

1. Help in the factual/empirical reconstruction of environmental change.

Mr



meticulous

1. British Record are rich but biased toward revenue extraction. Thus they record land ownerships, crops grown etc.

2. Oral History gives a living account of how people lived and related with the environment around them. They shared the ~~types of lives~~ and explained resource flows and exchanges among the groups that are unavailable in records.

eg. Bee production for sale.

Seasonal pastoralism.

Exchange between groups.

Water & hydro-electric projects

CONTRIBUTING

3. Confirmation of Records.

@ Massacre of indigenous groups.

4. Leads to search into records: Look for significant periods.

LEADS

Another dimension

Complements / records

BLANC AREAS

Oral History Responses and their Ability to Environ

mental
change

1. Record Catastrophic events accurately

Drought

Crop failure

Flood

Rinderpest

Influenza pan-demic

etc.

2. Record events that have caused significant resource use changes.

eg. Introduction of boats.

Markets & Communication Networks

Movements of human groups.

Introduction of technology

Breakdown of exchange relations.

etc.

3. Slow uniform changes poorly / inaccurately /
recorded and often contradictory at times.

Vegetation

However Weeds & their proliferation.

Perceptions of Environmental Change & Adaptations

1. Climate / Rainfall

348 Stations @ 18" = 3.35m²

2. Depends upon the group of people.

(A) H-G / S-C. Group.

- * Mobile,
- * No accumulation of capital.
- * Cope with variable environments with most a variety of responses.
- * Affected by environmental change

(B) The Agricultural / settled groups.

- * Perceive increase in vulnerability.
- * Most vocal about market influences.
- * Want decisions of development, but want security

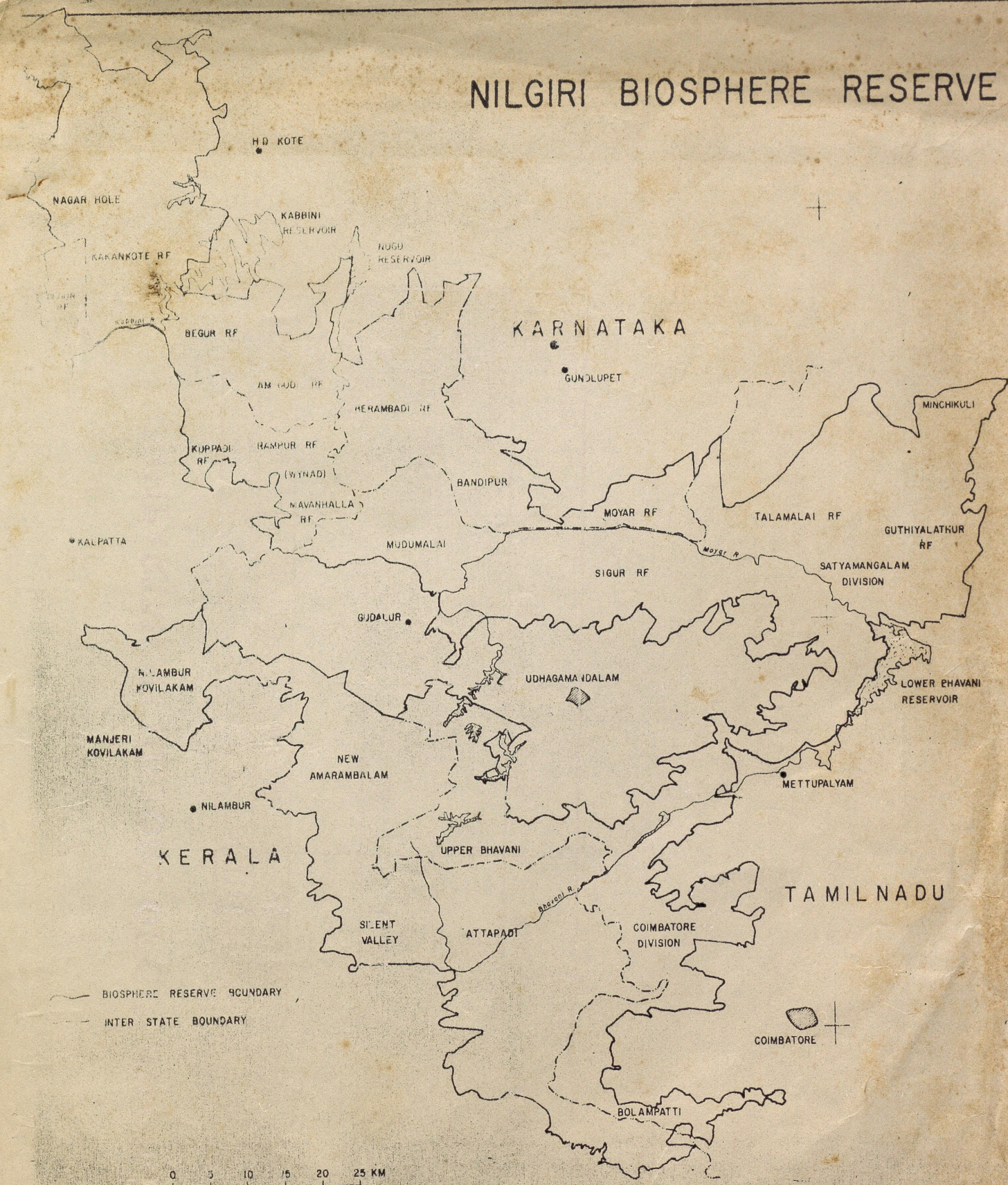
(C) Settlers:

Patronage

(D) ~~State~~ Enterprise.

(E) Service = its own betterment!

NILGIRI BIOSPHERE RESERVE



— BIOSPHERE RESERVE BOUNDARY
- - - INTER STATE BOUNDARY

0 5 10 15 20 25 KM

THE SAHEL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The Sahel Oral History project, was conceived as a way of enabling the people across Sahelian Africa who have lived through the twentieth century, to inform and enlighten development "experts".

Obo Kone says "... Today the environment is sick, the soils are poor and hard, and the trees are dead... I believe these changes can be attributed to the fact that we have lost respect for our customs. We have violated old prohibitions to allow room for modernisation and in so doing we have degraded God's laws".

The principal aim was to record the perceptions of the Sahelian men and women-- which was neither right nor wrong-- about their changing environment and way of life.

One of the aims of the Sahel Oral History Project was to explore how the application of oral history techniques can assist in the development process.

the interviews were conducted between January 1989 and October 1990. Over 500 interviews were completed, of which just under half were with women. The project worked in eight countries__ Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, Sudan and Ethiopia__ at 19 sites, in 11 languages.

NILGIRIS

Massacres of Kurumbas and Irulas occurred in 1824, 1835 (when as many as 58 of them were massacred), 1875, 1882, 1891 and as recently as 1900.