

HIGHLIGHTS OF BIODIVERSITY SURVEY CARRIED OUT AT ANGARIKE MAALA IN 2019



27 - 29 October 2019

Putanpura village, Chamrajnagar district, Karnataka

Post monsoon is the season when *Angarike maala* turns lush with wild grasses and flowers along with the ripening millets, attracting a large number of birds, butterflies and other insects. The survey of biodiversity at Angarike Maala was undertaken for the fifth consecutive year between 27 to 29 October 2019. Along with documenting birds, most commonly seen flowering plants were also noted down. In order to assess the change in landscape, photographic documentation of the land was done from the same five points fixed in May 2014 when the very first photo documentation of the land was undertaken.





Wild grass in Angarike Maala



Pupa of Common Crow butterfly



Bird Diversity

The survey was carried out by walking around the entire stretch of the land. A total of 37 species were recorded during the survey which included the migratory Blue-capped Rock-Thrush. Seventeen species of birds were seen on 27 October between 3.30 pm - 4.40 pm; 21 species on 28 October between 7.55 am - 8.45 am and on 29 October, 24 species were recorded between 7.00 am - 8.00 am. The highest recorded species was the Scaly-breasted Munia with about 117 individuals on the morning of 28th October.

Red-vented Bulbul, Red-whiskered Bulbul and Laughing Dove were the most commonly seen species spread across *Angarika maala*, while Green Bee-eater, an other common species preferred the fence around the land and the electric wires close to the millet cultivation area.



Laughing Dove



Green Bee-eater

Small minivet was seen on the Banni *Acacia ferruginea* tree as always. Long-tailed shrike too preferred the area behind the *Acacia ferruginea* tree which consisted of a few thorny vegetation. Grey Francolin and Button Quail preferred the wild grassy patch away from human presence. The Jerdon's Bushlark used the granite fencing poles as its perch.

In the year 2018, during the millet cultivation season in early January there was a tremendous increase in the population of Scaly-breasted Munia who visited the land in hundreds and raided on the millets. This year too munias were present in large numbers around the millet cultivation



area. White-rumped Munia was noticed carrying nesting material indicating that these munias are nesting in and around *Angarika maala* due to the availability of food and nesting material in plenty.



White-rumped Munia



Jerdon's Bushlark



Baya Weavers recorded were less in number this season with just two individuals compared to September 2018 (max 15 individuals).

In 2018 Baya weavers were seen carrying nesting material. This year few incomplete nests were seen outside the fence of *Angarika maala*.



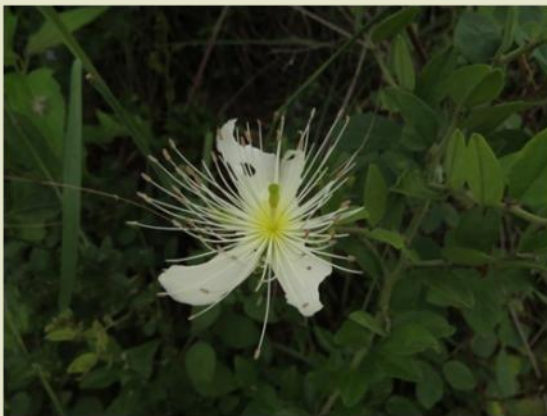


*Ripening millets attracted Scaly-breasted Munias in large numbers along with a few
White-rumped Munias*





Wild grasses and flowers in Angarika maala



Floral Diversity

The monsoon has turned the land green it was alive with variety of wild grasses like Tanglehead *Heteropogon contortus* and *Cyperus spp.* Wild flowers of various colors and sizes were aplenty which included the *Allmania nodiflora*, *Crotalaria bifaria*, Streaked Rattlepod *Crotalaria pallida*, *Leucas aspera*, Quail Grass *Celosia argentea*, *Hyptis suaveolens*, *Mitracarpus ocymoides*, Licorice weed *Scoparia dulcis*, *Spermacoce articularis*, Tridax daisy *Tridax procumbens*, Purple Hoarpea *Tephrosia purpurea*, and many more.



Indigofera spp



Crotalaria bifaria



Spermacoce articularis



Hyptis suaveolens





Crotalaria pallida



Celosia argentea



Tridax procumbens



Tephrosia purpurea



Mitracarpus ocymoides



Scoparia dulcis





Leucas aspera



Allmania nodiflora

The wild flowers attracted several species of butterflies while pupa of Common Crow butterfly was observed.

In the year 2014 a family of Common mongoose - a mother with 3 pups were spotted on the way to *Angarike maala*. This year a mongoose with a pup was seen within *Angarike maala* in the quarry area indicating that the land is slowly turning into a heaven for small wild mammals.



Photo documentation

Photographs were taken from the same selected points from where the land was photographed in the past five years. Below photographs show the growth of vegetation in the last five years that is a result of Punarchith's restoration efforts to revive the land.

At the entrance to the land



Strait ahead



Left angle facing the coconut farm

View from the Neem tree above the quarry



Right angle



Left angle



View from Banni Tree (right angle)



View from Pump house



Facing BR hills



Facing the entrance

Positive results of ecological restoration of *Angarika maala* can be clearly seen in the increase in wild flora and fauna year after year. *Dodonaea viscosa*, the invasive plant species which was observed in plenty in the year 2014 has reduced immensely giving way to a wide variety of native species of grass, shrubs and herbs. Witnessing a spectacular double rainbow across BR hills was a major highlight of the visit.



List of birds documented in Angarike Maala, October 2019

<i>Sl.No</i>	<i>Species</i>
1	Ashy Prinia (<i>Prinia socialis</i>)
2	Baya Weaver (<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>)
3	Black Drongo (<i>Dicrurus macrocerus</i>)
4	Black Kite (<i>Milvus migrans</i>)
5	Blue-capped Rock-Thrush (<i>Monticola cinclorhyncha</i>)
6	buttonquail sp. (<i>Turnix sp.</i>)
7	Common Myna (<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>)
8	Common Tailorbird (<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>)
9	Eurasian Collared-Dove (<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>)
10	Gray Francolin (<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>)
11	Green Bee-eater (<i>Merops orientalis</i>)
12	House Crow (<i>Corvus splendens</i>)
13	Indian Peafowl (<i>Pavo cristatus</i>)
14	Indian Robin (<i>Copsychus fulicatus</i>)
15	Indian Silverbill (<i>Euodice malabarica</i>)
16	Jerdon's Bushlark (<i>Mirafra affinis</i>)
17	Jungle Myna (<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>)
18	Jungle Prinia (<i>Prinia sylvatica</i>)
19	Large Cuckooshrike (<i>Coracina macei</i>)
20	Large-billed Crow (<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>)
21	Large Gray Babbler (<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i>)
22	Laughing Dove (<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>)
23	Long-tailed Shrike (<i>Lanius schach</i>)
24	Pied Bushchat (<i>Saxicola caprata</i>)
25	Plain Prinia (<i>Prinia inornata</i>)
26	Purple Sunbird (<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>)
27	Purple-rumped Sunbird (<i>Leptocoma zeylonica</i>)
28	Red-rumped Swallow (<i>Cecropis daurica</i>)
29	Red-vented Bulbul (<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>)
30	Red-wattled Lapwing (<i>Vanellus indicus</i>)
31	Red-whiskered Bulbul (<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>)
32	Rose-ringed Parakeet (<i>Psittacula krameri</i>)
33	Scaly-breasted Munia (<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>)
34	Small Minivet (<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>)
35	Spotted Dove (<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>)
36	White-rumped Munia (<i>Lonchura striata</i>)
37	White-throated Kingfisher (<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>)





Four individuals of Eurasian Spoonbill were seen at the Nagavalli lake on the way to Angarika maala

Report prepared by K Abhisheka

