

MITIGATION PLAN FOR THE DIVERSION OF 4.61 Ha IN KESARKULI RESERVED FOREST(4.42Ha) & THIRUMALVADI RESERVED LAND(0.19Ha) IN PALACODE RANGE OF DHARMAPURI FOREST DIVISION FOR THE PROJECT: FORMATION OF NEW APPROACH ROAD FROM SEENKADU TO ALAKATTU VIA ERIMALAI VILLAGE FOR A LENGTH OF 6.384KMS AND A WIDTH OF 6.00M FROM SEENKADU TO ERIMALAI AND 5.00MTR WIDTH FROM ERIMALAI TO ALAKKATTU. IN PENNAGARAM TALUK OF DHARMAPURI DISTRICT UNDER FOREST (CONSERVATION) ACT, 1980.

The Block Development Officer, Pennagaram, has uploaded a proposal for the diversion of 4.61 Ha in Kesarkuli Reserved Forest(4.42Ha) & Thirumalvadi Reserved Land (0.19Ha) of Dharmapuri Forest Division for formation of new approach road from seenkadu to alakattu via erimalai village in Pennagaram taluk vide proposal no. FP/TN/ROAD/37291/2018.

The Non Forest Land area as Compensatory Afforestation towards implementing the above project has been identified by the District Administration over an extent of 9.22 Ha has been earmarked in SF No.692/6 of Kammampatty Village of Nallampalli Taluk of Dharmapuri District.

Background of the project:

- The proposed road connects Seengadu, Alakkattu and Erimalai villages. There found huge families belongs to tribes. Until now there is no any other alternative road for them to drive vehicles.
- The proposed total length of the road is 6.384kms, in that 6.279kms falls in the Kesarkuli Reserved Forest which is recently declared as the Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary and the portion of the road is already excluded from the Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary vide G.O.(Ms).No.193 Environment, Climate Change & Forests (FR.5) department dated.7.11.2022 and the remaining length of 105mtrs of the proposed road falls in Thirumalvadi Reserved land which is outside the Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary and falls within the default Eco sensitive zone of 10km radius. Thus, the User Agency has applied the online proposal seeking Wildlife clearance vide WL/TN/SRY/430594/2023, dated.24.05.2023. Now it is under scrutiny with the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, Chennai.

This road is the long-lasting demand by the village people for the past ten

years. This demand has also been raised in the Legislative Assembly often. Hence, the proposal has been recommended for the diversion of 4.61 Ha of forest land in Dharmapuri forest Division.

About the Forest land:

- The Admitted Right of way mentioned in the Fort St. George Gazette, Page 831, Dated. 28.06.1892 of Kesarkuli Reserved Forest is three yards.
- It is a dry deciduous to patches of moist deciduous forest having a density of 0.4. The trees predominantly found here are *Chloroxylon Swietenia*, *Albizzia amara*, *Acacia chundra*, *Tamarindus indica*, *Derris indica*, *Syzygium cumini* and *Acacia planiferns*.
- The Kesarkuli RF is endowed with wildlife like Elephants, Spotted Deer, Wild Boar, Monkey, Peacock, Indian Hare, Monitor Lizard, Mongoose etc.,.

During the site inspection by the Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central) from IRO, MoEF&CC, Chennai on 18.07.2024 had suggested to prepare site specific wildlife mitigation plan for this project.

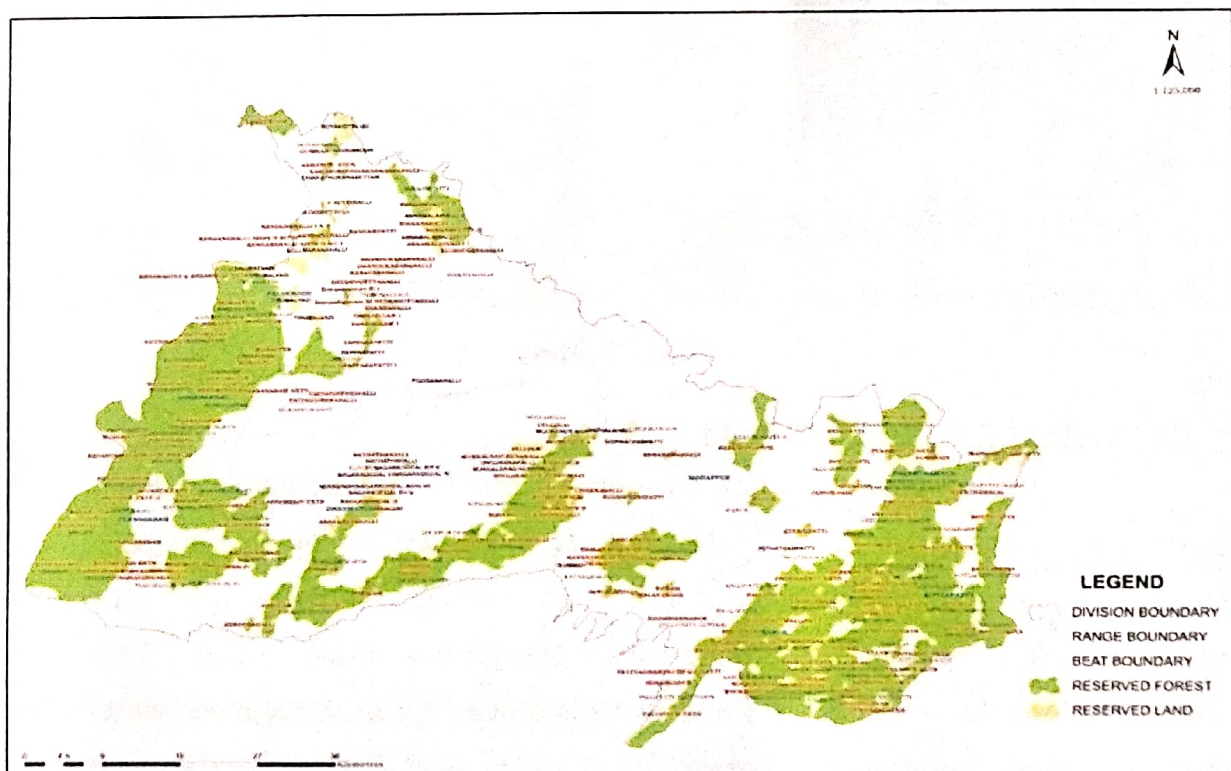


About the Dharmapuri Forest Division:

The total geographical area of this division is 1,66,963.567 Ha. (Reserved Forest 1,61,289.317 Ha, Reserved Land 5,674.250 Ha). The Dharmapuri Forest Division consists of 10 Ranges out of which 8 are Territorial Ranges and 2 are Functional Ranges, namely 1.Dharmapuri 2.Palacode 3.Pennagaram 4.Hogenakkal 5.Harur 6.Kottapatty 7.Morappur 8.Theerthamalai and the Functional Ranges are 1.Survey and Demarcation, 2.Forest Protection Squad with Head Quarters at Dharmapuri.

Total area of Dharmapuri Division	1,66,963.567 Ha
Extent of Reserved Forests of Dharmapuri Division in Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary	1,139.595 Ha
Extent of Reserved Forests of Dharmapuri Division in Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary	20,864.680 Ha
Balance Working Plan area in Dharmapuri Division	1,44,959.312 Ha
Extent of area in Kesarkuli Reserved Forest	4390.940 Ha
Extent of area in Thirumalvadi Reserved land	1928.170 Ha

Map of Dharmapuri Forest Division:



In the era of Urbanization and climate change, the concept of wildlife and

forest conservation has been acquiring greater movement. The paradigm shift in landscape management and land use planning leads to fragmentation and degradation of forest resources in the division. In addition to this invasion of exotic species such as *Lantana camara*, *Prosopis spp*, etc., decrease the biodiversity of landscape. Further, these forests were historically has been maintained as grazing and range land. Day by day Human - animal interface conflict has been increasing at an alarming rate in the division.

1. Formation of waterholes in Kesarkuli RF of Palacode Range to augment availability of water to wildlife inside the forest area during pinch period:

During dry season and drought years, the animals experience lack of water within cruising distance and start straying into human habitations. It is highly essential to provide water to wild animals during dry season within the limits of their cruising ability.

It has also been proposed to construct 1no of major Percolation pond within the area of Kesarkuli RF to meet the day to day requirements of water to the wild animals particularly Elephants. It has been estimated that a single elephant requires not less than 200 litres of water per day. Large numbers of elephant herds are noticed within the Reserved Forest of Dharmapuri Forest Division.



Water bodies

• De-silting of existing waterholes

The number of waterholes currently present is inadequate and not well distributed to the requirement of the area and movement of the wild animals. Most of them get silted during rainfall due to erosion creating scarcity of water especially during summer. Therefore, it is necessary to de-silt in a phased manner from time to time before the monsoon sets and there is a need for creating more waterholes in the Reserved Forest area of Kesarkuli.

Construction of Percolation pond stores the water by utilizing the down streams reduces runoff velocity by reducing soil erosion and gulying in the channel and allows sediments to settle out. Percolation pond will be constructed on the basis of watershed map of the forest area.

Construction and strengthening of water holes will help in improving the percolation of water under ground and hence increasing the water availability in the area and thus help fodder species in surrounding to regenerate. This will also aid in avoiding the soil erosion and soil loss.

There are many water bodies constructed before 10 - 20 years inside Reserved Forest areas. Now most of them are highly damaged and silted due to rain, flood. Most of them get silted up creating scarcity of water during summer. Therefore, it requires immediate repair to enhance the storage of water. To overcome shortage of water inside forest areas, more number of water bodies like large percolation ponds and check dams constructed inside Reserved Forest areas of existing water bodies are being de-silted and deepening done to increase the water storage capacity and for providing water facilities to the wild animal during pinch period.



2. Strengthening of Wildlife Protection:

Various mitigation structures that are constructed are greatly supplemented by the strength of Anti-poaching Watchers who work day and night in Human-Elephant conflict mitigation. Anti-poaching watchers follow the movement of elephant herds across the entire division inside Reserved Forest as well as outside in Agricultural lands. They are the frontline staffs who take position immediately when the elephants stray outside the Reserved Forest. Their role during conflict times is to minimise the damage caused by the elephant in the area outside the Reserved Forest as well as ensure the safe return of elephant into the forest.

• Anti-depredation Squad

It is very essential Engage Anti- depredation squad to drive away problematic animals from the farmer's field and nearby villages. To achieve 4 nos of skilled

people has to be employed throughout the plan period. For this the necessary provision will be given in the General Financial Forecast.



Elephant driving by Anti-depredation team members

This is important to avoid any human casualty & risk to elephants along the NH. Because, while driving elephants from outside forest into Reserved Forest, Elephants cross several kilometres of distance across many major roads with high traffic, Villages, City areas with huge population, agricultural lands with standing

crops etc. Hence, without adequate strength of APW, it will be difficult to sensitize the people in advance and driving the elephant at the same time.

Hence, the Anti-depredation measures have been proposed to protect the life of Official / Labours during execution of road work and to prevent man - animal conflict in the fringe villages.

- Improvement / Maintenance of existing Anti-poaching/ Anti-depredation camps:

Currently there is an existing Anti-poaching / Anti-depredation camp at Morappur kollai - Anuppampatti APC Camp to monitor the movement of wildlife including elephants and to avoid road accidents. These camps requires on time maintenance for enabling the Forest Staff and anti-depredation squad to stay in the watch tower and perform their routine monitoring duty.

Also these camps have to be maintained frequently for the kitchen equipment's, sanitary facilities, fencing etc. Hence the maintenance works has been provided in the Plan.

3. Erection of Protection Barriers (Steel wire rope Fence):

Erection of Steel wire rope fence 4 Km around the boundary of the Tribal hamlets (Seenkadu, Erimalai and Alakattu) effect to the wild animal particularly Elephants conflict shall be avoided.

Brief Notes of Steel Wire Rope fence

The steel wire rope fence is based on the successful fence developed at Addo Elephant National Park of South Africa. The Addo fence made use of discarded tram rails for vertical fence post and discarded elevator cables for wire rope.

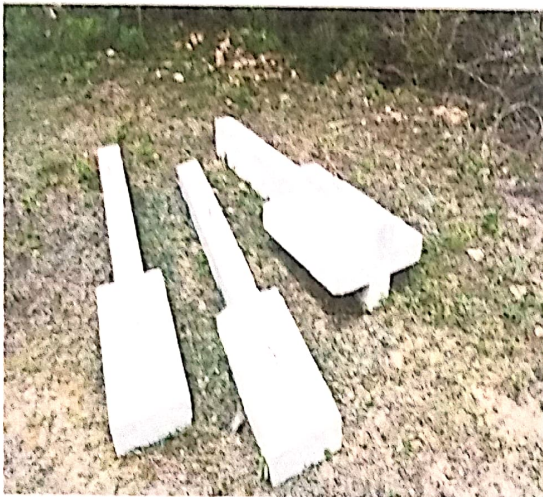
The Steel Wire Rope fence has been designed work as a physical barrier capable of withstanding the physical strength of elephants. By contrast, psychological barriers are dependent on unreliable factors such as solar power and the assumption that elephants can be deceived all the time.

Objectives of the Wire Rope fence:

- ★ Protection of agriculture crops from wildlife damages (foraging and trampling loss).
- ★ To reduce the damages due to elephants in the human habitation.
- ★ To ensure the peaceful co-existence between human and wildlife.

- ★ To strengthen the protection and management of wildlife.
- ★ Confining the elephant population within the forest areas.
- ★ Protection of elephants from illegal hunting, electrocution and accidental fall.
- ★ Reducing the law and order problem in the forest fringe villages.
- ★ To achieve better coordination and support from the local people.

Concrete Pillar and Steel Wire Rope Fence:



4. Installation of Check Point at the entrance of the proposed road:

Installation of Check Point at the entrance of the proposed road to prevent illegal Goods transportation / smuggling / monitoring the travellers.

Wildlife Mitigation Plan for Kesarkuli RF of Palacode Range in Dharmapuri Forest Division wrt Forest Clearance proposal for formation of new approach road from Seenkadu to Alakattu via erimalai village in Pennagaram Taluk of Dharmapuri District.

1.	Formation of waterholes in Kesarkuli RF of Palacode Range to Augment availability of water to wildlife inside the forest area during the pinch period				
a	Providing water holes in Kesarkuli RF of Palacode Range to augment availability of water to wildlife inside the forest area during pinch period.	No	15.00	2 Nos	30.00
b	Maintenance of water holes formed in Kesarkuli RF of Palacode Range to augment availability of water to wildlife inside the forest area during pinch period.	No	2.50	1 No	2.50
c	Construction of Percolation Pond for ground water recharge / augmenting drinking water to wildlife in Kesarkuli RF of Palacode Range during summer season.	1 No	25.00	1 No	25.00
2.	Strengthening of Wildlife Protection				
	Strengthening and maintenance of Anti-poaching / Anti-depredation camps in Morappur kollai - Anuppampatti APC Camp.	No	10.00	2 Nos	20.00
3.	Erection of Protection Barriers (Steel wire rope fence):				
	Erection of Steel wire rope fence along the boundary of Tribal hamlets such as Erimalai, Seenkadu and Alakkattu to avoid Man - Animal conflict.	Km	45.0	4 Km	180.00
4.	Installation of Check Point at the entrance of the proposed road:				
	Installation of Check Point at the entrance of the proposed road to prevent illegal goods transportation / smuggling / monitoring the travellers.	1.0 No	1.00	1.0	1.00
	Total				258.50

(Rupees two hundred fifty eight lakhs and fifty thousand only)

21/01/25
District Forest Officer
Dharmapuri Forest Division
Dharmapuri

21/01/2025