

Justification for locating a part of the Water Supply Scheme to Thrissur Zoological Park in the forest area

Water supply scheme to Zoological Park- Wildlife Conservation and Research Centre at Puthur in Thrissur District is a scheme for meeting the water requirements in the upcoming Project of Thrissur Zoological Park. The Zoological Park site is located in the Manapilly and Mannur reserved forest of Thrissur division for which in principle approval is already received from MoEF. The clearance obtained also includes for the works of water tanks, treatment plants, sewage treatments and sewerage lines, underground plumbing lines, rain water drains and ponds.

The daily requirement of water for the park as assessed by the consultant Wadia Techno Engg. Services Ltd. is 8.9 lakh litre out of this nearly 5.2 lakh litre will be recycled and used. Hence in effect 3.71 lakh litre needs to be pumped daily to the park to meet the demands of the Zoological Park. The main water source identified is from the river Manali, which is about 4 km distance from the Zoo site. The intake point of the water is in Chemboor area of the Manali river, where the well and the motor house is proposed to be developed. Thereafter the pipeline moves along the places kokkath road and then through Ayyampilly reserved forest. The Ayyampilly reserved forest is located in Pattikkad range of Thrissur Forest Division. After crossing the reserved forest the pipeline will run for few meters in Thonippara-Kurisumoola road, to reach the Zoological Park site. An area of 600m² (0.06 Ha) of forest land has to be diverted inside a total area of 10 hectare of Ayyampilly reserve. Apart from crossing a small area inside the forest, the remaining areas fall along the Panchayat road before entering the Park site. Panchayat had already given permission for laying pipeline and well in the Panchayat area. The following are the other important reasons for locating the project in the forest area:

1. The only alternate route available is to take the pipeline along Chemboor road, Mukinnikara-Puthur road, Puthur PWD road, Kurisumoola-Thonippara road route through Panchayat & PWD roads for a length of nearly 6km. At present, proposal for widening of the PWD road is under consideration and the works in this regard are progressing with the Revenue Department. A permanent laying of water pipeline is essential for the water supply scheme, since the water requirement is to meet the sensitive demands of the Zoological Park. Therefore the route touching the PWD roads cannot be feasible. Also the opening up of the Zoological Park should happen by December, 2020. Hence the only available land for laying pipeline needs to cross a small forest area along with the Panchayat road.
2. The proposed forest land in Ayyampilly reserved Forest is a teak plantation known by Anakkuzhy plantation. The plan for laying pipeline is in such a way that no trees will be felled.
3. The proposed forest land is about 0.06 Ha inside a 10 Ha Ayyampili reserve, which is an isolated bit of forest land surrounded by human habitation.
4. The proposed forest bit does not house any wild animals because of non-contiguity with main forest land.
5. There are no recognized rights of scheduled tribes and other forest dwellers in the forest area.




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