

Mugaiyur Eco Park

Mugaiyur is an 88 acre site along the East Coast Road, approximately 70 Km south of Chennai. Previously the land had some natural ecosystems in place like small ponds, sand dunes, a few Palmyra trees, some indigenous shrubs and a few seasonal wetlands. Some of the faunal highlights include the Indian Fox, Indian Jackal, Black-Naped Hare and Indian Kestrel. The area was exposed to wind erosion, and was heavily grazed by cattle and goats. PFC's main task was to make this site into an eco-park with a restored coastal sand dune ecosystem and patches of canopied tropical dry evergreen forest (TDEF). The challenge was to create a matrix of habitats that could support a greater range of wildlife. Also an objective was to establish a facility for school children to visit this site, and participate in the restoration processes and other environment education programs. The Mugaiyur Eco-Park project has been underway since 2006 and the following tasks have been completed as of today:

- A nursery with over 180 species of TDEF has been established.
- A lake of 3 acres in area with a small island in the middle was created and planted with wetland vegetation.
- Four ponds were created and planted with wetland vegetation.
- Two Hillocks were created with the excavated sand from the lake and ponds and planted with grass cover.
- Interspersed patches of casuarina were planted as windbreaks.
- Restoration processes are taking place at a fast pace and this site is expected to be developed into a training facility for coastal dune and wetland restoration ecology.