

PREFACE

Right from the time when we became conscious about man-nature relationship, its effect on natural resources and started examining the balance sheet of what our actions have resulted in, the strong urge of saving and enriching Biodiversity has possessed us.

This has continued till date and will continue 'forever', if, of course, we do not mend our rife ways of destructive interaction with nature. Therefore we must understand Biodiversity and its components.

Biodiversity is defined as the totality of genes, species and ecosystem in a region or the world. Biodiversity renders us not only with our basic needs of habitat, food and survival but also with scenic beauty, innumerable space for recreation, revitalisation and rejuvenation of our inner soul.

Studies in this subject are the most essential part of present day science. Understanding of Biodiversity of a region forms the bedrock of social, economic, and cultural activities of people living there.

At academic level this subject offers a vast range of opportunities for students and teachers alike to explore various 'latent' ways for maintaining a balance in man-nature relationship. This study leads to a matrix of special terminology and important landmarks achieved during

research. This lexicon is made to make their task, of remembering and referring to these words, easy. With this record book the need of making the content highly comprehensible with illustrations and examples is also taken care of. It is hoped that this book will render a genuine help in right direction to all concerned.