

[45-3] - Environment.

2. Buffer Zone mapping around The protected forests should be inclusive & involve local inhabitants. Analyse.

Buffer areas around Ecologically sensitive areas are essential, but due to lack of adequate data, the area exercise often gets affected.

micro data and mismatch

official statistics of Kerala - shows

29.1% of total area under forest cover.

26.1% are protected areas around which buffer area is marked!

But Forest survey 2021 - shows 59.1% area under forest cover - This includes forest + plantations.

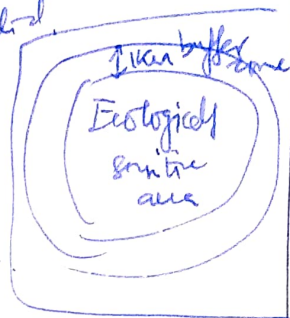
Also mismatch is also highlighted by Centre for Ecological Sciences studies - difference between Forest ^{area} natural vegetation, shows - deforestation rate is high.

most forest area used for
 → non-forest purpose
 → increasing human settlements
 → deepening boundaries into western ghats

Effect

Increasing human wildlife conflict - 2021 shows

>8000 conflicts reports



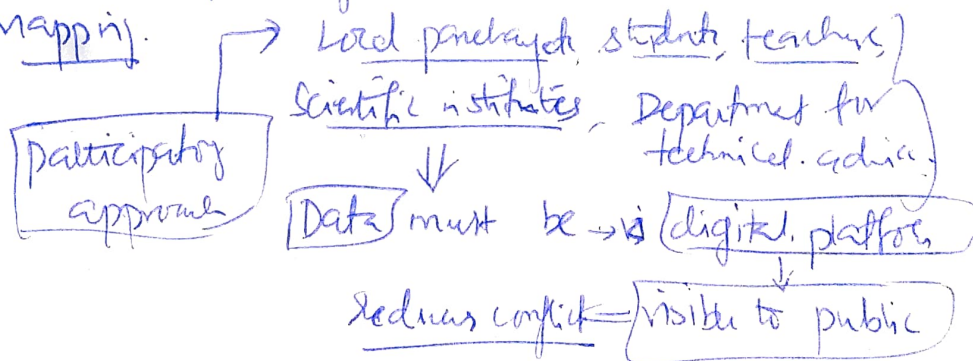
Measures to address - To address this issue -
land use survey is essential. to differentiate border
between human settlements & Natural vegetation.

This requires participatory approach

Eg: UK - 1928-32 - Land survey - ^{at} ~~with~~ plot-level
involved mass participation - covered entire country.

Similar; exercise, in 1991 - Center for Eastern
Studies Kerala state Land board - called for participatory
approach for land survey of all panchayats. - ^{try}

Such approaches need to be done for
~~more~~ 115 panchayats near protected areas for
mapping.



Such mapping through participatory
inclusive approach, also preserves ecosystem and
reduces human-wildlife conflicts.