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Establishing the Elephant Rescue and Rehabilitation Center at Kottoor in
Thiruvananthapuram District


Recommendation of the Deputy Conservator of Forests.

The proposal is for diversion of 57.02 hectares of forest land for establishing Elephant Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre at Kottoor in ABP Forest Range in Thiruvananthapuram Wildlife Division. The forest falls in Kottoor Reserve forest.

This proposal is recommended on the following grounds.

1. The State has about 3054 elephants in the wild and about 600 wild elephants in captivity. The State has a responsibility to rescue and rehabilitate the following categories of elephants.
 - (i). Old elephants in the Elephant Camps of Kerala Forest Department.
 - (ii). Wild elephants captured from human-wildlife conflict areas.
 - (iii). Captive elephants seized from private owners for violating the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
 - (iv). Baby elephants rescued from the wild under various circumstances.So there is urgent need to establish an Elephant Rescue and Rehabilitation Center in the State.
2. Natural habitat is ideal for the rehabilitation and recapitulation of wild elephants. So it is advantageous to establish the Rescue and Rehabilitation Center in forest area.
3. The forest in the proposed site consists partly of plantation of Acacia and secondary forest. So the ecological value of the forest is moderate.
4. Construction activities are confined to an area less than 15 % of the total forest area proposed for diversion. Forest growth in the balance area will be preserved.

5. Non-forest land in the forest fringe is not available in the State which is finding it difficult to allot land for human habitation.
6. The forest area selected at Kappukad near Kottoor is on the fringe of reserve forest. The site is accessible through a network of good roads. The site is near to Neyyar Reservoir which is a perennial source of water. One perennial stream and one seasonal stream flow through the site and it is proposed to impound water in two large ponds at site.
7. The site has vast expanse of forest in the background which provides opportunity for taking out elephants for foraging in forest.
8. The location is ideally suited for release of rescued elephants back to the wild.
9. Eighteen elephants rescued by the Department are kept in the area by making temporary arrangements.
10. About 13 tribal hamlets exist in the nearby forest area. The Center will provide employment opportunities to the tribal youths.


Deputy Conservator of Forests &
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