Client: EGIS India Consulting Engineers Private Limited (National Highway Authority of India)

Project Duration: October 2010

Location: Nashik, Maharashtra

Area: Bhangarpeth – Betmangla to Bangalore-Chennai Expressway (52 km chainage) 2 km

Project Description
Introduction:
A tree census is the inventorisation of all trees in a specific project area and the creation of a database that includes specific tree characters. A tree census also helps in future environmental planning. In order to develop any infrastructure, an assessment of tree loss and mitigation measures or compensatory plantations are key to ensure sustainable development.

Benefits to the client:
The recommendations based on the study of a tree census can be used to help the client manage and mitigate the impacts due to the development of Bhangarpeth–Betmangla to Bangalore-Chennai Expressway. The damaged and diseased trees can be removed before they cause any accidents. Invasive species can also be removed and replaced in a systematic manner. The report can further help the client prepare a compensatory afforestation plan.

Methodology and outcome:
A tree inventorisation was carried out in 3 states- Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. With respect to different languages, the respective multilingual names, a table of chainage, and tree numbers were provided. Nearly 120 species were found and tabulated in the surveyed area including some rare and endangered plants.

The tree census was carried out in a systematic manner by dividing the census area into sections. For each tree, primary data i.e. local name, approximate height, girth, approximate age, canopy diameter, ownership, tree condition and location was recorded. A total of 2,04,442 trees were counted in the 2 km stretch from Bhangarpeth-Betmangla to Bangalore-Chennai Expressway (52 km chainage).