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**FOREST ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE PROVINCE OF  
BOMBAY FOR THE YEAR 1937-38.**

**CHAPTER I.**

**CONSTITUTION OF STATE FORESTS.**

**1. ALTERATIONS IN AREA—(FORMS NOS. 51 PARTS I AND II).**

The changes in forest areas were as follows :—

Class of Forest.	Area on 1st April 1937.	Added during the year.	Excluded during the year.	Area on 31st March 1938.	
	Sq. miles.	Sq. miles.	Sq. miles.	Sq. miles.	
Reserved ..	In charge of Forest Depart- ment ..	10,579	124	135	10,568
	In charge of Revenue De- partment ..	1,639	13	16	1,636
Protected ..	In charge of Forest Depart- ment ..	162	2	4	160
	In charge of Revenue De- partment ..	618	1	2	617
Total ..	12,998	140	157	12,981	

The areas added and excluded comprise :—

	Square miles.	
	Gain.	Loss.
Afforestation and disforestsments ..	1	18
Transfer from one Circle to another ..	92	92
Transfer from one Division to another ..	45	45
Errors corrected ..	2	2
Total ..	140	157

Net loss—17 square miles.

Out of the total area added to and excluded from the forests an area of 92 square miles, which constituted the Mandvi Sub-Division of the Central Circle, was transferred to the Northern Circle, where with the addition of the Baragaon Dangs, it formed the present Surat Sub-Division. An area of 31 square miles in the Northern Circle and about 14 square miles in the Southern Circle were transferred from one Division to another.

The disforestsments were mostly in favour of cultivation, the Northern Circle contributing 8 square miles, Central Circle 5 square miles and the Southern Circle 4 square miles. Out of the area disforested in the Northern Circle 6 square miles were disforested in the Panch Mahals and the rest were chiefly woodland plots from the Thana Gurcharans. In the Central Circle, Poona, Satara, Ahmednagar and Sholapur Districts mainly shared the disforestsments of about 5 square miles. Forest areas given out for cultivation on temporary leases in the Belgaum Division, and subsequently disforested after cultivation had been established, formed the bulk of the disforestsments in the Southern Circle. The settlement of the frontier line between the British and Portuguese territories and the corrections in areas of forest survey numbers as directed by the Forest Settlement Officer, Kanara, account for a loss of over half a square mile.

## 2. FOREST SETTLEMENTS—(FORM No. 52).

The total area pending settlement at the commencement of the year was 369 acres to which were added 3 square miles and 392 acres. Out of this area 1 square mile and 82 acres were finally settled. No expenditure was incurred on this account.

## 3. DEMARCATION—(FORM No. 53).

25 miles (1 mile in the Northern Circle and 24 miles in the Southern Circle) of new boundaries were demarcated artificially at a cost of Rs. 200 and 23,249 miles of existing boundaries (including those between British territory and that of Goa, Mysore, Bhor State and the Kathi and Nala Estates) were repaired at a cost of Rs. 3,554. The total length of boundaries at the close of the year was 37,932 miles.

No effect was given to the settlement of the boundary between the Baroda State and British territory as the proposal to make the existing cleared fire-line on the Deomogra reserve boundary—the final interstate boundary—is still under the consideration of Government.

## 4. FOREST SURVEYS—(FORM No. 54).

No survey work was undertaken during the year.

The expenditure on the constitution of state forests was :—

				1936-37.	1937-38.
				Rs.	Rs.
Northern Circle	..	..	..	49	43
Central Circle	..	..	..	15	380
Southern Circle	..	..	..	510	157

The expenditure shown against the Central Circle was due to the purchase of maliki land for forest in the Poona Division.

## CHAPTER II.

### MANAGEMENT OF STATE FORESTS.

#### 1. REGULATION OF MANAGEMENT.

##### (a) *Preparation and control of regular working plans.*

*Preparation—(Form No. 55).*—No new working plans other than those referred to in last year's report were sanctioned by Government.

(1) The working plan for the Thana Gurcharans was completed and submitted by the Gurcharan Officer, Thana, to the Chief Conservator, but it was returned to the Conservator for modification as the proposals made in the plan entailed too drastic a reversal of the present policy of Government and also the entertainment of considerable extra establishment.

(2) The revised working plan for the Panch Mahals forests was completed after the close of the year.

(3) The preliminary report of the consolidated working plan for all forests in the West Khandesh Division and the unorganised scrub areas of the Sakri, Pimpalner and Dhulia Talukas was approved by the Chief Conservator subject to the remarks made by the Collector of West Khandesh on the limitation of the number of cattle to be admitted in each ranch. The necessary data were collected by the end of the year.

(4) A scheme for the exploitation of forests in the Akrani was drawn up by the Divisional Forest Officer, Working Plans, Central Circle. Under this scheme besides concentrating on fire protection 3 coupes are to be worked—one at either end of the Dara-Dhadgaon Road and the third near the Narbada river.