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Divisional Forest Officer

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No. E2-2211/2023

Date : 12.05.2023

To

The Addl Principal Conservator of Forests
& Nodal Officer (CAMPA)
Thiruvananthapuram

Sir,

Sub:- Diversion of 1.98 Ha of forest land for Marippuzha SHEP -
clarification sought for - reg.

Ref:- 1. That office letter No. FC1-713/2021 dated 24.02.2023
2. MoEF, GoI letter No. 4-KLB 1440/202-BAN/74 dated
24.03.2023

Kindly refer to the above wherein some clarifications were sought by MoEF, Govt of India regarding the land proposed for planting. The proposed area of compensatory afforestation is coming under Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary. It is managed by prescriptions in the Management Plan which is valid from 2021-22 to 2030-31.

The prescriptions for proposed planting area is mentioned in Chapter 3 "History of Management and present practices" under para 3.4.5. The paragraph read as follows.

The regeneration in the plantations, as well as degraded area is poor. There is acute shortage of food cover at times which results in crop raiding in areas adjacent to protected areas. Augmentation of indigenous palatable species has to be taken up in phased manner. The Choothupara area is having a weed growth of nearly 25 Ha. This has to be removed and augmented.

It is reported that the proposed area is in consistent with the recommendations of approved management plan of the sanctuary.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. K. Sharma", written over a horizontal line.

Divisional Forest Officer

3.4.2 Digging water holes and maintenance

There are a number of rivers, streams and rivulets in this sanctuary. Most of them drain to Kakkayam or Peruvannamuzhy reservoirs or to Muthaveedu and Onnipuzharivers. The map attached as (Annexure 5) shows the micro watersheds in this Range.

3.4.3 Check dams

At present, there is only one check dam is situated inside the sanctuary at Kappipadi near Athikode. This is attributed to the existence of reservoirs in the limits of this sanctuary. The scarcity of water, if any during dry season has to be verified to study whether it results in the seasonal movement of animals resulting in skewed distribution.

3.4.4 Soil and moisture conservation works

The 74.21 sq.km sanctuary area exhibits an elevation range from 60 m to 1500 m within a span of 15 km and is very much rugged in nature and receives an average rainfall above 4000 mm. High rainfall coupled with steep slopes certainly causes heavy runoff and landslides resulting in soil erosion. Conservation of soil inside the sanctuary is highly essential. Site specific soil conservation measures have to be taken up in a phased manner in all the vulnerable localities within all the three zones.

3.4.5 Augmentation with indigenous species

The regeneration in the plantations as well as degraded areas is poor. There is acute shortage of food cover at times, which results in crop raiding in areas adjacent to protected areas. Augmentation of indigenous palatable species has to be taken up in a phased manner. The Choothupara area is having a weed growth of nearly 25 Ha. This has to be removed and augmented.

3.4.6 Roads Trek paths and bridges

The entire sanctuary has a network of coupe roads. But most of them are fair weather roads and during rainy season mobility is hampered due to the slushy nature of the terrain, landslides and tree falling. Details of the roads in Malabar wildlife sanctuary are given in (Table 10). Yearly maintenance of these roads is inevitable. Metalling was done only for a length of 5 km.

The total length of the road within the sanctuary is about 37 km in addition to 28 km long trek paths (Table 11). All coupe roads are non-metalled. The road up to Kakkayam dam site is metalled and is managed by Public works department.

Table: 10. Details of the roads in Malabar wildlife sanctuary

Sl No	Name of coupe road	Length in km
1	Kakkayam dam site -Shankaranpuzha coupe road	5.00
2	Kakkayam dam site to Raveendra	4.00
3	Kakkayam dam site to Athikode	3.00
4	AthikodetoPolinjapadi	5.00
5	Athikode to Syndicate	4.00
6	Chengottakkolly Road	8.00
7	Payyanikkotta to Seethappara	4.00
	Total	33.00

