

Theme 3: Biodiversity – Terrestrial, Aquatic

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THE IMPACT OF BENGALURU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (BIAL) ON NATIVE BIODIVERSITY

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The impact of BIAL on native biodiversity elements was assessed in 2009 and 2010. The biodiversity elements were less impacted in Ganamuthenahalli and severely impacted in Hunasuru. The bird species richness at Ganmuthnahalli was 18.12, species evenness was 0.82 and Shannon wiener diversity index was 1.61 with 65 bird species. At Hunasuru the corresponding figures were 15.83, 0.64 and 1.54 with 57 bird species respectively. The butterflies' species richness at Gangamuthaenahalli was 15.83, species evenness was 0.94 and Shannon Weiner index was 1.30 with 24 butterfly species. At Hunasuru the corresponding figures were 8.87, 0.81 and 1.26 with 19 butterflies' species, respectively. The mammalian species richness at Ganamuthenahalli was 3.76, species evenness was 0.37 and Shannon wiener diversity index was 0.47. At Hunsuru the corresponding figures were 3.54, 0.35 and 0.45 with ten species of mammals, respectively.

Establishment of BIAL resulted in massive landscape changes, denudation of vegetation, large scale movement of rural masses of people away from BIAL area, increased traffic frequency on road, chemical pollution and water pollution. There was a 25% reduction in mammal species. Out of the fourteen state forests three have been deforested for development of BIAL. These changes have affected biodiversity in 4500 acres of BIAL area and surrounding 25 Km² area where urbanization is steadily increasing. It is suggested that large open spaces available around 25 Km² BIAL area be planted with indigenous species of trees, shrubs and creepers.