

Impact of flood on Riparian Vegetation in the selected areas of Periyar River

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Plant communities seen along the river margins are commonly referred to as riparian vegetation. From the beginning to the end of a river the riparian zone is highly influenced by quantum and flow of water. These zones are highly species rich, productive and also very sensitive.

In August 2018, severe flood was affected in Kerala due to the abnormal rainfall. The rivers Kerala were flooded due to the overflow of water from the reservoirs. This paper assesses the impact of flood on riparian vegetation in the selected areas of Periyar River. (Neryamangalam bridge to Munambam).

From the study it can be said that, in high altitude areas tree species like *Barringtonia acutangula*, *Homonia riparia*, *Syzigium occidentale*, *Madhuca neriifolia* etc survived and regenerates fastly. In lower altitude zones plant like *Pandanus*, *Ochlandra*, *Lawsonia*, *Thespesia*, *Saccharum arundinaceum* survived from flood. Coastal zones mangroves acted as thick wall in the river

boundaries and prevented the erosions. Areas with more human interactions were highly affected to the floods and such riparian zones damaged. From these observation we can conclude that natural riparian vegetation should be protected and proper conservation strategies should be taken.

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