

**SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER ,**  
**SOUTH WAYANAD**

The Dr. E.P. Mohandas, Managing Director, Western Ghats Development Ltd has applied for forest clearance for the Construction of Rope way between Kozhikkode and Wayanad Districts of Kerala State.

The land proposed was inspected by me on 21.02.2022. The area falls under Block 25, R.S. No.201/Pt, 0.6158 Ha in Kunnathidavaka Village of Vythiri Taluk. The proposed area is a vested forest in VFC item No.89, which is lying contiguous to the District boundary of Kozhikode Division. The boundary of the area is given below

- North: Private property in R.S. No.201/Pt
- South: VFC item No.26 – Kozhikode Division
- East: Kozhikode – Kollagal WH-766 (R.S. No.202, 203), (R.S. No.201/Pt private land
- West: Private property in R.S. No.201/2Pt

The total forest land proposed for diversion is 1.77 Ha, out of this 0.6158 Ha comes under the Kalpetta 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.

The details of trees standing in the land is given below

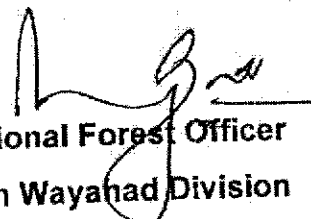
Sl. No.	Trees	GBH Girth (Mtr)	Length (Mtr)	Remarks
1	Vellakhil	0.58	6	
2	Silver Oak	0.55	5	
3	Plavu	1.20	8	
4	Kattu Rubber	1.20	4	
5	Silver Oak	0.66	4	
6	Vellakhil	1.06	8	
7	Sindhoori	0.82	5	
8	Noolkkanjiram	0.80	6	
9	Sindhoori	1.30	8	
10	Silver Oak	0.89	10	

The area show sparse occurrence of trees with stunted growth, among which *Mallotus philippensis*, *Dysoxylum malabaricum*, *Artocarpus heterophyllus* are notable. The area consists of coffee plants and it is a disputed property in WP(C) 14943/2021 before the Hon'ble High Court. The presence of animals like Wild boar, Elephant, Tiger, Leopard, Porcupine, Sambar deer, Barking deer, Mouse deer is also seen in the area and the area is home to several endemic birds. From the list of flora submitted by the agency which did vegetation analysis of the site and adjacent touch areas, they collected 104 species of flowering plants and identified from the above 25% coming under the category of Rare, Endemic and Threatened Plants (RET) like *Cinnamomum malabattrum*, *Actinodaphne malabarica*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, *Lagerstroemia lanceolata* etc. Among the 104 species of flowering plants more than 75 species have known medicinal properties. Some of these are listed below *Callicarpa tomentosa*, *Garcinia gummigutta*, *Symplocos cochinchinensis*, *Briedelia scandens* etc.

The nearest sanctuary, Wayanad wildlife sanctuary, extending to an area of 344 sq. km lies at an aerial distance of 30 km from the proposed location. Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary extending to an area of 74.21 sq. km is another sanctuary which is located adjacent to the proposed area.

The area proposed for diversion is not passing through National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary or Tiger Reserve. The area proposed for diversion is found to be barest minimum and any other alternative shall require more forest land.

The proposed rope way project is passing through 0.85 Ha in Puthuppadi Village, 0.3 Ha in Kadancheri Village and 0.62 Ha in Kunnathidavaka Village totalling 1.77 Ha of forest land and 2.72 Ha of private land in Puthupadi Village. As the project is passing through the forest area in Kalpetta Range, trees are needed to be felled.

  
**Divisional Forest Officer**  
**South Wayanad Division**