

PREFACE

Understanding the natural environment and its relationship with the ecological processes is an essential pre-requisite for undertaking any developmental planning. The escalating anthropogenic activities, coupled with poor management of land and water resources are placing tremendous stress on the environment, resulting in the steady increase of soil erosion, floods and drought, escalating urban congestion and disturbing the ecological balance of the environment. Remedies to these maladies lie in the study of the causes of these aspects and providing the prescription for sustainable development.

Consequently, the Balason fluvial environment, as part of the physical environment demanding considerable attention vis-à-vis development and planning, has been selected for detailed study.

The fluvial environment, as a synthesis of geological, pedological, hydrological and geomorphological conditions and processes, includes a wide spectrum of aspects pertaining to these fields. Incorporating these aspects in the proper perspective will contribute greatly towards a better understanding of the fluvio-environmental adjustments and ecological balance in the study area.

This present study therefore correlates the various aspects of the fluvial environment with the existing geo-environmental scenarios of the basin for evolving a suitable strategy for environmental planning and resource management.