



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
**RIVERS FOR
FUTURE**

**05-07
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Organised by
**Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries,
University of Kerala, India**

In association with
**Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA),
Ozhukanam Puzhakkal and WWF-India Kerala State Office**

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

International Conference on
Rivers for Future (RFF 2020)

5 to 7 February, 2020

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**RIPARIAN FOREST TYPES IN KERALA: AN ADDITION TO CHAMPION
AND SETH FOREST CLASSIFICATION 1968**

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Riparian forests are one of the most dynamic and unique ecosystems in the Tropical rainfed areas also in the Western Ghats. The low extant and high diversity along with many ecological functions made them an important and unique ecosystem. This peculiar vegetation type is inadequately represented in the classification of vegetation types in India by Champion and Seth 1968. Only the dry riparian vegetation type as IS1 Dry Tropical Riverine forests by Champion and Seth in the revised Forest Classification (1968). This may be due to inadequate data for the Riparian vegetation in the moist areas of Western Ghats or due to lack of detailed studies. The Riparian vegetation for all the available Bioclimate and its subtypes were elucidated through phyto-sociological studies, clustering for heterogeneity and differentiation into various types and sub types according to species composition (Bachan 2010). This has been clearly brought into six major Riparian forest types correspond to the Dry and Moist Forest types of Champion and Seth (1968) and 25 subtypes. This includes 1. Tropical dry Riparian Forests, 2. Tropical Moist Deciduous riparian forests, 3. Subtropical Montane riparian/streamside forests, 4. Tropical Wet-evergreen Riparian forests, 5. Tropical low elevation Evergreen riparian forest, 6. Tropical Tidal riparian Forest (Mangroves) and 25 sub types. Detailed species composition of Characteristic vegetation type, bioclimatic features etc are provided.

Keywords: Riparian Forest, Western Ghats, Tropical Forest, Ecology