

## Annexure-I

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### Inspection note of the Conservator of Forests

The proposed site for establishment of Elephant Rehabilitation Centre at Kottoor was inspected by the undersigned along with the Wildlife Warden and other field staff on 30<sup>th</sup> <sup>31st</sup> May 2019. A total area of 57.02 Ha. of forest land has been proposed to be diverted for establishment of the said centre in which the Kerala Forest Department is the user agency.

The area proposed to be diverted has been identified in three units viz. rescue and rehabilitation centre requires an area of 56.8654 ha, the post mortem and crematorium area requires 0.1238 Ha and the watch tower requires 0.030897 ha. area.

The proposed area falls in Kottoor Reserve Forest forming part of ABP Range which is a forest Range under Thiruvananthapuram Wildlife Division. The terrain is undulating. The forest in this area is of Tropical Moist Deciduous type. The area proposed to be diverted is located along the forest boundary. The proposed location of the watch station is on top of the rocky hillock in the eastern side. The site for developing the post mortem and cremation facility lie in the north-east side of the site.

Major part of this area was earlier under lease to private person which was later taken over by the Department. Acacia plantation has been raised in part of the area. Seedlings of native species have come up in the area. Predominant tree species found in the area include *Aporosa lidleyana*, *Ailanthus species*, *Persea macrantha*, *Sweitenia macrophylla*, *Olea dioica*, *Actinodaphne madraspatana*, *Hopea parviflora*, *Manihot glazionii*, *Terminalia paniculata*, *Terminalia belerica*, *Xanthophyllum flavascens*, *Alastonia scholaris*, *Careya arborea*, *Dillenia pentagyna*, *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Lannea coromandelica*, *Macaranga peltata*, *Pterocarpus marsupim*, and planted species like *Acacia auriculiformis* and *Anacardium occidentale*.

The area is not vulnerable to erosion as the ground cover is very thick and the slope is moderate. The proposed construction activities are confined to less than 15 percent of the total forest area.

It is seen that the proposed area does not contain archaeological and heritage sites, defence establishment or any other monument of historical importance. No tribal hamlets are situated in the proposed land. It is not an area used by the tribals for collection of NTFP.

The proposed area does not form part of any Protected Area or elephant corridor.



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