

Inspection Note of Chief Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, Kannur

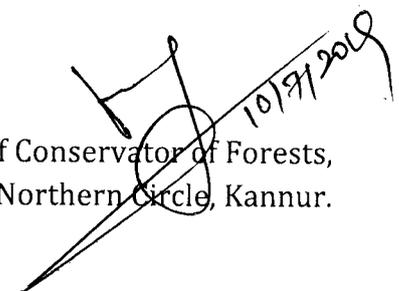
I have inspected the diversion proposal on 10.07.2019. The present proposal from the PWD Bridges Wing is for constructing a bridge at a distance of 4 Km from Thalasseri town along the existing Thalassery - Irikkur Road connecting Thalassery and Airport passing via Pinarayi - Mambaram - Ancharakkandi. The above road is being widened for better connectivity to reach Kannur Airport from Thalassery Town. The proposed diversion area falls under Mangrove Reserve Forest bit located in Pinarayi Village Sy. No. 9/2, having extent of 0.62 ha under Kottiyoor Range of Kannur Division. The total area required for the above project is around 0.10 ha in the notified area of 0.62 ha.

Due to widening, trees standing along road side have to be cleared. Most of the areas along the road sides are owned by PWD. But this location is falling in Mangrove Reserve Forest Area, notified under Mission Mangroves Kannur-2015 Project. The total enumerated trees have to be felled for the above project is 26 numbers of miscellaneous species and 38 numbers of mangrove species.

Originally the area was in the possession of PWD department, but under the Mission Mangrove Project in Kannur District all the mangrove areas under various Govt. departments were mutated in favour of Forest department and notified as a Reserve Forest. More over this smaller extent of 0.10 ha is essential for widening the road and there is no any other alternative route, hence recommended for diversion of this area with following conditions.

1. The tree felling shall be restricted to minimum and essential and double the numbers of trees in lieu of felled trees shall be planted by the User Agency.
2. In Kannur District there is an extent of around 500 ha of Mangrove Forest in the possession of private land holders yet to be acquired in favour of Forest Department and to be notified as a reserve forest as per one of the conditions laid in the Govt. of India's sanction Letter F.No.8-16/2002/FC of MoEF dated 21.08.2003 for the resettlement of landless tribals in the State of Kerala. This process has to be initiated and pursued urgently.

Chief Conservator of Forests,
Northern Circle, Kannur.

10/9/2019