

Recommendation by Divisional Forest Officer, Mankulam

This Project proposed by National center of Earth Science, Akkulam Thiruvananthapuram, envisages the use of forest land for the construction of “Geo environmental observatory”, which will serve as a primary data source of several hydrological, geological, agronomical and climate change studies, in the high - altitude region of Periyar river basin, at Sankhumalai, Munnar.

The proposed site is within 100m of a Police repeater station situated in the revenue land of KDHP ownership, and beyond which at a distance of around 200 meters, the Eravikulam National Park is situated. The Eravikulam National park is one of the last habitats for the endangered NilgiriTahr, which has considerable and viable population as conservation efforts area presently undertaken. The area is situated in proximity to shoal patches which has various rare species of Strobilanthes genus. Since the proposed project requires only 0.04 Ha for the installation of various instruments and the project does not involve major constructions, the proposed project is recommended with the condition that no further construction or development is made in future.