ABSTRACT

The state of Gujarat is holding very diverse land use pattern. From agriculture to forest land, arid to semi-arid region and wetlands to mountains. Especially region of North Gujarat is dotted with a large number of wetlands small and big. ‘Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary’ is the only one amongst them which has got the legal protection as a wildlife sanctuary mainly to protect its rich migrant and resident waterfowl. Floristic and ecological studies of Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary popularly known as ‘Thol Bird Sanctuary (TBS)’, was of concern for the reason that unlike two other sanctuaries of North Gujarat this one has remained untouched. TBS is unique due to the fact that owing to its smaller size, it offers much diversity in plant community. An attempt have been made in the present study to carry out research regarding flora, vegetation association, correlation between plant-bird communities, threaten plants, medicinal plants, socio-economic and anthropogenic pressure. Falling in the semi-arid region TBS holds scrub vegetation mixed with aquatic and invasive flora. The vegetation of the area is found to be suitable for many waterfowl species including ‘Saras crane’ which uses locally available plant material as their most preferred nesting material. The importance of flora of TBS is also indicated by presence of a few threatened and many medicinal plants. Agriculture is the largest socio-economic activity observed around TBS. After analyzing the same along with other anthropogenic activities and threats, an attempt have been made in the present study to develop recommendations for better and sustainable conservation of plant diversity of the study area.