

Site Inspection Report-Chief Conservator of Forests

The Thrissur Zoological Park – Wildlife Conservation and Research Centre proposed at the Manapilly and Mannur Hill Reserve Forest of Pattikkad Range, Thrissur division in Central Circle of Kerala Forest and Wildlife Department was inspected On 12/11/2018 along with the Divisional Forest Officer, Thrissur, Range Forest Officer, Pattikkad, staff of Pattikkad Range, Deputy Conservator of Forests and Special Officer for Thrissur Zoological Park, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Thrissur Zoological Park and Park Staff. All the documents submitted by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Thrissur Zoological Park including maps, clearance from Central Zoo Authority for the Master Plan, Master Layout Plan and design of individual enclosures for animals were gone in to in detail.

The proposed forest land for diversion consisting of 136.8623 Ha, is an isolated bit of forest surrounded by human habitation in Puthur and Kainoor villages of Thrissur District. The location is about 12 km from Thrissur town. The proposed site comprises of three interconnected hillocks having gentle slope in the lower elevation which rises to steeper gradient in the upper reaches. Out of the three hillocks, it is proposed to establish the Zoological Park in an extent of about 48 Ha. in which the effective area under construction is about 18 hectares. The geology of the site is of dense Archean metamorphic material which is frequently and conspicuously exposed as black boulder outcrops of considerable size.


Out of the 136.8623 Ha of area, 65.2953 hectares supports almost pure crop of bamboo planted in 1982. These bamboo stands have now started flowering gregariously. Hence the removal of bamboo stands from the site is under process and its complete removal from the site is expected before the ensuing dry season. Sparse growth of natural regeneration of species like *Tectona grandis*, *Xylia xylocarpa*, *Albizzia odoratissima*, *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Macaranga peltata*, *Pterocarpus marsupium* etc are seen in the site. The remaining 71.5670 hectares of area supports Cashew Plantation raised in 1960 and augmented in 1981. The site was originally of moist deciduous forests, which was planted later with teak followed by Cashew and Bamboo. The site in due course of time has degraded as well. The site is categorized in Open Forest under Eco Value Class I for assessing the NPV.

The area is devoid of any human habitation and does not come in the purview of any Scheduled area/ protected site/Heritage site/ Archeological site.

The location being an isolated patch is not an Elephant/Animal corridor. The site is devoid of tribals/forest dwellers.

The shifting of the existing Zoo at Chembukavu (Thrissur) to a new location was under the consideration of State Government since 2005. Presently the existing Zoo, having about 64 species of animals and birds in its collection (511 numbers of animals) is facing acute shortage of space. Being located in the midst of Thrissur town there is no further scope of expansion of the existing Zoo. The CZA has called upon the State Government to identify a new spacious spot for shifting the existing Zoo. In compliance to the CZA direction, the State Government has identified the proposed location at Puthur by transferring the ownership of the proposed Zoo from the Museum and Zoo Department to Kerala Forest Department. As per the communication from MoEF (F No. 11 -66/2004-FC dated 13/11/2007) and further its clarification by CZA (letter F. No. 19-113/92-CZA (140) (M) dated 23.12.2008), the activities for shifting of this proposed Zoo were being carried out as a forestry activity. Accordingly the Master layout Plan, Master Plan, detailed design of enclosures for Indian Gaur Exhibit, Great Aviary Exhibit, Nilgiri Langur Exhibit, Lion tailed macaque Exhibit and the remaining enclosures in Phase I including Biodiversity Centre for amphibians, reptiles, nocturnal animals etc, enclosure for Mugger and Gharial, three enclosures for Deers, enclosure for Lion, Tiger and Leopard with corrections were approved by CZA. Shri Jon Coe, internationally renowned Zoo Designer from Australia is the Chief Architect of the Project. The works with respect to the four enclosures – Nilgiri Langur, Lion Tailed Macaque, Indian Gaur and Great Aviary is half way through. The remaining works in the Phase I (8 enclosures, Arrival & Parking Zone and Orientation Centre) were also initiated in the field.

Government has entrusted CPWD as the executing agency for construction of enclosures. Wadia Techno Engg. Services Ltd. has completed their DPR on Water Supply and Drainage System for the proposed Park. The implementation works with respect to Zoo Services (Hospital, Kitchen Store etc) and Administration Block are also in the initial stage of construction. The construction work of two blocks consisting of eight units for accommodating staff is already complete.


Chief Conservator of Forests
Central Circle, Thrissur