

SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER KOTTAYAM


The District Police Chief of Idukki District has proposed for the diversion of 0.2023 ha of forest land for the construction of Mullaperiyar Police Station in Vallakadavu Proposed Reserve at Manjumala Village of Peerimedu Taluk of Idukki District. The land proposed has been inspected on 12.02.2022. The proposed land is lying in a single bit towards the eastern side of the Proposed Reserve.

The proposed bit is lying on the right-hand side of the kutchra road passing through the proposed reserve, approximately one km from Vallakadavu. The plot is having a south facing gentle slope. The plot is part of the grass land and does not support tree growth. In fact, the grassland present is the climax vegetation of the locality. The Vallakadavu Proposed Reserve is having a total extent of more than 100 Ha and lies adjacent to the Periyar West Division of Periyar Tiger Reserve. The area was transferred to Forest Department prior to 1980 for afforestation project of grasslands. There are a few inhabitations in between the Tiger Reserve boundary and the proposed plot. The area has not yet recorded the presence of large carnivores or elephant, Guar etc. The proposed plot lies at an aerial distance of 750 m from the boundary of Periyar Tiger Reserve.

The proposed bit of land does not pass-through National Park, Elephant Corridor or Tiger Reserve. However, the area falls within the eco-sensitive zone of Periyar Tiger Reserve.

During my inspection, it is found that the requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency is the barest minimum required for the project and is necessary for the purpose applied for. The ecological impact caused due to diversion is negligible as the proposed plot is 0.2023 Ha and the construction proposed is of a Police Station Building which is a small-scale construction. Under the above circumstances, the proposal for diversion is recommended for acceptance.




**Divisional Forest Officer,
Kottayam Forest
Division**