carried out.
- He should maintain the discipline of Forest Beat Officers and Asst. Beat Officers and see that they know their duties and carry out efficiently.
- He should frequently patrol and perambulate the Beats under his jurisdiction, see that the Forest Beat Officers maintain the boundary lines and boundary marks of forest blocks in proper shape and order and take steps to prevent illicit felling, encroachments in the Beats. He will report to Range Officer whenever there is any illicit fellings and encroachments giving the details.

Forest Beat officer:

- Forest Beat Officer should know the boundaries of his Beat thoroughly and prevent encroachment, and protect his Beat against injury from fire or other causes.
- He should patrol the forests constantly in his Beat to prevent offences, and where the offences are detected he must record the offence in the Form - A and submit it promptly to Range Officer.
- He should control and supervise over such of the works as ordered by Section Officer and Range Officer. He should carry out Silvicultural works such as sowing, Plantings, nursery works, Collection of seeds, Creeper cutting, pruning, thinning and other cultural operations as ordered by Section Officer and Range Officer.
- He should affix on illicitly cut stumps of trees in the forest, a hammer mark prescribed for the purpose, make a note of the exact locality, description and number of such stumps in his diary book and report about them to the Range Officer. Where such hammer marks are not found and when to reference to the report made can be produced, it will be presumed that the Forest Beat Officer has failed to patrol and perform his functions properly.

Asst. Beat officer:

Assistant Beat Officers are assigned to each territorial beat, to assist the Forest Beat Officers in his duties. He should proceed along with the Forest Beat Officer for patrolling and assist him in detecting offences and apprehending offenders. He should learn the Silvicultural operations being carried out in the beat, and should supervise the works as per instructions of Forest Beat Officer, Section Officer and Range Officer. He should wear uniform whenever on duty, and carry a bill-book, report book along with him. He should prevent fires in Forests of his beats, and assist the Forest Beat Officer in maintenance of fire lines, boundary marks etc., and he should attend to all other duties as may be assigned to him by his superior Officers.

Thanadars at Check Posts/Forest Thanas:

Thanadar or officer in-charge of any checking Station should stop every vehicle passing through the route to check the movement of forest produce. If any forest produce is being transported without a valid permit, he should seize the forest produce and book a forest offence, under transit rules. If the permit is valid, he should put his full signature, with date and time in token of verifying the forest produce under transit. He should make entries of all permits, that pass through the check post and record the description of forest produce, vehicle number, destination etc., in a register to be maintained in Form No 42 and cases, if any, booked should be indicated in the register. He should submit the reports of forest offences to his Section Officer or Range Officer.

Superintendent (Administration):

Exercises general supervision of the Division Office (including accounts section), establishment matters, leases, offences, DET, saw mills, Beedi leaves, disciplinary cases/ complaints, Patta cases, permits, office inspection etc.

Superintendent (Accounts):

Superintendent (Accounts) will look after the following subjects.

- Maintenance of Division cash book.
- Compilation of Range accounts
- Submission of Divisional cash accounts to PAO.
- Passing of pay bills of Division office and Ranges.
- Passing of T.A. Bills of DFO and Other Sub ordinate staff.
- Reconciliation of CTIs and CTRs with the concerned Treasury.
- Budget and planning.
- D.M's section
- Audit reports, Audit objections, Internal audit and A.Gs Audit.
- Posting of all ledgers and Registers (AR Advances, Recoveries, Permanent advance register, Contingent register, unit register, etc.)
- Maintenance of treasury bill book and correspondence
- Submission of F.A & VII to the PAO.
- Control records
- Financial statements
- Other matters relating to accounts.

Senior Assistants & Junior Assistants:

The main duties of an Office Assistant in dealing with cases relating to his section, Assistants are expected to do work of a routine and mechanical nature such as attending to corresponding on subjects relating to his section, maintaining the prescribed registers and preparation of drafts

Typist:

The main duties of the typists are to fair copy the drafts other correspondence approved by the Divisional Forest Officer.

Dealt with sale of Beedi leaf units, Allotment of B.L units to VSS and other self help groups, Burood societies, etc., Supply of Minor Forest produce to the (Girijan Co- Operative Corporation and finalization of

agreement there under issue of licenses and renewals to Timber Depots and Saw Mills. All Disciplinary cases relating to all categories up to level of Forest Section Officers and Junior Assistants, All service matters relating to posts in executive nature in Forest subordinate services and non-executive posts up to the cadre of Forest Section Officers and Junior Assistants respectively. All matters relating to pay bills, Arrear claims, Maintenance of Vehicles, Phones, Sanction of Petrol Bills, purchase of stationery, and Maintenance of Stores etc. All matters relating to pensions of employees retired in the Division.

Vanishing wild life some animals species of fauna and some plants species of flora have gone extinct in Telangana in the past few decades/centuries, according to wildlife survey organizations (BSI & IUCN). The number of plants have disappeared from the wild than birds, mammals and amphibians combined.

Conclusion:

Forest Department is one of the administrative divisions of Government of Telangana state, it is headed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, and the primary function of the department is protection conservation and management of forests in the Telangana. The Forest Department is organized into 55 territorial 15 functional circles and total 70 divisions, in addition, one senior officer of the rank of Deputy Conservator of Forests functions as planning and Extension Officer in each district. Forests ecosystems are reservoirs/repositories of biodiversity with the greatest assemblage of species and provide varied ecosystem services. In India, around 275 million rural people are dependent on forest for their subsistence and livelihood⁵⁷ such as water supply, food, nutrition and health. The health of the forest depends upon the diversity of species between and within species and the density of forest types. Hence it is important to conserve the forest biodiversity towards enhancing the ecosystem services provided by the forest for the human wellbeing. India's forest biodiversity conservation measures are addressed through the implementation of various national legislations and policy measures. The global and national biodiversity action plans suggest to integrate biodiversity concerns into various sectors and cross sectoral programmes and plans.

References:

1. Telangana Agricultural Department Report 2014.pp-16
2. Govt of telangana forest dept hyd at a glance-2017-pp-3,4
3. 3.Govt of Telangana Forest department Facts and figures at a glance Hyd 2017 pp-8,9
4. State forest management glance report Hyd 2017 pp-8,9.
5. Govt of T.S forest Dept hyd at a glance 2017 pg.1.
6. Telangana state forest annual administration report PCCF Hyd 2014-15.
7. TS forest annual administration report Hyd 2014-15.
8. TS forest development corporation, forest department Hyd 2014-15
9. TS social forestry, forest department Hyd 2017.
10. Faleischman F.D (2012) public servant behaviour and forest policy implementation in central India, Indian university, Indiana.
11. Telangana State forest administration general PCCF office forest department 2014-15
12. Telangana state forest department Hyd code volume-2.
13. Telangana Forest department annual administration report Hyd code vol-1 2014-15
14. Telangana forest department Hyd code vol-1 chapter-1.
15. Telangana forest department Hyd.