

## Biodiversity

### Issue

The loss of biodiversity is a significant issue for scientists and policy-makers. Ecological species are becoming extinct at the fastest rate known in geological history. Habitat loss and destruction, usually as a direct result of human activity and population growth, is a major force in the loss of species, populations, and ecosystems.

### Background

Biodiversity is the variety of life in all its forms, levels and combinations, including ecosystem diversity, species diversity and genetic diversity.

DIAL has undertaken extensive flora and fauna studies to determine the biodiversity values that exist within the airport boundary. The findings have been further supplemented through additional studies that are being undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

The existing IGI Airport is spread over 5106 acres of land. The detailed field observation studies conducted during EIA reveals that the airport and surrounding area consist approximately of 70 birds species, 5 reptiles species and 9 mammals species.

### Relevance to DIAL

The airport land supports significant flora and fauna habitats. DIAL aims to develop a long-term sustainable biodiversity plan that is compatible with the safe operations and development needs of the airport.

In order to carry out safe airport operation wildlife control and habitat management is an important aspect.

### DIAL Management and Actions

DIAL has undertaken a range of biodiversity management actions to protect important vegetation cover and habitats within the airport boundary. DIAL team with the help of Wildlife SOS, an NGO in Delhi has rehabilitated captured animals in various Wildlife sanctuaries located in & around Delhi. Captured jackals were put under quarantine and later returned to the wildlife sanctuary with intimation to the wildlife inspector. The blue bulls (known as nilgai, and actually the largest Asiatic antelope) have been relocated from the airport to the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary in 2007.

DIAL has carried out proper landscaping and extensive tree plantation along with the construction activities at airport. More than eighteen thousand trees have been planted around the water bodies of Delhi and Airport boundaries.