

## **SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF WILDLIFE WARDEN PEECHI**

Project Director (NHAI – PIU Palakkad), National Highways Authority of India under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India has applied for diversion of an extent of 0.9984 Ha of Forest land from the protected area of Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary for The completion of six lane highway from Vadakkanchery in Palakkad District to Mannuthy in Thrissur District. The total extent of 0.9984 Ha required for the project lies in four bits.

The land proposed has been inspected on 30-09-2019. The proposed land is lying in four bits adjacent to the already diverted area for NH 544.

### **Bit 1**

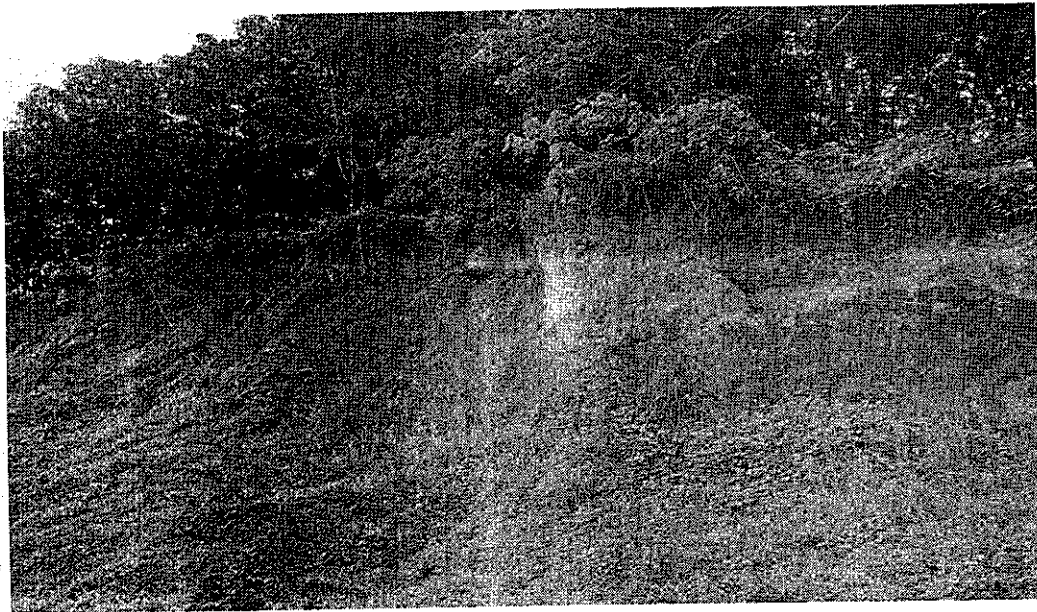
The first bit is lying on the left hand side of Vadakkanchery to Mannuthy NH544 as a linear plot of 0.1127 Ha in survey Nos. 1534/1/5, 1534/1/6, 1534/1/7 and 3346/3 of Peechi Village with an approximate length of 560 m and an average width of 20 m. The bit is a part of a leased out Reserve Forest, which was leased out during 1917 for rubber cultivation to Vaniyampara Rubber Company Ltd. The area is lying adjacent to the already diverted area for NH 544 as per Order No. 4-KLC844/2011-BAN/1669 dated 07-05-2012 of MoEF, and is required to complete the work of feeder roads. The area is having 160 trees of which two are of *Ailanthus malabarica* and 158 rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis*) trees. As the area is already having rubber trees only and since lying adjacent to the already diverted land, there is not much ecological significance as far as the bit is concerned. The adjoining area on the other side is also part of rubber estate.

### **Bit 2**

The second bit lies in the Resurvey No. 1/2P in Block No. 81 of Pananchery village, is having an extent of 0.0056 Ha near to the first bit. This bit in fact comes inside the alignment of road way of NH 544. The bit is not having any vegetation and does not have any connections with any of the forest land. As such, no ecological significance is assigned to this bit

### **Bit 3**

The third bit is also a linear strip of 0.0360 Ha in survey No. 1623/4 of Peechi village lies on the left hand side of Vadakkanchery to Mannuthy NH544, adjacent to the already diverted land. This land is also part of Reserve Forest leased out for rubber cultivation to Vaniyampara Rubber Company Ltd. and is having rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis*) trees only as vegetation. The land already is having steep cutting and is prone to further land slips if retained as such. Hence, the area needs engineering interventions to protect the land from further slips, if diversion is permitted. As the flora is of rubber trees, the floral and faunal significance is more or less nil.



### **Bit 4**


The bit is having an extent of 0.436 Ha in Survey No. 3323 part in Peechi Village and lies on the top portion of the tunnel entry of Kuthiran tunnel, adjacent to the area already diverted land as per order No. 4-KLC844/2011-BAN/1669 dated. 07-05-2012 of MoEF. The area is understood to be required for stabilizing the land slips already occurred during 2018, after the partial completion of tunnel work and is found essential to prevent further land slips.



The floral wealth consist of 27 numbers of trees of species like *Ailanthus malabarica*, *Macarangapeltata*, *Aporosalindleyana*, *Acacia auriculiformis*, *Xyliaxylocarpa* etc. The adjacent forest area is having moist deciduous vegetation of trees like *Terminaliapaniculata*, *Xyliaxylocarpa*, *Ailanthus malabarica* etc with an average canopy density of 0.5, similar to that of proposed area.

Thus the total areaproposed in above four bits comes to 0.9984 Ha, None of the above bits are passing through National Park, Elephant Corridor or Tiger Reserve. However the area falls within the jurisdictional limits of Peechi – Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary.

During my inspection, it is found that the requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency is the barest minimum required for the project and is necessary for the purpose applied for. The ecological impact cased due to diversion is too little as all these area lies adjacent to the already diverted land for NH 544. Under the above circumstances, the proposal for diversion is recommended for acceptance.

  
Wildlife Warden  
Peechi WLS