# CONTENTS

## CHAPTER-I

### Introduction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Tropical Forests</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Ecological Features of Tropical Areas</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3.1 Flora and Fauna</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3.2 Climatic Factor</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3.3 Decay and Decomposition</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3.4 Habitats and Ecological diversity</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 Importance of Tropical Forests</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 The Tropical Deciduous Forests</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6 The Alagar Hills</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7 Ecological Significance of Sacred Groves</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.8 Remote Sensing of Tropical Forests</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.8.1 An Overview of Remote Sensing</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.9 An overview of Geographic Information System</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.9.1 Conceptual framework of GIS</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.9.2 GIS and Resource Management</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.10 Spatial models and Resource management</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.11 Landscape ecological perspective and resource management</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.12 Landscape Ecology</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.13 Relevance of the Study</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.14 Aims and Objectives</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.15 Materials Used</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.16 Methods</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.17 Field Observations</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.18 Review of Literature</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.18.1 Studies on Landscape Ecology</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.18.2 Studies on Forest Resources Management and Biodiversity</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.18.3 Studies on Remote Sensing and GIS for Hill Area</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.18.4 Studies on Alagar Hills</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.19 Organization of the Thesis</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER-II
Alagar Hills - The Study Area

2.1 Introduction 40
2.2 Location 40
2.3 Climate 41
  2.3.1 Temperature 41
  2.3.2 Rainfall 42
  2.3.3 Humidity 44
2.4 Geology and Geomorphology 45
2.5 Soil 46
2.6 Socio-Economic Aspects 46
2.7 Resources of Alagar Hills 46
  2.7.1 Valley Vegetation 48
    2.7.1.a Silambar Valley 48
    2.7.1.b Periya Aruvi Valley 48
    2.7.1.c Bison Valley 49
  2.7.2 Ridge Vegetation 49
  2.7.3 Flat Topped Hill Vegetation 49
  2.7.4 Rivulets 49
  2.7.5 Vegetation of Exposed Slopes 50
  2.7.6 Vegetation of Plains 50
  2.7.7 Plantations 50
  2.7.8 Others 50
  2.7.9 Medicinal Plants of Alagar Hills 50
2.8 Wild Life 51

CHAPTER-III
Landscape ecology of Alagar hills

3.1 Introduction 53
3.2 Development of Landscape Concept 53
3.3 Landscape ecology – Theory and Practice 54
3.4 Landscape Patches of Alagar hills 58
3.5 Landscape Matrix 58
CHAPTER-IV

Studies on the Structural Aspects of Alagar Hills

4.1 Introduction .......................... 64
4.2 Topography and Terrain characteristics .......... 64
4.3 Methods of Characterising Topography .......... 65
  4.3.1 Structure of DEM and TIN ............... 67
  4.3.2 Errors in DEM ........................ 68
4.4 The DEM of Alagar hills .................. 69
4.5 Visualization in Scientific Computing ........ 70
4.6 Visualisation of Alagar Hill Structure ........ 72
4.7 Derivatives of DEM and Alagar Hill Structure .... 73
  4.7.1 Methods of Deriving DEM Derivatives .... 73
  4.7.2 Slope ................................ 74
  4.7.3 Aspect .............................. 75
  4.7.4 Hillshade ........................... 75
4.8 Terrain Characteristics of Alagar Hills .......... 76
  4.8.1 Relief ................................ 76
  4.8.2 Slope ................................ 77
  4.8.3 Aspect .............................. 77
  4.8.4 Hillshade ........................... 79
  4.8.5 The Solar Illumination Model for Alagar Hills 79
4.9 Forest Structure of Alagar Hills ............. 82
  4.9.1 Vegetation of Alagar Hills ............ 82
  4.9.2 Plant Community of Alagar hills ....... 84
4.10 Qualitative Analysis of Alagar hills Plant Community Structure .... 85
  4.10.1 Floristic Composition ............... 85
  4.10.2 Stratification ......................... 86
  4.10.3 Physiognomy ........................ 86
4.11 Quantitative Evaluation of plant community structure of Alagar hills
4.11.1 Density
4.11.2 Diversity
4.11.3 Dominance
4.11.4 Spectral Characteristics of Alagar hill Environs
   4.11.4.a Flat Topped Hill
   4.11.4.b Gravelly Areas and Plains
   4.11.4.c The slopes
   4.11.4.d The Valleys

CHAPTER- V
Studies on the Processes through Process Indicators

5.1 Introduction
5.2 Methodology
5.3 Hill Slope Process and Process Indicators
   5.3.1 Curvature
   5.3.2 Rate of Downslope Movement
5.4 Channel Process and Process Indicators
   5.4.1 Drainage Density
   5.4.2 Length of Overland Flow
5.5 Biological Process and Process Indicators
   5.5.1 The Vegetation Vigour of Alagar Hills Reserved Forest
   5.5.2 Periodicity
      5.5.2.a Phenology
      5.5.2.b Phenology of Alagar Hills
5.6 Landscape Metrics
   5.6.1 Patch metrics
   5.6.2 Shape Metrics
   5.6.3 Pattern Metrics
      5.6.3.a Dominance and Diversity indices
      5.6.3.b Spatial Statistics and Pattern Analysis of Patches
      5.6.3.c Spatial Statistics of landscape patches of Alagar Hills
5.7 Tourism
CHAPTER- VI
Changes in Structural and Functional Characteristics

6.1 Introduction 122
6.2 Changes in Spectral Characteristics of Alagar hill Environ 123
6.3 Changes in the NDVI of Alagar Hill Environ 125
6.4 Changes in the Dominance and Diversity Indices 126
6.5 The Possible Factors Responsible for Change 127

CHAPTER- VII
Integrated Analysis and Strategies for Conservation and Management of Forest Resources of Alagar Hills

7.1 Introduction 129
7.2 Methodology 129
7.3 Habitat Suitability Zones 131
7.4 Strategies for Conservation and Management of Forest Resources 132
  7.4.1 Management Objectives 132
  7.4.2 Management Plan 133
  7.4.3 Forest Department 133
  7.4.4 Tourism Department 134
  7.4.5 Administrative Management 135
  7.4.6 Monitoring 136

CHAPTER- VIII
Summary and Conclusion 137

REFERENCES

PLATES

APPENDIX