CHAPTER VII

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The present study clearly revealed that remote sensing technology can supplement and complement the traditional methods of data generation.

Mangrove density can be mapped with the accuracy of 85% at 90% confidence level at 1:50 000 scale through visual analysis of satellite data.

The mangrove area which has been lost from 1975 to 1989 has been converted into barren mudflats.

After the implementation of Marine National Park protection and regeneration activity started which has shown its effect the destruction of mangroves has reduced from 1985.

It has been observed that *Avicennia* species is the most dominating mangrove in all the areas followed by mixed mangrove and then pure stand of *Rhizophora*. The dominance of *Avicennia* species clearly indicates that the area is under stress. Mixed mangrove which show rich diversity of the area are less in number as compared to *Avicennia*. However, their presence indicate that regeneration activities can makes the area richly diverse therefore steps should be taken to increase the favourable conditions for good mangrove growth. *Rhizophora* species is only confined in the study area along
the creek. This also shows stress.

It has also been observed in the study area that sand ingress is a causative factor for mangrove degradation. Ingress of sand is continuing to expand on the present mudflat thereby Choking the mangrove area.

Root parasite Orobanhe was observed quite in abundance which is spreading at a faster rate in the mangrove area this parasite can cause immense damage and lead to the destruction. Their presence, eventual action on the longitivity of mangrove etc. are not known. This need to be study in detail.

It is interesting to mention here that each island contains closed mangrove alongwith open and degraded. This finding is also an indication that with protective steps the diversity and condition of the mangrove can be improve the conditions are still favourable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To increase the biodiversity and for better conditions of mangrove certain recommendations were made.

- During drought the local people indulge in immense cutting of mangrove for fodder. It would be better if instead of cutting proper and controlled grazing is allowed as cutting causes irreversible damage of
mangroves whereas controlled grazing will not hamper in their regeneration.  
- Poaching and hunting should be discouraged.  
- Construction of salt pans on the mangrove areas should be immediately stopped.  
- No aquaculture practices should be carried out in the mangrove area.  
- Plantation should be encouraged and survival of the seedling should be monitored.  
- Dredging and mining operations on coral reefs should be stopped in this area as some of the lifted sand also gets transferred on to mudflats having mangrove thereby aiding in sand ingresson.  
- Nearby local people should be made aware of the importance of mangrove and they should also be involved in their regeneration activities.