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PREFACE

By reasons of rich ecological, faunal, floral, geo-morphological and Zoological association an area 3253.68 ha (35.54 sq.km) in North Andaman Island was declared as National Park, the 'Saddle Peak National Park' under the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 during the year 1996 for the purpose of protecting and propagating and developing Wildlife therein. The area of this park comprises the highest mountain peak of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the 'Saddle Peak'. The terrain of the park is highly undulating; elevation varies from sea level to 732 m with a number of perennial & seasonal streams passing through. Due to altitudinal variations almost all types of forests that exist in Andaman & Nicobar Islands are found within the confines of the National Park. 20 species of mammals, 96 species birds, 26 species of insects are so far recorded from the National Park.

Conservation and management of such an area needs carefully planned interventions. With this objective, the present management plan, the first ever for Saddle Peak National Park has been prepared covering the period from 2014 to 2024. The Management Plan has been divided into two Parts, i.e. Part - I deals with the description of the area details, background information, ecosystem and ecological relationship and socio-economic aspects and cultural practices (Chapters 1-3), Part - II, deals with the Management objectives, management strategies of this National Park under Chapter 4 and 5, the habitat improvement plan, bio-diversity conservation and protection plan is provided in Chapter 6, 7 and 8. Subsequent chapters provide details of different programmes and activities to be taken up in the National Park during this Plan period, which include tourism (Chapter 9), eco-development (Chapter 10), research, survey and monitoring (Chapter 11).

Organization and the administrative set up (Chapter – 12), (Chapter 13) provides developmental activities for implementing the Management Plan activities.

I gratefully acknowledge the efforts of Shri C.R.Mallick, the then Divisional Forest Officer (Wildlife) Mayabunder who initiated the drafting of the Management Plan and Shri S.K. Thomas, Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Division, Mayabunder for preparing the complete Management Plan. I also acknowledge the contributions of Shri Ajai Saxena, IFS, the then Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Shri K.Ravichandran, IFS, Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Shri A.K.Paul, Asst. Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Shri Shaji P.Abraham, Asst. Conservator of Forests and Shri S.K.Roy, the then Range Officer in preparation of the Management Plan.

I am sure that this document would provide useful information not only to the Park Manager and the staff for effective management of this Protected Area but also to researchers, scientists, environmentalists and wildlife enthusiasts.

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