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Riparian Forest of Western Ghats, an Endangered Ecosystem

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Synopsis
The tropical riparian evergreen forests in the Southern Western Ghats were mapped and described with its species composition, biodiversity and distribution. The ecosystem was assessed against multiple criteria, IUCN Red List of ecosystem (Ver. 1.1) for the first time in India. The periodic reduction of riparian vegetation revealed a loss of 83% in the past 100years due to factors of degradation such as dams, forest plantations, reservoir operation coupled with climate change induced flooding. The projections with minimum degradation rates predict the collapse within the next 20–40years indicating that it is a Critically Endangered (CR) ecosystem. Prediction of potential areas based on

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