



Wildlife Conservation Group

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Interim Progress Report: October 2025 – January 2026

Project Title: Vanasuma - A book on common wildflowers in and around Bannerghatta National Park.

Supported by: Bengaluru Sustainability Forum

In Collaboration with: Dr T P N Hariprasad, Bengaluru University.

VANASUMA: A Kannada field guide that intends to bring about the diversity of wild flowering trees within Bannerghatta National Park, serving as both an educational and inspirational resource. The guide seeks to cultivate a deep appreciation for nature among readers - particularly children by introducing them to the gorgeousness, ecological importance, and cultural significance of native tree species. Through vivid photographs, engaging descriptions, and accessible language, the book aims to nurture curiosity, environmental awareness, and a sense of responsibility toward the conservation of trees and forest ecosystems.

Between October 2025 to January 2026, extensive fieldwork was carried out to demarcate and study these tree species along with recording tree phenology, biodiversity, and photographic documentation, along with literature review of the recorded species.

1. Field visit and observation

A permission letter from the Karnataka Forest Department was obtained during **September 2025** to carryout research, mapping and studying the wild flowering trees in respect of project Vanasuma in the Bannerghatta National park zones. Further, field work was undertaken in the newly permitted zones.



Regular field visits at least twice a month were carried out for systematic documentation of the phenological patterns of tree species, particularly their flowering and fruiting periods. These observations were photographed and



comprehensive notes on the associated biodiversity, such as lichens, ants, birds, spiders, and insects linked to the marked trees was noted down.



In total, 194 tree species were marked for study. After thorough scrutiny of the tree species, invasive and non-native species were excluded and about 120 to 130 trees were finalized for the book.

During this study period, six new trees were newly demarcated in the permitted BNP area and photographic documentation of their phenology is underway, along with continuous observations and photographic documentation of the earlier demarcated trees. Several meetings were conducted with senior taxonomist for identification and confirmation of the trees species, book template etc.



2. Literature review

Books such as Flora of Bangalore, Flora of the Bombay Presidency, Flora of British India and research articles were referred for further and taxonomic information. These references also aided in distinguishing species with identification keys. Published Field Guides and books on Trees from various authors were also referred.

3. Description writing

Accurate identification of tree species requires detailed descriptions, particularly of their distinguishing characteristics. Each species description includes the Kannada and English names, taxonomic classification, distribution, morphological features, propagation methods, and uses of the species.

4. Trees of the Week

To extend its outreach, the group operates an Instagram page named “Wildlife Conservation Group,” featuring a special column titled “Trees of the Week.” This initiative presents a new tree species every week, emphasizing its ecological importance and practical uses to foster environmental awareness.

Main outcome of research:

- GPS-marked trees: 194
- Overall target: 120-130
- Species described: 110
- Remaining: 10-20

In the next few months, we aim to maintain our ongoing field studies and literature review, while carefully organizing and integrating the collected data into the book’s content. Brainstorming sessions were conducted regarding the format of the book, and the template for individual tree species has been finalized. The designing aspect of the book is currently underway in consultation with book designers.