



## BIODIVERSITY OF MAYANI BIRD SANCTUARY : A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

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### ABSTRACT

*The geographical components play important role for promoting the tourism development. The geographical components like the landscape, water bodies, flora and fauna are major resources to attract the tourists. Mayani Bird sanctuary as typical wetland ecosystem which is rich in flora and fauna. The primary and secondary data have been used for the present investigation. The present paper aims to study the biodiversity of Mayani Bird sanctuary and future planning to protect for tourism development.*

**Key Words :** Bird sanctuary, Migratory Bird, Tourism development, Flora, Fauna.

### INTRODUCTION

Tourism is the fastest growing tertiary economic activity all over India. Nature based tourism is a large and growing global industry (Ceballos and Lascurain, 1998). Nature based tourism, also known as ecotourism, is defined as “Tourism that consist of traveling to relatively undisturbed or uncontaminated natural areas with the specific objective of studying, admiring and enjoying the scenery and its wild plants and animals, as well as any existing cultural manifestation found in these areas” (Boo, 1990). Ecotourism is based on the natural attractions of an area, it includes bird-watching, wildlife photography, walking stargazing, camping, shooting, fishing and visiting forests.

Floral and faunal resources play important role for recreational activities of tourist that resulted in the fact that recreational value of faunal wealth has been increasing rapidly from the view point of the tourist since the nature accompanies them all along their journey in the form of wayside trees, parks, pleasure gardens etc. The establishment of wildlife sanctuaries are useful for the protection and preservation of the wildlife. Now a day’s number of rare species of wildlife have disappeared. Therefore, the need for the protection of the fascinating wildlife.

The Mayani Bird sanctuary has very rich in floral and faunal wealth, which attracts many tourist. Many migratory birds pass through the areas, such as Siberia. Therefore, the present paper attempts to understand the importance of the bird in the ecosystem as well as the problem in the conservation of local and migratory birds and future planning to protect.

### OBJECTIVES

- 1) To study the Mayani Bird sanctuary as a tourist place.
- 2) To analyse the biodiversity of Mayani Bird sanctuary.
- 3) To highlight problem of the sanctuary and define strategy for development.

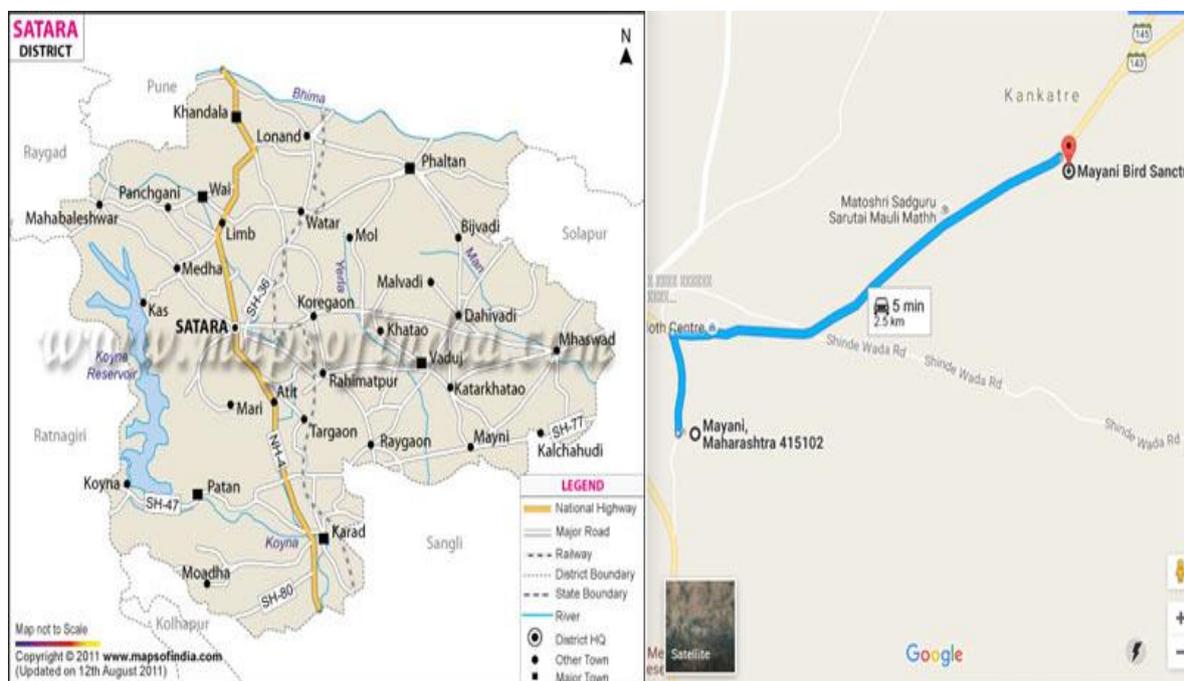
## METHODOLOGY

The primary and secondary data have been used for the research paper. Primary data is collected through observation, interview and questionnaires. Secondary data also collected from divisional forest officer, district census handbook and available published and unpublished material. Then collected information finally tabulated analysed, interpreted and conclusion were drawn.

## STUDY AREA

The Mayani Bird Sanctuary located near 2.5 k.m. east away from the Mayani village of Khatav tahsil on Malharpeth-Pandharpur state highway No. - 76.

The Mayani Bird sanctuary lies between 17° 26' 39" North latitude and 74° 34' 19" East longitude in Khatav tahsil of Satara district of western Maharashtra. Total area of the Sanctuary is 65 hectares. Mayani Bird sanctuary is well connected from district places like Satara and Sangli, and around 20 k.m. from Vita.



## BIODIVERSITY OF SANCTUARY

Mayani Bird sanctuary is rich in floral diversity and contain aquatic plants, dry plants and varieties of plants. It is observed that, the hydrophytic species like otalia sps and toli sps grow very well in shallow Water. It is main source of food for aquatic birds. Other food like small fishes, crabs and water insects are also observed. The plant like cactus and many medicinal plants are present in this sanctuary.

Many migratory birds pass through the area such as Flamingos from Siberia. Other resident and migratory birds species includes Brahminy Ducks, Spoon Bills, Painted Storcks, Coot, Black Ibis, Northern Shoveler and Kingfisher are observed near the lake. The winter season (Nov. – Jan.) is the best time to visit Mayani Bird sanctuary. According to 2005 Census, there were more than 400 species of the birds were reported in this bird sanctuary.

This huge biodiversity of this place is always give us picturesque beauty of nature and wildlife. Watch tower and other facilities are provided and maintained by forest department in this sanctuary. There is a park with play area and guest house.

Many local and foreign people come here for several reasons, few for studying nature, few for passing leisure, few for bird watching and photography.



## PROBLEMS

The Mayani Bird sanctuary was established with various important premises of which are to get protection for all wild animals and birds, bird watching for bird-lovers, spending leisure, in order to environmental balance to get control over insects with the increase number of birds and awareness among the people.

It is observed that, the number of resident and migratory birds are decreased continuously due to the increase in the number of water plant, amount of mud in the lake, water scarcity and human interference. There is shortage of watch towers for birds observation. In spite of having attractive garden, insufficient number of telescope and other facilities are inadequate in this bird sanctuary. There is not separate cabin for registration of tourists.

## CONCLUSION

- 1) There are various resident and migratory species of birds come to stay at Mayani Bird sanctuary.
- 2) Flemingo and chakrawak are the main attractions of Mayani Bird sanctuary that come during November to January.
- 3) The Mayani Bird sanctuary is rich in floral and faunal diversity.
- 4) The winter season (Nov. to Jan.) is ideal period to visit Mayani Bird sanctuary.
- 5) The number of resident and migrated birds are decreased continuously due to the excessive mud in the lake, increasing water plants, water scarcity and human interference.
- 6) Bird-lovers and observers face difficulties as there is no availability of informative books of birds.
- 7) Some of tourists provide thread to the place by drinking.
- 8) If the suggested remedies are implemented properly, the problems of sanctuary will be solved and it would be helpful in the development of the place.



## SUGGESTIONS

- 1) There should be facility for residing and hoteling for bird-lovers due to ideal period of birds observation is 6:00 am. to 9:00 am.
- 2) Number of towers, hide-places and telescopes should be increased for birds observation.
- 3) Seperate cabin with watchman for the registration should be appointed at the entrance gate.
- 4) It would be useful for bird-lovers if picture books of birds are kept for sell.
- 5) The mud in the lake and water plants should be removed by creating awareness among the people and getting financial help from the government.
- 6) To get attraction of tourist towards the place, the informative and attractive boards of birds should placed alongside the roads.
- 7) For the preservation of sanctuary, the compound wall should be build alongwith its boundary and must be banned on fishing in sanctuary.
- 8) Expert guides made available for tourists.
- 9) Forest workers should be appointed permanently.

If above suggestions are followed seriously, there would get immense help in the protection and preservation of rare plant species, wild animals and natural habitats of animals. It would be helpful to develop this sanctuary as a tourist place with balanced ecosystem.

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