

No.ABP4-15155/2017

Site Inspection Report of the Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)
(Agasthyavanam Biological Park Circle)(i/c),
Thiruvananthapuram

I have inspected the area on 23.03.2017. The proposed area for the project is located in Ettappadappu Section of Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary having a length of 1 KM and 0.35 M width (0.035 Ha.) along the existing road from Vilakkumaram to Rosemala. No trees have to be felled or no damage to the existing forest will occur due to this project. As the proposed work involves only laying of under ground cable along the already existing road, there is no impact on the biodiversity of the area.

The proposal is favorably recommended for further necessary action.

Conservator of Forests(Wildlife)
(ABP Circle)(i/c)

A

Conservation value of the Protected area

Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary situated at Thenmala is a part of Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve and is one of the richest areas of biodiversity in the Western Ghats. The name Thenmala itself has a mystery in its name. According to the local language, 'Then' means 'honey' and 'mala' means 'hills', meaning honey hills. It is believed that the honey collected from Thenmala forests is of good quality possessing high medicinal values because of the unique floristic composition of the forests. The sanctuary is perhaps one of the well protected representatives of evergreen forest in the Western Ghats and houses significant populations of locally endemic species such as *Gluta travancorica*, *Cynometra bourdilonii* and *Palaquium bourdilonii*. The presence of the unique specialized habitat-the Myristica swamps, the undulating terrains, rocky mountains, variety in forest types, waterfalls, grasslands etc comprising of a wide variety of flora and fauna have earned Shendurney the tag of a heaven for nature lovers and bird watchers. The construction of the Parapparam dam has resulted in the creation of an artificial lake of nearly 18.69sq.km within the sanctuary, which attracts a large number of water birds.

The etymological meaning of the name 'Shendurney' has been derived from a tree, locally called 'Chenkurinji' (*Gluta travancorica*) which is an endemic tree confined to this tract. Shendurney, lying on the western part of Agasthyamala-Ashambu hill ranges, along with the other contiguous forests in the Agasthya-mala region forms one of the most important areas in the Western Ghats for the conservation of the endemic Lion Tailed Macaque. Other endemic mammal found here includes Nilgiri langur, Slender loris, Nilgiri Marten etc along with the globally threatened species such as Tiger and Elephant, which adds to the mammalian diversity of the sanctuary.

The sanctuary is home to an identified species of 1256 plants belonging to different families. A total of 35 species of mammals, 268 species of birds, 36 species of reptiles, 29 species of amphibians, 42 species of fishes, and 257 species of butterflies have been identified from the sanctuary. Shendurney has been designated as an important bird area owing to the presence of three globally threatened species such as the Little kestrel, Wood snipe, and the Nilgiri wood pigeon. Further, the sanctuary is a preferred site for long distance migrating species such as Tickell's leaf warbler, Large billed leaf warbler, Blue headed rock thrush and Rufous tailed flycatcher.

The boundary of the sanctuary roughly coincides with the watershed boundary of the Kallada reservoir, which is an important source of water for irrigation purposes in the districts of Kollam and Pathanamthitta. Hence the conservation of the forests in the hill ranges and catchment area is critical in maintaining the constant supply of quality water.



[Handwritten Signature]
Wildlife Warden
Shendurny Wildlife Division
Thennimala