Wildlife Mitigation & Conservation Plan

For

Diversion of 11.03 Ha Forest land for up-gradation and widening the existing road into two lanes with paved configuration of NH 167B from 51/000 to 58/500 from Porumamilla to Chandrasekharapuram in the State of Andhra Pradesh.





Divisional Forest Officer (WLM)
Proddatur

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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Preamble:

Mydukur- Singaryakonda via Porumamilla & Seetharampuram road is an important National High way which was recently upgraded as a national High way NH -167 B from 0/0 to 189/050 vide Gazette Publication no. 1281 of S.O.No.1453•(dated 09.05.2017 of MORT &H., New Delhi and as per the Memo. No.1980/EE-NH&CRF/AEE-1, dt:07.06.2017 o/o the Chief Engineer, R&B, NH & CRF Vijayawada and connecting to the District Head quarters Kadapa, Kurnool, Nellore, Prakasam and to the pilgrim centers like Bhramham gari mattam, Bhayrava Kona and Malakonda etc., The road will reduce the distance between towns of Nellore and Kadapa which reduces travel time and all over development of the region.

The preparation of Wildlife Conservation Plan and Mitigation for the up-gradation and widening the existing road into two lane with paved configuration of NH 167B from Km 51/000 to Km 58/500 from Porumamilla to Chandrasekharapuram is part of the project of "Upgrading and widening of the existing road of 167B from Porumamilla to Singaryakonda (on NH-16) via Seetharampuram - CS Puram - Pamuru- Kandukur to two lane with paved shoulders in the State of Andhra Pradesh under National Highways"

The part of the Road pertaining to DFO, WLM Proddatur falls in Compartment No: 253 of Kavalakuntla Extn. A & B Block notified U/s 16 of Madras Forest Act Notification No.114, Dt 23-03-1896 and notified vide notification no. 125 dated 23-03-1928. The area falls in Tekurpeta beat of Porumamilla Range of the WLM Proddatur Division.



Existing Road

1.1 Status of the Project:

The Project of "Upgrading and widening of the existing road of 167B from Porumamilla to Singaryakonda (on NH-16) via Seetharampuram - CS Puram - Pamuru- Kandukur to two lane with paved shoulders in the State of Andhra Pradesh under National Highways" started with the proposal of the Executive Engineer (R&B) National Highways for permission of DGPS survey in the Forest areas of Wildlife Management Division, Proddatur, Nellore and Giddalur to the Prl.Chief Conservator of Forests vide ref. EE(R&B), NH Division, Kadapa lr. No. EPC/NH-16/ Porumamilla to Singarayakonda/2017-18 dated 17th April 2017. Accordingly, Prl.Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh permitted vide his ref. 4948/2017/FCA-3 dated 20th April 2017. The authentication of data could not happen because of certain technical problems and same were rectified by the NH authorities and same has been verified and authenticated by the Prl.CCF, (Head of Forest Force), Andhra Pradesh on 24th May 2018 and issued specific instructions for the clearance of the Project to the Field Officers.

The Divisional Forest Officer, WLM Proddatur was instructed by the Prl.CCF, (HoFF), Andhra Pradesh regarding the Project specifically on the following points

- 1. Critically examine the feasibility of the project.
- 2. Should inspect in person and submit the Field inspection notes.
- 3. Preparation of enumeration list of the proposed diversion area after duly assessing the value of trees to be felled in the proposed area.
- 4. To be studied the details of vegetation, density of vegetation, vulnerability of soil erosion, impact of the project on the flora and fauna and suggestion of mitigative measures for flora and fauna.
- 5. Report of the vicinity of National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries or any Eco sensitive zones.
- 6. Submission of Certificate by the District Collector as per the provision of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (RoFR) Act ,2006 regarding the process of settlement of rights.
- 7. Identify the degraded forest land over an extent of 22.06 Ha (double the area of forest land) and accord the permission to DGPS survey.

The DFO, WLM Proddatur & Conservator of Forests, Kurnool are regularly submitting the details to the Prl.CCF, (HoFF), Andhra Pradesh in series of references. Basing on the data on the Project the Prl.CCF, Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh submitted proposals for the diversion to the State Government and the Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted to the Inspector General of Forests (Central), Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt of India.

The proposals were placed before the Regional Empowered Committee (REC), IRO Chennai in its 50th meeting held on 21.09.2021, after detailed deliberation the committee decided to seek further information on the legal status of the existing road, clearances as per FCA 1980, non-inclusion of existing road portion in the diversion proposal, actual length and width of the road, Wildlife mitigation Plan duly vetted by the Chief Wildlife Warden of Andhra Pradesh and on the possibility of reduction of width of the road to reduce the no. of Red sanders trees. The Conservator of Forests, Kurnool Circle submitted the information with clarification on the points raised by the Inspector General of Forests (Central) to the Prl.Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh on 18th Feb.2022. The Prl. CCF, (HoFF), Andhra Pradesh after the examination of the justification submitted by the DFO, WLM Proddatur & Conservator of Forests, Kurnool Circle, has given clear instructions for the preparation of the Wildlife Mitigation Plan covering the impact on wildlife due to upgradation and widening of the Road along with study of area in respect of Tiger Corridor of Nagarjuna Sagar Srisailam Tiger Reserve. Accordingly, the Wildlife Mitigation Plan along with the Wildlife Conservation Plan prepared.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

- Assessment of Impacts of the development of Project.
- Preparation of Wildlife Conservation Plan for the execution by the Forest department with an object to provide fodder, water, space to wildlife on both the sides of road planning of hygiene of the conservation area keeping the health of wildlife to reduce the conflict as a part of mitigation measures.
- Preparation of Wildlife mitigation plan to be executed by the user agency to reduce the man - animal conflict, providing passages to one side of the forest to other side to reduce the effect of fragmentation and continue the flow of gene pool and to prevent accidental killing of wild animals.
- Study of Tiger Corridor between Nagarjuna Sagar Srisailam Tiger Reserve and Seshachalam hills corridor.

Chapter 2

General Descriptions of the Project Area

2.1 Background & description of project area

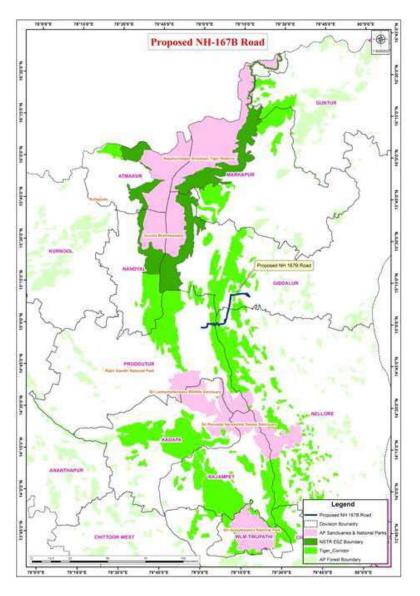
The proposed area of 11.03 ha forest land for up-gradation and widening the esixting road into two lane with paved configuration of NH 167B from Km 51/000 to Km 58/500 from Porumamilla to Chandrasekharapuram falls in Compartment No: 253 of Kavalakuntla Extn. A & B Block notified U/s 16 of Madras Forest Act Notification No.114, Dt 23-03-1896 which is notified vide notification no. 125 dated 23-03-1928. The area falls in Tekurpeta beat of Porumamilla Range of the WLM Proddatur Division. The existing road is already a notified right of way over a length of about 2 miles with a width of 3 feet as per notification of the Kavalakuntla ext. A and B Reserve forest. Copy of the Reserve forest is kept as a annexure. The road is mentiond as civil road with a length of 8 Kms from Tekuripet to Sitaramapuram (Nellore Dist) as per the Block history in the Working Plan of Kadapa District (1994-95 to 2003 -04).

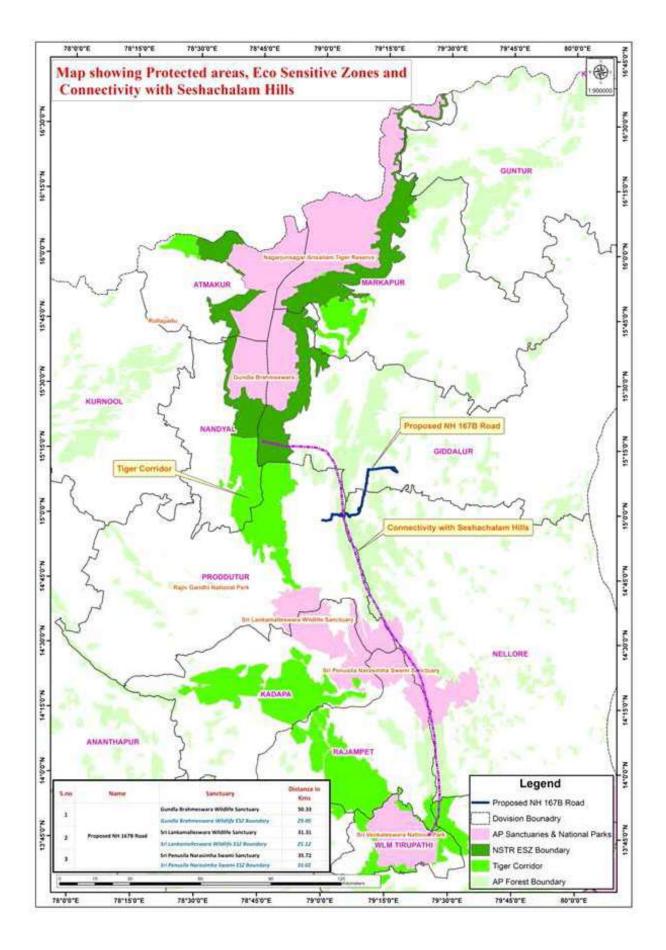


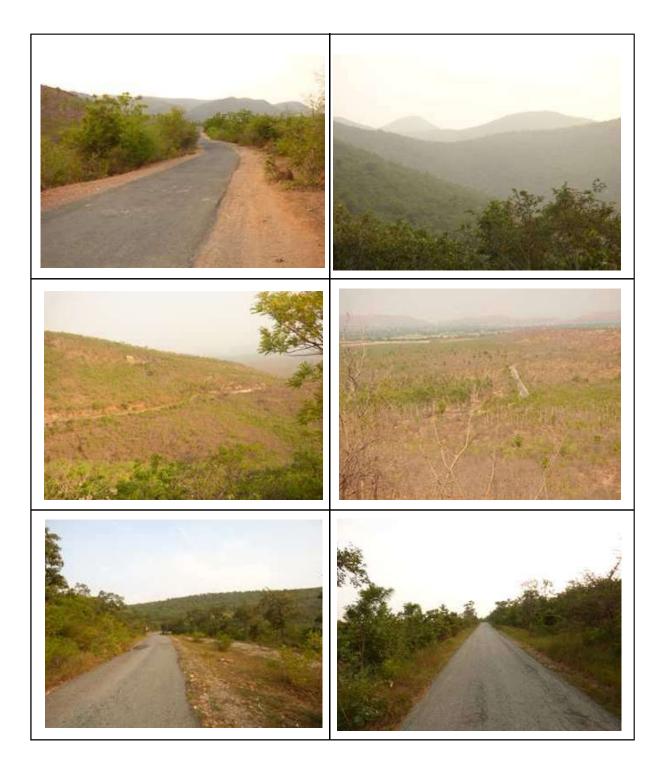
Location of the Project area

The proposed diversion area is neither a part of Wildlife Sanctuary nor a part of National Park. The area of diversion is not falling in any declared wildlife prominent areas, Eco sensitive Zone of any protected area and notified corridor of Nagarjunasagar Srisailam Tiger Reserve. However the proposed area of the diversion area of 11.03 ha is the centre

of huge biodiversity of the state of Andhra Pradesh. The Protected areas of Sri Lankamalleswara Wildlife Sanctuary, Penusila Wildlife Sanctuary, ESZ of Gundla Brahmeswaram Wildlife Sanctuary (extended core of Nagarjunasagar Srisailam Tiger Reserve) and Notified Nagarjunasagar Srisailam Tiger Reserve (NSTR) Corridor of one of the largest Tiger Reserve of the Country are within 30 Km radius to the proposed site. Though the area is not notified as tiger corridor of NSTR, the area is of prime importance as it has connectivity to Seshachalam hills and with fragmented patches of forests to the NSTR, becoming unnotified corridor between wildlife prominent areas of Seshachalam hills and NSTR. The present road which is existing is bisecting the thousands of Hectares of forest and wildlife, acting as a barrier for wildlife dividing the wildlife populations, hence the preparation of mitigation plan for creating connectivity of the both sides of the Forest. The following maps elucidate the importance of the proposed area.





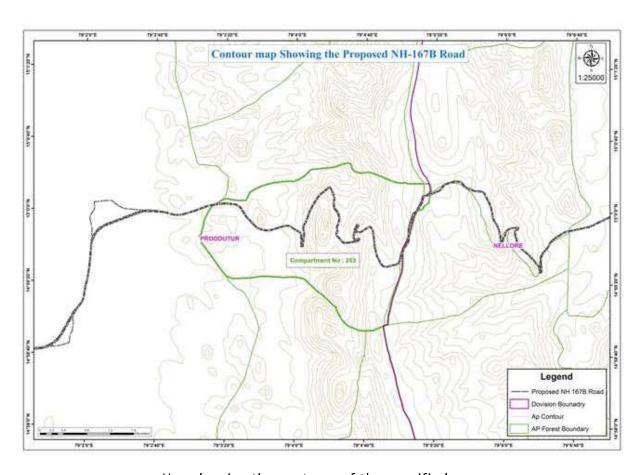


Photos of the exisiting road

2.2 General topography

After formation of Proddatur division in 1966, due to importance of wildlife, the division was redesignated as Wildlife Division from 01.01.1999. The forests of the division are largely situated on hills and over a portion of the plateau in the north - east. They are surrounded by undulating or flat cultivated plains. The elevation of the division varies from 99 meters to 902 meters above mean sea level. The Nallamalais form the northern boundary of Proddatur division confined to Vonipenta and Porumamilla Ranges which extend into the Kurnool district. These hills run in north - eastern direction forming an undulating plateau with luxuriant growth which is the best type of forest met with in the division.

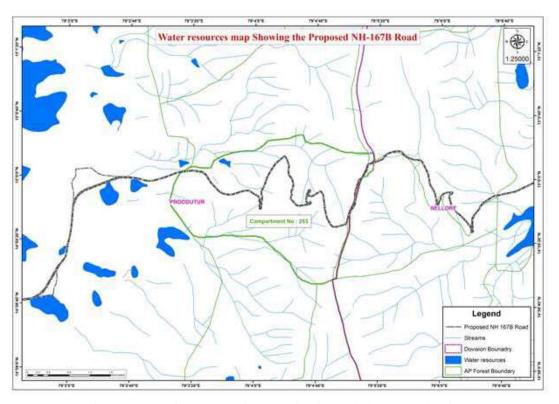
The present area of diversion falls in Compartment No: 253 of Kavalakuntla Extn. A & B Block notified U/s 16 of Madras Forest Act Notification No.114, Dt 23-03-1896 and notified vide notification no. 125 dated 23-03-1928. The area falls in Tekurpeta beat, Mallepalle section of Porumamilla Range of the WLM Proddatur Division.



Map showing the contours of the specified area.

2.3 Drainage & Water bodies

The forests of Porumamilla and Badvel Range drain into Sagileru and Kundu Rivers. All these rivers take their origin far beyond the district and none of them are perennial. These watersheds are mostly bare and rocky and almost devoid of growth which results in sudden rise and fall of the river, sometimes disappearing into the sandy beds, and appear further down as if from nowhere.



Map showing catchment and water bodies of the Specified area.

2.4 Geology, Rock and soil:

This Kadapa formation covers up whole of Badvel, Porumamilla and Onipenta ranges and part of Proddatur and Muddanur ranges. Kadapa series quartzites (altered sandstones) and shales. There seems no doubt that the geological formations have a definite influence on the species that occur. The proposed diversion area is part of veligondas is mostly of Cumbum shales and Bairankonda quartzites. The resultant soil from the disintegration of the above geological formations is red ferruginous loam, shallow and generally poor with a mixture of loose boulders of varying sizes. The reserves do not contain humus except in moist sheltered valleys in interior Lankamalais and Nallamalais. However the study area i.e., present diversion area Kavalakuntla Reserved Forests are having Red loamy soils which supports Dry Red sanders bearing forest.



Profile of soil adjoining to the Road

2.5 CLIMATE AND RAINFALL

2.5.1 Climate:-

Kadapa district is one of the drought prone districts of the state. The district is noted for the early setting in of the hot weather, which generally commences about the middle of February and lasts till the onset of the regular monsoon.

The elements which govern the climate are (i) Temperature (ii) Rainfall (iii) Altitude (iv) Humidity / Based on these factors, three distinct seasons are experienced in the division.

- a. Summer season from February to June, till the onset of monsoons
- b. Rainy season from break of monsoons in June to end of November
- c. Winter season from December to end of January.

2.5.2 Temperature:-

The mean annual daily temperature is above 31.2°C. The temperature rises to maximum of 45°C and rarely to 47°C during summer. The temperature drops to 17°C and sometimes to 14°C during winters. The maximum and minimum temperature in the month of May, generally vary between 29°C and 48°C. Thus summer is severe in these parts. Hot winds blow and sun strokes also occur.

The temperature increases during the interval between the two monsoons and the heat becomes aggressive. The climate is quite tolerable in the rest of the year.

2.5.3 Rainfall :-

The division gets rains from both the monsoons. However the precipitation is more during the South - West monsoon. The principal rainy season is from June to November. The North -East monsoon lasts for 2 months; October and November. North - west part of the division comprises of Onipenta, Badvel and Porumamilla ranges falls part of Agro - climatic zone VI supports dry deciduous forests with canopy densities of 0.1 to 0.4.

The rainfall is not uniform and is erratic and precarious. The normal rainfall for the district is about 690 mm and the average rainfall is 764 mm. The number of rainy days in the division is 45. The post rainy season up to onset of winter (November) is quite hot and oppressive. Winter commences in December and lasts up to end of January. The maximum and minimum temperatures in the month of December vary between 28.99°C and 16.15°C respectively. The area experiences dry conditions for about 8 months in a year. But if the monsoon fails or if it is inadequate, the conditions become very dry leading to drought.

The relative humidity is highest during July - August and lowest in March. In the forests, night dew helps to replenish the moisture to a meagre extent in the sheltered valleys of the Veligondas etc.,

General conditions of plant growth are most favourable from mid-June to mid-November. During the drought years, apart from the drinking water problem, the wild animals also suffer from lack of sufficient feed. It therefore becomes necessary that more number of water harvesting structures to be developed for tapping rainwater to the maximum, which would improve the vegetation and the availability of feed for wild animals.

2.6 General description of Forests

Proddatur Forest Division (WL) is rich in biological diversity comprising of the best natural ecosystem of the District. The river Pennar and its tributaries Kundu, Sagileru passes through the Division promoting good natural regeneration. The existing locality factors that determine the floristic composition and distribution of forest types would have produced a superior dry mixed deciduous climax type forest.

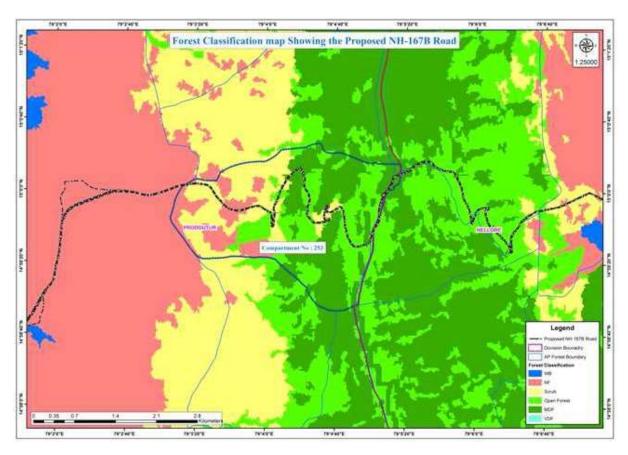
The specified area of the diversion falls under following (2) types of Forests as per H.G. Champion & Seth Classification having site quality of V.

1. 5A/C3: Southern Dry Mixed Deciduous forests:

There are two well pronounced storeys or tiers noticeable in this forest type. The upper storey consists of mostly dense crop. The species are deciduous and leafless for several months in the year. These often tend to become moist deciduous forests. But such species are very few. The species that are commonly met with are: Velama, (Anogeissus latifolia) Yepi (Hardwickia binata), Nalla maddi (Terminalia tomentosa) Yegi (Pterocarpus marsupium) Billudu (Chloroxylon swietenia) Pachari (Dalbergia paniculata) Chigara (Albizzia amara), Anduga (Boswellia serrata), Dolichandrone Crispa and kunkudu (Sapindus emarginatus). Under storey consists of Grewia orbiculata, Gardenia gummifera, Zizyphus xylopyrus, Randia dumetorum, Acacia latronum, Dichrostachys cinerea, Eagle marmelos, Ixora parviflora and Gymnosporia montana, climbers like Cuscuta, Bauhinia, Zizyphus oenoplea, Maba buxifolia, Helicteres isora species are of common occurrence. Bamboos are generally absent and occur only in patches. Grasses like Nendra, Khasi, and Bodha exists in open patches.

2. 5A/C2: Dry Red sanders bearing forests:

The composition of crop consists of *Pterocarpus santalinus*, *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Hardwickia binata*, *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Dolichandrone crispa*. Red sanders occurs on the slopes of Kavalakuntla Extn A&B Reserve Forests in Porumamilla Range at an elevation between 152.4 m & 914.4 m, where the annual rainfall ranges between 813mm & 1016 mm. The associate species are *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Dolichandrone crispa*, *Hardwickia binata*, *Boswellia serrata*, *Albizzia amara*, *Soyamida febrifuga*, *Chloroxylon swietenia* etc., Grasses like Bodha, Nendra, ooba, Yerra gaddi exists in open patches In both the types of Forests the climbers namely *Butea superba*, *Zizyphus oenoplia*, *Bauhinia vahlii*, *Pterolobium indicum*, *Calycopteries floribunda*, *Acacia intsia*, *Cryptolepis buchanani* are seen. Weeds like *Lantana camara*, *Eupatorium sp*, *Anisomeles malabaricum*; epiphytes like *Loranthus sp*., and *cuscuta reflexa* are present in open patches and Plantations of the area.



Map of Forest classification of specified area

The present corridor area is one of the best forests of Proddatur Division, most of the species as per the working plan are present here. The details of flora and fauna of the Proddatur Division as per working plan and as per the compartment history of the compartments 253 of Kavalakuntla Extn A & B Reserved Forest of Tekuripet Beat of Porumamilla Range is listed below.

2.6.1 Flora

Sl.No.	Scientific Name	Local Name		
	TREES			
1	Acacia Arabica	Nalla tumma		
2	Acacia leucophloea	Tella tumma		
3	Acacia sundra	Sundra		
4	Adina cardifolia	Bandaru		
5	Aegle marmelos	Maredu		
6	Albizia lebbeck	Dirisanam		
7	Anogeissus latifolia	Chirumanu		

8	Azadirachta indica	Yepa
9	Bauhinia racemosa	Ari
10	Bauhinia variegata	Mandari
11	Boswellia serrata	Anduga
12	Buchanania lanzan	Sarapappu (Murli)
13	Butea monosperma	Moduga
14	Carissa spinorum	Kalivi
15	Cassia fistula	Rela
16	Chloroxylon swietenia	Billudu
17	Cleistanthus collinus	Kodisa
18	Cochlospermum religiosum	Kondagogu
19	Dalbergia latifolia	Irugudu (Jitregi)
20	Dalbergia paniculata	Pacharia
21	Diospyros melanoxylon	Tunki
22	Emblica officinalis	Usirikaya
23	Feronia elephantum	Velaga
24	Ficus bengalensis	Marri
25	Garuga pinnata	Garugudu
26	Gmelina arborea	Gummadi Teak
27	Hardwickia binata	Yepi
28	Holarrhena antidysenterica	Pala
29	Holoptelea integrifolia	Nemalinara
30	Lagerstroemia parviflora	Chennangi
31	Lannea coromandelica	Gumpini
32	Mangifera indica	Mamidi
33	Madhuca indica	Ірра
34	Mitragyna parviflora	Battaganam
35	Morinda tinctoria	Thogaru - Mogali
36	Nyctanthes arboritis	Pogada (Karsha)
37	Ougeinia oojeinensis	Chikkudu Dargu
38	Pongamia pinnata	Konugu
39	Pterocarpus marsupium	Yegisa
40	Pterocarpus santalinus	Rakta chandanam

41	Sapindus emarginatus	Kunkudu	
42	Schleichera oleosa	Pusuga	
43	Soymida febrifuga	Somi	
44	Sterculia urens	Tapsi, Yeura Ponaku	
45	Strychnos nux - vomica	Musti	
46	Strychnos potatorum	Chilla	
47	Syzygium cumini	Neradu (Ginne)	
48	Tamarindus indica	Chinta	
49	Tectona grandis	Teku	
50	Terminalia arjuna	Tella maddi	
51	Terminalia belerica	Tani	
52	Terminalia tomentosa	Maddi	
53	Wrightia tinctoria	Pala Kodsha	
54	Zizyphus xylopyrus	Gotiki	
	SHRUBS		
55	Cassia auriculata	Thangedu	
56	Dodonaea viscosa	Pulivai, Bandedu	
57	Gymnosporia spinosa	Danthi	
58	Helicteres isora	Gubathada	
59	Randia dumetorum	Manga	
60	Vitex negundo	Vaaili	
	CLIMBERS & CREEP	E R S	
61	Bauhinia vahlii	Adda theega	
62	Butea parviflora	Moduga theega	
63	Butea superba	Teega moduga	
64	Calycopteris floribunda	Bonta theega	
65	Smilax aspera	Kunmmari theega	
66	Zizyphus oenoplea	pariki	
HERBS			
67	Achyranthes aspera	Uttarani	
68	Ageratum conyzoides		
69	Cassia auriculata	Tangedu	
70	Dodonea viscosa	Bandhari	
71	Euphorbia hirta		

	BAMBOOS			
<i>7</i> 2	Bambusa arundinacea	Mullam Bongu		
<i>7</i> 3	Dendrocalamus strictus	Sadanam		
	GRASSE	S		
74	Andropogan contortus	Yedagaddi		
<i>7</i> 5	Cynodon dactylon	Pandimullugaddi		
76	Cymbopogon coloratus	Bodagaddi		
77	Dichanthium annulatum			
<i>78</i>	Eragrostis unioloides	Udara - gaddi		
79	Heteropogon contortus	Eddi gaddi		
80	Imperata cylindrica	Darbagaddi		
81	Sehima nervosum	Nendragaddi		

The *Pterocarpus santalinus* (Red sanders / Rakta chandanam/ Yerra chandanam) is the endemic species of Rayalaseema area of the Andhra Pradesh and it is endangered species listed as per IUCN classification.

2.6.2 Fauna

Sl.No	Local Name	Zoological name
	Mammals	
1	Chiruthapuli	Panthera pardus
2	Adavipilli/ jungle cat	Felis chaus
3	Wild dog	Canis alpinus
4	Kanuju (Sambar)	Cervus unicolor
5	Duppi (Spotted Deer)	Axis axis
6	Krishna Jinka (Black buck)	Antilope cervicapra
7	Konda gore (Four horned antelope)	Tetracerus quadricornis
8	Gaddi Jinka (Burra Jinka) / Chinkara	Gazella gazella
9	Adavi pandi	Sus scrofa
10	Kundelu (Hare)	Lepus nigricollis
11	Kothi	Macaca radiata
12	Kondamuchu	Presbytis entellus
13	Devangana pilli	Loris tardigradus
14	Manupilli (Palm Civet)	Herpestes Edwards

15	Mungisa/ common mongoose	Paradoxurus hermaphroditus
16	Udutha	Funambulus pennanti
17	Mullapandi (Porcupine)	Herpestes edwards
18	Gabbilam (Indian flying fox)	Pteropus giganteus
19	Elugubanti (Sloth Bear)	Melursus Ursinus
20	Alawa (Scaly anteater or Pangolin)	Manis crassicaudata
21	Dumergondu	Hyaena hyaena
22	Guntanakka (Fox)	Vulpes bengalensis
23	Nakka (Jackal)	Canis aureus
	Amphibians	
1	Kappa (Ordinary Frog)	Rana hexadactyla
2	Godurukappa (South Indian toad)	Bufo melanostictus
3	Tree frog	Hyla arboria
4	Burrowing Frog	Canopus bystema
5	Frog	Rana tigrina
	Reptiles	
1	Kondachiluva (Indian Python)	Python molurus
2	Rendu muthula pamu (Sand Boa)	Eryx johnii
3	Katlapamu (Krait)	Bungarus caeruleus/ B. fasciatu
4	Nagupamu (Throchupamu) Cobra	Naja naja
5	Raktha Pinjari (Russell's Viper)	Vipera russelli
6	Saw scaled viper	Echis carinatus
7	Jerripothu (Rate Snake)	Tripidonatur Piscator /
		Ptyas mucosus
8	Tree Snake	Dryphis species
9	Pasarikapamu (Whip Snake)	Dryphis species
10	Udumu (Monitor lizard)	Varanus bengalensis
11	Ussravilli (Chameleon)	Chameleon species
12	Balli (Wall lizard)	Hemidactylus species
13	Tonda (Garden lizard)	Calotes versicolor
14	Golden Gecko (Small wall lizard)	Gecko species
15	Neeti tabelu (Freshwater turtle)	Trionys species
16	Metatabelu (Indian starred tortoise)	Testudo elegans
17	Tabelu (Fresh water tortoise)	Geomyde species