

(By Tapal / RPAD / Courier / e-mail)

TAMIL NADU FOREST DEPARTMENT
SRIVILLIPUTHUR MEGAMALAI TIGER RESERVE
MEGAMALAI DIVISION, THENI DT

From
Thiru.S.ANAND, I.F.S.,
Conservator of Forests and
Deputy Director,
Megamalai Division,
Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger
Reserve, Theni.

To
**The Principal Chief Conservator of
Forests (Head of Forest Force),**
State Forest Headquarters,
Guindy – Velachery Main Road,
Near Kannigapuram Check Post,
Guindy, Chennai -32
(Through Proper Channel)

C.No.D1/16/2020 dated 29.04.2025

Sir,

Sub: Forests – Forest Conservation Act – Diversion of Forest
Land – SMTR – Road Upgradation works in **Varusanadu
– Via Thummakundu – Valiparai Road** (0/0 – 9/720
Km) Section in Kadamalaikundu-Myladumparai Panchayat
Union, Aundipatti Taluk in Theni district – **Proposal
No.FP/TN/Road/42704/2019** – Diversion of forest
lands in Myladumparai Bit 39 RL, Myladumparai Bit 47 RL
and Megamalai RF of Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger
Reserve over an extent of 1.8798 hectares – Processing
Agency – Recommendation report transmitted – **Wildlife
Mitigation Measures submission** - regarding.,

- Ref:
1. Parivesh 1.0 Proposal No.FP/TN/Road/42704/2019
 2. This office Ref.No.D1/16/2020, dated:09.11.2024
 3. EDS received from Chief Conservator of Forests &
Field Director, SMTR, Madurai on 16.12.2024
 4. This office Ref.No.D1/16/2020, dated 16.12.2024
 5. EDS raised by State Government on 14.03.2025
vide letter No.480/FR.10/2025-1 dated 12.03.2025
 6. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of
Forest Force), Chennai Ref.No.HOTNFD/580 /2025-
TS4, dated 15.03.2025

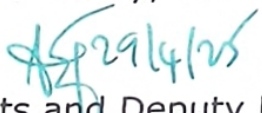
In response to the instructions in reference 6th cited, I submit
herewith the **Wildlife Mitigation Measures Plan** to be undertaken for
the diversion of forest lands in Megamalai RF, Myladumparai Bit 39 RL

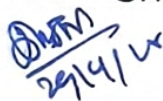
and Myladumparai Bit 47 RL for upgradation of **Varusanadu – Via Thummakundu – Valiparai Road** (0/0 – 9/720 Km) Section in Kadamalaikundu - Myladumparai Panchayat Union, Aundipatti Taluk in Theni district.

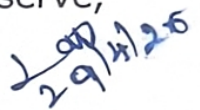
The above plan may kindly be considered.

Encl: Wildlife Mitigation
Plan

Yours faithfully,


Conservator of Forests and Deputy Director,
Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve,
Megamalai Division, Theni.


29/4/25


29/4/25

Copy submitted to the Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director, SMTR, Madurai for necessary action.

WILDLIFE MITIGATION MEASURES PLAN

ROAD PROJECT INVOLVING DIVERSION OF 1.8798 HECTARES FOREST LANDS IN MEGAMALAI RF, MYLADUMPARAI BIT 39 RL AND MYLADUMPARAI BIT 47 RL IN SRIVILLIPUTHUR MEGAMALAI TIGER RESERVE, MEGAMALAI DIVISION, THENI DISTRICT, TAMILNADU

INTRODUCTION

Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve is the 51st Tiger Reserve in the country declared during 2021. It is the 5th tiger reserve in the state and is sandwiched between Periyar Tiger Reserve and Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve. It falls in Theni, Madurai and Virudhunagar districts. It is spread over an area of 1016 Sq km. The tiger reserve is declared as Tiger Water Sanctuary and is the source of origin of rivers viz., Vaigai, Suruli, Arjuna, Shanmuganathi, Manjalnathi, Uduppiyaaru and others. It is the life line of people of Theni, Dindigul, Madurai, Sivagangai and Ramnad districts. There are several hamlets inside the tiger reserve. Connectivity to these hamlets are recognized in the Reserved Forest Notification during the settlement process. One such proposal for diversion of forest lands in Megamalai RF, Myladumparai Bit 39 RL and Myladumparai Bit 47 RL is the Varusanadu – Valiparai Road via Thummakundu.

DESCRIPTION

The NABARD and Rural Roads Department, Theni (hereinafter "User Agency") has submitted a proposal for "Upgradation of Varusanadu to Vaaliparai via Thummakundu (0/0 to 09/720 Km) section in Kadamalaikundu-Myladumparai Panchayat Union, Aundipatti Taluk in Theni district. The user agency has proposed for the upgradation of road. The project is a linear project spanning a width of 5 metres and a length of 3759.6 metres falling in three reserved forests in the tiger reserve. It enters the buffer zone and reaches the core zone of the tiger reserve.

1. The road is an existing bitumen road in the forest and non forest land.

2. The road is located in Thummakundu Village Panchayat of Kadamalai-Myladumparai Panchayat Union and falls partly in Megamalai Revenue village and partly in Myladumparai Revenue Village of Aundipatti Taluk in Theni district, TamilNadu.
3. The said passes first through Myladumparai Bit 39 Reserved land (RL) for a length of 487.6metres; then through some non forest land; further, through Myladumparai Bit 47 Reserved Land (RL) for a length of 491metres; continued in Megamalai Reserved Forests (RF) for 2781metres; thus, totaling 3759.6metres in length in the forest land.
4. Thus, the road is in three patches viz., Patch 1 (Myladumparai Bit 39 RL), Patch 2 (Myladumparai Bit 47 RL) and Patch 3 (Megamalai RF).
5. The Patch 1 road starts at S.F.No.1432 of Myladumparai Bit 39 RL when it leaves S.F.No.552 of Myladumparai village and exits at S.F.No.556 of Myladumparai village; Patch 2 starts at the junction of S.F.No.926 of Myladumparai Bit 47 RL (Myladumparai village) with S.F.No.558 of Myladumparai village and exits at S.F.No.280 of Megamalai RF (Megamalai village); Patch 3 starts at S.F.No.280 of Megamalai RF (Megamalai village) when it leaves S.F.No.926 of Myladumparai village and traverses through the survey field to meet S.F.No.978 of Megamalai village.
6. The road connects Varusanadu to Valiparai via Thummakundu and is a termination at Valiparai.
7. As per the Megamalai RF notification, in **Right No.16**—*Pathway leading to Varushanadu – Valiparai road width 8.00 metres. This pathway starting from Survey Field Number 978 of 'F' line measuring 10.00 metres at the cutting point of 2.00runs through the proposed Reserved Forest and end in Survey Field Number 1412 of No.22 Mayiladumparai village boundary and its 'F' line measuring 99.6 metres at the cutting point of 6 metres. Length 2352.2 metres.*

8. Myladumparai Bit 39 RL and Myladumparai Nit 47 RL are declared as Buffer Zone of the Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve.
9. The other part of the road falls in Megamalai RF which is declared as Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve. Though Megamalai RF is spread over the core and buffer zone of the tiger reserve, this part of the RF where the road falls is in core zone of the tiger reserve.
10. This road falls in Varusanadu beat of Gandamanur Range and Thummakundu North beat of Varusanadu Range which is part of the buffer and core zones of Tiger Reserve respectively.
11. The road is an access to people of Manalathukudisai, Komalikuldisai, Thummakundu, Valiparai and Thandiankulam hamlets.
12. This road is the means of communication and transport to the Thummakundu Village Panchayat.
13. As it is an existing road, no tree falls in the existing alignment. Thus, there are no trees of natural or spontaneous origin in the proposed area.
14. Though the user agency had proposed for widening the road upto 8 metres, the existing formation in the non-forest land is only 4 m and hence, it is agreed upto this limit only.
15. The user agency had applied for the upgradation of the road as per the right of way in Megamalai RF Notification for a length of 2352.2 metres and width of 8 metres; thus, totaling to 1.88 hectares *i.e.*, $2352.2 \times 8 = 18817.6$ Sq metres or 1.8818 hectares. But, the road falls in Myladumparai Bit 39 and Bit 47 RLs as mentioned in Sl.No.3 to 5 which was confirmed in the survey conducted by Forest Settlement Officer, Bodi. Hence, the proposal is dealt by including all the three forest blocks.
16. The forest type in these three forest blocks is Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests (Eco Class III).

17. The road is to be considered for the welfare of the bona-fide inhabitants only.

SUBJECTS TO BE DEALT IN THIS PLAN

1. Ensuring flow of water in the streams and rivulets that are cut in the road project.
2. Handling Soil erosion.
3. Protection of valuable teak plantation
4. Human wildlife conflict management
5. Garbage management

PROPOSED MEASURES

1. **Construction of Toe wall with chain link fencing along the road side for 950 metres** – It is proposed to construct toe wall at a height of 1.5 metres and a bottom width of 1.50 m or as per design over a length of 950 metres in the first bit of Megamalai RF to prevent soil erosion. The structure minimizes the impact of animal crossing in the road line. The main aim is to prevent road kills apart from minimizing soil erosion.
2. **Maintenance of the culverts in the road** – There are 32 culverts in the existing road. These culverts are choked by bushes and debris. They shall be cleared to ensure full flow. This shall be part of the implementation of the user agency as it does not involve fresh diversion and / or constructions. The removed bushes and debris shall be left in the downstream area without being removed from the forest area.
3. **Erection of caution sign boards at identified places** – It is proposed to caution people using the road through erection of signages and displays to reduce vehicular speed, caution at animal crossing areas, sharp turns etc., Hence, it is proposed to erect 20 signages in the entire road stretch as the total length is 3.76 KM.

4. **Erection of Road Convex Mirror for road safety** – It is proposed to have a convex road safety mirror at Komalaikudisai.
5. **Erection of chain link fencing** – It is proposed to erect chain link fence over a length of 960 m around a patch of forest area in Myladumparai Bit 39 RL that gets detached because of the road work. This patch of forest may lose its sanctity because of this detachment. Hence, it is proposed to secure it through chain link fence.

BUDGET PROPOSAL (Rs. In Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Item of work	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1.	Construction of Toe wall with chain link fencing along the road side	950 m	0.045	42.75
2.	Maintenance of the culverts in the road	To be implemented by the user agency		
3.	Erection of caution sign boards at identified places	20 Nos	0.20	4.00
4.	Erection of Road Convex Mirror for road safety	2 Nos	0.20	0.40
5.	Erection of chain link fencing	960 m	0.016	15.36
		GRAND TOTAL		62.51

Thus, the total cost proposed for Wildlife Mitigation Measures Plan is **Rs.62.51 Lakhs or Sixty two lakhs fifty one thousand only.**



Conservator of Forests & Deputy Director
Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve
Megamalai Division, Theni