

Since ANI has equatorial climate where plant growth and development is so rapid that some native species can grow to 7 m within a year, the Tree Preservation Act of the Delhi type (Recommendation 28 of Shekhar Singh's Report) has, therefore, no relevance to Andamans and Nicobar Islands. Further, 87% of the total land in ANI is under forest. What is needed for the Islands is an effective monitoring system to prevent illegal felling of trees from Reserve and PAs.

23. Shekhar Singh's recommendations 30, 31 and 32 ensure protection to biodiversity and hence recommended for implementation. Besides, action be taken on the creation of marine police cadre, empowerment of tribal youth, increase in the manpower of Forest Department at lower level, and expansion and strengthening of communication network across the islands on priority basis.

24. Shekhar Singh's recommendations 33 and 34 dealing with exotics. Not all exotics are invasive and in fact some of them are multipurpose species. Those exotics, which are invasive and obnoxious, be eradicated.

All marine invasive species also be eradicated. Similarly, the coasts of Nicobar group of Island and beaches visited by tourists are invaded by several alien invasive species and these invasive species be eradicated by cultural and physical methods and not by chemical and biological control methods. Similarly, the roadsides, and fragmented and logged forests are also infested with invasive weeds such as *Lantana*, *Mikania* and *Agertina* etc, and these weeds also be eradicated by cultural and physical methods. A strict surveillance system be set up to locate and eradicate invasive species in the entire islands.

All feral elephants be sterilized; deer and goat farms be set up and the animals from the infested forests be translocated to these farms and then they may be used as source for meat; feral dogs and other pet animals that escaped from domestication be sterilized using male sterilizing injectable fluids and vaccines for females. The Administration may