

Conservation Value of Sri Lankamalleswara Wildlife Sanctuary & Tiger Corridor area

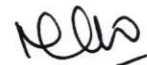
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Sri Lankamalleswara Wildlife Sanctuary is the home for a nocturnal bird **Jerdon's Double Banded Courser** inhabiting in the scrub jungles. It spends time preferably in *Carissa carandas*, bushes locally called as **Kalivi Kodi**. The foot hills of Lankamalleswara with bushes of *Carissa carandas* is an ideal habitat for this bird.

The Tiger Corridor extends over an area of 4644.50 Sq. Km from Nagarjunasagar Srisailam Tiger Reserve to Seshachalam hill of S. V. National Park connecting six (6) divisions i.e. Nandyal (WL), Proddatur (WL) Kadapa, Rajampeta, Chittoor East (WL) and Tirupathi Divisions. This area is viable for establishing the Tiger source population. There is substantial presence of wildlife in the corridor area. The endangered Jerdon's Double Banded Courser habitat which is declared as Sri Lankamalleswara Wildlife Sanctuary also exists in this tract of corridor. This segment of corridor supports and connects the two wildlife habitat areas with rich Bio-diversity. The movement of Tiger is also noticed in the adjoining areas of the proposed diversion.

Apart from above, the **Red Sanders (Pterocarpus santalinus)** is an endemic species of Rayalaseema Region (Kadapa, Chittoor and part of Nellore, Prakasam and Kurnool Districts). Most of the areas of Sri Lankamalleswara WL sanctuary are covered by Red Sander species, which is highly valued for its characteristic wavy grains and other commercial values (Export values). Due to these reasons Red Sanders is subjected to smuggling. This factor is responsible for degradation of the Red Sander bearing areas. Hence the need of treatment of these forests is felt to improve the regeneration and productivity of natural occurring Red Sanders.

Hence the Geological, Biological, Cultural, Religious and Scenic beauties of Lankamalai Forests including famous Lankamalleswara Temple, Nityapooja Kona with springs, sacred grooves, mesic sites, ancient rock formations are to be conserved and protected forever for the mankind and nature. This area is having Global unique value.



Divisional Forest Officer
Proddatur (WL) Division