Acknowledgments

First, last, and always, I acknowledge the source of everything that is in this thesis and accept my indebtedness to that infinite source of strength existing in all living beings especially in the form of plant kingdom, which pulled me affectionately and transpired all wisdom documented in this book through their selfless service in silence.

It was indeed a very enriching experience for me as a scholar at Centre for Natural Resources Studies (CNRS) of St. Joseph’s college, Tiruchirapalli for last five years. The lush green beautiful campus of this prestigious institution and the invaluable guidance, support and encouragement of my research guide Dr.D.I.Arockiasamy, Reader, Head of the Department of Botany and Director (CNRS) and the association with the esteemed faculties of the Botany Department was one of the main factors which helped me to complete the work in time. I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude and indebtedness to my guide for his commitment and interest to ensure to bring this unavoidable truth for the benefit of plant kingdom and thereby to the mankind.

I would like to acknowledge my indebtedness to the Government of India, Government of Tamilnadu and the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Tamilnadu for permitting me to carry out this research work.

I would like to thank Rev. Fr. Principal, Rev. Fr. Rector and Rev. Fr. Secretary, St. Joseph's college, Tiruchirappalli for allowing me to do my research work in this esteemed campus.

I am grateful to Shri S. Balanathan, I.F.S., Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of the Forest Force, Tamil Nadu; Shri R.Sundararaju, I.F.S., Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden; Shri C.K. Sreedharan, I.F.S., (Retd) Shri J.C.Kala I.F.S., (Retd); Dr.R.V. Singh, I.F.S.,(Retd); Shri S.Kondas I.F.S., (Retd); Dr.John Joseph I.F.S., (Retd); Shri S. Subbarayalu, I.F.S., (Retd); Shri M.Thinagaran, I.F.S., (Retd); and Shri S. Ramnathan, I.F.S., (Retd); for their valuable advice and input at various levels to refine the findings of this document.

I express my thanks to Shri Darshan Shankar, Director and Dr.Ved Prakash Joint Director Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), Bangalore for allowing me to utilize the FRLHT medicinal plants database. I am thankful to Shri T.S. Srinivasamurthy, I.F.S., Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai ; Shri M.R.Rajagopalan, Secretary Gandhi Gram Trust, Dindigul and Dr. Anish Chattopadhyaya, Joint Director, Public Instruction, West Bengal who inspired and encouraged me to carry out this study. I am grateful to Dr. A. Ramachandran, Director, Climate Change and Adaptable Research, Anna University, Chennai who insisted and helped me to carry out this research work in time.
I express my sincere gratitude to Professors from IIM, Bangalore namely Prof. Rajeev Gowda, Prof. Shyamal Roy, Prof. J. Ramachandran, Prof. Ramnath Narayanswamy, Prof. P.D. Jose and Prof. Gopal Naik for their continuous advice and support for conservation and sustainable management strategies of Medicinal Plants.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. M.V. Rao, Doctoral committee member, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli and for his suggestions from time to time, and Prof. D Narshiman, Madras Christian College, Chennai for his help.

I am thankful to Prof. S.Aruchamy, Prof. A. Ganesh and Prof. K. Kumaraswamy, Department of Geography, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli; for their valuable suggestions and providing me the facilities to use their Geoinformatics Laboratory for mapping.

I express my thanks to Shri Ramkumar I.F.S. Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director KMTR, Dr. R. Annamalai, I.F.S., and Dr. V.K. Melkhani I.F.S., Former Field Directors, Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve. Shri C.Venkatesh, Deputy Director, Ambasamudram, KMTR and Thiru C.Badrasamy, Deputy Director, Kalakad, KMTR, Mr.Thanka Mariyan, Mr. Pillai Vinayagam, Forest Rangers, KMTR and all the Field and Ministerial staff of KMTR who helped me during data collection for this study.

I am thankful to Dr. R.Gopalan, and Dr. G.V.S Moorthy, Deputy Directors, Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore, Dr.V. Chelladurai, Senior Research Officer, Siddha Plant Survey Unit, Tirunelveli, Prof. M. V. Viswanathan, Department of Plant Sciences, Bharathidasan University, and Dr. S Soosairaj Department of Botany, Joseph’s college, Tiruchirapalli for all their help particularly during the taxonomic inventory and identification of plants in KMTR.

I am thankful to the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun; the Geo Informatics Centre, Tamilnadu Forest Department, Chennai and the National Remote Sensing Data Centre, NRSA, Hyderabad for providing me Satellite data for this research work. My sincere thanks to Shri Subhas Ashutosh I.F.S., Joint Director, FSI, Dehradun; Shri Sanjoy Srivastava, I.F.S., Chief Conservator of Forests, Information Technology and Shri Syed Muzammil Abbas, I.F.S., Chief Conservator of Forests,(Protection) O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai for their personal suggestions. I am thankful to Shri C.B.S.Dutt, Indian Space Research Organization Bangalore for his suggestions to carry out this study.

I am thankful to the Soil Survey and Land use / Land cover Organisation, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu; the Soil Testing Laboratories, Tirunelvelly and Tiruchirapalli,Department of Agriculture, Tamilnadu; Dr. R. Mohamed Haroon, Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Navalur, Tiruchirappalli for their help in getting Soil related data and Laboratory assistance.

I am happy to appreciate the excellent co-operation done by Dr.S.Harikrishan, Thiruvalargal M Robert Forester, P. Durai, Jayseelan and S. Budadan, Mundanthurai in collection of data during field Survey.
I acknowledge the valuable services extended by Thiru J. Elangovan, Forest Ranger and Thiru S. Inbasekaran, Forest Ranger (Retd.) for their sincere personal efforts in carrying out proof reading of this document. I also acknowledge the personal cooperation made by Thiru A. Md. Zackariya, Forest Ranger and Thiru S. Amanulla, Forester.

I am extremely thankful to Mr. A. Muthukrishnan, Research Scholar, Bharathidasan University, for his continuous technical support and assistance especially in regard to the spatial analysis of biodiversity and mapping of biotic and abiotic factors for this study.

I acknowledge the excellent services rendered by Thiruvalargal J. Kesavan, P. Vijay Kumar, G. Peter Raja and S. Balaji for assisting me in Computer. I am thankful to Thiru J. Joshua Kamalanathan, Thiru P. Mathi, Mrs. P. Umadevi, and Mrs. R Rajalakshmi of TAFCORN for their help. I express my thanks to, all the Members of Kani tribe in and around KMTR area particularly a few of them namely Mr. Pichandi, Karaiair and Mr. Punendran Kani for their pure conviction and attachment for protection of the plant resource of KMTR.

I express thanks to my colleagues Mrs. Lekha, Dr. Nithya Pappuraj, Mr. Pugazhendi, and Mr. David Raja, Research Scholars, CNRS, Department of Botany, St. Joseph's College for their continuous support and help.

I remember the blessings of my parents Shri Manindra Nath Sarkar and Smt. Shyiala Bala Sarkar as eternal strength to me all through and good wishes of my sister and brothers particularly of Shri Bijan Sarkar who affectionately compelled me to take up this task and curiously monitored the progress of my research work at regular interval.

I am indeed heavily indebted to my wife Dr. Smt. Aruna Basu Sarcar I.F.S., Chief Conservator of Forests, Working Plan, Tiruchirapalli for her spontaneous and continuous supports in material and spirit, daughters Kasturi and Pallavi who sacrificed my physical presence on many occasions during this study.

Last but not the least; I would like to thank all well wishers who were always with me whenever I needed them. I may not have mentioned all the persons who were directly involved with this work, but I do acknowledge their help and support.

Bringing out this thesis as scientific document is considered as an opportunity assigned to me by the Almighty to learn intimately about the floral resources available in KMTR and how these can be best utilized for all common good sustainably through Conservation and Management strategies as adopted and prescribed here.

Date: 30th November, 2010

Manoj Kumar Sarkar
Tiruchirapalli