

15 -ാം കേരള നിയമസഭ

5 -ാം സമ്മേളനം

നക്ഷത്ര ചിഹ്നം ഇല്ലാത്ത ചോദ്യം നം. 2769

12-07-2022 - ൽ മറുപടിയ്ക്ക്

ഇക്കോ സെൻസിറ്റീവ് സോണുകൾ

ചോദ്യം		ഉത്തരം	
ശ്രീ. ടി.സിദ്ദിഖ്, ശ്രീ. എ. പി. അനീൽ കുമാർ, ശ്രീ. ഐ.സി.ബാലകൃഷ്ണൻ, ശ്രീ. ഷാഫി പറമ്പിൽ		ശ്രീ. എ. കെ. ശശീന്ദ്രൻ (വനം-വന്യജീവി വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി)	
(എ)	ഇക്കോ സെൻസിറ്റീവ് സോണുകൾ സംബന്ധിച്ച് 2022- ൽ സംസ്ഥാന സർക്കാർ കേന്ദ്ര സർക്കാരിന് എന്തെങ്കിലും നിവേദനങ്ങൾ നൽകിയിരുന്നോയെന്ന് വ്യക്തമാക്കാമോ;	(എ)	ഇക്കോ സെൻസിറ്റീവ് സോണുകൾ സംബന്ധിച്ച് 2022- ൽ സംസ്ഥാന സർക്കാർ കേന്ദ്ര സർക്കാരിലേയ്ക്ക് അയച്ച കത്തുകളുടേയും നിവേദനങ്ങളും പകർപ്പുകൾ അനുബന്ധമായി ചേർക്കുന്നു.
(ബി)	പ്രസ്തുത നിവേദനങ്ങൾക്ക് കേന്ദ്ര സർക്കാർ മറുപടി നൽകിയിരുന്നോയെന്ന് വ്യക്തമാക്കാമോ; എങ്കിൽ വിശദാംശം നൽകാമോ;	(ബി)	ടി നിവേദനങ്ങൾക്ക് കേന്ദ്ര സർക്കാർ മറുപടി നൽകിയിട്ടില്ല.
(സി)	പ്രസ്തുത വിഷയത്തിൽ നിലവിലെ വയനാട് എം. പി. പ്രധാനമന്ത്രിക്ക് കത്ത് നൽകിയത് ശ്രദ്ധയിൽപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ?	(സി)	ശ്രദ്ധയിൽപ്പെട്ടിട്ടില്ല

സെക്ഷൻ ഓഫീസർ



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Forest & Wildlife(D) Department

No.D2/46/2019/FWLD

25/01/2022, Thiruvananthapuram

From

The Principal Secretary to Government

To

The Secretary to Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forest (Wildlife Division)
Paryavaran Bhavan, C.G.O Complex
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

Sir,

Sub: Forest & Wildlife Department - Proposal for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones around protected areas-Forwarding the revised proposal for Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary-Reg

Ref: 1. D.O.Letter No.2/47/2017-ESZ from Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India addressed to the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

2. State Government letters of even number dated 03.01.2020 and 16.11.2020

3. Lr. No. WL3-23824/2012 dated 2/08/2021 from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Kerala

Kind attention is invited to the State Government letter dated 3.01.2020 cited 2nd, by which the proposals for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones(ESZ), in respect of 23 National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries in Kerala, were sent to Government of India, for necessary action.

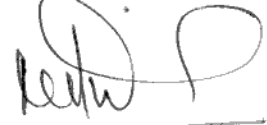
The State Government had noticed that the proposal for declaration of Eco Sensitive Zones(ESZ), in respect of Shendurney

Wildlife Sanctuary, Chulannur Peafowl Sanctuary, Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary & Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, mentioned under Sl No.3,7,15 & 17, respectively, of the above letter referred 2nd, contain thickly populated areas of human habitations. Hence, revised proposals for declaration of Eco- Sensitive Zones in respect of the above Wildlife and Bird Sanctuaries in which certain human settled areas have been excluded, had been forwarded to Government of India as per State Government Letter dated 16.11.2020 referred 2nd cited.

Based on the 43rd Meeting of the Expert Committee on Eco Sensitive Zone held on 20.11.2020 via video conferencing, it was decided in respect of Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary to include additional areas of reserve forest area under the ESZ to supplement the excluded human habitation.

In view of the above circumstances, the revised proposals (both in soft and hard copy), for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones in respect of Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary, is forwarded herewith for kind consideration and early approval.

Yours faithfully,



Bindu Thankachy M K
Additional Secretary

For Principal Secretary to Government.



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Forest & Wildlife(D) Department

06-02-2022, Thiruvananthapuram

No.D2/46/2019/FWLD

From

The Principal Secretary to Government

To

The Secretary to Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forest (Wildlife Division)
Paryavaran Bhavan, C.G.O Complex
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

Sir,

Sub: Forest & Wildlife Department- Proposal for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones around protected areas-revised proposal for Idukki Wildlife Sanctuaries-Reg.

Ref: 1. D.O.Letter No.2/47/2017-ESZ from Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India addresses to the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

2. Government letter of even number dated 03.01.2020

3. Government letter of even number dated 12.10.2020

4. 44th Meeting of Expert Committee for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zone around National Parks & Wildlife Sanctuaries held on 18.01.2021

5.Letter No.WL3-23824/2012 (P) dated 24.01.2022 of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Kerala

Kind attention is invited to the State Government letter cited 2nd, by which the proposals for declaration of Eco Sensitive Zones (ESZ), in respect of 23 National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries in Kerala, were sent to Government of India, for necessary action.

Later, the State Government had noticed that the proposal for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zone(ESZ), in respect of Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary, mentioned under SL.No 6 of the reference 2nd cited,


contains thickly populated areas of human habitations.

Subsequently, a revised proposal in respect of Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary had been prepared, in which certain human settled areas were excluded, and forwarded to Government of India as per letter referred 3rd above.

Based on the 44th Meeting of the Expert Committee for declaration of Eco- Sensitive Zone held on 18.01.2021, it was suggested to include more areas under the Eco-Sensitive Zone of Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary.

In view of the above circumstances, the revised proposal (both in soft and hard copy), for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zone in respect of Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary, is forwarded herewith for kind consideration and early approval.

Yours faithfully,


08.02.2022

RAJESH KUMAR SINHA
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
For Principal Secretary to Government.



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Forest & Wildlife(D) Department

No.D2/46/2019/FWLD

04-03-2022, Thiruvananthapuram.

From

The Principal Secretary to Government

To

The Secretary to Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forest (Wildlife Division)
Paryavaran Bhavan, C.G.O Complex
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

Sir,

Sub: Forest & Wildlife Department- Proposal for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones around protected areas-Revised Proposal for Mangalavanam Bird Sanctuary-Reg

- Ref: 1. D.O.Letter No.2/47/2017-ESZ from Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India addresses to the Hon'ble Chief Minister.
2. State Government letter of even number dated 03.01.2020
3. 43rd meeting of Expert Committee for declaration of Eco Sensitive Zone held on 20.11.2020
4. Letter No. WL3-23824/2012 dated 27.03.2021 and 3.02.2022 from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Thiruvananthapuram

Kind attention is invited to the State Government letter dated 03.01.2020, cited 2nd, by which the proposals for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) in respect of 23 National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries in Kerala were sent to Government of India for necessary action.

The proposed ESZ of Mangalavanam Bird Sanctuary was 0.530 km² and the draft notification accordingly has been published in the

Gazette of India by MoEFCC on 07.09.2020 for seeking public comments. The 43rd Meeting of the Expert Committee for declaration of ESZ around protected areas that was held on 20.11.2020 discussed the topic of exclusion of areas owned by Cochin Port Trust from the ESZ of the Mangalavanam Bird Sanctuary. Consequently, the proposal was revised by excluding the area of Bharath Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Kerala State Housing Board (KSHB) and Cochin Port Trust (CPT) and in this proposal, the ESZ extent was 0.37 km². A meeting was convened on 29.01.2022 for seeking public opinion regarding the amendments to be incorporated in the proposed ESZ. Representatives of BPCL, KSHB, Hindustan Uni Lever Ltd. (HULL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Kerala State Electricity Board Ltd. (KSEBL), Greater Cochin Development Authority (GCDA) and Pandit Karuppan Smaraka Mandiram (PKSM) attended the meeting and requested for exclusion of their respective land from the proposed ESZ. Minutes of the above meeting are attached as Annexure-1.

An extent of 0.408 km² land of these organizations/entities has been reduced from the ESZ. Details of the extent of land of the organizations/entities that have been excluded in the proposed ESZ are given below.

Sl. No.	Entity/organization whose land is excluded	Extent (in km ²)
1	BPCL	0.0411
2	CPT	0.015
3	GCDA	0.0073
4	HPCL	0.024
5	HULL	0.19
6	KSEBL	0.004
7	KSHB	0.085
8	PKSM	0.0011
9	Private Land	0.0108
10	Railway Housing Colony	0.0297
	Total	0.408

The reasons for exclusion of these lands are given in the Table attached as Annexure-2. After the revision, the ESZ extent is now

reduced to 0.122 km² that supports tree cover and is owned by the Southern Railways.

The extent of Mangalavanam Bird Sanctuary, that is situated in the heart of Cochin city, is 0.0274 km². The extent of the current proposed ESZ is 0.122 km², which is reasonable considering the extent of the Sanctuary. The presently excluded extent of 0.408 Km² does not have considerable tree cover.

In view of the above, the revised proposal (both soft and hard copies), for declaration of ESZ in respect of Mangalavanam Bird Sanctuary, is forwarded herewith for kind consideration and approval.

Yours Faithfully,



RAJESH KUMAR SINHA
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

Minutes of the meeting held for seeking the public opinion regarding the amendments to be incorporated in the proposed Eco sensitive zone area of Mangalavanam Bird Sanctuary

Date :- 29/01/2022

Venue :- Nature Study Hall, Mangalavanam Bird sanctuary

List of Participants

Separately attached

Agenda

Discussion on the amendments to be incorporated in the proposed Eco- Sensitive Zone area of Mangalavanam Bird sanctuary,

Summary of the discussion

Meeting commenced at 2.30 pm. Wild life warden, Mangalavanam Bird sanctuary welcomed all participants and then explained the purpose of convening such a meeting. She announced that in the wake of receiving so many representations from the firms whose areas were included in the draft notification of ecosensitive zone of Mangalavanam Bird sanctuary, published on 7th September 2020, a meeting of the concerned parties has to be convened for giving them an opportunity of being heard. Then each one of them has been invited for expressing their contentions.

Representatives of Bharath Petroleum Corporation Ltd. informed that their company commenced working as a fuel filling terminal in 1903 and at present there exist a Petrol pump and a housing colony comprising an area of 80,000 sq. feet, in 13 stories and they are planning to construct a new housing complex for their workers. Besides, they expressed their concern that inclusion of their area in the ecosensitive zone of Mangalavanam Bird sanctuary will adversely affect their future activities and requested to exclude their area from the zone, as it is constituted in an unscientific manner.

Representatives of Kerala State Housing Board said that their area was also included in the ecosensitive zone, which they have been in possession since 2000 and

they are planning to execute so many construction activities in this area and that they had already got permission from the Kerala Government to execute a project named "International Exhibition City". Also they are planning to construct convention centres and office buildings in future. Besides, they told that Kerala State Housing Board had been constituted to address the housing needs of economically backward communities and if their area is not excluded from the proposed Ecosensitive Zone it would cause irreparable loss to them, and all future activities will come to an end and therefore they requested that their area may be excluded from the Ecosensitive Zone of Mangalavanam Bird Sanctuary.

The representatives of Hindustan Uni Lever Ltd. said that their company commenced working in 1993 and at present a unit for production of soaps and detergent is functioning there and around 70 numbers of labourers are working there. Besides there is a housing colony for the labourers. They informed that as part of expansion of the company, they are planning to execute some other projects in that area and therefore they requested to exclude their area from the proposed Ecosensitive Zone.

The representatives of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. explained that there existed a Petrol diesel filling terminal, but at present only the office buildings are functional. But they are planning to construct a new fuel filling retail outlet and Housing colony for the workers, in the area, which is unfortunately included in the Ecosensitive Zone. Hence they requested to exclude their area from the Zone.

Then KSEB Assistant Engineer opined that there has been existing a 66 KV substation since 1984, in their area which is now included in the proposed ecosensitive zone. Also she said that at present KSEB is having 5 towers at the area and they are planning to enhance the capacity of the station to 110KV, for which more number of towers will have to be constructed. She requested to exclude their area from the proposed Ecosensitive Zone, otherwise, it will adversely affect their future activities and the board will not be able to achieve their future goals.

The GCDA representative informed that their area has also been included in the proposed Zone and they are planning to construct an entertainment hub, as part of which a number of buildings will have to be constructed. Also they opined that as part of executing a commercial activity they have a plan to construct rope way from their

area up to Bolgatty, and for the successful completion of these works, their area may be excluded from the proposed ecosensitive zone.

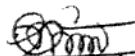
The representative of Pandit Karuppan Smaraka Mandiram said that they had been in possession of the above land since 2004 and already they have constructed a two storied building in the area and that they are planning to implement some other developmental projects there and hence their area may be excluded from the proposed ecosensitive zone.

The property of some private persons also was included in the proposed zone. As they are not local residents, they could not attend the meeting. ~~But they informed us over phone that, they are also planning to execute some construction activities there and they requested to exclude their area from the proposed ecosensitive zone.~~

The representative of Southern Railway had not attended the meeting and the participants opined that the housing colony existing at the eastern and western side of the Railway area may also be excluded from the proposed ecosensitive zone.

Range Forest Officer, Research Range Kodanad expressed vote of thanks.

The Meeting came to an end at 4 pm.


Wildlife Warden
Mangalavanam Bird Sanctuary

Details of lands excluded

<u>Sj. No.</u>	<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Extent (in Ha)</u>	<u>Reason of exclusion</u>
1	Bharath Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL)	4.11	Old buildings are existing. No considerable tree cover or green patch.
2	Cochin Port Trust (CPT)	1.5	MoEF has exempted CPT based on their request
3	Greater Cochin Development Authority (GCDA)	.73	No green patch and do not share boundary with Mangalavanam
4	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	2.4	Old buildings are existing. No considerable green cover and do not share boundary with Mangalavanam
5	Hindustan Uni Lever Ltd	19	A factory and housing complex are existing. No considerable green cover and do not share boundary with Mangalavanam
6	Kerala State Electricity Board	.40	66 KV substation and towers are existing. No considerable green cover and do not share boundary with Mangalavanam
7	Kerala State Housing Board (KSHB)	8.5	They are planning to construct buildings in the area to address the housing needs of local people. No considerable tree cover and do not share boundary with Mangalavanam
8	Pandit Karuppan Smaraka Mandiram	0.11	Very small area. No green cover exists. Do not share boundary with Mangalavanam
9	Private Land	1.08	No considerable tree growth or green cover. Do not share boundary with Mangalavanam
10	Railway Housing Colony	2.97	Very old buildings are existing.
	Total	40.8 Ha	

MANGALAVANAM ECO SENSITIVE ZONE -
5855616/2022-OS-FWLD
 MAP SHOWING EXCLUDED LANDS S/150.



Legend

	BPCL 4.11Ha
	Cochin Port Trust 1.5Ha
	GCDA 0.73Ha
	HPCL 2.4Ha
	HUL 19 Ha
	KSEB 0.40 Ha
	KSHB 8.5Ha
	Pandit Karuppan Smaraka Mandiram 0.11Ha
	Private Land 1.08Ha
	Railway Housing Colony 2.97 Ha
	Southern Railway 12.2 Ha
	ESZ - NEW

Maple Earth

13

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
Forests and Wildlife (F) Department
NOTIFICATION

G.O.(MS)No 42/04/ F&WLD Dated . . . , Thiruvananthapuram, 31st August 2004.

S.R.O.No 1303 /2004. WHEREAS the Government of Kerala consider that the area, the situation and limits of which are specified below is of adequate ecological, faunal floral and geomorphological importance;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 18 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (Central Act 53 of 1972), the Government of Kerala hereby declare its intention to constitute the area specified below as a sanctuary namely, "Mangalavanam Bird Sanctuary" for the purpose of protecting, propagating or developing wildlife and its environment.

Situation and Limits

District	-	Ernakulam
Tahuk	-	Kanayanoor
Village	-	Ernakulam

Survey Number	Extent	Remarks
1137/1	0.0207 Ha.	Road Puramboku land
1145/2	0.1553 Ha.	Ground rent Puramboku land
1146/2	0.0180 Ha.	-do-
1147	0.0692 Ha.	-do-
1148/1	0.0472 Ha.	-do-
1174	0.0388 Ha.	Road Puramboku land
2496/2	1.6045 Ha.	Railway Puramboku land
2498/2	0.7900 Ha.	-do-
TOTAL	2.7437 Ha.	

- North: The northern side is bounded by the compound wall of Bharath Petroleum Company.
- East: Railway land and portion on the North-East bounded by the compound wall of Bharath Petroleum Company.
- South: The Southern side bounded by Railway godown and old Ernakulam Railway Goods Station Yard.
- West: Safin Ali Road and Central Marine Fisheries research Institute.

By order of the Governor,
RUDHRA GANGADHARAN,
Principal Secretary to Government.

Explanatory Note

(This does not form part of the Notification, but is intended to indicate its general purport.)

The area specified in the Schedule is already a haven for local and migratory birds and deserves to be specially protected enabling the avifauna to roost and nest there without disturbance. Hundreds of little birds are always found in this area perched on trees. Moreover, migratory birds in thousands visit the area in the winter season. There are certain species of mangroves also in the area. All these deserves to be protected. Effective and maximum protection to the flora and fauna can be provided only by declaring the area as a sanctuary. Hence it is decided to declare the intention to constitute such area as a sanctuary.

The Notification is intended to achieve the above object.



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Forest & Wildlife(D) Department

No.D2/46/2019/FWLD

15-03-2022, Thiruvananthapuram

From

The Principal Secretary to Government

To

The Secretary to Government of India,
Ministry of Environment & Forest (Wildlife Division)
Paryavaran Bhavan,
C.G.O Complex, Lodhi Road
New Delhi — 110 003

Sir,

Sub: Forest & Wildlife Department - Proposal for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones around protected areas - revised proposal for Thattekkadu Bird Sanctuary & Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary-reg

- Ref: 1. D.O. Letter No.2/47/2017-ESZ from Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India addressed to the Hon'ble Chief Minister.
2. State Government letter of even number dated 03/01/2020.
3. State Government letter of even number dated 12/10/2020
4. State Government Letter of even number dated 16/11/2020
5. 44th Meeting of the Expert Committee on Eco-Sensitive Zone held on 18.01.2021
6. Letter No.KFDHQ-23824/2012-CWW/WL3 dated 9.03.2021 from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Thiruvananthapuram
7. Letter No. WL3-23824/2012(P) dated 24.01.2022 from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Thiruvananthapuram

8. Letter No. WL3-23824/2012(e) dated 02.02.2022 from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Thiruvananthapuram

Kind attention is invited to the State Government letter cited 2nd, by which the proposal for Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ), in respect of 23 National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries in Kerala, were sent to Government of India, for necessary action

Later, the State Government had noticed that the proposals for declaration of Eco Sensitive Zone of both Thattekkadu Bird Sanctuary & Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary mentioned under SL No. 7 & 22 respectively of the reference 2nd cited, contained thickly populated areas of human habitations.

Subsequently, revised proposals in respect of both Aralam & Thattekkadu Sanctuaries had been prepared, in which certain human settled areas were excluded, and forwarded to Government of India as per the letters cited 3rd and 4th respectively.

Based on the observations of 44th expert committee meeting for declaration of Eco sensitive Zone around Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks, certain modifications in the Eco Sensitive Zone of both Thattekkadu & Aralam Wildlife Sanctuaries have been made. For Thattekkadu Bird Sanctuary, the three water bodies on the South - Western side along the boundary of Periyar river of Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary has been included in its Eco-Sensitive Zone. With the inclusion of three water bodies (Palamatom water body - 0.10 km², Koria water body 0.10 km² and Koorikulam water body - 0.32 km²), the total area of the Eco-Sensitive Zone in the revised proposal has increased from 16 km² to 16.52 Km².

For Aralam Wildlife Santcuary, in the revised proposal sent to Government of India, Eco-Sensitive Zone was reduced to 7.136 km². In the current proposal, an Eco-Sensitive Zone of 50 meters is provided on the Southern boundary. The justifications for providing Zero ESZ in the other boundaries are detailed in the proposal and the total area of the

Eco-Sensitive Zone of Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary in the revised proposal is 7.576 Km².

In view of the above circumstances, the revised proposals (both in soft and hard copy), for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones, in respect of Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary and Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary, are forwarded herewith for kind consideration and early approval.

Yours Faithfully,



BINDU THANKACHY M.K
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY
For Principal Secretary to Government.



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Forest & Wildlife(D) Department

No.D2/46/2019/FWLD

07-04-2022, Thiruvananthapuram

From

The Principal Secretary to Government

To

The Secretary to Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forest (Wildlife Division)
Paryavaran Bhavan, C.G.O Complex
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003.

Sir,

Sub:- Forest & Wildlife Department - Proposal for declaration of Eco Sensitive Zones around protected areas - Revised Proposals for Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary and Chulannur Peafowl Sanctuary - Reg

- Ref:-
1. D.O Letter No. 2/47/2017-ESZ from Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India addresses to the Hon'ble Chief Minister
 2. State Government letter of even number dated 03.01.2020
 3. State Government letter of even number dated 16.11.2020
 4. 45th Meeting of the Expert Committee on Eco-Sensitive Zone held on 23.02.2021
 5. Letter No. WL3-23824/2012 (h) dated 15.02.2022 from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Thiruvananthapuram
 6. Letter No. WL3-23824/2012 (j) dated 15.02.2022 from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Thiruvananthapuram

Kind attention is invited to the State Government letter cited 2nd, by which the proposals for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zone(ESZ) in respect of 23 National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries in Kerala were sent to Government of India for necessary action.

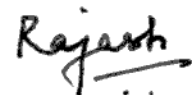
ii. Later, it came to notice that the proposals for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones of both Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary and Chulannur Peafowl Sanctuary, mentioned under sl. nos. 15 & 17 respectively of the reference 2nd cited, contain thickly populated areas of human habitations. Accordingly, the revised ESZ proposals in respect of both the Sanctuaries was prepared in which certain human settled areas were excluded and forwarded to Government of India as per the letter 3rd cited. In the revised proposals, the respective area of the ESZ has reduced from 131.54 sq. km. to 54.9 sq. km. for Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary and from 8.86 sq.km to 0.747 sq.km for Chulannur Peafowl Sanctuary.

iii. On the basis of the direction of the 45th meeting of Expert Committee on ESZ, certain areas of the reserve forests of Thrissur, Nemmara and Chalakkudy Forest Divisions have been incorporated in the revised proposal of the ESZ of Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary, resulting in 94.72 sq. km. as the total ESZ extent of the Sanctuary, which is reasonable considering that the total area of the Sanctuary is 125 sq. km.

iv. Further, as per the direction of the 45th meeting of Expert Committee on ESZ, the neighboring vested forest areas of Thrissur & Nemmara Divisions have been incorporated in the revised proposal of the ESZ of Chulannur Peafowl Sanctuary, resulting in 3.78 sq. km. as the total ESZ extent of the Santcuary, which is reasonable considering that the total area of the Sanctuary is 3.42 sq. km.

v. In view of the above, the revised proposals (both in soft and hard copy), for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones in respect of Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary and Chulannur Peafowl Sanctuary are forwarded herewith for kind consideration and early approval.

Yours Faithfully,



RAJESH KUMAR SINHA
Principal Secretary

**GOVERNMENT OF KERALA**

Forest & Wildlife Department

No.D2/46/2019/FWLD

21-05-2022, Thiruvananthapuram

From

Principal Secretary to Government

To

The Secretary to Government of India,
Ministry of Environment & Forest (Wildlife Division)
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jorbagh Road
Aliganj, New Delhi — 110 003.

Sir,

Sub: Forest & Wildlife Department- Objection on the draft notification of Eco-Sensitive Zone around Neyyar & Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary - Petitions forwarding - Reg

- Ref: 1. D.O. Letter No.2/47/2017-ESZ from Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India addressed to the Hon'ble Chief Minister
2. Government letter of even number dated 03/01/2020.
 3. Government letter of even number dated 11.02.2021
 4. Notification No. SO 1361(E) dated 25.03.2022 in connection with Eco-Sensitive Zone around Neyyar & Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary

Kind attention is invited to the State Government letter cited 2nd, by which the proposal for Eco-Sensitive Zone(ESZ), in respect of 23 National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries in Kerala, were sent to Government of India, for necessary action.

Subsequently, the revised proposal in respect of Neyyar-Peppara Wildlife Sanctuaries had been prepared, in which certain human settled areas were excluded, and forwarded to Government of India as per the letter 3rd cited.

As per the notification 4th cited, draft notification of Eco-

I/5283287/2022

Sensitive Zone of Neyyar-Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary has been published based on the former proposal from the State Government, which included human settled areas.

In view of the above circumstances, I am to request you to consider the latter proposal forwarded as per letter cited 3rd. The petitions received from Amboori Grama Panchayath & Vlavetty tribal settlement dwellers are also forwarded herewith for kind consideration.

Yours Faithfully,



RAJESH KUMAR SINHA
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Forest & Wildlife(D) Department

No.D2/46/2019/FWLD

25-06-2022,Thiruvananthapuram

From

The Principal Secretary to Government

To

The Secretary to Government of India

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (Wildlife Division)

Paryavaran Bhavan, C.G.O. Complex

Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

Sir,

Sub: Forest & Wildlife Department - Declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ) around Protected Areas - Reg.

- Ref: 1. D.O. Letter No.2/47/2017-ESZ from Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India addressed to the Hon'ble Chief Minister
2. State Government letter of even number dated 03.01.2020
3. State Government letters of even number dated 05.10.2020, 12.10.2020, 16.11.2020, 25.01.2021,11.02.2021,17.06.2021
4. State Government letter No. D2/232/21/FWLD dated 16.09.2021
5. 43rd,44th,45th Expert Committee Meetings held on 20.11.2020, 18.01.2021, 25.02.2021 respectively
6. State Government letters of even number dated 25.01.2022, 06.02.2022, 04.03.2022, 15.03.2022, 07.04.2022
7. Hon`ble Supreme Court judgement dated 03.06.2022 in IA 1000 of 2003
8. Letter No. WL3-23824/2012 dated 24.06.2022 from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Thiruvananthapuram

Kind attention is invited to the above subject and references. In the light of Hon'ble Supreme Court judgement dated 03.06.2022 in IA 1000 of 2003, a minimum width of 1 km Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ) measured from the demarcated boundary of Protected forests have to be maintained. In Kerala State, human habitations occur in immediate vicinity to the boundaries of the Protected forests. These areas are well developed with houses, shops, temples, churches, mosques, schools, colleges, market places, hospitals, farm lands, roads and other developments. The density of the human population is also quite high in these areas. The judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court, referred seventh, has caused social insecurity feelings among the people residing in such areas which resulted in several *hartals* and protests among various sections of the society. Places like Wayanad, Idukki, Kumily, Munnar, Neyyar, Palkkad, Ranni are seen having such kind of agitations in the recent past.

The National Board for Wildlife, in its second meeting held on 17th March, 2005, decided that the "*delineation of eco-sensitive zones would have to be site specific and related to regulation, rather than prohibition, of specific activities*". In Kerala, majority of the areas outside the Protected Area boundaries are having large human populations and townships also. Therefore, while declaring the Eco Sensitive Zones, the site specific approach needs to be taken into consideration.

In the Hon'ble Supreme Court judgement dated 03.06.2022 in Para 44 (f), it is mentioned that "*The minimum width of the ESZ may be diluted in overwhelming public interest but for that purpose the State or Union Territory concerned shall approach the CEC and MoEF & CC and both these bodies shall give their respective opinions/recommendations before this Court. On that basis, this Court shall pass appropriate order*".

The proposals for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) in respect of 23 National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries in Kerala were sent to Government of India as per letter cited 2nd above. Subsequently, except for a Protected Area i.e. Periyar Tiger Reserve, draft

notifications had been published on the website of MoEF & CC. After Expert Committee meetings, final ESZ notification for a Protected Area i.e., Mathikettan Shola National Park has been issued on 28.12.2020. In respect to the other Protected Areas for which draft notifications were issued, the Expert Committee had sought for various details. For these 20 Protected Areas which includes Neyyar-Peppara Wildlife Sanctuaries as a combined Protected Area, the Expert Committee meetings are over and the required additional details were already submitted to MoEF & CC.

Revised ESZ proposals, in which human settled areas were excluded after due process of the Expert Committee meetings, have been forwarded to Government of India as per the letters 3rd, 4th & 6th cited.

In the background of Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated 03.06.2022 in IA No 1000/2003, I request you to consider the revised proposals forwarded to you so far for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones of the above mentioned protected areas and to approach the Central Empowered Committee and the Hon'ble Supreme Court for getting dilution in the minimum width of the ESZ in view of overwhelming public interest.

Yours faithfully,



25.06.2022

RAJESH KUMAR SINHA
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY.