

***Chapter 6***  
***Recommendation and***  
***Suggestions***

### 6.0. Recommendation & Suggestions

The salient features of the recommendations are the suggestions for appropriate utilization of forest areas that were either suitable or unsuitable according to the current land use, in order to achieve the ecologically sustainable development of Pavagadh & its surrounding area. These are as follows:

- From the present study, it has been found that forest resources of Pavagadh & surrounding areas are rich in terms of biodiversity. This is significant in terms of the prosperity of the local communities. It provides multiple benefits to people. Such forest can be seen as a storehouse for future option values by adopting an ecologically sustainable development plan.
- Wastelands with scrub were recommended for fuel and fodder plantations to meet the increasing fodder requirements of the villagers.
- The forests with less than 50% density are recommended for gap filling and density improvement.
- Agroforestry and agrohorticulture can be found as a useful as alternate land use practices.
- Panchmahal district does not have soil testing laboratory. Therefore, it is proposed that a static soil test laboratory be established in Godhara.
- The knowledge about the health of the soil will guide the farmer to initiate suitable remedial measures to restore the health of the soil. It is very important from the point of view of agriculture production, too. Depending on the health of the soil, farmers may be advised to adopt a particular cropping pattern or diversify into other crops or

treat the soil chemically or biologically so that the health of the soil does not become from bad to worse.

- Designating some activities that can be synchronized with Sustainable Forest management is very important, as an effort to improve the livelihood of the community and to increase economic importance of Pavagadh forest areas. In this area, community participation is lacking in protection of such biodiversity-rich areas. Hence, restoration of degraded areas of the hills or other conservation practices has to be launched to minimize land degradation.
- In the present study, out of the 8 criteria and 21 indicators formulated by Bhopal India Process for sustainable development of forest, few have been assessed for the Pavagadh forest area. These would help in managing this forest resource sustainably. These indicators play an important role in rehabilitation, restoration and ecosystem resilience and thus truly contribute to sustainable management, rather than simply indicating ecosystem changes. Considering their significance, each and every forest related research must incorporate these criteria and indicators in their study.
- Forest department has to publish their research reports even of the local level, so that other people/ researchers utilize them as baseline information and this may prevent the repetition of work and thus save the time as well as money also.
- Halol taluka has a good road connectivity through which almost all the villages are approachable. Forest department can further assist to the other government officials for the tree plantations along the road side. They can suggest air pollution tolerant species like, *Poplas sp.*, & *Casaurina sp.* for such plantations. At the same time they can prepare saplings of such trees and provide them. In this way, besides the

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beautification of the roads, the environmental quality can also be enhanced. This, in turn, will increase the total forest cover of the area.

- People can understand any concept easily, if it is linked with their benefit/loss. This philosophy should be adopted by the forest & other government officials. They should place the hoardings on the roads which justify the conservation values like afforestation, carbon trading etc. in easy local language. In this way the people can change their attitude towards the forest conservation and they would join for the sustainable development of this resource.
- Despite of having three major water tanks, availability of potable water is an alarming issue at the Pavagadh hill. This is due to the high level of water pollution which degraded the quality of water. Cleaning as well as the beautification of these tanks can minimize adverse impact of anthropogenic activities. Provision of more public facilities and creation of awareness among the people can definitely reduce the intensity of this issue.
- To reduce the water scarcity, a no. of check dams can be constructed as per the proposed ESD plan of Champaner village.
- Generally the sites having high values of diversity and richness, should be given the top most priority, but from this study, it is recommended that the more disturbed sites like forest area of Palanpur, Amarapur, Kanteli & Kunds of Pavagadh hill should prioritized for the conservation. Conservation of these sites through ecorestoration practices etc. will not only benefit the stake holders, but will also aid in sustainable management of these forest areas.

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- There is an urgent need to develop adequate strategy and action plan for the conservation and management of species/habitats/communities in Pavagadh forest area, so that sustainable utilization of the species could be ensured.
- Besides Champaner, other villages like Kanjari, Vintoj were also designated as a potential areas for the forest development. Vintoj has good amount of arable land with the moderate population (1692) but it lacks forest area. So Officials should consider some part of this arable land as an area for the forest development.
- Village Kanjari is located in the vicinity of Halol GIDC area and is having a high population density with a fair enough arable land. In such circumstances, a designated forest can be served as an important resource which reduces the air pollution level and provide the multiple benefits to the local community.
- The forest officials can make it mandatory that in each industrial plot 5-10% of the area should be covered by trees which ultimately enhances the total tree cover of an area.
- Forest officials should adopt many strategies like Forest capital index, cost- benefit analysis, environmental accounting etc. for the valuation of different forest resources.
- In the Pavagadh area, forest department has initiated a preservation plot namely, Pavagadh Preservation Plot (P.P. Plot). Such plots should be considered as a biodiversity heritage site and an attempt should be made to develop more similar sites across the study area.
- Funds should be provided when an area gains an ESA status, which makes designing the protection strategies easy.

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- Local people should be taken into confidence before the declaration of an area as a ESA so that they get aware about how can they get benefitted from this ESA declaration. In general, ESA is perceived as anti- developmental regulation, thus hampering the very purpose of declaration.
- A functional local level monitoring committee comprising of experts and representatives of local bodies, residents, NGO's etc. should be set up for addressing local level issues. This committee will function under the guidance of monitoring committee, which will now assume steering committee role. This will probably increase the frequency of meetings and will help in avoiding delay in decision making process thereby reducing social complications.
- Alternative professions should be made available for the people who tend to lose their jobs due to activities related to sustainable development of forest.
- Training programmes for the administrative officials should be conducted to manage the forest resource in a way, which will neither compromise ecological health of the area, nor the revenues they need.
- Awareness creation among people to understand the need for protection ensuring their active participation during and after the implementation of sustainable development plan.