

SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER,
SOUTH WAYANAD DIVISION

The Executive engineer, Kerala Public Works Department- Roads Division, Kozhikkode has applied for forest clearance for the Construction of Twin tunnel (2+2 lane) with four lane approaches (from existing roads) for providing direct connectivity between Anakkampoyil- Kalladi- Meppady in Kozhikkode and Wayanad Districts of Kerala state.

The land proposed was inspected by me on 19.11.2021. The area falls under Block 32 of Vellarimala Village of Vythiri Taluk. The entire length of the tunnel goes through the underground of the forest area in Re.Sy No. 39, 40, 53 and Sy.No. 260 of Vellarimala village and covers an underground distance of 3.875 Km. The total forest land proposed for diversion is 17.263 Ha, out of this 9.307 Ha comes under the Meppady Range of South Wayanad Forest Division. The area proposed for diversion is a part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve and the nature of forest is of semi evergreen and deciduous type with canopy density of 25 to 50 %. The gradients are steep on the outer portion of the hillock and is prone to landslides.

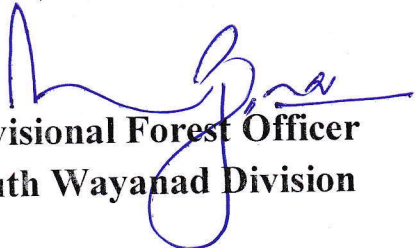
Rocky slopes show sparse occurrence of trees with stunted growth, among which *Bombax ceiba*, *Careya arborea*, *Cochlospermum religiosum*, *Hymenodictyon obovatum* and *Streblus asper* are notable. The area consists of shrubs, herbs, climbers and grasses of various families too. The presence of animals like wild boar, Elephant, Tiger, Leopard, porcupine , Deer is also seen in the area and the area is home to several endemic birds. From the list of fauna submitted by the agency which did EIA of the site, there are 63 species of birds, 12 species of mammal, 28 species of butterflies, 3 species of amphibians, 4 species of Odonates and 7 species of reptiles.

The nearest sanctuary, Wayanad wildlife sanctuary, extending to an area of 344 sq. km lies at an aerial distance of 20 km from the proposed location. Malabar

Wildlife Sanctuary extending to an area of 74.21 sq. km is another sanctuary which is near, is located at an aerial distance of 19.96 Km from the proposed area as obtained from the Google earth locations.

The landslide prone area of Puthumala is very close to the proposed area, where the flood of 2018 took the lives of many people and caused several other damages. The area proposed for diversion is not passing through National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, designated Elephant Corridor or Tiger Reserve. The area proposed for diversion is found to be barest minimum and any other alternative to the tunnel shall require more forest land.

The width of the tunnel proposed is 29.277 m and the length of the tunnel passing through South Wayanad Division is 3875 m. As the entire project is passing through underground portion of the forest area, no trees are needed to be felled. The tunnel entry from Wayanad side is near to Meenakshi Bridge which is part of non-forest land.



**Divisional Forest Officer
South Wayanad Division**