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Monitoring the water quality of wetlands of Coimbatore

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Abstract

Wetlands have been cutricately linked with humankind throughout the ages. Almost 70% of the world's population lives on sea coasts, river valleys and lake shores. Wetlands are the major feature of the landscape in almost all parts of the world. Now their multiple values are recognized, and wetland protection is the norm. Wetlands are unique because of their hydrologic conditions and their role as ecofores between terrestrial and aquatic systems. Wetlands have many distinguishing features, the most notable of which are the presence of standing water, unique wetland soils and vegetation adapted to or tolerant of saturated soils. Leading to destruction of freshwater species, pollution and siltation, the wetlands in the country have been transformed into nothing less than wastelands. The present study pin pointed that the water quality monitoring of wetlands of Coimbatore on the basis of urbanization. Periodic assessments of physico- chemical characteristics of water quality for four wetlands were analyzed monthly during September 2012 to November 2012. Total dissolved solids, Electrical Conductivity, Phosphate, Chemical Oxygen Demand and Total Hardness showed the maximum values of 2191 mg/l, 3130µs/cm, 7.5 mg/l, 494 mg/l and 840 mg/l respectively exceeded the permissible limits even in rural wetland also. It is important to ensure that further destruction of wetlands is prevented this will help to save the many species associated with the wetland. Proper management and monitoring is required for the overall well being of wetlands.

Biography

Anu Alias Meena is a full time Research Scholar in the Biodiversity and Aquatic Ecology lab, Department of Environmental Sciences, Bharathiyar University, Coimbatore, TamilNadu, India, since 2010. She has been working as a Project fellow in the DST – PURSE program since 2011. She received her post-graduation degree in Environmental Biotechnology (1998) and under graduation in Chemistry from Manonmaniam Sundaranar University (1996). Her field of research interest is Wetland bio monitoring with reference to biotic community, water quality, pollution accumulation in sediment and biotic species, wetland conservation and Geographic Information System (GIS).