
RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the analyses of data and observations presented in the Report, the following recommendations are made:

General:

1. The Committee acknowledges the fact that the Supreme Court orders of 7 May 2002 did, indeed, enhance the protection of forests in ANI but impacted on the socioeconomics of the islands.

Conservation and Management of Forests:

2. For the purpose of identification and demarcation of a forest in nonnotified areas such as revenue lands bearing vegetation cover (deemed forests), dictionary meaning of forest cannot be put to work. Therefore, the following definition of forest has been evolved and is adopted in this Report.

Forest is a land which is classified /notified /recorded legally and or administratively as forest land. Outside legally and or administratively classified /notified /recorded forest, any land of more than 0.5 ha area containing a community of predominantly woody species (managed or natural) having existing or potential canopy closure of more than 30 percent is also a forest.

3. With respect to deemed forests spreading over 255 km² area of revenue land, assessment of the status of deemed forests as per the definition adopted in this Report and the extent of their distribution in Andaman, and grouping of these forests into different categories based on the variation in canopy closure be carried out using satellite imageries, GIS and GPS.