

PREFACE

The KSCSTE for the first time has taken up a project for the preparation of a comprehensive State of Environment Report for Kerala. The report contains topics in the following fields : (a) Climate changes, (b) Water Resources, (c) Marine and Coastal Environment, (d) Nature and Biodiversity, (e) Air Quality and Noise Levels, (f) Solid, Hazardous and Biomedical Wastes etc. The DPSIR framework (D = driving forces of environmental change, P = pressures on the environment, S = state of the environment, I = impacts and R = response), which is based on cause-effect relationship between interacting components of the social, economic and environmental systems has been adopted for the preparation of the report. In compiling the report, a balance has been struck to arrive at qualitative and quantitative aspects of the respective topics.

The present SoE report attempts to draw a baseline based on secondary data. It is expected that this will generate a case for a detailed environmental monitoring programme for the preparation of precise and detailed SoE on a periodic basis. Simultaneously, the report should pave the way for increased awareness leading to better protection and conservation of the precious natural environment ecosystems.

I thank the Executive Vice President Dr. A E Muthunayagam for the support rendered by him in implementing the project. I wish to thank Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India which has provided financial assistance to the project, and the technical help by Tata Energy Research Institute, now renamed as The Energy Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi. I also thank all the Departments, R&D Centres, Universities and other agencies who have helped us immensely in completing the project in a timely manner, yet adhering to the quality of the contents. The list of such agencies and personnel involved are

acknowledged separately. I am very happy to place on record that the sincere efforts by my colleagues, Dr.Kamalakshan Kokkal, Principal Scientific Officer and the project staffs with the technical guidance of Dr. CSP Iyer, Head , C-MARS, Regional Research Laboratory, Thiruvananthapuram.

I do hope that this report will be useful for the planners, decision makers and public at large. Since a report of such an extensive nature is being prepared for the first time, I am sure that there will be considerable scope for improvement. It is proposed to periodically update the report with more contents and authenticity. I do welcome any valuable suggestions for improving the quality of the report.

Sd/-

(KRS KRISHNAN)

DIRECTOR