

Directory of National Parks and Sanctuaries in Karnataka

MANAGEMENT STATUS AND PROFILES

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RANGANATHITTU BIRD SANCTUARY

This tiny bird sanctuary comprises two unconnected small clusters of islands in the Kaveri river. It is one of South India's oldest sanctuaries, having been established in 1940 by the then Maharaja of Mysore. Though the sanctuary notification does not include the water around the islands, a calm stretch of water partially impounded by a weir is managed for conservation by the wildlife authorities [fv]. This weir was built in the 17th century by Kanthirava Narasaraaj, the ruler of Mysore [Neginhal 1983]. Ranganathittu attracts a large number of nesting water-birds, as also a lot of tourists. The Brindavan Gardens, a major tourist attraction, are just 2.5 km upstream from the sanctuary boundary.

LEGAL STATUS: Declared a sanctuary vide Notification No. AF 19/FT.243-39-4 under the Mysore Game and Fish Preservation Act (II of 1901) on July 1, 1940 [notif]. Final notification has been issued by the Asst. Commissioner, Pandavapura during 1991-92, specific details of which are not available.

AREA AND ZONING: 67.50 ha. (0.67 sq.km). There is no zoning.

LOCATION: District Mysore [tp]; *Latitudinal range* 12°21'33" to 12°23'05" N [tp] and 12°23'49" to 12°25'19" N; *Longitudinal ranges* 76°38'59" to 76°39'52" E [tp], and 76°47'24" to 76°48'29" E [tp];* *Nearest town* Shrirangapatana (2.5 km); *Nearest railhead* Shrirangapattana (2.5 km); *Nearest airport* Mysore (16km) [mp].

APPROACHES: From Mysore (16km) on the Mysore-Bangalore highway. From Bangalore, Shrirangapattana is 125 km [St map].

TOPOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE: *Altitude* 674m to 680 m (highest contour line) [tp]; *Temperature* ranges from 16°C to 35°C; *Mean annual rainfall* approx. 800 mm [Das Gupta 1976].

FLORA: The sanctuary comprises 10 ha of Dry Deciduous Scrub Forest 5/DS1 [q1], and the rest either Dry Tropical Riparian 5/IS1 or Tropical Riparian Fringing Forests 4E/RS1 (the wildlife authorities could not specify which) [fv]. Thorny bamboo *Bambusa arundinacea* was introduced in 1980 for habitat improvement. Mixed plantations of *Eucalyptus* spp. (5 ha), *Ficus* spp. (2 ha), Jamun *Syzygium cumini* (1 ha) and *Acacia* spp. (2 ha) were carried out in 1983-84. Floral species considered important for the nesting and roosting of birds are *Terminalia arjuna*, *Pandanus* spp., *Syzygium cumini*, and Pongam *Derris indica*.

Trees [q1, mp, fv, Neginhal 1983, Gantzer & Gantzer 1983]

<i>Acacia auriculiformis</i>	<i>Pandanus</i> spp.
<i>Acacia nilotica</i>	<i>Psidium guajava</i>
<i>Acacia</i> spp.	<i>Salix</i> spp.
<i>Derris indica</i>	<i>Samanea saman</i>
<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp.	<i>Syzygium cumini</i>
<i>Ficus racemosa</i>	<i>Syzygium</i> spp.
<i>Ficus</i> spp.	<i>Terminalia arjuna</i>
<i>Mangifera indica</i>	<i>Vitex</i> spp.

Other Plants [q1, mp, fv, Neginhal 1983, Gantzer & Gantzer 1983]

<i>Acacia</i> spp.	<i>Lantana</i> spp.
<i>Bambusa arundinacea</i>	<i>Leea indica</i>
<i>Caesalpinia bonduc</i>	<i>Themeda triandra</i>
<i>Cypress</i> spp.	<i>Ziziphus oenoplia</i>

* The sanctuary is in two parts, hence the two sets of coordinates.

FAUNA:

<i>Mammals</i> [dir, fv, Neginhal 1983, mp]	
Boar, Indian Wild	Macaque, Bonnet
Fox, Flying	Otter, Common
<i>Reptiles</i> [dir, fv, mp]	
Cobra, Common	Keelback, Green
Crocodile, Marsh	Python, Indian
Krait, Banded	Snake, Green
Krait, Common	Snake, Rat

Birds: see Appendix A

OCCURRENCE AND CONTROL OF DISEASE: No cases of disease or epidemics have been reported. The nearest veterinarian is at Shrirangapattana, 2.5 km away.

OTHER FACTORS AFFECTING HABITAT: Floods are the major threat to the sanctuary. Water from the Krishnarajasagar Dam about 10km upstream is often released suddenly, especially during the monsoons when the reservoir threatens to overflow [fv]. This happens about three or four times a year and devastates nests, eggs, and nestlings at low level vegetation. In one of the worst recent cases, in 1991, over 600 nests were washed away, scores of trees destroyed, and much of the sanctuary submerged [Sridhar 1991]. Subsequently repairs to the islands and planting of tall trees has been taken up.

WATER RESOURCES: The Kaveri river forms the main water source [fv].

BUDGET: Rs. 4 lakhs each for 1991-92 and 1992-93.

MANAGEMENT PLAN: A Management Plan for the period 1990-91 to 1994-95 was prepared in December 1989, by the DCF (WL), Mysore, and is awaiting approval [mp].

PERSONNEL: One Forester, seven Forest Guards, seven boatmen and five watchers (temporary) [mp, fv]. The Forester is also in charge of Melkote and Adichunchunagiri Sanctuaries [fv]. The sanctuary is in the overall charge of the ACF (WL), Mysore.

EQUIPMENT: Two guns, two pairs of binoculars, one walkie talkie and nine boats for tourist use [q1, fv].

RESEARCH AND MONITORING: None.

COMMUNITY INTERACTION PROGRAMMES: Films on wildlife are shown periodically to villagers [fv].

HUMAN PRESENCE:

Rights and Leases: None

Habitation: There is no habitation inside. There are 14 villages in the adjoining area with a total population of 5,600 [qa '91]. Shrirangapattana city and Ganjam town lie between the two parts of the sanctuary.

Grazing: Illegal grazing has been reported from one of the islands [mp].

Offences and Illegal Activities: There were two cases of hunting recorded in 1982-83. Illegal collection of 'cheeni' (a sedge of the *Cyperus* family) and Guava *Psidium guajava* fruit also reportedly takes place [mp].

Tourism: The sanctuary received 80,915 visitors in 1988-89, and 53,134 in 1989-90.

Use by Other Government Agencies: None.

INFORMATION FOR VISITORS: Entry permits are required by visitors. A small section of the sanctuary, along the banks of the river, is open to tourists on foot and cycle, and about half the area is accessible by boat. Ranganathittu is best visited between June and November when nesting activity is at its height [Note-Rang. undated]. Two watchtowers have been constructed, one on the southern bank and one on an island [fv]. Accommodation for visitors is available at Shrirangapattana and Krishnarajasagar.

NGOS/INDIVIDUALS ASSOCIATED: There is one Honorary Wildlife Warden, Shri K. Ullas Karanth (see Appendix 8 for address).

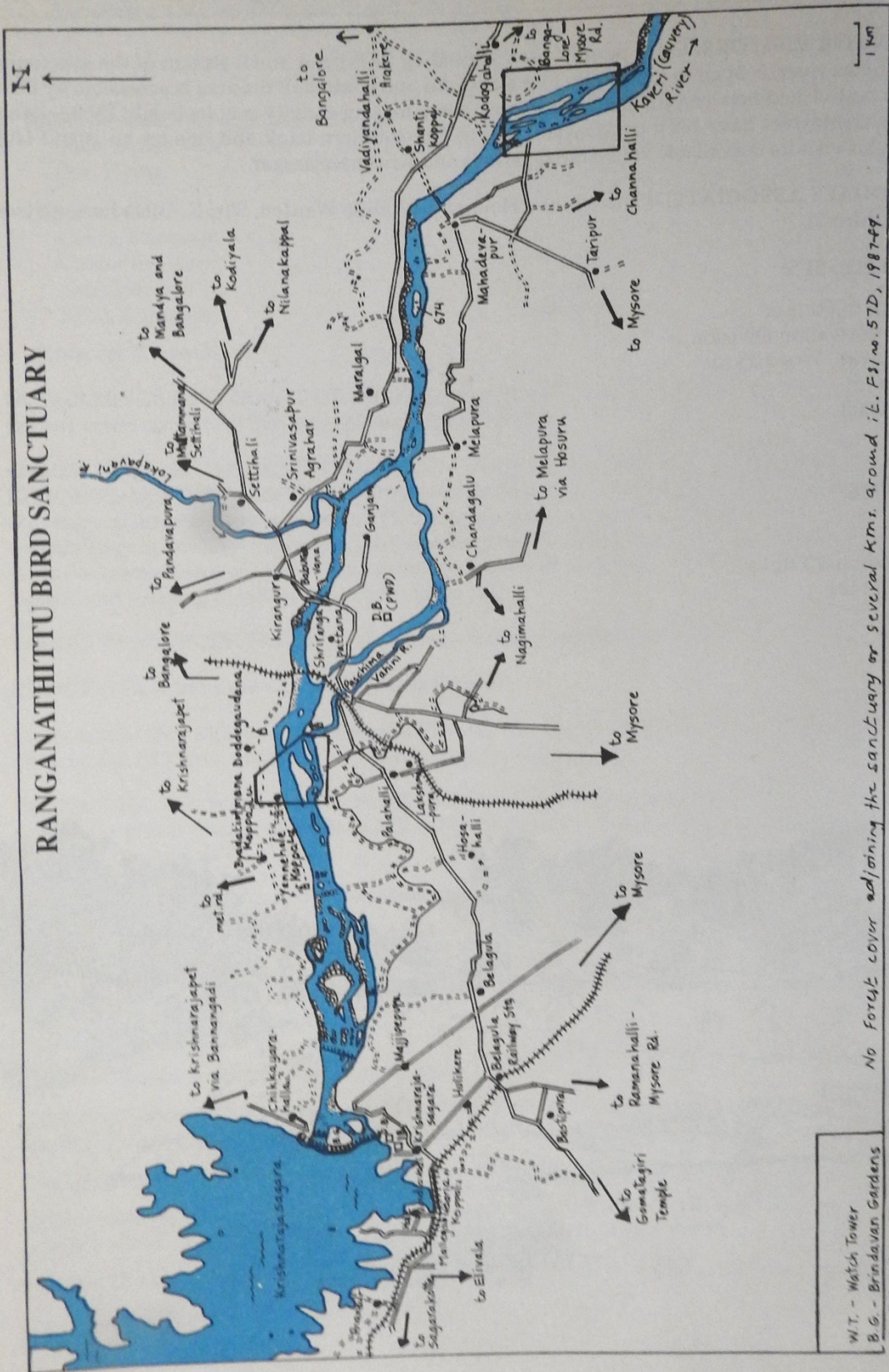
CONTACT ADDRESSES:

1) Conservator of Forests
Wildlife Preservation Division
Aranya Bhavan, Wood Yard
Ashokapuram
Mysore 570008
Karnataka

2) Local in-charge:
Forester
Palahalli
Shrirangapattana Taluka
Mandya -571401
Karnataka



RANGANATHITTU BIRD SANCTUARY



W.T. - Watch Tower
 B.G. - Brindavan Gardens

No forest cover adjoining the sanctuary or several kms. around it. P.S.No. 57D, 1987-89.

1. Islands outlined by thicker black line, in the boxes are the notified protected areas.

2. Exact boundaries of the sanctuary are unclear from the 1940 notification, since it gives island names which are not in use today. Notification also clearly indicates that sanctuary's western boundary starts 2 Km down stream of the Krishnarajasagar dam.

According to the wildlife authorities, however, only the islands marked here are a part of the sanctuary.

APPENDIX A

Birds: [dir, fv, Neginhal 1983, mp, Baskaran, pers. comm., IISc 1985]

Barbet, Crimsonbreasted
 Barbet, Small Green
 Bee-eater, Green
 Bulbul, Redvented
 Bulbul, Redwhiskered
 Bulbul, Whitebrowed
 Cormorant
 Cormorant, Little
 Crow, Jungle
 Crow-pheasant
 Darter
 Dove, Spotted
 Duck, Spotbilled
 Eagle, Crested Serpent
 Egret, Cattle
 Egret, Large
 Egret, Little
 Egret, Smaller
 Flowerpecker, Tickell's
 Flycatcher, Whitebrowed Fantail
 Harrier, Marsh
 Heron, Grey
 Heron, Night
 Heron, Pond
 Heron, Purple
 Hoopoe
 Ibis, Black
 Ibis, White
 Iora, Common
 Kingfisher, Common
 Kingfisher, Lesser Pied
 Kingfisher, Storkbilled
 Kingfisher, Whitebreasted

Kite, Brahminy
 Kite, Pariah
 Koel
 Lapwing, Redwattle
 Magpie-Robin
 Minivet, Small
 Munia, Blackheaded
 Myna, Brahminy
 Myna, Common
 Myna, Jungle
 Osprey
 Parakeet, Roseringed
 Pigeon, Blue Rock
 Plover, Great Stone
 Sandpiper, Common
 Shag, Indian
 Spoonbill
 Stork, Openbill
 Stork, Painted
 Stork, Whitenecked
 Sunbird, Purple
 Sunbird, Purplerumped
 Swallow
 Swallow, Indian Cliff
 Swallow, Wiretailed
 Tailorbird
 Teal, Large Whistling
 Teal, Lesser Whistling
 Tern, Indian River
 Wagtail, Large Pied
 Weaver Bird, Blackthroated
 Weaver Bird, Streaked

