

Establishing Community Conservation Reserves in the Anamalai Corridor



Technical Report to the CEPF-ATREE Western Ghats Small Grants Program
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Introduction

The purpose of the project is to conserve the Anamalai Corridor through proposing to establish a Conservation Reserve. The process involved interactions with the local communities at four sites, two each from Kodaikanal Forest Division (Kukkal and Kumbhakarai) and Theni Forest Division (Agamalai and Kurangani).

- At Kukkal, interviews were carried out with 20 individuals from the local community at the main Kukkal settlement.
- At Kumbhakarai interviews were undertaken at four settlements. The Chukam para and Indira Nagar settlements were inhabited mostly by Paliyars, an indigenous community native to this region. The other settlements surveyed were Adukkam and Vellakavi. A total of 16 interviews were conducted, at an average of four respondents per settlement.
- At Agamalai, interviews were undertaken at nine settlements. Of the nine settlements surveyed, Sokkanalai, Kuruvangudi, Pattur and Karumparai are habited by Paliyars. The other settlements were Sothuparai, Agamalai, Kannakarai, KTMR estate and Uthukadu. A total of 24 interviews were conducted, at an average of two respondents per settlement. Interviews were also conducted with two FD officials.
- At Kurangani, interviews were carried out at nine settlements namely the Temple area settlement, Coffee Board, Kottagudi, Kurangani, Naripetti, Mudhuvakudi, Central Station, Top Station and Kolukumala. The Mudhuvakudi settlement is inhabited by Paliyars. A total of 25 interviews were conducted, at an average of two respondents per settlement. Interviews were also conducted with the Panchayat and a tourist.

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with local communities at the four sites who were selected through a referral sampling strategy and opportunistically between May and September, 2012. The interviews were aimed at understanding resource use patterns, local community dynamics, and relationship with key stakeholders (Forest Department (FD) and Panchayat) with reference to potential creation of Conservation Reserves. Through open-ended questions, the interview guide looked into the following themes:

1. Resource collection and utilization
2. Stakeholder dynamics
3. Livelihoods and Human-wildlife conflict
4. Local tourism
5. Local interest and capacity in conservation and Conservation Reserve formation

Biodiversity surveys were undertaken with additional support from the Rufford Small Grants Foundation to assess the population of forest-dwelling chelonians in Theni and Kodaikanal. Herpetofaunal, mammal and avian diversity at the four sites were recorded through visual-encounter surveys conducted during different seasons.

Agamalai

Agamalai (10.109417 N 77.421967 E) is a part of the Periyakulam and Theni Forest Range in Theni Forest Division. The Agamalai Panchayat includes 27 settlements distributed in 6 wards. Agamalai is home to a relatively large population of Paliyars, an indigenous, forest-dwelling community distributed across the districts of Madurai, Theni, Dindigul, Tiruppur, Virudhunagar and Tirunelveli of the Western Ghats. There was a greater focus on the Paliyars in this area for the potential reserve formation.

Biodiversity Profile

A total of 12 mammals, 83 birds and 22 herpetofaunal species were recorded.

The Schedule I mammals as per the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, is the Nilgiri Tahr (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*), Nilgiri langur (*Trachypithecus johnii*), Indian gaur (*Bos gaurus*), Leopard (*Panther pardus*) and Mouse deer (*Moschiola indica*). Among mammals, the Nilgiri Tahr, Nilgiri langur and the Dusky striped palm squirrel (*Funambulus sublineatus*) are endemic to the Western Ghats. The Nilgiri Tahr is Endangered; Nilgiri Langur, Dusky-striped palm squirrel, Sambhar (*Rusa unicolor*) and Indian gaur are Vulnerable; and the Leopard is Near Threatened as per the IUCN Redlist.

Among birds, the Malabar trogon (*Harpactes fasciatus*), Malabar grey hornbill (*Ocyroceros griseus*), Yellow-browed Bulbul (*Iole indica*) and Grey breasted laughing thrush (*Garrulax jerdoni*) are endemic to the Western Ghats. The Yellow-throated Bulbul (*Pycnonotus xantholaemus*) is Vulnerable; and the Grey breasted laughing thrush (*Garrulax jerdoni*) and Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*) are Near Threatened as per the IUCN Red List.

Among herpetofauna, the Travancore ground skink (*Kastela travancoria*) and the Bronzed frog (*Hylarana temporalis*) are endemic to the Western Ghats. The Indian Rock Python (*Python molurus*) and Bronzed frog (*Hylarana temporalis*) are classified as Near Threatened as per the IUCN Redlist.

Animals spotted by the respondents were- Wild boars, Nilgiri langur, Barking deer, Wild dogs, Sambhar, Leopard, Porcupines, Gaurs, Python, Cobra, Vine snake, Rat snake and Russel's viper. A respondent from KTMR claimed that the gaur population has increased in the area.

Social Profile

1. Resource collection and utilization

The resource type and collection patterns differed in the various settlements. The community here depend on collection of Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) and firewood.

NTFPs are permitted to be collected only by the Paliyars, as stated by the Forest Department (FD). The most common NTFPs collected are *inji* (a local grass used to make broomsticks), kaduka (*Terminalia chebula*) used for medicinal purposes and gooseberry. Inji grows throughout the year, while kaduka usually fruits around July to September, and collected by the end of September. At Sokkanala, inji is collected from nearby plantations, while at Kuruvangudi it is taken from a plot of land allotted by the FD where they are allowed to collect, dry it and sell it.

Other NTFPs collected are kokum (*Garcinia indica*), kaatu (a kind of forest grass variety) and honey. Honey collection, though present and carried out by the Paliyars, does not occur on a large scale, and seems to be decreasing. If honey is in excess it is sold, otherwise it is used for household medicinal purposes. Kora pul (a kind of grass), teak leaves and banana stems are collected at Karumparai for building houses. A respondent from Sokkanala claimed that while earlier lots of products were collected from the forest, most resources are currently bought from shops every month.

Firewood collection ranges from personal farms, plantations to forest areas. The collection patterns differ among people; from daily, weekly to monthly. In Sokkanala, most collect it from their own land, or from plantations they work at. At Agamalai, it was stated that firewood was preferable to gas stoves as it consumed less wood while boiling water. In this settlement, water needs to be boiled before consumption. Dry branches are collected from the forest when need increases. At KTMR estate, firewood is collected from dried wattle (savuku) branches and dried coffee twigs.

Water source and related issues differ based on the settlements. In general, small streams are sources of water even though tanks exist. In Agamalai, drinking water was not expressed as a problem since it is provided through a tank built on a rivulet. In Sothuparai, water is taken from a stream. Issues with water availability are common in the Paliyar settlements, Kuruvangudi Sokkanala and Pattur. A respondent from Kuruvangudi stated that water needed to be brought on horseback if it got over. While they got water

from Varadi (a place located nearby where there is a stagnant water body), small streams are led to Kuruvangudi. At Sokkanala, a tank has been constructed; however water cannot be pumped due to lack of electricity. Water supply ranges from a small stream near the settlement and a small water pump in the settlement, which is inadequate. At Pattur there is no water facility and water is collected from a small spring which is often tampered by gaurs. Similarly, a tank at KTMR estate is usually dry and water is collected from a spring.

Fodder for the few present livestock is usually collected from jackfruit trees or plantations. They have been observed grazing around the grasslands in Agamalai, except in Kuruvangudi where livestock is taken to the forest. In general, there is not much livestock within the Agamalai Panchayat, those present are goats and horses, and the latter are mainly used for transport.

2. Livelihoods and Human Wildlife conflict

Daily wage labour and agriculture are the most common sources for livelihood. Daily wage labour was perceived more as a form of livelihood than agriculture. Tourism does not account for any form of livelihood in this area.

Livelihoods:

Agriculture is carried out at small farm holdings, which range from one to five acres. Many Paliyars were not entirely sure of the size of their land. Among crops, coffee seems most common. The Coffee Board is said to provide loans on a yearly basis to those who are legal owners of land (*patta* land) at Agamalai. At Uthukadu, coffee and plantain is also grown on a contractual basis on land leased out by others. The land is leased out for a period of five years. Some households also grow drumstick and sauku (*Casuarina*) as shade trees for coffee. The Board also provides loans to work in farms and for manure and fertilizers. Other crops cultivated include lemon, orange, sweet lime, banana, plantain, pepper and cardamom. Coffee, cardamom and plantain are harvested once a year. Cardamom during the months of July and August, and coffee is harvested between the months of August and March. Respondents from KTMR estate owned land which were taken care of by family members, while part of the livelihood was also earned through estate work. Here, coffee, lemon and jackfruit are sold at Periyakulam market, though most often lemon and jackfruit do not render profit if the produce is low, as

transportation costs come up to about Rs. 200 per horse load. They claim to earn Rs. 5000 in a year from selling produce.

Collection of NTFPs like gooseberries and inji is a common form of livelihood. Gooseberries, collected during its season, provide Rs. 2000-3000 per month, if the produce is high. Jack fruit and silk cotton are also a source of income at Kuruvangudi. Here, inji is cut, collected and sold to businessmen who further sell it to larger markets where it is sold in the form of broomsticks. Rs. 1500-2000 is earned per month through inji at Kuruvangudi. At Sokkanala, inji is made into a broomstick by the locals before selling it in the market. Here, when inji worth 10 units is collected, the final amount received is half the price due to transaction costs taken by the middle men. One broom is sold for Rs. 12. Many respondents expressed, that inji is not profitable, and barely covers the costs involved. Collection is however, being carried out possibly due to lack of other livelihood options or the existence of a larger market for the product. There was a mixed set of responses for inji, most who sold it did not pay much heed to it, as it did not provide enough income. Many also claimed to have stopped inji collection, and returned to farm work.

A respondent from Sokkanala claimed that lichens (*kalpasam*) were collected from rocks and was sold at a market in Madurai. One can earn about Rs 100-200 per kilogram from selling lichens. It was also mentioned that the FD suggested converting silk cotton plantations into agricultural fields. The people do not seem to be interested in the change as crop cultivation is disturbed by gaurs and requires more maintenance. In comparison to this, silk cotton is more profitable. Also, agriculture is rain fed and lack or irregular water supply has affected this source of income for many.

There has been a change in the form of livelihood for the Paliyars. Earlier, cultivation of different crops was carried out throughout the year, however now daily wage labour is the dominant form of livelihood. Respondents claimed that several people have migrated to Periyakulam and other towns for work.

Daily wage labour The other form of livelihood at Sokkanala is “coolie” work and that from the rural employment schemes. The “coolie” work involves carrying agricultural goods to and from farms and horses are also used for this purpose. Many respondents own horses to use them for transport and to rent it out. A respondent stated that Rs. 50 is charged for every ride. If goods are brought up to the settlement, Rs. 300 is charged for

every horse-load. Some charge Rs. 250 uphill and Rs. 200 downhill. For some this provides income for 10 days in a month. Work through the rural employment scheme generally involves clearing up roads and de-weeding. Collecting different types of forest produce was the Paliyars' main livelihood, however with work from estates and rural employment scheme work, this activity has decreased.

Most people, when asked about livelihood, expressed daily wage labour and "coolie" work as their source of income. Although they carried out small-scale agriculture for commercial purposes, this was mentioned only when asked. They possibly do not consider agriculture as a very profitable livelihood. It is seasonal and based on rainfall, hence may not be a very consistent source of income. The rural employment scheme is not for the entire year, however it could be perceived as a permanent source of income since it was a job provided by another entity and hence given more emphasis when asked. This finding is based on considerations of people's desire to move to towns for "better" jobs.

The government has provided a few Paliyar and low income families with goats, 4-5 each. However, maintenance of livestock was expressed to be difficult since access to and availability of grass was uncertain. In Sokkanala, some respondents did not own any livestock and one claimed that goats were given on loan but due to lack of rains and other resources they were unable to keep them. There is no source for milk from any livestock in Sokkanala.

Leasing out land is also a form of earning income. A respondent from Sokkanala has leased out his land for four years. The respondent earns from the lease while other family members also earn income through work in the village for a few months in the year.

Human-wildlife conflict: The most common animal that causes disturbance is the gaur. A respondent claimed that the gaur population had increased over the years. It caused damage to coffee plants, ate silk cotton pods and broke branches of lemon trees and there has been an instance of it attacking humans. In Sothuparai, larger numbers of gaurs are found when the mango trees begin to fruit. This is usually between the months of November and December. Gaurs are closer to the streams during the dry season. Other animals known to disturb agriculture are rats, wild boars, monkeys and porcupines.

Animals are usually driven away by shouting; while crackers or other loud sounds are not used here. These methods to drive away animals were used earlier, but now these are

claimed not to be used. The loss of crops and damage caused by wildlife seems to be an accepted condition by people in the Agamalai Panchayat. Since personal agriculture was not the main source of income for many in this area anymore, this could be a reason why there are no strong negative attitudes towards wild animals. Another reason being, people also accept that the FD does not provide compensation for crop depredation. These reasons could also explain the different sources of livelihood in the region.

3. Stakeholder dynamics

The local community dynamics are represented by interactions within their groups (intra-community), and with the FD and Panchayat (inter-community).

Intra-community interaction

The major issue within the community is the absence of cohesiveness. At Sokkanala, a respondent expressed that the people were unable to organise themselves and work as a team, especially in reference to the collection of products like lemon and honey. The respondent also claimed that earlier the management in the settlement was different. They implied that earlier, the Paliyars were a close knit community, and collection of honey was one of their dominant activities. Most expressed their unawareness about medicinal plants and other traditional knowledge which was not passed on from earlier generations. One respondent expressed, *“the people who knew about these did not tell us anything about [it] and have also died”*. These traditional activities have decreased and other forms of livelihood have taken over.

There was no expression of conflicts within the community but of issues that related to other stakeholders. Issues of concern for the community are largely infrastructural. Access to water was the major problem followed by housing and roads. Ten houses constructed by the Panchayat for Paliyar families have not been built properly; and people have been unable to use them. Water pipes have been provided for; however there is lack of water. A respondent from Sokkunala claimed that they barely had any facilities there. They had a motor for water, but no electricity. Pipes for water have been laid, but needed repair. The people have been provided with electricity, which is inconsistent. For households in Karumparai, a television, grinder and a fan have been provided even though they do not have access to electricity. Many respondents claimed to have petitioned for improved facilities; however nothing is claimed to have happened as yet.

When asked, they expressed their desire for loans for coffee plantations and a good road. While at Agamalai, construction of stone roads was being carried out, settlements located at higher elevations like Uthukadu and Sokkanalai did not have proper road facilities.

Inter community interaction

Forest Department

Interaction between the community and FD is not regular, and their association is based on resource collection from the forest, putting out forest fires and road construction. The FD respondents claim that locals are mostly supportive and do not have conflicts among themselves. Majority of the people agree with what the forest department asks or tells them to do. A Paliyar respondent stated that their help was taken by the FD when problems like forest fires occur. In such cases the locals are called to put out the fires.

In terms of FD norms and restrictions, most respondents were aware of the same in relation to resource collection and hunting. While this is true, few confrontations between the FD and the people do take place. For instance, in Sothuparai, when interaction takes place, it is regarding wood and NTFP collection, and livestock grazing from the forest. In Kuruvangudi, the only interaction seems to take place when too many cattle are taken into the forest to graze. The people stated, *“If we take more cattle and go than what is allowed, they make a fuss and ask us why we do it. We reply that this is the only livelihood for the 13 families here. Nothing else other than this is here”*. At Sokkanala, a respondent stated that though the FD has asked the people to collect NTFPs, but the people did not collect it as much. The respondent added that although the FD states this, it also asks for money from the locals or at times stops them from collecting, stating that a pass or permission would be required. Such unclear standing from the FD throws light on the issue of inadequate interaction between these stakeholders, and vague implementation of collection protocols.

Problems related to roads were especially expressed in Uthukadu, where the paths have been cleared for making a proper road; however the FD has not permitted its construction. As a result of this, people face high costs of transporting agricultural produce, which is also, time consuming as horses instead of jeeps are used.

In general, there were no strong objections to the FD. A respondent in Sokkanala stated if one has to collect resources from the forest, prior permission from the forest guard was required. One respondent from the Paliyars mentioned that earlier various animals would

be hunted for feasts, though now, only chicken are used keeping in mind the hunting restrictions.

Land ownership issues came up through the interviews, and legal land needed for housing was more prominent than that desired for agriculture. Respondents from Agamalai claimed that land surveyed and measured years back has not been given to the locals for housing since they are close to forest land. They added that land has been provided for houses in Anna Nagar, a settlement at Agamalai. A respondent claimed that he owns 2-3 acres of land but has not received any legal recognition (*patta*) for the land from the FD.

Compensation for agricultural and human loss by wildlife or excess rains is not provided, except in a few cases at Sothuparai. Compensation has been provided for loss of horses by gaur attacks, but only for those with ‘passes’ or for registered horses previously provided by the FD. Some respondents claim that people in the town get compensation for loss of crop due to heavy rains. When asked about fencing their land to avoid crop damage from wildlife, it was stated that if a gaur is hurt in the process, the FD blames the people. Barely any measures are taken by the people to keep wildlife away. The argument posed by the FD regarding compensation for loss of crop damage by wildlife is that a written statement by the land owners for compensation is not provided. As a result, it is difficult for the FD to provide compensation in official terms and without proof. In relation to asking for compensation, a respondent from Pattur stated, *“No we can’t since it is their property. Gaur and all are associated with the FD. If it is a patta forest/land we can petition for it and receive it. When we are within their land we cannot ask them anything.”*

A Village Forest Committee (VFC) exists in the Agamalai Panchayat; however there is no clarity in regards to its activities. Loans have been given out by the VFC but with no record of how it is spent. Repayment of loans issued from the VFC has been an issue for the FD. A Paliyar respondent expressed that he is happy with the FD as they *“give us money...are very supportive”*, however the respondent has been unable to repay the loan. A respondent expressed that controlling damage by gaurs should be handled by the VFC. A Paliyar respondent claimed that the VFC does function, but there are differences between the four members and there is no participation. There is a water tank with water pumps setup by the FD to pump water from the reservoir to the Sokkanala settlement; however it is non-functional due to inadequate electricity.

For the FD, forest fires are a major problem. Forest fires usually take place in the summer months of April and May. It is claimed by the FD that *beedis* thrown by truck drivers

while driving through estates are the cause of these fires. The fear of forest fires and the existence of only 10 households is also a reason why the state Electricity Board has claimed to not provide electricity to the Pattur settlement. The fires are usually extinguished with the help of the locals. According to one respondent from Pattur, since the VFC has been formed, only two forest fires have occurred. It was expressed by a respondent from the FD that even though people help, employing fire watchers would be helpful to deal with such situations. It was not specified whether the respondent meant employing locals for this job, which is generally the case.

A respondent in Sokkanala responded that forest management and conservation by the local communities was a good initiative, but the FD needs to be a part of it and must keep the locals informed about what is being done and what needs to be done.

Panchayat

People's association with the Panchayat varied depending on the settlements. Respondents in Agamalai expressed, *"When it comes to the Panchayat, we are the leader, treasurer and secretary and we deal with the problems ourselves"*. While this sense of affinity with the Panchayat may exist in the settlement, people from other settlements have expressed complaints towards its functioning. Majority of the respondents have issues with facilities like water and electricity, which is often associated with the Government/Panchayat, however in general, no strong association with the Panchayat was expressed.

For respondents at Sokkanalai, the Panchayat does not *"do much and only pays attention before elections, and interact till they win votes"*. There seemed to be mutual hostility between the Panchayat and Paliyars of Sokkanalai. The Panchayat claimed there have been many initiatives carried out by NGOs for the Paliyars, and that they do not need more aid in the form of schemes. The Paliyars of Sokkanala, however, claim that the "others" (non Paliyars) do not belong there. They claimed that the panchayat has a lot more work to do in the village. This includes fixing street lights, building toilets and fixing houses built for the Paliyars. The houses built for the Paliyars were not in a good condition, and has added to their unsatisfactory attitude towards the Panchayat. This conflict, based on differences of perception and lack of interaction, has led to greater gaps between the stakeholders and unwillingness from both to initiate dialogue.

4. Local interest in conservation

While there was some interest in conservation and collaboration, there was also doubt whether any form of change would come about in the area. A respondent also expressed doubt and claimed there have been people from Periyakulam, Chennai or Madurai who talk about carrying out social or environmental initiatives in the area and conducting meetings, but no developments have been made regarding those.

At Sokkanala a cleanliness campaign was carried out; however no one claimed to follow any of it currently. One Paliyar respondent expressed that working together for a Conservation Reserve would be better as currently “everyone is going their own way”.

In Agamalai when explained about the Conservation Reserve, collaborative approach seemed agreeable to the respondents, and added that just like the rural employment scheme; the FD could also provide similar schemes which would provide income. Collaborating is seen as potential livelihood opportunity. Such responses stress on the need for providing appropriate incentives and to involve people, to create a sustainable program for employment through reserve management.

A respondent from Sothuparai stated that collaborating for the purpose of a Conservation Reserve would be helpful and would benefit all stakeholders. The respondent said, *“Because of that [collaboration] there will be protection for everyone right? People come here to protect, for the animals, if they get hurt, to get them medical attention; through the FD this is good.”* This idea points out that the respondent also understands an element of multi stakeholder collaboration, i.e. negotiation of each stakeholder’s responsibility and added advantages in relation to the same.

Key Findings:

1. Conflicts of interest between the Panchayat and the Paliyar community
2. NTFP collection, though present, is not systematic and at some places not being carried out due to inadequate initiative

Recommendations

1. A Conservation Reserve is feasible here.
2. Collection of NTFPs could be systemized and appropriate incentives could be included to make it a profitable activity for the Paliyars.
3. Possibility of small-scale ecotourism

Mammals in Agamalai

	Mammals	Scientific Name	Endemic to Western Ghats	IUCN Threat Status	Locations
1	Nilgiri Tahr	<i>Nilgiritragus hylocrius</i>	Yes	EN	TK
2	Indian Gaur	<i>Bos gaurus</i>	No	VU	SPD,UT,KKI,AL,AM
3	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	No	LC	SPD,UT,KKI,AL,AM
4	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	No	NT	KUK
5	Mouse Deer	<i>Moschiola indica</i>	No	LC	SA
6	Indian Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa indica</i>	No	LC	KKI,AM
7	Three striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>	No	LC	AM,SPD,UT,KKI
8	Dusky striped palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus sublineatus</i>	Yes	VU	KP,UT
9	Bonnet Macaque	<i>Maccaca radiata</i>	No	LC	AM,SPD
10	Nilgiri langur	<i>Trachypithecus johnii</i>	Yes	VU	TK
11	Wild Dog	<i>Cuon alpinus</i>	No	EN	AM, TK
12	Sambhar	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>	No	VU	SPD, AM
13	Barking Deer	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>	No	LC	SPD,UT,KKI,AL,AM

LC=Least Concern, NT=Near Threatened, VU=Vulnerable, EN=Endangered, NA=Not Assessed, DD=Data Deficient

SPD=Sothuparai Dam, UT=Uthukadu, KKI=Kannakarai, AL=Alangaram, AM=Agamalai, KP=Karumparai, TK=Thamburan Kadu

Birds in Agamalai

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Endemic To Western Ghats	IUCN Threat Status	Locations
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	No	LC	SPD
2	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	No	LC	SPD
3	Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	No	NT	SPD
4	Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	No	LC	KKI,AM
5	Black-shouldered kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	No	LC	SPD
6	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malalyensis</i>	No	LC	AM
7	Shikra	<i>Accipter badius</i>	No	LC	SPD
8	Grey Jungle fowl	<i>Gallus sonneratii</i>	No	LC	KUK
9	Spotted Dove	<i>Stigmatopelia chinensis</i>	No	LC	SPD,UT
10	Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	No	LC	KKI
11	Indian Hanging- Parrot	<i>Loriculus vernalis</i>	No	LC	KKI,AM
12	Blue winged Parakeet	<i>Psittacula columboides</i>	No	LC	KKI,SA
13	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	No	LC	AL
14	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	No	LC	SPD
15	Brainfever Bird	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>	No	LC	SPD
16	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>	No	LC	SPD
17	Small Green-billed Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus viridirostris</i>	No	LC	SPD,UT
18	Indian Edible-nest Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia unicolor</i>	No	LC	AM
19	Malabar Trogon	<i>Harpactes fasciatus</i>	Yes	LC	KKI
20	Small Blue Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	No	LC	SPD,UT
21	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon capensis</i>	No	LC	SPD
22	White-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrensis</i>	No	LC	SPD,KKI
23	Small bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	No	LC	SPD
24	Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>	No	LC	AM
25	Malabar Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyeros griseus</i>	Yes	LC	KKI
26	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>	No	LC	KKI,SPD,UT
27	White-cheeked Barbet	<i>Megalaima viridis</i>	No	LC	SPD,UT
28	Crimson-throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima rubricapilus</i>	No	LC	KP,AM
29	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	No	LC	KUK
30	Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	No	LC	SPD
31	House Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>	No	LC	PR
32	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	No	LC	KUK,UT
33	Large Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacila madarasapatensis</i>	No	LC	SPD
34	Forest Wagtail	<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>	No	LC	SA
35	Black-headed Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina melanoptera</i>	No	LC	SPD,UT
36	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	No	LC	SPD,UT
37	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>	No	LC	AL,KP
38	Pied Flycatcher-Shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>	No	LC	AL,AM

39	Yellow-throated Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus xantholaemus</i>	No	VU	SPD,UT,KUK
40	Black-crested Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus melanicterus</i>	No	LC	KKI,UT
41	White-browed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>	No	LC	KKI,SPD,UT
42	Red whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	No	LC	KKI,UT,KUK
43	Red vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	No	LC	KKI,UT,KUK
44	Yellow-browed Bulbul	<i>Iole indica</i>	Yes	LC	AM
45	Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>	No	LC	AM
46	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	No	LC	AM
47	Jerdon's Chloropsis	<i>Chloropsis cochinchinensis</i>	No	LC	KUK,UT
48	Asian Fairy-Bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>	No	LC	KKI,AL
49	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	No	LC	AM,AL
50	Grey breasted laughing thrush	<i>Garrulax jerdoni</i>	Yes	NT	KKI,AL,AM
51	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>	No	LC	AM
52	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	No	LC	KKI,SPD,AL,AM
53	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>	No	LC	KKI,AL,AM
54	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	No	LC	SPD,KKI,UT,AL,AM
55	Greenish Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	No	LC	UT,AL,AM
56	Common Tailor-bird	<i>Orthomus sutorius</i>	No	LC	SPD,UT
57	Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>	No	LC	AM
58	Nilgiri Blue Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias albicaudata</i>	No	LC	AL,AM
59	Grey-headed Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	No	LC	AL,AM
60	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>	No	LC	AL,SPD
61	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	No	LC	AL,AM,KKI
62	Asian Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Tersiphone paradisi</i>	No	LC	AM
63	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides straitus</i>	No	LC	KKL
64	White-headed Babbler	<i>Turdoides affinis</i>	No	LC	AL,SPD,UT
65	Velvet Fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>	No	LC	AL,AM,KP
66	Oriental White eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	No	LC	AL,PR,AM
67	Plain Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum concolor</i>	No	LC	SPD,AM,AL,PR
68	Purple sunbird	<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i>	No	LC	KKI,KKU,UT,PR,AL
69	Purple -rumped Sun bird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>	No	LC	SPD,KKI,UT,PR
70	Loten's Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia lotenia</i>	No	LC	SPD,KKI,AM
71	Black-headed Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>	No	LC	KKI,AM
72	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	No	LC	UT
73	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	No	LC	SPD
74	Common Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>	No	LC	KKI,AL,AM
75	Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	No	LC	UT,SA,AM,PR
76	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	No	LC	UT,SPD,KKI
77	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>	No	LC	KKI,AL,KP
78	Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>	No	LC	AL,KKI
79	Greater Racket-tailed	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	No	LC	KKI

79	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	No	LC	KKI
80	Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>	No	LC	UT,SPD
81	Indian Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	No	LC	SPD,KKI
82	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	No	LC	SPD,KKI,AM

Herpetofauna of Agamalai

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Endemic to Western Ghats	IUCN Threat Status	Locations
1	Rock Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus graniticolus</i>	No	LC	SAC
2	House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	No	LC	SA
3	Jerdon Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus subtriadrus?</i>	No	DD	SPD
4	Day / Dwarf gecko	<i>Cnemaspis sps 1</i>	No	NA	SPD,UT,KUK,AL,AM
5	Common Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>	No	LC	SPD,UT,KUK
6	Southern Green Calotes	<i>Calotes calotes</i>	No	NA	AL,AM
7	Forest Calotes	<i>Calotes rouxii</i>	No	NA	UT
8	Rock-Agama	<i>Pssamophilus dorsalis</i>	No	NA	UT,SPD,KUK
9	Keeled Grass skink	<i>Mabuya carinata</i>	No	NA	SPD,KUK,UT
10	Travancore ground Skink	<i>Kastela travancoria</i>	Yes	NA	AM,KP
11	Leschenault's Snake-eye	<i>Ophisops leschenaultii</i>	No	NA	SPD,KUK,UT
12	Indian Rock Python	<i>Python molurus</i>	No	NT	AL,AM
13	Common Bronzeback Tree Snake	<i>Dendrelaphis tristis</i>	No	NA	KUK,UT,SPD
14	Common Vine snake	<i>Ahaetulla nasuta</i>	No	LC	AM
15	Indian Rat Snake	<i>Ptyas mucosa</i>	No	LC	AM
16	Common Krait	<i>Bungarus caeruleus</i>	No	NA	AM
17	Russell's Viper	<i>Daboia russelii</i>	No	NA	AM
18	Sri lankan stripe snake*	<i>Liopeltis calamaria</i>	No	NA	KUK
19	Common Indian Toad	<i>Bufo melanostictus</i>	No	LC	KKI,SPD,AL,AM,KP
20	Bush frog	<i>Raorchestes sps 1</i>	NK	NA	KP,AL,AM
21	Bronzed Frog	<i>Hylarana temporalis</i>	Yes	NT	AL,KP
22	Cricket Frog	<i>Fejervarya sp</i>	NK	NA	SPD

*Not sure

Kurangini

Kurangini (10.08458 N 77.24942 E) is a part of the Bodi Range in Theni Forest Division. The Kurangini settlement is part of the Kottagudi Panchayat which includes 11 scattered settlements distributed in six wards. The eight settlements considered for the interviews were Kurangini, Naripetti, Coffee board, Kollukumala, Central Station, Mudhuvakudi, Top Station, Temple area and Kottagudi. The highest settlement among these is Kollukumala followed by Top Station, Central Station and Mudhuvakudi. The rest of the settlements are located at lower elevations.

Biodiversity Profile

A total of 15 mammals, 116 birds and 16 herpetofaunal species were recorded from this area. The Schedule I mammals as per the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 are Nilgiri Tahr (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*), Nilgiri langur (*Trachypithecus johnii*), Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*), Indian Gaur (*Bos gaurus*) and Leopard (*Panthera pardus*). Among mammals, the Nilgiri Tahr, Nilgiri langur and Dusky striped squirrel (*Funambulus sublineatus*) are endemic to the Western Ghats. The Nilgiri Tahr, Asian elephant and Wild Dog (*Cuon alpinus*) are Endangered; Nilgiri langur, Dusky striped squirrel and Indian Gaur are Vulnerable; and the Leopard is Near Threatened as per the IUCN Redlist.

Among birds, the Nilgiri Wood-pigeon (*Columba elphinstonii*), Nilgiri Pipit (*Anthus nilghiriensis*), Yellow-browed bulbul (*Iole indica*), Malabar Whistling-thrush (*Myiophonus horsfieldii*), Indian Rufous babbler (*Turdoides subrufus*), Nilgiri Flycatcher (*Eumyias albicaudata*), Blue winged Parakeet (*Psittacula columboides*), Black and orange Flycatcher (*Ficedula nigrorufa*), Crimson-backed Sunbird (*Nectarinia minima*) and White-bellied Treepie (*Dendrocitta leucogstris*) are endemic to the Western Ghats. The Nilgiri Wood Pigeon and Nilgiri Pipit are Vulnerable and; the Nilgiri Flycatcher, Black and orange flycatcher and Grey Breasted Laughing Thrush are Near Threatened as per the IUCN Redlist. Among herpetofuana, the Travancore Ground Skink (*Kaestlea travancoria*) and Horsfield's Spiny Lizard (*Salea horsfieldii*) are endemic to the Western Ghats.

Social Profile

1. Resource collection and utilization

The local and indigenous communities depend on firewood, water, grass and Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) for household and agricultural use. NTFPs sold in the market are honey, *inji* (grass used for making broomsticks) and few medicinal plants. The resource use and collection patterns differ among the different settlements. These differences are based on level of restriction enforced by the FD, local needs and interests in collection.

Firewood is the most common resource collected. Dry wood is usually collected from areas close to settlements. As the availability decreases, people move further away from settlements and deeper into the Forest Land for collecting wood. The collection frequency ranges from one to three times a month. Some households have access to gas stoves and electricity; and their firewood collection has reduced. Collection from the forest has reduced greatly at the Kollukumala estate settlement as well. Here, locals are employed for the collection of firewood needed for the factory. Firewood for personal use is also collected from within the estate. Respondents claim that collection of firewood from the forests has stopped as compared to earlier. Now however, animal populations are claimed to have increased and Nilgiri langurs are seen closer to the estate.

In Kottagudi, Kurangini and Naripetti collection of firewood is from both *patta* (private) lands as well as forest. A respondent from Kurangini mentioned that when larger amounts of firewood are needed, they are bought in bundles for Rs. 100 from private lands.

Uses of wood other than for cooking are to chase away wild animals by creating a fire or building sheds to watch over farms in some areas. On the whole, the collection pattern seems more systematic at the Kollukamala tea estate as firewood is collected from within the estate boundaries which are clearly marked.

Water from streams is used for household and agricultural use. The drinking water for Bodi is supplied from the streams of the Kottagudi Panchayat. Insufficient rainfall has caused issues for drinking and agriculture purposes. For this reason, different sources of water are beginning to be used. Kottagudi uses water from the canal as well as a stream.

In Kurangini, the Panchayat has approached the FD for permission to tap into another stream, although currently there has been no development in this regard.

Grazing is a more common phenomenon in Kurangini in comparison to other means of natural resource use. Livestock is usually taken to graze either on private land or Forest Land. Locals' private land ownership often accounts for land not larger than their house area. Private lands mainly consist of silk cotton (*Bombax Ceiba*) plantations, where livestock is also grazed.

The **Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)** collected are: *inji*, honey, wild tubers (*kaleng*), *venga kai*, cardamom (*lavungakai*), gooseberry (*nellikai*) and *podalaka*. Some of these products are sold in local markets and others are used for domestic purposes. NTFP collection practices differ at various settlements. For instance, at Naripetti the FD is informed before collection of *inji* at Naripetti. As for grazing, the FD is paid a particular amount for *inji* collection as tender. Usually for a period of six months, this tender cost depends on the produce. For higher produce the amount is usually Rs. 15,000. At Central Station *inji* is collected on a contractual basis. Honey is also collected and sold during the months of March to June. It is usually sold at Rs. 300 for 750 ml. Residents of Mudhuvakudi, home to the tribal community of *Paliyars*, have depended on collection of honey and wild tubers for several years and though they continue this practice, fewer are involved in it. At Top Station, the number of people collecting honey has reduced to just one or two in recent years due to claimed increase in restriction by the FD.

Other NTFPs collected in different settlements and sold at the market include a kind of lichen (*kalpasam*) and various medicinal plants. Some medicinal plants are collected at Central Station and are sold in stores as traditional (*Sidha*) medicine. These are *Paipedil*, *Sirikurunja*, *Sitharatha*, *Seerpachala*, (a leaf that when tied around a wrist of a child, can keep away diseases). In some settlements medicinal plants are collected for household purposes only.

Sand and stone are collected in some settlements for the purpose of building houses. While there are no specific laws for collection of these, there have been agreements in the Kottagudi settlement, where the people collect these and a contractor who uses it pays the FD. In Kurangini, currently sand is collected from stream banks farther away due to its unavailability near the settlement.

2. Livelihoods and Human -Wildlife Conflict

Livelihoods within Kottagudi Panchayat vary based on the location of settlements and status of employment schemes. For most settlements the sources of income are based on agriculture, seasonal work in coffee plantations and collection of silk cotton pods, and rural employment schemes. Other sources include shop keeping, private tourism initiatives and menial labour. Work in silk cotton and coffee plantations usually lasts three months. Agriculture includes growing coffee, banana, pepper, cardamom, mangoes and jackfruit. Erratic rainfall and inadequate water supply from other sources has caused a loss of crops and income. Top station and Kottagudi have a larger variety of agricultural produce which includes cabbage, cardamom, betel nut, paddy, potato and carrots which are sold at Munnar.

The improvement of roads has been directly related to improving agricultural livelihoods. Selling agricultural produce grown at high elevation areas like Central Station and Top Station has been difficult for the locals. These are rough paths or roads not well constructed which leads to an increase in transportation costs through the use of horses. The final market price is not enough to match the transportation costs. At Central Station, 1kg of produce is meant to be sold at Rs. 40. When a 100kg is transported to the lower settlements using horses, the cost would be about Rs. 250. The product is sold at a lower rate at the market; therefore it does not bring adequate returns to the investment. Lack of proper transportation routes has also led to land use changes with a preference for crops like coffee, which is more economical to transport than jackfruit. This limits the sales period of crops, since coffee has a single harvest season in a year, due to which most people look for other forms of livelihood. Fruits like guavas, passion fruit, grape fruit and jackfruits are produced at Central Station but are not sold due to the transportation issues. For some, firewood collection also contributes to income. At Kollukamala, for collecting firewood for the Tea factory from the estate property, locals are paid Rs. 200 (per collection).

Another potential issue related to livelihoods is the increase in labour costs and unavailability of local labourers for the private tea estate at Kollukamala. The estate manager mentioned possibilities of using labour from North India if the problem continues in the future.

Most settlements have the issue of higher expenses on account of their occurrence at higher elevations. Firewood and water are claimed to be the only cheap goods available. Other goods and resources need to be brought from the towns located at lower elevations.

For transporting bricks to build houses around the Coffee Board settlement, the cost increases by one and a half time. Bricks are usually bought at Rs. 3 in the low lying settlements; however the cost increases to Rs. 4.50 by the time it is bought at Coffee Board.

Traditional practices have changed for some on account of to lack of options and awareness about FD restrictions on resource collection and use, like grazing.

Human- wildlife conflict is associated with crop damage and livestock loss. The degree of human wildlife conflict is not very significant in this area. Most human wildlife conflict is related to animals raiding agricultural crops and plantations. Based on interviews, this issue was more prevalent at Kottagudi, where agriculture is practiced on a wider scale. Wild boars reportedly destroy banana plantations while deer raid rice fields. Gaurs, spotted at night, eat mangoes from plantations and raid cotton plantations specifically for their pods. At Kollukumala, porcupines consume roots of tea plants. Bonnet Macaques and Giant squirrels are known to raid silk cotton trees around Kurangini. A respondent in Kottagudi claimed that agriculture was practiced on a larger scale earlier, while currently three quarters of the agricultural area had been converted into silk cotton plantations. At Top Station, Barking deer and Sambhar Deer cause damage to crops. Animals known to attack livestock are gaurs, leopards and wild dogs. At Naripetti and Kottagudi, it was mentioned that if livestock wandered into forest areas, they could be attacked by leopards and wild dogs. At Mudhuvakudi as well, domestic dogs are said to go missing. There has been one incident of a woman being attacked by a gaur.

Fences and nets are being put to avoid damage; however these have not been of great help. The most common measure adopted to reduce crop raiding is guarding fields at night, using watch dogs and making loud sounds. Bonfires are used to keep porcupines from entering fields. During the mango harvest season, people are hired to keep gaurs away from the plantations.

Compensation for loss of livestock has not been provided by the FD since livestock usually grazes in Forest Land. Consequently, the people have stopped informing the FD about losses. Crop damage is usually notified to the FD who respond affirming that something will be done. Naripetti is an exception, and few people received compensation for the loss of livestock, but an amount equal to one fourth of the price of the livestock.

In Kottagudi, livestock is usually herded by someone as opposed to previously when livestock were left free to graze without any supervision. More rigid restriction by the FD and lack of compensation from loss of livestock due to attacks by leopards, are probable reasons for this change. Issues related to livestock include larger livestock numbers coming in from outside the Kottagudi Panchayat boundaries for grazing.

The likelihood of compensation increases when damage occurs on private land like tea estates at Kollukamala. This could be as private estate owners may have enough influence and power to attain compensation. Respondents from this settlement believe wild animals have increased due to a decrease in human population in the area. In some cases, wildlife causing damage to tea estates is not reported to the FD, and no action is taken to avoid this. The damage is not claimed to be high and since no damage is caused to humans, it is not considered as an issue. Since the estate is not the property of the resident local community, perceptions of concern is less in comparison to areas where damage is caused to locals' farms. The latter are affected more and have reported incidents of crop damage to the FD occasionally.

3. Stakeholder dynamics

The local community dynamics are represented by interactions within their groups (intra-community), and with the FD and Panchayat (inter-community).

Intra-community interactions: Intra-community relations are occasionally affected by caste and religious differences. Differences have been developing over time, however, not openly. Some obvious problems are those between two sections- landowners and those who used to work for them. There is usually no interaction between these, although they are a part of the same settlement. Issues within the community come up during festivals and elections, and subside post these events. Strong community cohesiveness is not apparent in most cases, however no major conflicts occur. Intra-community conflicts are most often solved within the community and taken to the Panchayat only if they remain unsolved. In some settlements like Top Station, people believe that the tribal community is better off due to the Government aid and schemes to them. The tribal community believe they are not included in most aid plans as they reside closer to the forest. A common issue among the community members is varying sources of income and its

instability.

Lack of implementation of infrastructure development and easy access to needs like water, ration shops and basic transport has caused resentment towards the FD and Panchayat.

Inter-community interactions: Inter-community relations include interaction between the locals, the FD and the Panchayat. These are mainly characterised by resource use and livelihood affairs. Different settlements' association with the FD and Panchayat were seen to vary based on different land tenure and management regimes. The regimes are affected by individual differences in management by the FD and community actions i.e. cutting fresh wood, using Forest Land for tourism and use of private coffee plantations.

Forest Department: The local communities' association with the Forest Department is characterised by resource collection, forest fires and livestock grazing. The most common response by the people regarding the FD is its role in putting off fires. Local help is used when the forests are closer to settlements, however no other issue about forest fires had been expressed. It was noticed that most forest fires are close to pathways. Forest fires are managed more effectively on private lands. Fires are initiated to clean private fields before a new planting season. These often go out of control and spread. A respondent claimed that the FD in Kurangini, to manage this problem, has appointed a person near a bridge to check for matchboxes, however based on visits to the settlement, this agreement does not seem to exist.

Fires are also started to improve the soil health, improve the growth of inji and at times to drive away wild animals. Forest fires facilitate transport of felled/ fallen trees. Instances of tree felling have stirred up the community and FD relationship in some areas.

In Kurangini, the local FD, Bodi Range, found out about tree felling after checking on a forest fire. The fire was reported to the Madurai special force of the FD by a local community member, instead of reporting to the local FD. The local FD then arrested two people, one of who was claimed to be the informer, and were asked to pay a sum of Rs. 50,000. This amount was later shared by 12 people from the community. Locals, panchayat representatives and members of local political parties turned against the FD during this incidence. This incident has created hostility towards the FD.

The Bodi Ranger expressed difficulties in working with the community under the Kottagudi panchayat due to lack of communication regarding forest fires, community hostility towards the FD and fragmentation within the community. The FD's claim of the locals being "settlers" and the consequential treatment rendered by the FD has created hostility between both.

The local communities' concerns with the FD also relates to infrastructure development; clearing out roads and putting up lights. Since some areas fall within the Reserve Forest or have thick vegetation, clearing roads is not permitted by the FD. At Central Station, respondents claimed that personal money was spent in trying to build a proper road but due to FD restrictions the road could not be completed. In general, the FD views community concerns and demands as materialistic, while for the community the FD does not support their needs. A Village Forest Committee (VFC) in Kurangini has been rendered inactive. Irregular or lack of turnouts at meetings, at times with the Conservator of Forests, is a problem faced by the FD. The VFC also facilitates in giving out loans to locals, most of which are claimed to have not been repaid. The existing head of the VFC is also claimed to be negligent of his responsibilities. There have been discussions of appointing a different VFC head.

Top Station, Central Station and Mudhuvakudi are located at higher elevations with road routes difficult to use, especially to bring up resources. Mudhuvakudi is also where the indigenous community known as Paliyars reside in Kottagudi Panchayat. The FD has not permitted building or clearing roads in Mudhuvakudi as it is Forest Land. Materials for construction and daily requirements need to be brought from Bodi. The cost of products increases by the time it reaches Top Station and other sites located higher up the hills. At Kollukumala, the people make use of a tractor to bring up their monthly rations from Bodi, which is located in the plains. The lack of proper road routes is also claimed to affect agriculture. In Kurangini, the panchayat leader requested the FD for land to build public toilets but permission was denied since FD land cannot be allocated without a long procedure and permission from the Principal Chief Conserver of Forest (PCCF). It was mentioned that Panchayat funds could be used to buy land and construct the toilets. Here the monetary and land title issues are seen to merge, with unclear rationale from the FD and the Panchayat.

The people without private ownership of land are left with little option but to have their livestock graze in the Forest Land. A respondent at Coffee Board claimed that collection of NTFPs like cardamom (*lavungakai*), gooseberry (*nellikai*) and *podalaka*; although claimed legal by the locals, is restricted by the FD. Similarly, although grazing in Reserve Forest is not legal, it has been allowed at Central Station in return of 'tax' payment. *De jure* and *de facto* differences have created misunderstandings and problems with the FD. Additionally, the differences in norm implementation and internal settling of resource collection create friction between the FD and local people.

Respondents from Naripetti stated that the honey collected has to be given free of charge to any visiting FD official. Honey collection has a high cost, with the final product amounting to two-three bottles. It was claimed that out of three bottles of honey collected, two would have to be given to FD officials, and only one bottle could be sold. Earnings from this are claimed to be insufficient and people are left with little honey to be sold to tourists or others. It is usually sold at Rs. 100 per bottle, and in some areas the rates vary between Rs. 250 and 300.

One perception found in Kurangini was that the FD introduces wild animals into the forests. A respondent from Kurangini claimed that three leopards were released near the forest by the FD about two years back. This could not be validated during the interviews, although while this may have occurred, such perceptions could also be associated to a basic understanding of the people that the FD exists to protect forests and wild animals.

At Central Station it was stated that taxes are paid to the FD for grazing livestock. There have been changes in grazing patterns and livestock ownership among the communities. Due to restrictions on cattle grazing in the FD land, the indigenous community of *Paliyars* and other communities have stopped rearing livestock. Livestock numbers are claimed to have decreased at Kurangini. This could be due to more rigid FD norms on land use and seasonal migration to towns for jobs.

In terms of compensation for loss of livestock due to wild animals, most people feel nothing is done and have even stopped informing the FD about such incidences. As mentioned earlier in the section on human-animal conflict, people are left with barely any options for grazing livestock and as per the Reserve Forest norms, grazing cannot be allowed within these forests.

At Central Station, people claim that a revised survey of private land did not take place in the settlement due to which the area is being encroached. There have been initiatives by the people to convince the FD into issuing new documents; however these have been to no avail so far. This has caused resentment between the FD and local people, with little or no discussion about land use solutions for this conflict.

Panchayat: The local community interaction with the Panchayat is characterised mainly by employment schemes and infrastructural development as well. These involve construction and maintenance of roads in areas permitted by the FD as a part of the rural employment scheme. There are differences in employment scheme implementation; as at Central Station the rural employment scheme is claimed to be non-existent. At settlements closer to the Panchayat centre, like Kurangini and Naripetti, the rural employment scheme seems to be better implemented.

The expressed attitudes towards the Panchayat were based on religion and familial biases of the Panchayat, which in turn affect local governance. Apart from these biases, locals also conveyed that only economically well off community members were aided by the Panchayat. Geographically, the settlements are fairly wide spread, separated by about 7 km, on account of which the productivity of the Panchayat has been affected. At Top Station, the Panchayat is said to be inactive due to its high altitude location. According to a respondent from Top Station, *“If any work is to be done here, it becomes really expensive. And for officers to check whether the work commissioned has been done properly is also difficult.”* These differences have also stirred up the Panchayat and community dynamics in a negative way.

Kurangini and Naripetti have conflicts between the Christian and Hindu community. It was claimed that the Panchayat leader, a Christian, uses more resources to assist her immediate family. There is also a small church where tuitions are held and food, clothes or books are distributed for free. People from different religions and castes use these facilities; however the village elders believe these facilities are to convert people to Christianity.

Lack of support by the Panchayat in the face of FD restrictions for road construction or clearing and putting up street lights has affected people’s views towards the Panchayat. In general the people feel that basic support for livelihoods is insufficient. Settlements

located at higher elevations find it difficult to make use of either their skills or education they have received, as mentioned at Kollukamala. These conditions seem to have limited the employment options for the local communities.

4. Tourism

In areas located at higher altitudes, tourism is a growing industry. It has claimed to have increased over the past three years at settlements within the Kottagudi Panchayat. Tourists visit either the waterfalls or trek across the hill routes. Growing populations of Indian and foreign tourists has led to the development of local tourism initiatives like shops, home-stays, small hotels and informal guides. GREEN, an NGO, carried out local tourism development activities as part of a UNDP project from 2007 to 2009. This involved training locals as guides, promotion of local crafts and marketing local produce like weaving and basket making. Out of 27 trained guides within the Kottagudi Panchayat, eight individuals still carry out this activity. However the other activities have not continued.

Initiatives by some locals include adventure activities like camping and trekking, while rock climbing and biking are activities specifically carried out at Top Station. Such initiatives help locals to earn income for about 3 to 4 months of the year when tourist numbers are greater. Tourist visits also increase on weekends and holidays. However, tourism is not well-managed or planned, especially for visits to waterfalls or hills and neither is it legal. Free access to these areas has also caused problems for local communities and the habitat, like uncontrolled waste disposal, especially in and around water sources. A Kollukumala respondent revealed that the Kerala FD is strict about garbage disposal in the forest, while it is not the same in Tamil Nadu. Kollukumala is estate land, hence the FD or the Panchayat do not have control within this area where the garbage disposal is claimed to be better.

Most of the guides trained through the GREEN project are at Central, Top station and Kurangini. Some not trained through the NGO, function at Kollukumala. An informal network of guides, when active, works with one guide from Kurangini sending tourists to different settlements and a different guide taking over from that settlement.

A guide from Kurangini, sends tourists to contacts at different settlements forming a

small-scale informal business. The guides have their own network as seen in Kollukamala; *“If I guide them across two hills then they give me Rs 500. From the 3rd number forest patch one has to climb up through a forest. A guide comes across from the other side and I have to leave the guests with him and come away.”*

Foreign tourists also visit with a different guide, usually well versed in the necessary language or English, and a local person accompanies them to show the routes. In some cases, tourism management initiatives do exist. At Kollukamala, the FD is informed after which the tourists trek through or camp in the forest. Top station is one of the most visited sites by tourists. A portion of this site, which belongs to the FD, is being used for small-scale private tourism initiatives like shops. The Top Station view point which is privately owned has an entry fee of Rs. 15. Issues faced by the FD are tourist entry into Forest Land without permission and hawker stalls set up on the way to Top Station. Many locals have taken to tourism-related initiatives as a livelihood. While tourism has brought income to some, it has also resulted in nuisances like irresponsible waste disposal and uncontrolled entry to Reserve forests as a result of lack of regulation and formalisation of tourism. Locals have expressed a need for facilities for regulated garbage disposal however this has not yet been implemented. The use and management of garbage cans has a mixed response, with not many people accepting responsibility for the same. There have been requests to build a waste tank at Sambalyar falls close to Kurangani. However, there has not been any development on the request.

5. Local community interest in conservation and Conservation Reserve formation

Local respondents have expressed willingness to get involved in the conservation of the area. The locals although willing, do not have an idea of how to go about conserving the biodiversity. A respondent expressed, *“Yes I’m interested [in conservation] but I don’t know what to do.”* A few respondents are able to provide specific participation ideas like training locals to identify the local flora and fauna and its importance, and formalising tourism activities.

When asked about interest and how they can contribute, a condition often brought forward by the people is providing livelihoods. It was expressed that collaborating would be possible, but that eventually people needed income. There is a strong demand for their needs; like clearing out vegetation to build canals, collecting firewood, in return for their

help in conservation. For some, the first step had to be taken by the Panchayat or the FD in order to bring about changes based on the existent issues. Responsibility for change is not strongly expressed; this attitude also comes from the people wanting the ‘authorities’ to ‘do something’. Certain areas where tourism is high, people asked for formal certification for guides, training in language and trekking which would effectively increase income generation and make it a formal profession.

Building on past initiatives and local skills: The locals have also been exposed to capacity building activities during the UNDP project undertaken by GREEN. Women were trained in tailoring, basket weaving, making mats and broomsticks. Locally available natural material like bamboo, banana plant and *eacham* (a local grass) were used. To build local capacities, hospitality training was conducted for shopkeepers to increase cleanliness, hygiene and shop sales. Other tourist-related activities included creating youth groups, training in English and providing guide training. Local management activities were carried out which included waste management and organic farming. The locals were exposed to waste segregation activities, bio-composting and using organic produce for farming.

The aspect of eco-tourism, as a means of livelihood for the locals through potential reserve formation, could be built through the activities carried out earlier. Based on the interviews, it was apparent that people did remember activities carried out earlier, especially those oriented towards livelihood like guide training and those focused on women. If given more support and provided with longer capacity building periods, the locals would be a part of a sustainable conservation program in addition to livelihood strengthening.

Key findings

1. Unregulated use of natural resources. Few mechanisms to check and manage resource are in place, but these exist in scattered settlements and are not regulated
2. Unsteady or irregular sources of income
3. Increase in tourism which has brought business to some locals, however has caused unregulated waste disposal
4. Overall change in traditional resource use and livelihood patterns

Recommendations

1. A Conservation Reserve is feasible here.
2. Initiating dialogue between stakeholders in order to understand issues and possible resolutions; like creating groups for guarding areas to watch for forest fires
3. Mobilize community members and build capacities to better manage settlements and resources they depend on; based on a common ground reached through the dialogue
4. Regular interaction between the FD and Panchayat with the local communities
5. Recommendations related to tourism are:
 - a. Forest Department booths at entry points at areas highly visited by tourists
 - b. Specific areas beyond which alcohol consumption is not allowed
 - c. Placing dustbins and creating a system for garbage segregation
 - d. Formalising guide training and providing certification

Mammals in Kottagudi Panchayat

	Mammals	<i>Scientific Name</i>	Endemic to Western Ghats	IUCN Threat Status
1	Indian Gaur	<i>Bos gaurus</i>	No	VU
2	Bonnet Macaque	<i>Macca radiata</i>	No	LR
3	Three Striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>	No	LR
4	Dusky Striped Squirrel	<i>Funambulus sublineatus</i>	No	VU
5	Indian Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa indica</i>	No	LR
6	Nilgiri Langur	<i>Trachypithecus johnii</i>	Yes	VU
7	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	No	LR
8	Barking Deer	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>	No	LR
9	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	No	NT
10	Mouse Deer	<i>Moschiola indica</i>	No	LR
11	Nilgiri Tahr	<i>Nilgiritragus hylocrius</i>	Yes	EN
12	Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>	No	EN
13	Asiatic Wild Dog	<i>Cuon alpinus</i>	No	EN
14	Sambhar	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>	No	VU
15	Slender Loris	<i>Loris lydekkerianus</i>	No	LC

Birds of Kottagudi Panchayat

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Endemic To Western Ghats	IUCN Threat Status	Locations
1	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	No	LC	KI
2	Black-shouldered kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	No	LC	KI
3	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	No	LC	KI
4	Shikra	<i>Accipter badius</i>	No	LC	KI
5	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malalyensis</i>	No	LC	KI
6	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	No	LC	KI
7	Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	No	LC	KI
8	Painted Bush-Quail	<i>Perdica erythrorhycha</i>	No	LC	KL
9	Grey Jungle fowl	<i>Gallus sonneratii</i>	No	LC	KI
10	Red spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>	No	LC	KI
11	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	No	LC	KI
12	Nilgiri Wood-pigeon	<i>Columba elphinstonii</i>	Yes	VU	TS
13	Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocta</i>	No	LC	KI
14	Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	No	LC	KI
15	Spotted Dove	<i>Stigmatopelia chinensis</i>	No	LC	KI
16	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	No	LC	KI
17	Yellow-legged Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>	No	LC	KI
18	Indian Hanging- Parrot	<i>Loriculus vernalis</i>	No	LC	KI
19	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	No	LC	KI
20	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	No	LC	KI
21	Blue winged Parakeet	<i>Psittacula columboides</i>	Yes	LC	KI
22	Sirkeer Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii</i>	No	LC	KI
23	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	No	LC	KI
24	Brainfever Bird	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>	No	LC	KI
25	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>	No	LC	KI
26	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>	No	LC	KI
27	Indian Edible-nest Swiflet	<i>Collocalia unicolor</i>	No	LC	KI
28	Crested Tree-Swift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>	No	LC	KI
29	Small Blue Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	No	LC	KI
30	Blue-eared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo meninting</i>	No	LC	KI
31	White-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrensis</i>	No	LC	KI
32	Small bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	No	LC	KI
33	Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>	No	LC	KI
34	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	No	LC	KI
35	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>	No	LC	TS
36	White-cheeked Barbet	<i>Megalaima viridis</i>	No	LC	KI
37	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	No	LC	KI
38	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	No	LC	KI
39	Brown-Capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos nanus</i>	No	LC	KI

40	Small Yellow nape Woodpecker	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>	No	LC	K
41	Yellow-fronted Pied Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis</i>	No	LC	KI
42	Little Scaly-bellied Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>	No	LC	KI
43	Common Golden-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dinopium javanense</i>	No	LC	KI
44	Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	No	LC	KI
45	Greater Golden-backed Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>	No	LC	KI
46	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	No	LC	MS,KI
47	House Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>	No	LC	KI
48	Large Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacila madarasapatensis</i>	No	LC	KI
49	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	No	LC	KI
50	Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	No	LC	KI, TS, MS, KL
51	Nilgiri Pipit	<i>Anthus nilghiriensis</i>	Yes	VU	KI
52	Large Cuckoo Shrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>	No	LC	KI
53	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnaamomeus</i>	No	LC	CS
54	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>	No	LC	CS
55	Pied Flycatcher-Shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>	No	LC	KI
56	Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>	No	LC	KI
57	Black Headed Cuckoo Shrike	<i>Coracina melanoptera</i>	No	LC	KI
58	Red whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	No	LC	KI,TS,MS,CS
59	Red vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	No	LC	KI,CS
60	White-browed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>	No	LC	KI
61	Yellow-browed Bulbul	<i>Iole indica</i>	Yes	LC	TS,MS
62	Black bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>	No	LC	KI
63	Black-crested bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus melanicterus</i>	No	LC	KI
64	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	No	LC	KI
65	Jerdon's Chloropsis	<i>Chloropsis cochinchinensis</i>	No	LC	KI
66	Gold-fronted Chloropsis	<i>Chloropsis aurifrens</i>	No	LC	KI
67	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	No	LC	KI
68	Bay-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>	No	LC	KI
69	Blue Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	No	LC	KI
70	Malabar Whistling-Thrush	<i>Myiophonus horsfieldii</i>	Yes	LC	TS,KI,MS,CS
71	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	No	LC	TS
72	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	No	LC	KI
73	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>	No	LC	KI
74	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	No	LC	KI
75	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	No	LC	TS,KI
76	Grey-breasted Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax jerdoni</i>	No	NT	KI
77	Indian Scimitar-Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus horsfieldii</i>	No	LC	TS,KI
78	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	No	LC	KI
79	Indian Rufous babbler	<i>Turdoides subrufus</i>	Yes	LC	KI

80	Rufous-bellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>	No	LC	KI
81	White-headed Babbler	<i>Turdoides affinis</i>	No	LC	KI
82	Golden-headed Fantail-Warbler	<i>Cisticola exilis</i>	No	LC	KI
83	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>	No	LC	KI
84	Franklin's Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>	No	LC	KI
85	Indian Great Reed-warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>	No	LC	KI
86	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	No	LC	KI
87	Greenish Leaf-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	No	LC	KI
88	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>	No	LC	KI
89	Nilgiri Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias albicaudata</i>	Yes	NT	TS,MS,KI
90	Grey-headed Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	No	LC	MS,KI
91	Tickell's Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>	No	LC	KI
92	Black and orange flycatcher	<i>Ficedula nigrorufa</i>	Yes	NT	KI
93	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	No	LC	CS,KI
94	Black-lored Yellow Tit	<i>Parus xanthogenys</i>	No	LC	KI
95	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>	No	LC	CS
96	Tickell's Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhychos</i>	No	LC	MS
97	Plain Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum concolor</i>	No	LC	KI,TS
98	Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i>	No	LC	TS
99	Crimson-backed Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia minima</i> (Yes	LC	
100	Purple -rumped Sunbird	<i>Necatarinia asiatica</i>	No	LC	MS
101	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	No	LC	TS,MS,CS
102	White-throated Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>	No	LC	KI
103	White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>	No	LC	KI
104	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	No	LC	KI
105	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	No	LC	KI
106	Yellow-throated Sparrow	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>	No	LC	KI
107	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	No	LC	KI
108	Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	No	LC	KI
109	Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	No	LC	KI
110	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	No	LC	KI
111	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>	No	LC	KI,CS
112	Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>	No	LC	KI
113	Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>	No	LC	KI
114	White-bellied Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta leucogstris</i>	Yes	LC	KI
115	Indian Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	No	LC	CS
116	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	No	LC	KI

Herpetofauna of Kottagudi Panchayat

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Endemic to Western Ghats	IUCN Threat Status
1	Southern Green Colotes	<i>Calotes calotes</i>	No	NA
2	Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>	No	NA
3	Peninsular Rock Agama	<i>Psammophilus dorsalis</i>	No	NA
4	Russell's Kukri Snake	<i>Oligodon taeniolatus</i>	No	LC
5	Common Vine snake	<i>Ahaetulla nasuta</i>	No	NA
6	Travancore Ground Skink	<i>Kaestlea travancoria</i>	Yes	NA
7	Elliot's forest lizard	<i>Calotes ellioti</i>	No	LC
8	Rat snake	<i>Ptyas mucosa</i>	No	NA
9	Green Keelback	<i>Macropisthodon plumbicolor</i>	No	NA
10	Horsfield's Spiny Lizard	<i>Salea horsfieldii</i>	Yes	LC
11	Common Indian Monitor	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>	No	NA
12	Common or Brahminy Skink	<i>Mabuya carinata</i>	No	NA
13	Common Indian Toad	<i>Duttaphyrnus melanostictus</i>	No	NA
14	Bush Frog	<i>Raorchestes sp</i>		
15	Leaping Frog	<i>Indirana sp.</i>		
16	Cricket Frog	<i>Fejervarya sp.</i>		

Kukkal

Kukkal (10.286086N 77.363253E) is a part of Poombarai Forest Range in the Kodaikanal Forest Division, Dindigul District. The Kukkal Panchayat consists of 9 wards of which the 8th and 9th wards comprise of the Kukkal shola forests.

Biodiversity Profile

A total of 14 mammals, 63 birds and seven species of herpetofauna were recorded.

The Schedule I species as per the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, are Indian gaur (*Bos gaurus*), Nilgiri Tahr (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*), Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Sloth Bear (*Melursus ursinus*), Mouse deer (*Moschiola indica*), Nilgiri Langur (*Trachypithecus johnii*) and Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*). Among mammals, the Nilgiri Tahr, the Dusky striped palm squirrel (*Funambulus sublineatus*) and Nilgiri Langur are endemic to the Western Ghats. The Nilgiri Tahr, Bengal Tiger and Asian elephant are Endangered; Sambhar Deer (*Rusa unicolor*), Indian Gaur, Sloth bear, Dusky striped palm squirrel and Nilgiri Langur are Vulnerable; and the Leopard is Near Threatened as per the IUCN Redlist.

Among birds, the Nilgiri wood pigeon (*Columba elphinstonii*), Yellow-browed bulbul (*Iole indica*), Small Sunbird (*Nectarinia minima*), Nilgiri Pipit (*Anthus nilghiriensis*), Grey-breasted Laughing Thrush (*Garrulax jerdoni*) and Nilgiri Flycatcher (*Eumyias albicaudata*) are endemic to the Western Ghats. Nilgiri wood pigeon is Vulnerable and; Nilgiri Pipit, Grey-breasted Laughing Thrush and Nilgiri Flycatcher are Near Threatened as per the IUCN Redlist.

Among herpetofauna, the Star-eyed Ghat frog (*Ghatiaxalus asterops*) is endemic to the Western Ghats.

Animals spotted by some respondents were Mouse deer, Nilgiri Tahr, Nilgiri langur, Barking deer, Bear, Tiger, Leopard and Elephant. A respondent stated that spotting elephants so close to the habitations was a fairly new phenomenon.

Social Profile

1. Resource collection and use

In terms of resource collection, firewood and water were the main resources mentioned. Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs) are collected in negligible quantities, possibly because agriculture has been the main source of income for the local community with a wide variety of crops grown.

Firewood is collected in some parts of the settlement. The collection varies from one's own farm or *patta* land to mostly fringes of the forest. Some are known to go into the forest for collection. The collection is for household use only.

Water source ranges from that sourced from the Kukkal lake, streams passing by houses and supply through pipes. Part of the agriculture is rainfed and for some, water was brought from a nearby river and stored in manmade ponds near farms to irrigate them. In general, water sources vary from the lake to solely rainfall depending on the area.

NTFPs are not collected however one respondent stated that if passes are attained by the FD, then collection is permitted. Inji, lichens and leaves of specific plants are collected by some. The locals are employed to collect it and traders from Trichy and Madurai pick it up.

2. Livelihood and Human wildlife conflict

Farming or working at farms is the main form of livelihood in Kukkal. For most, landholdings in the settlement are around 1-2 acres, usually on the fringes of the forest. Vegetables grown are garlic, potatoes, beans, cabbage, turnips and carrot. For some since farming is only rainfed, profits are difficult to attain. Most respondents also claim to have incurred losses in the past year as rainfall was inadequate. Income from agriculture is based on harvest seasons and rainfall, unlike that gained from daily wage labour. Returns from labour work are comparatively regular, compared to that from agriculture which is seasonal.

For some, farming provides about Rs. 3000-4000 per month. The farming season lasts for about four months in a year. Vegetables are planted one after another, and depending on the season. For instance, potatoes and beans are grown between June and August and are harvested between October to December. Some respondents earn between Rs. 10,000-50,000 per year when farming conditions have been favourable. Most of the produce is sold at Madurai and Vathalagundu.

In addition to farming, some also work as daily wage labourers. Daily wage labour provides Rs. 200 per day for men and Rs. 150 for women, and is carried out for around 20 days a month. One respondent stated that the income from such jobs has been increased to Rs. 300 per day. He added they work for 20 days and take 10 days off, with this sort of income and if harvests are good, he stated, loans would not be necessary.

NTFP collection as a means of livelihood is not common; however one respondent mentioned that if two tins of *kadukaare* collected it would provide Rs. 100-150.

Some locals also own cows, bullocks and goats, however they are not taken into the forest for grazing. A group of locals appointed in the village herd the livestock to feeding grounds and back in return for wages from respective owners.

The area is visited by tourists who provide an additional source of income to many respondents. Vegetables are bought by these tourists. Some respondents also work as tourist guides when in the absence of farm-related work. Guides are paid based on distance covered and number of tourists, which ranges from Rs. 200-1000. Tourist numbers are greater between the months of March to June. Tourism has proved to be a better source of income for some in this settlement. One respondent worked as a fire watchman with the FD earning Rs. 2000 per month. Currently, the respondent works as a tourist guide earning Rs. 1000 per day, which is more profitable

Human wildlife conflict is a major issue in the settlement since agriculture is carried out on a wide scale and contributes to a major source of their income. Wild boars are said to cause the most damage, followed by gaurs. Some forest fringes have been fenced by the FD; however wild boars continue to pass through. Other animals causing problems are monkeys and porcupines. Financial losses caused by boars damaging crops like tubers are high. A respondent stated *“If we invest money spending some Rs.600 on tubers the wild boars raid and eat them over night. We invest Rs.600 for tubers and Rs.550 for manure and other agriculture operations cost us Rs.2000 – Rs 3000.”*

Methods to reduce damage by animals include putting up fences, guarding fields at night, making loud sounds and using torches. Respondents claim these methods have not helped reduce damage by the animals. Some mentioned that fences are not maintained and their height may also need to be increased. A respondent noticed that earlier gaurs were scared of human presence, although now they are bolder and do not run away. The number of wild boars are said to have increased.

Livestock has also been killed by a leopard or tiger in nearby area called Vayal. Respondents stated that an individual from the local community was attacked by a bear around eight years back, and after medical attention, managed to survive. There was no mention of compensation for loss due to wildlife.

3. Stakeholder Dynamics

The local community dynamics are represented by interactions within their groups (intra-community), and with the FD and Panchayat (inter-community).

Intra-community interaction

Conflicts within the local community are mainly related to those between the higher and lower castes in the settlement. A respondent stated *“But the higher caste people always ill-treat us and like us to remain in the lower strata of the society. It has been their attitude towards us. We cannot talk and reason with them and if we were to, they retort saying how dare a lower caste (Sakkiliyar) answer back and act arrogant and they say we are not their equals.”* Untouchability also prevails in this settlement, adding to the intra community conflicts.

In relation to the caste issue, inability to get *patta* for land was also expressed as a problem. The respondent stated *“Only people who are wealthy avail such benefits. The officials ignore us and ask us to write a petition. For getting this job done we have been avoided for quite some time. In case we give the petition also they don’t take us seriously.”*

In some parts of the settlement, it was stated that, people do not know their *patta* land boundaries. Therefore activities like ploughing are often carried out in the wrong areas. These *patta* lands, generally a size of two acres, were given to the landless by the previous government.

Other commonly expressed issues included bad roads leading to the settlement, lack of a hospital and basic medical facilities. Few also expressed that buses were not coming into the village and rather only to its periphery due to which they needed to walk a kilometre, which may not always be feasible during emergencies. Few respondents noted that the local school, though present, does not have enough teachers and their attendance was not regular.

Loans also appeared to be a common issue among many respondents. For a few, who apply and may get loans from banks, land documents are taken as collateral.

It was suggested by one respondent that if the government sanctioned raising fences on the forest boundaries near farms, it would help with dealing with the wildlife conflict. Erecting barbed fences is expensive for the people and acquiring a loan for this is also difficult. People are unable to pay back loans which add to the vicious cycle of conflict for the people. People's inability to pay back loans, in the past, is a reason why they are not granted easily anymore, and prove to be a difficult process when one needs to apply. Only one respondent had received a loan from the Co-operative Bank. The respondent mentioned that no loans from the FD or Panchayat were given.

Issues related to forest fires were not commonly mentioned. When they do occur, the locals usually go to put out the fires most of the times with the FD or when called by them. Some respondents stated they also volunteer to put out the fires.

Inter-community interaction

Panchayat and local community interaction did not seem to occur commonly. This dynamic is represented by caste related issues as well. A respondent stated that only the "influential people" received benefits from the Panchayat. A respondent added, "*The Panchayat president accused us of not voting for him so he is not willing to help us and we have 80 people in our community and all of them suffer the same fate.*"

Inadequate interaction has also caused issues where people are unable to benefit from schemes present for them as they do not have the related knowledge. A respondent stated, "*We are not aware of what happens at the Panchayat office. We are not informed of the schemes in the form of subsidies and aid and they are not distributed properly. Very few get the benefits of various schemes and aid money.*"

Village authorities are said to come only once in 15 days and they visit the office and leave. A respondent stated that if the authorities spent more time in the village, they would know about their problems, as they did during earlier times.

Forest Department related interaction, in general, did not seem negative however views varied based on individual respondents. Locals are aware of restrictions on NTFP and firewood collection, and hunting. One respondent was of the view that there has been no need for the FD to force the people to curtail from certain activities as people have stopped hunting and no issues related to this, arise currently.

The implementation of these restrictions and norms seemed to vary. A respondent stated that the FD is supportive in the area, as it has also “adopted our village”. The respondent added that even if firewood is collected the forest guard does not trouble them. Another stated that they do not collect anything as they are not permitted to do so. Yet another respondent stated, *“We mostly collect firewood around the farms. Sometimes we gather firewood from the forest but the forest officials confiscate them. Sometimes they keep it or they let the people take the firewood.”* For some, association with the FD is also based on fear. A respondent expressed that since the *“Wildlife Act came into force, people are reluctant to go into the forest to gather anything. They are afraid of the forest department.”*

While views towards the FD based on respondents’ interaction in relation to resource collection, the FD’s approach varied and remained inconsistent, especially in relation to the laws and restrictions.

For many, collecting wood also leads to issues related to livelihood. The people claimed that to build fences to protect their fields, logs cannot be collected from the forest as the FD does not allow it. This makes it difficult for the people to protect their fields thereby aggravating the human-wildlife conflict. Wildlife related conflicts have been a major issue for the people, and some locals associate this directly with the FD and their job to protect the forest thus protecting wildlife as well. A livelihood-oriented idea mentioned by a respondent was that if accommodation facilities are improved at Forest quarters along with a water supply, greater number of tourists would be attracted to the area.

Compensation for damage caused by wildlife was not provided by the FD. However, one respondent mentioned that compensation is given to *“people living in the forest in case they are attacked by animals”*.

A Village Forest Committee (VFC) does exist but it does not function according to most recording. One respondent stated that during the dry summer months, meetings are held to discuss ways of tackling forest-fires. A respondent also mentioned that camps were held once a year, organised by the government, where the District Forest Officer (DFO) and the Assistant Conservator of Forest (ACF) asked the people not to indulge in any “illegal activities”.

4. Tourism

Guides from Kodaikanal bring tourists down to Kukkal, especially to visit the Kukkal caves. Individuals from the local community also guide tourists around Kukkal. Temple tourism exists in this area; to reach the temple visitors need to go through the forest. Student groups also frequent the area for hikes. Guest houses and camping facilities also exist here. A few locals growing vegetables also sell the produce to passing tourists.

5. Local interest in conservation

The local community has been exposed to some conservation-related activities as an organisation called CSI from Kodaikanal has carried these out during their project period. People’s interest in conservation activities also varied, but most were agreeable to the collaborative approach. When the idea of collaborative conservation was shared, one form of response was that the local people were the ones protecting the forest and volunteering to put out forest fires. The respondents did not have an issue with a collaborative approach as long as it does not pose any problems to them. For one respondent, this form of collaboration meant there should be a system where there would not be strict regulations against the people.

There is potential for setting up a Conservation Reserve as the people have been exposed to similar activities. Since tourism also exists in the area, it could be also be integrated into conservation-related activities to support local livelihoods.

Key Findings

1. Human wildlife conflicts are of considerable concern for the locals.
2. It was noticed, on the field visits, that appropriate garbage disposal does not exist within the settlement. There are also no systems for appropriate drainage flow.

Recommendations:

1. A Conservation Reserve could be feasible here
2. The collaborative approach could help dealing with issues of human wildlife conflicts and possible options could be building fences with permission from necessary stakeholders.
3. Since tourism already exists in the area, it could be further developed into a more sustainable and locally inclusive initiative.
4. A system for garbage disposal and drainage could be developed

Mammals of Kukkal

	Mammals	Scientific Name	Endemic to Western Ghats	IUCN Threat Status	Locations
1	Indian Gaur	<i>Bos gaurus</i>	No	VU	KKL,PI
2	Nilgiri Tahr	<i>Nilgiritragus hylocrius</i>	Yes	EN	KKL
3	Nilgiri Langur	<i>Trachypithecus johnii</i>	Yes	VU	KKLS
4	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	No	LC	KKL,PI
5	Sambhar	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>	No	VU	KKL
6	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	No	NT	PI
7	Sloth Bear	<i>Melursus ursinus</i>	No	VU	KKL
8	Mouse Deer	<i>Moschiola indica</i>	No	LC	KKL
9	Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>	No	EN	KKL
10	Barking Deer	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>	No	LC	KKLS
11	Indian Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa indica</i>	No	LC	KKLS
12	Bengal Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>	No	EN	KKLS
13	Three Striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>	No	LC	KKL
14	Dusky striped palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus sublineatus</i>	Yes	VU	KKL

LC=Least Concern, NT=Near Threatened, VU=Vulnerable, EN=Endangered
 KK=Kukkal, PI=Poombarai, KKLS=Kukkal Shola

Birds of Kukkal

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Endemic To Western Ghats	IUCN Threat Status	Locations
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	No	LC	KKL
2	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	No	LC	KKL
3	Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilirhyncha</i>	No	LC	KKL
4	Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>	No	LC	KKL
5	Black-shouldered kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	No	LC	KKL
6	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	No	LC	KKL
7	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>	No	LC	KKL
8	Grey Jungle fowl	<i>Gallus sonneratii</i>	No	LC	KKL, KKLS
9	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	No	LC	KKL
10	Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	No	LC	KKL
11	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	No	LC	KKL
12	Pintail Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>	No	LC	KKL
13	Spotted Dove	<i>Stigmatopelia chinensis</i>	No	LC	KKL, KKLS
14	Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	No	LC	KKL
15	Nilgiri Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba elphinstonii</i>	Yes	VU	KKLS
16	Blue winged Parakeet	<i>Psittacula columboides</i>	No	LC	KKLS
17	Brainfever Bird	<i>Hierococyx varius</i>	No	LC	KKL
18	Small Green-billed Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus viridirostris</i>	No	LC	KKL
19	House Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	No	LC	KKL
20	Small Blue Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	No	LC	KK
21	White-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrensis</i>	No	LC	KKL, KKLS
22	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	No	LC	KKL
23	Little Scaly-bellied Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>	No	LC	KKL, KKLS
24	Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	No	LC	KKL
25	Common Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	No	LC	KKLS
26	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	No	LC	KKL
27	House Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>	No	LC	KKL
28	Large Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacila madarasapatensis</i>	No	LC	KKL
29	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacila cinerea</i>	No	LC	KKLS
30	Nilgiri Pipit	<i>Anthus nilghiriensis</i>	Yes	VU	KKL
31	Black-headed Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina melanoptera</i>	No	LC	KKL
32	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>	No	LC	KKLS
33	Pied Flycatcher Shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>	No	LC	KKL
34	Red whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	No	LC	KKL
35	Red vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	No	LC	KKL, KKLS
36	Yellow-browed Bulbul	<i>Iole indica</i>	Yes	LC	KKLS, KKL
37	White Browed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>	No	LC	KKLS
38	Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>	No	LC	KKLS

39	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	No	LC	KKL
40	Jerdon's Chloropsis	<i>Chloropsis cochinchinensis</i>	No	LC	KKL
41	Golden fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>	No	LC	KKL, KKLS
42	Asian Fairy-Bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>	No	LC	KKL
43	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	No	LC	KKL, KKLS
44	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	No	LC	KKL, KKLS
45	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>	No	LC	KKL
46	Eurasian Black bird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	No	LC	KKL
47	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	No	LC	KKL, KKLS
48	Grey-breasted Laughing Thrush	<i>Garrulax jerdoni</i>	Yes	NT	KKL
49	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides straitus</i>	No	LC	KKL
50	Large-billed Leaf-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus magnirostris</i>	No	LC	KKL
51	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	No	LC	KKL
52	Black-lored Tit	<i>Parus xanthogenys</i>	No	LC	KKL
53	Nilgiri Blue Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias albicaudata</i>	Yes	NT	KKLS
54	Grey-headed Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	No	LC	KKL, KKLS
55	Velvet Fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>	No	LC	KKLS
56	Oriental White eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	No	LC	KKL, KKLS
57	Small Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia minima</i>	No	LC	KKL
58	Purple sunbird	<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i>	No	LC	KKL
59	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	No	LC	KKL
60	Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	No	LC	KKL
61	Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>	No	LC	KKL, KKLS
62	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	No	LC	KKL
63	Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	No	LC	KKL

Herpetofauna of Kukkal

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Endemic to Western Ghats	IUCN Threat Status	Location
1	Keeled Grass skink	<i>Eutropis carinata</i>	No	NA	KKL
2	Common Indian Toad	<i>Bufo melanostictus</i>	No	NA	KKL
3	Bush frog	<i>Raorchestes sps 1</i>	Yes	NA	KKLS
4	Ghat frog	<i>Ghatiaxalus asterops</i>	Yes	NA	KKLS
5	Skittering frog	<i>Euphylyctis cyanophlyctis</i>	No	NA	KKL
6	Torrent Frog	<i>Micrixalus sp 1</i>	Yes	NA	KKLS
7	Cricket Frog	<i>Fejervarya sp</i>		NA	KKL

Kumbhakarai

Kumbhakarai (10.182342 N 77.525967 E) is a part of the Periyakulam Forest Range in Kodaikanal Forest division of the Dindigul District.

Biodiversity Profile

A total of 14 mammals, 103 birds and 17 species of herpetofauna were recorded.

The Schedule I species as per the Wild life Protection Act of 1972 are Indian gaur (*Bos gaurus*), Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*), Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) and Nilgiri langur (*Trachypithecus johnii*). Among mammals, the Dusky striped palm squirrel (*Funambulus sublineatus*) and Nilgiri langur are endemic to the Western Ghats. The Indian gaur, Dusky striped palm squirrel, Sambhar Deer and Nilgiri langur are Vulnerable, and the Indian Pangolin and Leopard are Near Threatened as per the IUCN Redlist.

Among birds, the Malabar grey hornbill (*Ocyrceros griseus*) and Malabar Trogon (*Harpactes fasciatus*) are endemic to the Western Ghats.

Among herpetofauna, the Indian black turtle (*Melanochelys trijuga*) and the Bronze frog (*Hylarana temporalis*) are threatened (“Near Threatened”) under the IUCN Redlist.

Animals spotted by the interview respondents include peafowl, sambhar deer, pangolin, wild boar, deer, leopards and python.

Social Profile

1. Resource collection and use

Firewood collection varies from private farms in Chukam para and Adukkam, to forest areas in Vellakavi. At Vellakavi, a gas stove, provided by the government, is used instead of firewood during rains. At Indira Nagar, wood is sometimes collected and sold as well. For some, wood is collected only when cooking gas runs out, while others’ collection patterns range from once or twice a week, to once to thrice a month. A respondent from the settlement claimed that most people collected wood from private farms.

Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) collected include wild tubers, honey, gooseberry and “kaduka”(Terminalia chebula). Some people collect small fruits which are used for household purposes. It was unclear whether the products are collected on a regular basis. At Vellakavi, inji is claimed to be harvested from Revenue land. Kaduka is claimed to be collected based on contracts given out by the FD. Honey collection is usually for personal use as it is claimed to be not enough for sales.

A Paliyar respondent from Indira Nagar, claimed that earlier honey was collected in larger quantities. However now, due to the availability of rations from the Government and daily wage labour, these collection practices have reduced. It was claimed that 10-15 litres of honey could be collected. Medicinal plants like Tulsi and flowers like wild jasmine and arali (Nerium Oleander) are picked for personal use and commercial sales at Indira Nagar. If honey is collected and sold, it fetches an amount between Rs. 150-350 per litre.

Here, three types of tubers are also collected and harvested three times a year, for personal use. These are usually available from January to April. Other produce like, inji, kaduka, silk cotton, lemon and tamarind are present; however a respondent claimed they are not allowed to collect it. A respondent also stated that mushrooms were collected.

Water is usually available through pipes, however it was not clear whether this was facilitated by the Panchayat or the Forest Department. At Vellakavi, a well is also used when required. At Indiranagar, water is used from the river.

Grazing is not very prominent since livestock is owned only by the private farm owners and not the resident community. These livestock are mostly left to graze within the private farms, mango orchards or by road sides.

2. Livelihood and Human- wildlife conflict

Livelihood The common source of livelihood for respondents is through daily wage labour at the private plantations where sugarcane, mangoes and coconuts are cultivated. At farms owned by the respondents in Adukkam and Vellakavi, coffee, oranges, cardamom and avocados are grown. The work involves picking harvest, pruning, spading, weeding, taking care of livestock on the farms and guarding farms. It is carried out throughout the year. Some respondents from Vellakavi work at private nurseries in Adukkam. At the same settlement, those who had their own fields added that they did not

have enough time to work or increase the amount of work at their own fields. A respondent here claimed to work at the Panchayat also.

A respondent from Indira Nagar claimed to have the skill for making brooms, but did not get time to put it to use. Even honey collection has reduced since people are busy working at farms. Contracts for collecting inji and gooseberry are given to the local people. An indigenous respondent stated that NTFPs were sold to the non indigenous community and the income generated was added to a VFC bank account. There is a local shop meant for the indigenous community however it was claimed that the FD guard, forester and ranger have initiated an informal relationship with individuals from the non-indigenous community and in return for money have allowed them to manage the shop.

Work related to mango orchards is carried out for six months. The fruit is sold in markets at Kerala, Theni and Periyakulam. For the rest of the year work is carried out at sugarcane fields. It was claimed that for NTFPs like gooseberry and kaduka, traders come to Indira Nagar to buy them based on the weight. Flowers like wild jasmine and *arali* are also sold at Indiranagar at Rs. 30-40 per kilogram.

Other agricultural produce includes oranges, lemons, cardamom, banana, coffee and jackfruit. Avocados are also sold from Vellakavi; however their harvest does not provide any profits. Beans are also grown here but are used only for household consumption. One respondent from this settlement expressed that if roads were better it would be easier for them to go to Kodaikanal to sell fruits like pear which generates good income. Currently, if jackfruits are to be transported by horses to the town from Vellakavi, it cost Rs. 350 per horse load. On selling the fruit, the income is only sufficient to cover the transport charges. Jackfruit is also sold at shops in and around Pillar Rock (a tourist spot at Kodaikanal) by people from Vellakavi.

Livelihoods at this site have changed, over time, due to various issues expressed by the people. A respondent at Vellakavi stated they did not have help to work on their own fields, and people generally preferred daily wage employment over work in their own farms. One reason for this was damage caused by wildlife. Out of 75 families here, 120 individuals have job cards for the government employment scheme. Many at this settlement, who were shopkeepers, have stopped this occupation as it did not lead to any profits.

Another source of income is also putting out forest fires which are claimed to occur twice or thrice a year around the forests close to Indira Nagar. The FD pays Rs. 150-200 to people who put out the fires. Fires that are not close to the settlement and spread large

cannot be put out and are left to burn out completely. Use of green leaves and removing the vegetation around the boundaries are methods used to put out fires. A respondent mentioned that birds and monitor lizards die in such fires.

At Indira Nagar and Chukampara individuals have been leaving the state of Tamil Nadu to work in food-based industries and return home once or twice a year. There are contractors from Periyakulam who recruit people for these jobs. At Adukkam, some respondents have skills like plumbing and carpentry which are made use of when necessary.

Human wildlife conflict: Animals mentioned by respondents which cause conflicts are wild boars, gaurs and monkeys. At Adukkam and Chukam para, this conflict is not very prominent. At Vellakavi, crop depredation by wild animals is a significant issue specifically the disturbance caused by gaur followed by monkeys and boars at banana and mango plantations. Damage at banana plantations has turned costly for farmers as, when sold they get Rs. 3 for one banana which is not sufficient to meet their investment. Previously at Vellakavi, a larger variety of agricultural crops were grown. However, due to human-wildlife conflicts and greater consumption of rice (on account of cheaper rations) instead of *ragi* (a local variety of rice grown), agriculture had reduced. It was mentioned that loans to grow coffee have been provided by the Coffee Board; however people do not take them as animals damage most of the crop.

Methods to drive away animals include making loud sounds, using sticks and use of fire crackers (at Indiranagar). While guarding at private fields by members from Indira Nagar continued, one respondent claimed that it has not reduced the conflict or damage caused by gaurs. A local was killed by a gaur attack around Kumbhakarai recently, and it was mentioned that compensation has not been provided. At Indiranagar, one respondent stated that there were no problems with the wildlife in the area. Crop damage was stated to occur in the foothills and not in this settlement. Also, conflicts with wildlife did not take place much at private farms since they were fenced.

While hunting was not mentioned by most respondents, it was claimed that hunting still exists at Indiranagar. A respondent stated boars and barking deer were hunted.

3. Stakeholder Dynamics

The local community dynamics are represented by interactions within their groups (intra-community), and with the FD and Panchayat (inter-community).

The presence of intra-community conflicts though present did not come across as an urgent issue since most respondents expressed that they resolved conflicts among themselves.

Inter-community issues based on the local community's association with the Forest Department (FD) and the Panchayat were more prominently expressed.

Small issues existed within families, however these were considered insignificant. Unity and cohesiveness among the community was not very prominent and was claimed to be so especially at Indira Nagar. A commonly expressed issue from within the community related to infrastructure. These include bad housing conditions, lack of or inadequate water, electricity and medical facilities. At Indira Nagar, it was claimed that a community hall, toilets, weed mowing vehicles and cooking dishes have been acquired or built from funds allocated through the Forest Department funds. "*In spite of these*", a respondent added "*there are still no facilities for water.*" Respondents from this settlement stated they have approached the Collector three to four times, to talk about dysfunctional housing to which they were informed that it would be fixed. It was claimed that no one however, has fixed the houses yet.

While some respondents claimed to have skills like broom and mat making, they did not have enough money to carry out or initiate these activities. At Vellakavi, livelihood is an issue for some, as income earned through work at private farms was insufficient to lead to savings.

The issue of "outsiders" causing nuisance was of concern among the respondents. This also includes disturbance caused by tourists. One respondent did not want roads to be laid due to the belief that outsiders would come and "take away their gods". The respondent later added that a road connecting Kumbhakarai and Kodaikanal is to be built. The road to Kodaikanal has apparently been planned for the past five years and though built is not of a good standard.

Garbage is also a major issue at Kumbhakarai. There are six dustbins at the Kumbhakarai waterfalls however the respondent claimed that people did not use them. A respondent, in charge of collecting garbage, claimed to not being paid by the FD for the work done.

A Paliyar respondent implied that their community has been neglected and loans would be helpful to improve their conditions. The respondent expressed that loans for goats would be helpful. An external social service department had visited their settlement and initiated a scheme where Rs. 5-10 was saved at a particular period of time; however the initiative failed to sustain itself.

Panchayat: Respondents' association with the Panchayat seemed irregular and unconstructive and varied with different settlements. The Panchayat is said to manage guarding posts at Kumbhakarai, however interactions were claimed not to exist between the people and the Panchayat in Chukampara or Adukkam. Support from the Panchayat was not common in most settlements. At Vellakavi, a respondent stated that the Panchayat head was to support new houses in the settlement; however there have been no developments in its regard. A respondent from Indira Nagar stated that the Panchayat is fragmented and does not function or play an active role in the community. Another respondent added that there was no interaction or rapport between the two stakeholders.

Forest Department: There is no regular interaction between the FD and the people in the area. At Vellakavi, the FD had carried out a meeting about planting and raising saplings, however no further interaction took place related to this. Some respondents claimed that FD officials visit forest areas, but do not visit the people in their settlements. Some claimed there was no problem with the FD, adding however that problems would arise if they asked them for land.

The people are aware of FD restrictions and acknowledged that going deeper into forests, collecting firewood and hunting could create problems with the FD. At Vellakavi, NTFP collection required permits. Contracts are given out from the FD for *Kaduka* and other NTFPs. The FD is said to have given loans to people in this settlement, which have however not been repaid. This has stopped the FD from giving out more loans.

At Adukkam, the respondent complained about the FD not taking any action against wild animals causing crop damage. The respondent also expressed that working with the FD

for conservation activities would not be possible as there was a lot of personal farm work to be done.

A Village Forest Council (VFC) exists at Vellakavi, Indira Nagar and Adukkam, however no activities were carried out through it. A respondent claimed that people were informed about the VFC; however no interest was shown in this regard.

For respondents from the indigenous community, the relationship with the FD was different. Respondents within the settlement had different perceptions towards the FD. A respondent from Indira Nagar claimed that the FD has wanted to work with them since they were an indigenous community, but nothing worked out eventually. Within the same settlement, a respondent stated that the FD was approached when issues or problems had to be discussed, and not the Panchayat.

At Indiranagar, a respondent claimed that NTFP collection including that of inji was not allowed. If they tried to, then they would be stopped at the check post by the forest guard since they did not have an ID card. Special permits from the FD were required for collection of NTFPs which also brought out issues of monetary power between stakeholders. A respondent from Indiranagar stated, *“They do not think of giving preference to adivasis (indigenous people). They give it to those who pay Rs. 10000-2000. If we ask, they ask us to pay Rs.1-2 lakh for puliya maram (tamarind) and olava maram (silk cotton). If they give it to adivasis, we will come up in life. But they don't think like that. They give it to those they prefer.”*

At the same settlement, it was claimed by a respondent that while the FD had adopted the village, there was “no use” of that. The police department had also adopted the village, and their relation with the community was expressed to be better. The respondent stated the police stop “outsiders” and if problems arise, they approach the police who resolve the issue. One respondent from Indira Nagar, who is the VFC leader stated that the entrance fees paid by tourists to enter the Kumbhakarai waterfalls were deposited in the VFC fund. However, they did not know how or whether the funds were put to use. The respondent also claimed that the current DFO does not interact with the community. It was added that the previous DFO interacted with the people and stated sharing their problems was possible. In regards to human-wildlife conflict, one respondent from Indira Nagar stated that it was the FD's responsibility to control damage caused by wildlife in agricultural land.

On the whole, it appeared that the relationship between the FD and the indigenous community at Indira Nagar follows a top-down approach, *“We don’t have the power. The higher officials would give the orders/permission to do the work. The subordinates will not allow doing so, as they need a bribe. If we give Rs. 1000 they will allow us to go inside the forest. If not they will say that we are not adivasis. Otherwise they will file a complaint saying that we cut a tree even though we have not done it. If we give money, say Rs. 5000 we can do anything for one month. In this situation if we go suddenly into the forest we will have problems.”*

4. Tourism

Tourism has been present in Kumbhakari, especially due to its location, being close to Kodaikanal. It was claimed that by collecting entrance fees one could earn about a lakh per year, by one respondent in Indira Nagar. Fees of Rs. 2 for individuals, Rs. 5 for a bike and Rs. 10 for car entry are charged. However, tourism has also been a constant source of nuisance for the management and the habitat. People from Indira Nagar also face issues when non-indigenous people from other settlements consume alcohol and create problems at the settlement. This is usually settled when the people approach the police.

There are also issues about day visitors at the Kumbhakarai falls who cause problems by breaking bottles and entering into forests without informing the guard. There have also been reported incidences of fatalities due to bad fencing by the river and tourists bathing in areas where they were asked not to. It was mentioned that nuisance from activities such as public defecation, washing and drying clothes in and around the river, and prostitution have added to the issues. Tourism has also lead to uncontrolled garbage disposal, and no visitor is claimed to use garbage cans.

5. Local interest and capacity in conservation

Respondent’s interest in collaboration was mostly positive, however they wanted appropriate returns for their support. Few expressed interest, however were unsure about how they could be a part of conservation activities, and wanted to know what they could do. One respondent expressed that the right to cut branches and collect wood for basic needs and household purposes should be allowed. At Vellakavi, the respondent agreed to

work together with the FD, however claimed that they did not get any benefits from them. If jobs were available through collaboration, they were willing to be a part of these conservation activities.

At Indiranagar, a respondent stated, *“We are much more active in protecting the area than them (FD). Only now for our livelihoods, we live here on others’ farms, otherwise when we are in the jungle we will be able to help. We have the right to take care and protect the place. We do take care of it and do not stop. We don’t see them [FD] as an opposition. Even if fire comes we go run and put it off. Only after that do we give them the information. We will never give up our areas.”*

At the same settlement, a respondent supposed that the collaborative approach would be possible. However, land ownership is the main issue, and their participation depends on this aspect. It was stated that the locals should have their own land, and *“if it is ours, we will take care. If it is not ours, we will go for 2-3 days or for a week. After that we are not interested, as they don’t pay us. If we have land of our own we will have a feeling that it is ours. We don’t have anything, they don’t allow us in, what is the use?”* Respondents also expressed interest in keeping the area clean, however stated that the DFO needs to be informed, and more locals need to come together. People have asked for a bore well near a temple at Kumbhakarai, along with renovating the bathrooms. They also suggested checking tourist vehicles to stop alcohol consumption at the Kumbhakarai waterfalls, and consequent irresponsible behaviour and disposal of bottles.

“We are ready to do if you cooperate with us. We need a department personnel also. If we go alone they will question us while entering the forest. If there are department personnel in support with us, at least two, we don’t have to fear.”

In relation to initiatives by external entities, it was mentioned by respondents from Indira Nagar that people have visited, documented information and asked them about their problems however there is no follow up or action based on this. This could help in giving a sense of potential disinterest in conservation activities.

Key Findings

The Paliyars are settled away from the forest and are not highly dependent on the forest and a Conservation Reserve in this area may not be feasible. Settlements, in general, are also located far apart from each.

Recommendations

1. Tourism could be developed into a sustainable initiative through the participation of local communities
2. The entry into Kumbhakarai Falls can be increased to generate higher incomes that would support its maintenance
3. Collection of NTFPs is scattered, however a small-scale initiative to make collection more systematic could be developed.

Mammals of Kumbhakarai

	Mammals	Scientific Name	Endemic To Western Ghats	IUCN Threat Status	Locations
1	Indian Gaur	<i>Bos gaurus</i>	No	VU	KKSF,AD,KK
2	Bonnet Macaque	<i>Macca radiata</i>	No	LC	KKF
3	Three Striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>	No	LC	KKF
4	Barking Deer	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>	No	LC	KKSF
5	Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithii</i>	No	LC	KKSF
6	Indian Porcupine	<i>Hystrix indica</i>	No	LC	KKF
7	Indian Pangolin	<i>Manis crassicaudata</i>	No	NT	KKF
8	Indian Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa indica</i>	No	LC	KK-VK
9	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	No	LC	AD,KSF
10	Dusky striped palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus sublineatus</i>	Yes	VU	AD
11	Nilgiri langur	<i>Trachypithecus johnii</i>	Yes	VU	AD
12	Indian Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsii</i>	No	LC	AD
13	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	No	NT	AD, VK
14	Sambhar	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>	No	VU	AD, VK

LC=Least Concern, NT=Near Threatened, VU=Vulnerable, EN=Endangered, NA=Not Assessed, DD=Data Deficient

KKF=Kumbakarai Falls, KKSF=Kumbakarai Second Falls, KK-VK=Kumbakarai-Vellakavi Way, AD=Adukkam, KK=Kurudikadu

Birds of Kumbhakarai

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Endemic To Western Ghats	IUCN Threat Status	Locations
1	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	No	LC	KSF
2	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	No	LC	KK
3	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	No	LC	KK, KK-VK
4	Crested Serpent-Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
5	Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
6	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
7	Shikra	<i>Accipter badius</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
8	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malalyensis</i>	No	LC	KK-AD, KK-VK
9	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	No	LC	KKU
10	Red Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>	No	LC	KKSF, AD
11	Grey Junglefowl	<i>Gallus sonneratii</i>	No	LC	KK-AD, KK-VK
12	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
13	Spotted Dove	<i>Stigmatopelia chinensis</i>	No	LC	KK-AD, KK-VK
14	Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
15	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Stigmatopelia decaocto</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
16	Pompadour Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron pompadora</i>	No	LC	KK-VK
17	Yellow-legged Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>	No	LC	AD
18	Indian Hanging- Parrot	<i>Loriculus vernalis</i>	No	LC	KK-VK
19	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	No	LC	KK-AD, KK-VK
20	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
21	Brainfever Bird	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>	No	LC	KK
22	Small Green-billed Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus viridirostris</i>	No	LC	KK-VK, KK-AD
23	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
24	Spotted-owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
25	Asian Palm-Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	No	LC	KK-VK, AD
26	Indian Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia unicolor</i>	No	LC	KK-VK
27	Crested Tree-Swift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>	No	LC	AD-KKU
28	Malabar Trogon	<i>Harpactes fasciatus</i>	Yes	LC	KKSF
29	Small Blue Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	No	LC	KKF
30	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon capensis</i>	No	LC	KKF
31	White-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrensis</i>	No	LC	KKSF
32	Small bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	No	LC	KK-VK
33	Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctornis athertoni</i>	No	LC	KKU
34	Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>	No	LC	KKU
35	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	No	LC	KK
36	Malabar Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros griseus</i>	Yes	LC	KK-VK
37	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>	No	LC	KK-AD, KK-VK

38	White-cheeked Barbet	<i>Megalaima viridis</i>	No	LC	KKU
39	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
40	Common Flameback woodpecker	<i>Dinopium javanense</i>	No	LC	KK-VK
41	Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Celeus brachyurus</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
42	Greater Golden-backed Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>	No	LC	KKU
43	Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
44	Small Yellow-naped Woodpecker	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>	No	LC	KK
45	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
46	Large Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacila madarasapatensis</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
47	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacila cinerea</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
48	Black-headed Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina melanoptera</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
49	Large Cuckoo-Shrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>	No	LC	KKU-AD
50	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnaamomeus</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
51	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
52	Black-crested Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus melanicterus</i>	No	LC	KKSF
53	Red whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
54	Red vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
55	White-browed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
56	Yellow-browed Bulbul	<i>Iole indica</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
57	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
58	Jerdon's Chloropsis	<i>Chloropsis cochinchinensis</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
59	Golden-fronted Chloropsis	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>	No	LC	KKU
60	Asian Fairy-Bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>	No	LC	KKU, KK
61	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	No	LC	AD
62	Bay-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>	No	LC	AD
63	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
64	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus maabaricus</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
65	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
66	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
67	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>	No	LC	AD
68	Grey-headed Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	No	LC	AD
69	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>	No	LC	KK-VK
70	Asian Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	No	LC	KK
71	Spotted Babbler	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
72	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
73	White-headed Babbler	<i>Turdoides affinis</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
74	Indian Rufous babbler	<i>Turdoides subrufus</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
75	Rufous-bellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>	No	LC	KKU-AD
76	Quaker Tit-Babbler	<i>Alcippe poioicephala</i>	No	LC	AD
77	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>	No	LC	AD-KKU
78	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
79	Blyth's Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	No	LC	KKU-AD

80	White-browed Fantail-Flycatcher	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
81	Velvet Fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>	No	LC	AD
82	Plain Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum concolor</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
83	Thick-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>	No	LC	KK-VK
84	Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
85	Purple -rumped Sun bird	<i>Necatarinia asiatica</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
86	Loten's Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia lotenia</i>	No	LC	KK
87	Oriental White eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	No	LC	AD
88	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
89	Black-headed Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>	No	LC	AD
90	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
91	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
92	Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	No	LC	AD
93	Eurasian Golden-Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
94	Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	No	LC	KK-AD
95	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	No	LC	KKSF, KK
96	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>	No	LC	KK
97	Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>	No	LC	KKF
98	Spangled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>	No	LC	KKSF
99	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	No	LC	AD, KK-VK
100	Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>	No	LC	KKF
101	Indian Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	No	LC	KKF
102	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	No	LC	KKF, AD
103	Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	No	LC	KK, AD

Herpetofauna of Kumbhakarai

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Endemic to Western Ghats	IUCN Threat Status	Location
1	Rock Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus graniticolus</i>	No	LC	KKSF
2	Bark Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus leschenaultii</i>	No	LC	KKF
3	Day / Dwarf gecko	<i>Cnemaspis sps 1</i>			KKSF, VK
4	Common Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>	No	LC	KKF
5	Gliding lizard	<i>Draco dussemeri</i>	No	NA	KKSF
6	Rock-Agama	<i>Pssamophilus dorsalis</i>	No	NA	KKF, KKSF, AD
7	Blanford Rock Agama	<i>Pssamophilus blanfordanus</i>	No	NA	AD
8	Southern Green Calotes	<i>Calotes calotes</i>	No	LC	KKF, AD
9	Keeled Grass skink	<i>Eutropis carinata</i>	No	LC	KKF, AD
10	Leschenault's Snake-eye	<i>Ophisops leschenaultii</i>	No	LC	KKSF
11	Indian black turtle	<i>Melanochelys trijuga</i>	No	NT	KKSF
12	Indian Rock Python	<i>Phyton molurus</i>	No	NT	KK
13	Common Indian Toad	<i>Bufo melanosticus</i>	No	LC	KKF, AD
14	Common Tree Frog	<i>Polypedates maculatus</i>	No	LC	KKSF
15	Skittering Frog	<i>Euphylectics cyanophlyctics</i>	No	LC	KKSF
16	Bronze Frog	<i>Hylarana temporalis</i>	No	NT	KKSF, VK
17	Cricket Frog	<i>Fejervarya sp</i>			KKSF

Workshop Report

After the interview surveys at the four potential reserves sites, three sites were chosen for further pursuance as Conservation Reserves. Workshops were conducted at Agamalai, Kukkal and Kurangini with the local communities, local non-governmental organizations, village forest committees and the concerned Panchayats. Pre-workshop meetings were undertaken with the respective stakeholders in order to plan and invite them to the workshop. These individuals were also requested to request other individuals to attend the workshops. The list of the main individuals who attended the workshop is detailed in the next section.

The concept of a Conservation Reserve was reintroduced; an overview of similar reserves in south India and the results of the social and biodiversity surveys were presented. The survey maps of the Panchayat were shown and possible reserve boundaries were discussed. An official Panchayat support letter with inputs from the stakeholders involved was prepared in the local language (Tamil). On preparation, signatures of the required individuals were ensued.

Agamalai

Pre-workshops were conducted with the Paliyar community, VFC head, SOPORT (local NGO at Agamalai) and the Panchayat members. Two workshops were then conducted at Agamalai. The first workshop was conducted with the Paliyar community and the VFC head at Sokkanalai and the second workshop was conducted at Sothuparai with the Panchayat, Paliyar community and non-indigenous local community. The stakeholders proposed that the forests within the Agamalai Panchayat boundary could be integrated. They sought initiatives to reduce human-wildlife conflict and improved resource collection and marketing of non-timber forest products. They also proposed a list of main people who would support the initiative from each settlement

Kukkal

Pre-workshop meetings were conducted with the local community and the Panchayat. The workshop was then conducted the same stakeholders at Kukkal. The *shola* forest patch across the lake was proposed for protection and initiatives to reduce human-wildlife conflict were sought. Meetings with the Village Administrative Officer was met, for details of the survey numbers of Forest Land/Reserve Forest at Kodaikanal and Kukkal. With request from the Panchayat President, photographs of the workshop were not taken

Kurangani

Pre-workshops meetings were conducted with local NGOs (GREEN and GREEN India Trust), series of three workshops were conducted at Kurangani. The first workshop was conducted at Kurangani with the local community and members from GREEN India Trust, a local NGO active in Kurangani. The second workshop was conducted with the local community, GREEN India Trust and the Kottagudi Panchayat members at the Kottagudi Panchayat Office in Kurangani. The stakeholders decided that all the forest area within the Panchayat boundary could be integrated, that a group of eco-tourism guides be constituted in each area and adequate training for this purpose. They also proposed that water holes would need to be built within key areas in the surrounding forests to reduce human-wildlife conflicts. The third workshop was conducted at Kottagudi with the local community. The Village Administrative Office of the Kottagudi Panchayat was met, for details of the survey numbers of Forest Land/Reserve Forest

A draft proposal of the Theni Conservation Reserve was submitted to the Tamil Nadu State Government and Forest Department on 31st January 2013. The proposal of Kukkal as a Conservation Reserve is currently pending due to an ongoing proposal of the Kodaikanal Hills as a Wildlife Sanctuary.

Draft Proposal for Theni Conservation Reserve

The proposed Theni Conservation Reserve is composed of all the forest areas within the Kottagudi, Bodi North Hills Village and Agamalai Panchayat boundaries that occur in the Bodinayakanur Taluk of Theni District of Tamil Nadu, extending over an area of **21829.24.5 hectares**. This is as per **Section 36A** of the **Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2002** regarding the declaration and management of a Conservation Reserve; *“The State Government may, after having consultations with the local communities, declare any area owned by the Government, particularly the areas adjacent to National Parks and sanctuaries and those areas which link one protected area with another, as a conservation reserve for protecting landscapes, seascapes, flora and fauna and their habitat”*. The proposed region is adjacent to the Pampadam Shola National Park of Kerala (Devikulam Taluk, Idukki District) and the local communities and Panchayats have agreed to support wildlife conservation here and participate in its management (**see attached Panchayat Letters**).

Significance

This region is a critical link in the Anamalai-Palni Hills. It is surrounded by the Pampadam Shola National Park of Kerala in its North-West boundary and provides connectivity to the Palni Hills. Populations of Nilgiri Tahr, Asian Elephant, Indian Gaur, Nilgiri Langur, Leopards and Asiatic Wild Dogs which are Schedule 1 species liable for the highest protection under the Wildlife Protection Action (1972) move across this landscape. Therefore this proposed region facilitates movement of wildlife across the Anamalai which is necessary to maintain genetically viable populations of wildlife. The region has vast coverage of *shola* grassland ecosystems that are characteristic of the southern Western Ghats and numerous freshwater streams arise from here that support large municipalities such as Bodi. The proposed region is therefore in need of increased protection and support from local communities living within it.

Wildlife

A total of 16 mammals, 134 birds and 24 herpetofaunal species have been recorded till date in this region (Appendix 1, 2, 3). The region has a good population of Nilgiri Tahr, Nilgiri Langur, Leopard, Indian Gaur, Slender Loris and Mouse Deer which are Schedule 1 species

as per the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Asian elephants are also found on the regions bordering with Kerala. The Dusky Palm-striped Squirrel which is endemic to the Western Ghats is also found.

The region has a high diversity of birds, represented by 134 species till date. Nilgiri Pipit, Nilgiri Wood Pigeon, Nilgiri Flycatcher, Grey-breasted Laughing Thrush and Orange and black Flycatcher are not only endemic to the Western Ghats but are also threatened by extinction. The Malabar Grey Hornbill, Malabar Trogon, Malabar Whistling Thrush, Yellow-browed Bulbul, White-bellied Treepie and Indian Rufous Babbler are endemic to the Western Ghats and found in this region. Among the herpetofauna found here, the Nilgiri Salea, endemic to the Western Ghats and Indian Rock Python are prominent species

Local Communities

The proposed region has numerous human settlements within and adjoining its boundaries. These communities range from *adivasis*, the Paliyars and non-tribals. They depend on the forests for firewood and grazing. Human-wildlife conflict occurs especially with wild boars and gaurs. Local communities are also dependent on non-timber forest products and tourism which supports their livelihoods. The local Panchayats and local communities in this region are willing to support and participate in wildlife conservation in this region (**see attached Panchayat Letters**). They have proposed for ecotourism and improved marketing of non-timber forest products with training from the Tamil Nadu Forest Department and have also extended a plea for improved mitigation measures in cases of wildlife conflicts.

Advantages

- Increased income generation for the Forest Department through tourism
- Increased conservation of wildlife and their habitat
- Support and participation from local communities including *adivasis* and Panchayats
- Increased protection from forest fires through local community support
- Increased awareness among local communities and tourists about wildlife conservation

- Improved waste management in forested areas
- Increased livelihood support for local communities

Disadvantages

- Lack of existing infrastructure and training
- Support from local communities on the Kerala border of the proposed Reserve is unknown

Proposed Conservation Reserve Boundary Description

North

Starting from the junction of the Village Number 1 Kottagudi village at Survey Field Number 1284 the boundary runs North-West and North-East. The North-West boundary runs across adjoining the Survey Field Number 1065 and 1199. The North-West boundary from the junction of Survey Field Number 1079 and 1110 then runs South. The North-East Boundary runs across adjoining the Survey Field Number 807 and then runs South. Beginning from the trijunction of Survey Field Number 950 of Village Number 2. Bodi North hill village and Survey Field Number 284 of Village Number 1. Kottagudi village and Ampt hills downs R.F (Notified under Section 16 of Tamil Nadu Forest Act in Revenue Department Notification No.70, dt. 9-2-1906 and published at pages 178 and 179 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dt. 13-2-1906). The boundary generally runs South-East, North-East, alternate along the southern side of above said reserved forests till it reaches the trijunction of Survey Field Number 950 of Village Number 2. Bodi North hill village Ampt hills downs reserved forests and Amburulli reserved forests (Notified under Section 16 of Tamil Nadu Forest Act in Revenue Department Notification No. 471, dt. 8-8-1914 and published at pages 245 and 246 of Part I of *Fort St. George Gazette*, dt. 1-9-1914). Thence it generally runs North-East, South and South-East along the southern side of Amurulli reserved forests till it reaches the trijunction of Survey Field Number 1384 of Village Number 3. Agamalai village in Bodinayakanur Taluk and Survey Field Number 2771 of Thenkarai village in Periyakulam Taluk and Amburulli reserved forests. Thence it generally runs East and South alternate and North- East along the southern side of Survey Field Numbers 2771, 2772, 2752 and 2773, southern and eastern sides of Survey Field Number 2774, southern side of Survey Field Numbers 2775 and 2776, southern and western sides of Survey Field Number 2778, western side of Survey Field Numbers 2779 and 2780, western and southern sides of Survey Field Number 2810, southern side of Survey Field Numbers 2831, 2832 and 2833, western side of Survey Field Number 2841, western and southern sides of Survey Field Number 2843 and southern side of Survey Field Numbers 2844 and 2858, western and southern sides of Survey Field Number 2860 and southern side of Survey Field Number 2861 till it reaches the trijunction of Survey Field Numbers 2861, 2862 of Thenkarai village Survey Field Number 1384 of 3. Agamalai village.

East

Thence the boundary generally runs South and East along the western side of Survey Field Numbers 2865 and 2866, western, southern and eastern sides of Survey Field Number 2867, southern side of Survey Field Numbers 2868 and 2880 till it reaches the South-West corner of Survey Field Number 2881 and thence it generally runs South-East along the southern side of Survey Field Number 2881, Western and Southern sides of Survey Field Number 2838, western side of Survey Field Numbers 2941 and 2942, western and southern sides of Survey Field Number 2943, western side of Survey Field Numbers 2947, 2965, 2966 and 2967, southern side of Survey Field Number 2976, western side of Survey Field Numbers 2977, 2978, 2979, 2980, 3082, 3097, 3102, 3103, 3111, 3112, 3119 and 3120 till it reaches the trijunction of Survey Field Numbers 3120 and 3121 of Thenkarai village and Survey Field Number 1384 of Village Number 3. Agamalai village. Thence it generally runs South-West along the western side of Survey Field Numbers 3121 and 3124, northern side of Survey Field Numbers 3129, 3136, 3137 and 3138, western side of Survey Field Numbers 3139, 3156, 3158, 3161 and 3170, western side of Survey Field Number 3218, northern side of Survey Field Numbers 3232, 3233, 3234 and 3235 till it reaches the trijunction of Thenkarai village, Thamaraikulam village of Periyakulam Taluk and Survey Field Number 1384 of 3. Agamalai village. Thence it generally runs South-West and North-West along the northern side of Survey Field Numbers 3063, 3064, 3067 and 3068, northern and western sides of Survey Field Numbers 3070 and 3077, western side of Survey Field Numbers 3078, 3079, 3043, 3042, 3041, 3040, 3039 and 3038 all of Thamaraikulam village till meets the trijunction of Thamaraikulam village and Vadaveeranayakanpatty village of Periyakulam Taluk and Survey Field Number 1384 of Village Number 3. Agamalai village. Thence it generally runs South-West along the western side of Survey Field Numbers 2059, 2060, 2061, 2069, 2070, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2094, 2095, 2096 and 2099, western and southern sides of Survey Field Number 2103, southern side of Survey Field Numbers 2130 and 2102, western side of Survey Field Numbers 2113, 2114, 2116, 2169, 2171, 2172 and 2073 till it reaches the trijunction of Vadaveeranayakanpatty village of Periyakulam Taluk and Oonjampatty village of Theni Taluk.

South

Thence the boundary generally runs West and South-West along the northern side of Survey Field Numbers 1366, 1124, 1123, 1122, 1120 and 1119, Northern and Western sides of

Survey Field Number 1115, northern side of Survey Field Numbers 1114, 1113, 1102 and 1101 till it reaches the North-East corner of Survey Field Number 661. Thence it generally runs west along the northern side of Survey Field Numbers 661, 660, 659, 649, 643, 641, 640, 634, 632, 631, 629, 628, 627, 626 and 625 all of Oonjampatty village and thence west along the northern side of Survey Field Numbers 1157, 1158 and 1159 of Allinagaram village till it meets the trijunction of Allinagaram village in Theni Taluk Survey Field Number 1384 of Village Number 3. Agamalai village and Agamalai reserved forests (Thambirankanal reserved forests) (Notified under Section 16 of Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882 (Tamil Nadu Act V of 1882) in Revenue Dept. Notification No. 25, dt. 15-1-1894, published at pages 84 of Part I of *Fort St. George Gazette*, dt.23-1-1894. Subsequently notified in Revenue dept. notification No. 776, dt. 24-5-1944 published at pages 440 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dt. 30-5-1944). Thence it generally runs North, North-West, South and South-East along the eastern, northern and western sides of Agamalai reserved forests till it reaches the trijunction of Agamalai reserved forests, Allinagaram village and Boothipuram village. Thence it generally runs West and South along northern side of Survey Field Numbers 254, 23, 20, 19, 18, 17 and 16, eastern side of Survey Field Numbers 13, 11 and 10, eastern and northern sides of Survey Field Number 9, western side of Survey Field Numbers 7, 6 and 5, northern side of Survey Field Numbers 3 and 1, northern and western sides of Survey Field Numbers 4, 46, 48, 50, 52, 53, 498, 54 again 498, 55 and 499 till reaches the South-West corner of Survey Field Number 498. Thence it generally runs West and South-West along the northern side of Survey Field Numbers 71 and 73, western side of Survey Field Numbers 74, 75, 77, 78, 79 and 80 till it reaches the trijunction of Village Number 4. Boothipuram, Village Number 5. Kodangipatty village and Survey Field Number 1384 of Village Number 3. Agamalai village. Thence it generally runs South-West along the northern side of Survey Field Numbers 136, 135, 124, 120, 119, 118, 172, 10 and 1 all of Village Number 5. Kodangipatty village till it meets the trijunction of Village Number 5. Kodangipatty village, Village Number 6. Meenakshipuram village and Survey Field Number 1384 of Village Number 3. Agamalai village. Thence it generally runs North-West and South-West along the eastern side of Survey Field Number 180, eastern, northern and western sides of Survey Field Number 179, northern side of Survey Field Numbers 178, 166, 165, 159, 158, 127, 126, 125 and 124 till it reaches the South-East corner of Survey Field Number 85. Thence it generally runs North and North-East along the eastern side Survey Field Numbers 85, 84, 83 and 77, southern side of Survey Field Numbers 76, 75 and 74, western, southern and eastern sides of Survey Field Numbers 72, 22 and 21, eastern and northern sides of Survey Field Number 19,

eastern side of Survey Field Number 18, eastern and northern sides of Survey Field Number 17, northern side of Survey Field Number 16, till it meets the trijunction of Survey Field Numbers 15 and 16 all of Village Number 6. Meenakshipuram village and Survey Field Number 1384 of Village Number 3. Agamalai village. Thence it generally runs North, West and South along the eastern side of Survey Field Numbers 15, 11, 6, 5 and 4, eastern, northern and western side of Survey Field Number 2 till it reaches the North-East corner of Survey Field Number 1. Thence it generally runs West along the northern side of Survey Field Number 1 till it reaches the trijunction of Village Number 6. Meenakshipuram village, Survey Field Number 1384 of Village Number 3. Agamalai village and Village Number 7. Melachokanathapuram village. Thence it generally runs North East and West along the eastern side of Survey Field Numbers 476, 475 and 474, eastern and northern sides of Survey Field Number 473, northern side of Survey Field Numbers 470, 469, 466, 465, 462, 458, 457, 456, 442 and 441 (All of Village Number 7. Melachokanathapuram village) till it reaches the trijunction of Village Number 7. Melachokanathapuram village, Village Number 8. Bodinayakanur village and Survey Field Number 1384 of Village Number 3. Agamalai village. Thence it generally runs West along the northern side of Survey Field Numbers 1426 and 1427, eastern, northern and western sides of Survey Field Number 1424, northern side of Survey Field Numbers 1421, 1420, 1419, 1414, 1412, 1406, 1405, 1404, 1403 and 1402 till it reaches the South-East corner of Survey Field Number 1400 thence it generally runs North East and North along the eastern side of Survey Field Numbers 1400, 1399, 1397, 1281 and 1280, southern side of Survey Field Numbers 1279 and 1270, eastern side of Survey Field Numbers 1269, 1268 and 1265, southern, eastern and northern sides of Survey Field Number 1274, eastern side of Survey Field Numbers 1262, 1261, 1259 and 1258 till it meets the North-East corner of Survey Field Number 1258. Thence it generally runs southern, eastern and northern sides of Survey Field Number 1257, eastern side of Survey Field Number 1256, eastern and northern sides of Survey Field Number 1255 and northern side of Survey Field Number 1254, eastern side of Survey Field Number 1252, eastern and northern sides of Survey Field Number 1251, eastern side of Survey Field Numbers 1250, 1213, 1212, 1209 and 1208 till it meets the trijunction of Survey Field Numbers 1208 and 1199 all of Village Number 8. Bodinayakanur village and Survey Field Number 1384 of Village Number 3. Agamalai village. Thence it generally runs North East and North along the southern side Survey Field Number 1199, southern and eastern sides of Survey Field Number 1198, eastern side of Survey Field Numbers 1197, 1196 and 1195 till it meets the South-West corner of Survey Field Number 1192. Thence it generally runs South-East and North-East along the

southern side of Survey Field Number 1192, southern and eastern sides of Survey Field Number 1191, eastern side of Survey Field Numbers 1190, 1189 and 1188 till it reaches the North-East corner of Survey Field Number 1188. Thence it generally runs South-East and North-West along the southern and eastern sides of Survey Field Number 1187, eastern side of Survey Field Numbers 1186 and 1187, northern side of Survey Field Numbers 1182, 1181, 1180 and 1173, eastern side of Survey Field Number 1172 till it reaches the trijunction of Survey Field Numbers 1170, 1171 and 1172. Thence it generally runs North-East and South-West along the eastern side of Survey Field Numbers 1170, 1169, 1168, 1161, 1156 and 1157, eastern, northern and western sides of Survey Field Number 1159, northern side of Survey Field Number 1158, till it reaches the trijunction of Survey Field Numbers 1158 and 1157 all of Village Number 8. Bodinayakanur and Survey Field Number 1384 of Village Number 3. Agamalai village. Thence it generally runs North-West and South-West along the eastern, northern and western sides of Survey Field Number 1157, western side of Survey Field Numbers 1156, 1155 till it reaches the North-East corner of Survey Field Number 1154. Thence it generally runs West, South and South West along the northern and western side of Survey Field Number 1154, western side of Survey Field Number 1153, northern side of Survey Field Number 1149 till it reaches the North-West corner of Survey Field Number 1149. Thence it generally runs North-East, North-West and South-West along the eastern side of Survey Field Number 1140, eastern, northern and western sides of Survey Field Number 1130 till it reaches the South-East corner of Survey Field Number 1129. Thence it generally runs North-West, North-East and South-West along the eastern side of Survey Field Numbers 1129 and 1128, eastern and northern sides of Survey Field Number 1127, northern side of Survey Field Numbers 1123, 1122 and 1111, western side of Survey Field Number 1110 till it reaches the North-West corner of Survey Field Number 1107. Thence it generally runs South-East, South and South-West along the western side of Survey Field Number 1107, western and southern sides of Survey Field Number 1106, western side of Survey Field Numbers 1100, 1096, 1075, 1074 and 1073 till it reaches the trijunction of Survey Field Numbers 1073 and 967 of Bodinayakanur village and Survey Field Number 950 of Village 2. Bodi North Hills village. Thence it generally runs west, along the northern side of Survey Field Number 967 till it reaches the trijunction of Survey Field Numbers 967 and 854 of Bodinayakanur village and Survey Field Number 950 of Village Number 2. Bodi North Hills village. Thence it generally runs North, North-West along the eastern side of Survey Field Number 854, northern side of Survey Field Numbers 855, 966 and 965 till it reaches the trijunction of Survey Field Numbers 965, 964 and 959. Thence it generally runs North, East

again North and West along the eastern side of Survey Field Number 959, southern, eastern and northern sides of Survey Field Number 960, northern side Survey Field Numbers 959 and 953, eastern and northern sides of Survey Field Number 962 and eastern side of Survey Field Number 921 till it reaches the North-East corner of Survey Field Number 921. Thence it generally runs North-East and West along the eastern side of Survey Field Numbers 920 and 919, southern side of Survey Field Numbers 915 and 914, southern, eastern and northern sides of Survey Field Number 913, northern side of Survey Field Numbers 914 and 917 till it reaches the trijunction of Survey Field Numbers 917, 912 and 911 all of Village Number 8. Bodinayakanur village. Thence it generally runs North-East, North-West and South-West along the eastern and northern sides of Survey Field Number 911, northern side of Survey Field Numbers 909, 908 and 907, western side of Survey Field Numbers 906 and 901 till it reaches the North-East corner of Survey Field Number 900. Thence it generally runs North-West, South-West and South-East along northern side of Survey Field Numbers 900, 896 and 895, eastern and northern sides of Survey Field Number 893, northern side of Survey Field Number 891, western side of Survey Field Numbers 890, 889 and 878 till it reaches the North-West corner of Survey Field Number 787. Thence it generally runs South, North-West and South-West along the northern side of Survey Field Numbers 60, 59, 52, 51, 50, 3, 4 and 5 till it reaches the trijunction of Survey Field Numbers 5, 6 and 1. Thence it generally runs North-West along the eastern side of Survey Field Number 1 till it meets the trijunction of Village Number 8. Bodinayakanur village, Village Number 1. Kottagudi village and Village Number 2. Bodi North Hills village. From this trijunction following the Village Number 1 Kottagudi village the boundary generally runs West on the Survey Field Number 1284 adjoining the Survey Field Numbers 955, 1297, 391 and 345.

West

Thence it generally runs North along the village boundary of Village Number 1. Kottagudi village adjoining Field Survey Number 956 – Kolukkumala Tea Estate till it meets the starting point.

Kottagudi (3788.44.0 ha),Bodinayakanur Taluk, Theni District

Survey No.	Extent in ha.
191	1.87.5
219/2	8.66.0
220/2	0.49.5
256	2.87.0
319/1	0.78.0
360	0.39.5
361	0.54.0
362	0.25.0
371	0.42.5
376	0.11.0
502	0.16.0
575/2	4.69.0
576/2	1.72.0
577/2	1.59.0
672/1	1.05.0
691	0.24.0
729	0.36.0
749/2	1.43.5
751	0.20.5
757/2	2.68.0
772	0.23.5
778/2	1.83.5
781/2	6.61.5
786	2.68.5
791/2	1.21.5
797	1.83.5
799/2	0.81.0
807	1.22.0
808	0.18.5
809	1.41.5
810	1.49.5
811	2.32.5
812	0.19.0
813	2.03.5
819	1.22.0
821	1.90.0
840	0.16.0
888	3.85.5
932/2	11.50.0
950	1.35.0
954	1.06.0
955	1.01.0
969	1.72.0
978/2	0.64.0

992	0.67.0
1003/1	1.01.0
1003/2	3.04.0
1003/3	21.89.5
1019	0.39.0
1020/2	1.12.5
1021	0.23.5
1027	0.29.0
1029/1	0.96.5
1029/2	0.44.5
1047/1	53.09.5
1047/2	0.84.5
1063/2	1.98.0
1064/2	1.06.5
1076/2	4.04.5
1076/3	7.55.0
1141/1	2.08.0
1214	0.37.0
1221	1.21.5
1222	1.97.0
1224/2	2.11.5
1225/1	0.33.0
1225/3	0.14.0
1228	1.01.0
1231	1.25.5
1232	0.57.0
1235	1.66.0
1236	3.87.5
1237	1.51.0
1238	4.53.5
1239	0.80.5
1240	3.07.0
1242	0.60.5
1243	0.35.0
1244	0.10.5
1245	2.93.0
1246	0.55.0
1247	0.67.0
1248	0.09.5
1250	1.51.0
1253	0.02.5
1254	0.29.5
1255	0.20.0
1262/4	0.69.0
1263	0.92.0
1264	0.26.5
1265/1	0.02.5
1265/2	0.02.0

1265/3	0.06.5
1270	0.45.0
1271/2	6.62.0
1272/1	0.71.5
1278/1	0.84.5
1283/1	0.44.5
1283/2	0.09.5
1284	3769.61.5
1291	0.31.0
1292	0.39.5
1293/1	4.00.5
1294	6.44.5
1295	4.38.0
1296	3.29.5
1297/2	2.43.5
1297/3	0.78.5
1298/2	3.47.5
1300/2	2.99.0
1301/2	1.00.5
1304/1	0.48.0
1305/2	0.10.0
1306/2	1.57.0
1309	4.63.5
1310/2	0.49.0
1311/2	0.63.5
1313	4.52.5
1315/1	0.49.5
1315/2	1.21.5
1316/1	10.28.0
1317	8.65.0
1318	6.25.0
Total	3788.44.0

Bodi North Hills Village (6675.62.0 ha), Bodinayakanur Taluk, Theni District

Survey No.	Extent in ha.
64	0.87.5
79	0.79.5
86/1	3.88.0
87	0.42.5
88	0.26.5
89	0.75.5
90	0.60.0
119	1.13.5
120	1.13.5
137	2.06.0
138/2	1.20.0
139	1.01.5
140	4.98.0
141/2	5.00.0
142	0.72.5
143/2	1.69.0
144	1.37.5
145	3.69.0
146	0.25.5
149	1.43.0
156	1.96.5
157	1.02.5
158	1.82.0
164	0.54.5
165	10.42.5
176/2	1.08.0
178/2	0.26.0
179/2	0.41.0
183	0.07.5
189/2	0.24.0
191/2	2.77.0
238	1.85.0
243	0.32.5
246/2	0.06.5
267/2	0.22.0
267/4	0.98.5
274/2	0.95.0
277/3	0.10.5
278/2	0.51.0
279	0.60.0
282	0.33.0
288/2	6.25.0
293	4.25.0
309/3	4.02.0

311	0.81.0
312/3	0.34.5
312/4	0.71.0
315	0.90.0
317	2.13.5
318	4.72.5
320	5.66.5
322	1.82.5
324	0.94.5
335	1.30.5
337	7.46.5
342	1.83.0
347/2	0.46.5
355	1.16.0
356	3.23.0
361	6.99.0
385	0.62.0
386	1.23.0
388/2	0.15.0
396	1.96.0
399/2	1.89.5
400/2	10.29.0
401	0.43.0
404/2	9.32.5
406/2	1.14.0
418/1	0.78.5
419/2	0.56.0
420/2	0.97.5
421/2	0.56.5
422/4	4.30.5
424/2	1.02.0
425/2	1.33.5
425/3	0.56.5
427	0.29.0
428	0.26.5
429	0.39.0
430/2	0.20.5
431/2	0.67.0
432/2	0.13.5
433/2	0.13.0
434	0.33.5
436/2	0.32.0
439/2	3.35.0
478	0.58.0
550/2	0.67.0
644/2	0.62.5
664/2	0.40.5
673/1	0.24.0

674/2	0.38.0
707/2	0.39.5
713/2	0.84.0
721/2	2.12.0
723/2	1.39.5
731	3.05.0
745/2	2.46.5
747/2	0.95.0
747/3	0.95.0
748	2.60.5
749	2.99.5
751	0.64.5
752	1.69.5
762/1	0.11.5
764/1	0.34.0
765/1	1.11.5
775/3	0.37.5
779/3	0.94.5
780/1	0.59.5
780/2	0.32.0
784/2	0.51.5
811	0.86.0
816	0.92.5
828/3	0.99.5
833/3	0.44.5
838/2	0.88.5
862/2	0.50.0
873	0.90.0
906/2	0.30.0
919/1	0.23.5

947	1.40.0
948	1.85.5
949	0.47.0
950 (Part)	6468.54.0
951/2	0.42.5
952/1	0.31.5
953/1	0.48.0
953/2	1.47.5
956/2	0.47.0
956/1	1.68.5
957	0.90.0
958	0.58.0
959	0.93.0
961/1	1.14.0
961/3	0.77.5

968/2	0.12.0
971	1.54.0
972/1	0.41.5
972/2	0.40.5
Total	6675.62.0

Agamalai Village (11365.18.5 ha), Bodinayakanur Taluk, Theni District

Survey No.	Extent in ha.
2	2.48.5
6	5.76.5
7	0.88.5
8	1.13.5
9	0.56.5
10/2	0.47.5
10/3	0.84.0
12/2	2.08.0
13	0.77.5
14/1	0.99.0
26/2	3.79.0
27	1.66.5
28	0.43.5
35/2	0.45.5
36/2	0.77.0
37/2	0.39.5
38/2	9.32.0
42	5.16.5
83	0.50.5
86	0.32.5
101	0.76.0
126	0.77.0
127	2.16.5
152	2.36.5
160	0.25.0
161	0.73.0
171	0.27.5
173	1.04.0
175	0.95.5
178	0.18.0
179/1	1.92.0
179/2	0.36.5
179/3	0.92.5
180	0.42.0
182/1	0.28.5
189/2	1.91.0
190/2	2.05.0
191/2	1.04.5
193	1.11.5
194/2	1.02.5
196/2	1.28.0
197	0.77.5
201/2	1.28.0
202	0.27.5

203/2	2.72.0
221	1.60.5
230/3	5.27.5
231	0.64.5
241/2	0.54.5
256	1.28.5
278/1	0.35.5
283	0.84.0
289	4.29.5
290	0.73.0
291	1.69.5
293	0.58.0
294	1.30.5
295	2.23.0
296	0.59.0
297	1.86.0
298	0.78.0
299	0.55.0
300	0.60.5
301	0.29.5
302	0.52.0
303	1.38.0
305	1.00.0
307	0.54.0
309	3.36.5
310	0.99.0
311	0.77.0
312	0.62.5
313/2	0.09.0
315/1	0.07.5
317	1.75.5
319/2	0.14.0
321/2	2.23.5
324	2.62.5
326	1.37.0
329	2.52.5
331/2	0.01.0
332	0.09.5
334/1	0.01.0
337	1.28.5
344/3	0.38.0
347	0.52.0
415	0.25.0
420	0.28.5
425/2	0.74.5
430	3.20.0
431/2	5.54.5
438/1	1.18.5

439/2	1.53.0
440/2	0.37.5
440/3	0.73.0
441/2	0.41.5
441/3	0.10.0
441/4	0.63.5
444	0.14.5
446/2	2.87.0
448	4.80.5
449	0.69.0
451	0.88.0
459/2	1.41.0
459/3	0.20.0
460 (Part)	0.81.0
464	2.53.5
467	0.26.5
470/2	3.54.5
475	0.52.0
477/2	0.62.5
480/1	0.46.0
480/3	0.38.5
480/6	0.34.5
482/1	0.04.0
489	1.20.5
500	0.57.5
503	2.85.5
505	3.81.0
506	4.41.5
508/2	1.35.0
509/2	6.69.0
510/1	20.56.5
512/2	8.21.0
515	3.50.0
516/1	6.36.5
517	8.64.0
520/1	0.69.5
524 (Part)	1.82.5
525/4	3.43.5
526/5	0.24.0
536/2	0.51.0
538	2.31.5
541	0.52.5
548/2	0.25.0
548/3	1.41.0
548/4	0.58.5
559	0.41.5
570	2.19.0
586	3.31.5

587	4.47.0
588/2	0.16.0
588/4	0.05.0
588/6	0.52.0
589/1	0.11.5
589/3	5.57.5
608/1	0.11.5
608/2	0.01.5
608/4	3.28.5
615	0.78.0
616	0.33.0
618	4.87.0
627	0.75.5
639/2	2.20.0
671/1	1.55.0
671/3	2.68.5
672/1	0.07.5
672/3	0.04.5
672/5	0.01.5
672/6	0.11.5
672/7	3.40.0
685	4.21.5
700	3.50.0
701	0.92.5
702	1.50.5
704	1.21.0
705	0.69.0
706	0.39.5
709	1.08.5
715	0.03.0
716	0.05.5
721	0.37.5
734	0.41.5
745/2	3.33.5
758	0.35.0
759/2	4.98.0
769	2.10.5
777/2	0.95.0
829	6.40.0
844	9.86.5
847/2	0.62.5
865	2.54.5
869	0.52.0
876	0.32.0
957/2	0.96.5
967/4	3.46.5
1007/1	0.71.0
1007/4	4.20.5

1030	0.29.0
1035	0.56.0
1037	1.38.5
1048	0.21.5
1067/1	0.00.5
1067/2	0.02.5
1082	0.88.5
1092	4.85.5
1093/1	0.48.5
1093/3	0.29.0
1099	0.39.5
1100	1.82.0
1102	2.22.5
1103/2	6.96.5
1106/2	6.62.5
1119	0.76.0
1122	1.37.0
1126	2.24.0
1129	1.02.0
1132	2.69.5
1135	4.27.5
1187	8.74.5
1188	6.42.0
1189	9.08.5
1190	1.89.5
1223	1.20.0
1224	0.94.0
1225	0.15.0
1252	1.14.0
1294	0.94.5
1295	0.74.0
1330/2	5.66.0
1334/3	3.62.5
1335	6.30.5
1342/1	4.90.5
1358	1.18.5
1361/2	1.58.0
1363/2	0.45.5
1367/4	4.04.5
1367/5	2.02.5
1369/2	0.62.5
1372	3.16.5
1373	0.68.0
1375/3	4.04.5
1376	0.70.0
1381	0.50.5
1384 (Part)	10760.05.5
1388/1	1.32.5

1388/2	0.47.5
1389	0.92.0
1390	0.56.5
1391	0.93.0
1392/2	1.44.5
1401/1	0.60.0
1402	0.29.5
1403	2.75.5
1404	0.33.0
1405	1.63.5
1406/1	0.40.5
1406/2	0.71.0
1407/1(Part)	3.93.0
1407/2	0.57.5
1409	0.84.0
1410	0.39.0
1411	0.43.5
1412	0.90.0
1413	0.71.5
1414	0.22.5
1415	0.25.0
1416	13.54.0
1417/2	1.11.5
1425	3.73.5
1428/1	3.05.5
1428/2	4.04.5
1429	1.20.0
1430/1	1.77.0
1430/2	1.82.0
1431/1	3.49.0
1431/2	1.21.5
1432/1	0.24.5
1432/2	1.62.0
1433	1.21.5
1434/1	2.06.5
1434/2	3.91.0
1434/3	3.43.0
1434/4	9.08.0
1435	0.70.5
1436	1.03.0
1437	0.57.0
1438	1.48.5
1439/1	0.74.5
1439/2	2.02.0
1440/1	6.17.0
1440/2	0.70.0
1441/2	0.92.0
1442/1	1.62.0

1442/2	1.70.0
1443	5.07.0
1444/1	6.25.0
1444/2	49.50.0
1445	8.59.5
1446	8.35.0
Total	11365.18.5

The following sites are either under litigation or are in the process of being handed over to the Forest Department. Depending on the outcome, the following sites will be included in the proposed Conservation Reserve.

Kottagudi Village

Survey No.	Extent in ha
1079	4.53.5
1195	1.96.5
1197	4.05.0
Total	10.55.0

Bodi North Hills Village

Survey No.	Extent in ha
331	0.62.0
950 (Part)	1.21.0
966	2.22.5
969	1.60.5
Total	5.66.0

Agamalai Village

Survey No.	Extent in ha
195/2	2.52.0
226/2	6.21.0
227/2	0.95.0
228/2	4.64.5
238	1.23.0
460 (Part)	8.64.0
479/1	1.42.0
479/3	0.01.0
479/4	0.19.0
507/3	16.41.0
871	4.06.5
914	0.58.0
524 (Part)	0.93.0
1094/1	0.52.5
1094/4	13.71.5
1357/3	5.33.5

1379/1	0.41.5
1384 (Part)	1.21.0
1407/1 (Part)	3.93.0
1401/1 (Part)	3.92.5
1426	0.73.0
1427	0.48.5
Total	78.07.0

Appendix 1. Checklist of Mammals in proposed Theni Conservation Reserve

	Common Name	Scientific Name	WPA Schedule 1 (Part 1)	Endemic to Western Ghats	IUCN Threat Status
1	Nilgiri Tahr	<i>Nilgiritragus hylocrius</i>	Yes	Yes	EN
2	Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>	Yes	No	EN
3	Indian Gaur	<i>Bos gaurus</i>	Yes	No	VU
4	Nilgiri langur	<i>Trachypithecus johnii</i>	Yes	Yes	VU
5	Sambhar	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>	No	No	VU
6	Asiatic Wild Dog	<i>Cuon alpinus</i>	No	No	EN
7	Slender Loris	<i>Loris lydekerianus</i>	Yes	No	LC
8	Dusky striped palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus sublineatus</i>	No	Yes	VU
9	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	Yes	No	NT
10	Mouse Deer	<i>Moschiola indica</i>	Yes	No	LC
11	Barking Deer	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>	No	No	LC
12	Indian Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa indica</i>	No	No	LC
13	Three striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>	No	No	LC
14	Indian Crested Porcupine	<i>Hystrix indica</i>	No	No	LC
15	Bonnet Macaque	<i>Maccaca radiata</i>	No	No	LC
16	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	No	No	LC

IUCN Threat Status

EN: Endangered

VU: Vulnerable

NT: Near Threatened

LC: Least Concern

Appendix 2. Checklist of Birds at proposed Theni Conservation Reserve

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Endemic to Western Ghats	IUCN Threat Status
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	No	LC
2	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	No	LC
3	Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	No	NT
4	Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>	No	LC
5	Black-shouldered kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	No	LC
6	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	No	LC
7	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malalyensis</i>	No	LC
8	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	No	LC
9	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	No	LC
10	Grey Jungle fowl	<i>Gallus sonneratii</i>	No	LC
11	Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	No	LC
12	Red spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>	No	LC
13	Painted Bush-Quail	<i>Perdica erythrorhyncha</i>	No	LC
14	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	No	LC
15	Nilgiri Wood-pigeon	<i>Columba elphinstonii</i>	Yes	VU
16	Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocta</i>	No	LC
17	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	No	LC
18	Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	No	LC
19	Spotted Dove	<i>Stigmatopelia chinensis</i>	No	LC
20	Yellow-legged Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>	No	LC
21	Indian Hanging- Parrot	<i>Loriculus vernalis</i>	No	LC
22	Blue winged Parakeet	<i>Psittacula columboides</i>	No	LC
23	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	No	LC
24	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	No	LC
25	Brainfever Bird	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>	No	LC
26	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i>	No	LC
27	Small Green-billed Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus viridirostris</i>	No	LC
28	Sirkeer Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii</i>	No	LC
29	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	No	LC
30	Lesser Coucal	<i>Centropus bengalensis</i>	No	LC
31	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>	No	LC
32	Indian Edible-nest Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia unicolor</i>	No	LC
33	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	No	LC
34	Crested Tree-Swift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>	No	LC
35	Malabar Trogon	<i>Harpactes fasciatus</i>	Yes	LC
36	Small Blue Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	No	LC
37	Blue-eared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo meninting</i>	No	LC

38	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon capensis</i>	No	LC
39	White-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrensis</i>	No	LC
40	Small bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	No	LC
41	Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>	No	LC
42	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	No	LC
43	Malabar Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros griseus</i>	Yes	LC
44	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>	No	LC
45	White-cheeked Barbet	<i>Megalaima viridis</i>	No	LC
46	Crimson-throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima rubricapilus</i>	No	LC
47	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	No	LC
48	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	No	LC
49	Brown-Capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos nanus</i>	No	LC
50	Small Yellow nape Woodpecker	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>	No	LC
51	Yellow-fronted Pied Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis</i>	No	LC
52	Little Scaly-bellied Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>	No	LC
53	Common Golden-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dinopium javanense</i>	No	LC
54	Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	No	LC
55	Greater Golden-backed Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>	No	LC
56	House Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>	No	LC
57	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	No	LC
58	Large Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacila madarasapatensis</i>	No	LC
59	Forest Wagtail	<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>	No	LC
60	Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	No	LC
61	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	No	LC
62	Nilgiri Pipit	<i>Anthus nilghiriensis</i>	Yes	VU
63	Black-headed Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina melanoptera</i>	No	LC
64	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	No	LC
65	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>	No	LC
66	Pied Flycatcher-Shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>	No	LC
67	Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>	No	LC
68	Yellow-throated Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus xantholaemus</i>	No	VU
69	Black-crested Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus melanicterus</i>	No	LC
70	White-browed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>	No	LC
71	Red whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	No	LC
72	Red vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	No	LC
73	Yellow-browed Bulbul	<i>Iole indica</i>	Yes	LC
74	Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>	No	LC
75	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	No	LC

76	Jerdon's Chloropsis	<i>Chloropsis cochinchinensis</i>	No	LC
77	Gold-fronted Chloropsis	<i>Chloropsis aurifrens</i>	No	LC
78	Asian Fairy-Bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>	No	LC
79	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	No	LC
80	Bay-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>	No	LC
81	Blue Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	No	LC
82	Grey breasted laughing thrush	<i>Garrulax jerdoni</i>	Yes	NT
83	Malabar Whistling-Thrush	<i>Myiophonus horsfieldii</i>	Yes	LC
84	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>	No	LC
85	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	No	LC
86	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	No	LC
87	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>	No	LC
88	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	No	LC
89	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	No	LC
90	Greenish Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	No	LC
91	Common Tailor-bird	<i>Orthomus sutorius</i>	No	LC
92	Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>	No	LC
93	Golden-headed Fantail-Warbler	<i>Cisticola exilis</i>	No	LC
94	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>	No	LC
95	Franklin's Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>	No	LC
96	Indian Great Reed-warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>	No	LC
97	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>	No	LC
98	Nilgiri Blue Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias albicaudata</i>	No	LC
99	Grey-headed Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	No	LC
100	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>	No	LC
101	Black and orange flycatcher	<i>Ficedula nigrorufa</i>	Yes	NT
102	Asian Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Tersiphone paradisi</i>	No	LC
103	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	No	LC
104	Black-lored Yellow Tit	<i>Parus xanthogenys</i>	No	LC
105	Indian Scimitar-Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus horsfieldii</i>	No	LC
106	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	No	LC
107	Indian Rufous babbler	<i>Turdoides subrufus</i>	Yes	LC
108	Rufous-bellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>	No	LC
109	White-headed Babbler	<i>Turdoides affinis</i>	No	LC
110	Velvet Fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>	No	LC
111	Oriental White eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	No	LC
112	Plain Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum concolor</i>	No	LC
113	Tickell's Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhychos</i>	No	LC
114	Purple sunbird	<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i>	No	LC
115	Purple -rumped Sun bird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>	No	LC
116	Loten's Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia lotenia</i>	No	LC

117	Black-headed Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>	No	LC
118	White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>	No	LC
119	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	No	LC
120	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	No	LC
121	Yellow-throated Sparrow	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>	No	LC
122	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	No	LC
123	Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	No	LC
124	Common Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>	No	LC
125	Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	No	LC
126	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	No	LC
127	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>	No	LC
128	Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>	No	LC
129	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	No	LC
130	Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>	No	LC
131	White-bellied Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta leucogstris</i>	Yes	LC
132	Indian Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	No	LC
133	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	No	LC
134	Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	No	LC

IUCN Threat Status

VU: Vulnerable

NT: Near Threatened

LC: Least Concern

Appendix 3. Checklist of Herpetofauna in proposed Theni Conservation Reserve

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Endemic to Western Ghats	IUCN Threat Status
1	<i>Hemidactylus graniticolus</i>	Rock Gecko	No	LC
2	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	House Gecko	No	LC
3	<i>Hemidactylus c.f. subtriedruss</i>	Jerdon Gecko	No	DD
4	<i>Cnemaspis sp</i>	Day gecko	No	NA
5	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>	Common Garden Lizard	No	LC
6	<i>Calotes calotes</i>	Southern Green Calotes	No	NA
7	<i>Calotes rouxii</i>	Forest Calotes	No	NA
8	<i>Salea horsfieldi</i>	Nilgiri Salea	Yes	NA
9	<i>Pssamophilus dorsalis</i>	Rock-Agama	No	NA
10	<i>Mabuya carinata</i>	Keeled Grass skink	No	NA
11	<i>Kastela travancoria</i>	Travancore ground Skink	Yes	NA
12	<i>Ophisops leschenaultii</i>	Leschenault's Snake-eye	No	NA
13	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>	Common Indian Monitor Lizard	No	NA
14	<i>Python molurus</i>	Indian Rock Python	No	NT
15	<i>Dendrelaphis tristis</i>	Bronzeback Tree Snake	No	NA
16	<i>Liopeltis calamaria</i>	Srilankan stripe snake (<i>Maybe</i>)	No	NA
17	<i>Oligodon taeniolatus</i>	Russell's Kukri Snake	No	NA
18	<i>Ahaetulla nasuta</i>	Common Vine snake	No	NA
19	<i>Macropisthodon plumbicolor</i>	Green Keelback	No	NA
20	<i>Duttaphyrnus melanosticus</i>	Common Indian Toad	No	LC
21	<i>Raorchestes sp</i>	Bush frog		NA
22	<i>Hylarana temporalis</i>	Bronzed Frog	Yes	NT
23	<i>Indirana sp</i>	Leaping frog	Yes	NA
24	<i>Fejervarya sp</i>	Cricket Frog		NA

IUCN Threat Status

NT: Near Threatened

LC: Least Concern

DD: Data Deficient

NA: Not Assessed

Important Bird Area (IBA) Proposal

Site Name: Agamalai

State: Tamil Nadu

District: Theni District

Co-ordinates: 10° 05' - 10° 08' N, 77° 24' - 77°28' E

Area: 11 365 ha (Reserve Forest)

Altitude: 398-1470m

Biogeographic Zone: Western Ghats

Habitats: Scrub, Deciduous, Shola, Grassland, Coffee and Silk cotton plantations, Farmland, Abandoned Plantations

Ownership: Forest Department, Revenue Department, AWD and Private Land

IBA Criteria: A1 (Threatened Species), A2 (Endemic Bird Area 123: Western Ghats), A3 (Biome 10 and Biome 11)

Protection Status: Not officially protected.

IBA Criteria:A1 (Threatened Species), A2 (Endemic Bird Area 123: Western Ghats), A3 (Biome 10 and Biome 11)

This site contains:

3 Globally Threatened species - A1 (Threatened Species)

1. Yellow-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus xantholaemus* **VU**
2. Nilgiri Flycatcher *Eumyias albicaudata* **NT**
3. Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* **NT**

4 species of the Endemic Bird Area 123: Western Ghats

1. Nilgiri Flycatcher
2. Blue-Winged Parakeet *Psittacula columboides*
3. Malabar Grey Hornbill *Ocyrceros griseus*
4. Grey-breasted Laughingthrush *Garrulax jerdoni*

6 species in Biome 10: Indian Peninsula Tropical Moist Forest

1. Blue-faced Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus viridirostris*
2. White-cheeked Barbet *Megalaima viridis*
3. Crimson-throated Barbet *Megalaima rubricapilla*
4. House Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*
5. Yellow-browed Bulbul *Iole indica*
6. Loten's Sunbird *Nectarinia lotenia*

10 species in Biome 11: Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry Zone

1. Plum-headed Parakeet *Psittacula cyanocephala*,
2. Brown-headed Barbet *Megalaima zeylanica*
3. Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker *Dinopium benghalense*
4. Black-headed Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina melanoptera*
5. Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*

6. White-browed Bulbul *Pycnonotus luteolus*
7. Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striatus*
8. White-headed Babbler *Turdoides affinis*
9. White-bellied Drongo *Dicrurus caerulescens*
10. Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus*

Important Bird Area (IBA) Proposal

Site Name: Kottagudi

State: Tamil Nadu

District: Theni District

Co-ordinates: 10° 04' - 10° 08' N, 77°13' - 77°15'

Area: 8096 ha

Altitude: 626-2086 m

Biogeographic Zone: Western Ghats

Habitats: Scrub, Deciduous, Shola, Grassland, Coffee, Tea and Silk cotton plantations, Farmland, Abandoned Plantations,

Ownership: Forest Department, Revenue Department and Private Land

IBA Criteria: A1 (Threatened Species), A2 (Endemic Bird Area 123: Western Ghats), A3 (Biome 10 and Biome 11)

Protection Status: Not officially protected.

IBA Criteria: A1 (Threatened Species), A2 (Endemic Bird Area 123: Western Ghats), A3 (Biome 10 and Biome 11)

This site contains:

6 Globally Threatened species - A1 (Threatened Species)

1. Nilgiri Wood Pigeon *Columba elphinstonii* VU
2. Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* VU
3. Nilgiri Pipit *Anthus nilghiriensis* NT
4. Nilgiri Flycatcher *Eumyias albicaudata* NT
5. Black and orange Flycatcher *Ficedulani grorufa* NT

10 species of the Endemic Bird Area 123: Western Ghats

1. Nilgiri Wood Pigeon
2. Lesser Kestrel
3. Nilgiri Pipit
4. Nilgiri Flycatcher
5. Black and orange Flycatcher
6. Indian Rufous Babbler *Turdoides subrufus*
7. White-Bellied Treepie *Dendrocitta leucogastra*
8. Grey-breasted Laughingthrush *Garrulax jerdoni*
9. Small Sunbird *Nectarinia minima*
10. Blue-Winged Parakeet *Psittacula columboides*

6 species in Biome 10: Indian Peninsula Tropical Moist Forest

1. Blue-faced Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus viridirostris*
2. White-cheeked Barbet *Megalaima viridis*
3. House Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*
4. Yellow-browed Bulbul *Iole indica*
5. Malabar Whistling-Thrush *Myiophonus horsfieldii*
6. Indian Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus horsfieldii*

17 species in Biome 11: Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry Zone

1. Painted Bush-Quail *Perdica erythrorhyncha*

2. Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*
3. Plum-headed Parakeet *Psittacula cyanocephala*,
4. Sirkeer Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii*
5. Brown-headed Barbet *Megalaima zeylanica*
6. Yellow-fronted Pied Woodpecker *Dendrocopos mahrattensis*
7. Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker *Dinopium benghalense*
8. Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*
9. White-browed Bulbul *Pycnonotus luteolus*
10. Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striatus*
11. White-headed Babbler *Turdoides affinis*
12. Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis*
13. White-bellied Drongo *Dicrurus caerulescens*
14. Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus*
15. Rufous-bellied Babbler *Bumetia hyperythra*
16. Yellow-footed Green-Pigeon *Treron phoenicoptera*

வனக்கித்திய வண்ணம் சி.மு.கமும்



பொ. ஒன்றியம், தேனி மாவட்டம்.

கி.நி. வி.க. பொ. ஒன்றியம்

அகமலை அராட்சி மன்றத் தலைவர்,
பொ. ஒன்றிய அராட்சி தலைவர்கள்
கூட்டமைப்பு செயலாளர்

மலை - 625 605. செல் : 99760 29791, 85260 75493.



புள் :

பெறநர்

மாண்புமிகு தமிழக முதல்வர் அவர்கள்,
தனிப்பிரிவு
தலைமைச் செயலகம்
சென்னை-9.

திரு K.T. பச்சையல் அவர்கள்,
வனத்துறை அமைச்சர்
தலைமைச் செயலகம்,
சென்னை.

உயர்திரு முதன்மை தலைமை வனப்பாதுகாவலர் மற்றும்
தலைமை வன உயிரின காப்பாளர் அவர்கள்,
தமிழ்நாடு வனத்துறை,
சென்னை.

பொருள் : அகமலை கன்ஸர்வேசன் ரிசர்வ் ஏற்படுத்துவதற்கான
அறிக்கை-தேனி வனக்கோட்டம்-தமிழ்நாடு.

அகமலை பஞ்சாயத்து மக்களான நாங்கள் காடு மற்றும்
வனஉயிரினங்களை பாதுகாக்க ஆர்வமாக உள்ளோம். எங்களுடைய
பஞ்சாயத்தில் பல்வகை காடுகள், புதர்க்காடுகள் மற்றும்
சோலைவனம், புல்வெளிகளும் காணப்படுகின்றன. இவற்றில் மிகவும்
அரியவகை வன உயிரினங்களான காட்டுமாடு, சிறுத்தை
வகரயாடு, வேலாம்பன் மற்றும் பறவைகளான மலபார் இருவாயன்
மற்றும் சாம்பல் மார்பு சிறிப்பான் முதலியவை உள்ளன. மேற்கண்ட



வனவிலக்குப் பாதுகாப்பு அமைப்புகள் சட்டம்

போ. ஒன்றியம், தேனி மாவட்டம்.

AA ஈன் விக்கென்ஸ்
மா.ப. சூப்பர்வாய்ப்பு

**அகமலை அராட்சி மன்றத் தலைவர்,
போ. ஒன்றிய அராட்சி தலைவர்கள்
கூட்டமைப்பு செயலாளர்**

முகவரி - 625 605. செல் : 99760 29791, 85260 75493.



நாள் :

வேண்டும். மேலும் விவசாயம் விலைபொருட்களை (காபி, வாழை, பனா, எலுமிச்சை, ஏலம்) வனவிலங்குகளிடமிருந்து பாதுகாப்பதற்கு முன்வேலி போன்ற பாதுகாப்பு சாதனங்கள் கிடைக்க வழிவகை செய்யவேண்டும். மேலும் மண்அரிப்பு ஏற்படாமல் தடுப்பதற்கு தடுப்புக்கவர் போன்ற பாதுகாப்புகள் வழங்கவேண்டும். துழிநாடு வளத்துறையில் ஏதேனும் வேலை வாய்ப்புகளில் முன்னுரிமை வழங்க, அகமலை கன்ஸர்வேஷன் ரிசர்வ் அமைப்பதன்மூலம் வேலை வாய்ப்பு ஏற்படும். மேற்படி சூழலிருக்கும் மக்கள் ஒரு குழு அமைத்து காடுகளை வளத்துறையுடன் சேர்ந்து காட்டில் தீ ஏற்படாமலும் சூப்பைகள் சேராமலும் பாதுகாப்போம். மேற்படி காடுகளை பாதுகாக்க வளத்துறை பொதுமக்களுக்கு பயிற்சி கொடுக்கவேண்டும். ஷை காட்டில் என்னென்ன யிருகங்கள் உள்ளன என்பதை பொதுமக்களுக்கு தெரியப்படுத்த வேண்டும்.

மேற்கண்டவைகள் மூலம் உள்ளூர் மக்களின் வாழ்க்கை தரத்தை உயர்த்துவதாலும், வனஉயிரினங்களை பாதுகாப்பதாலும், வனக்காடுகள் பாதுகாப்பு அடையும்.

வனவிலங்கு பாதுகாப்பு சட்டம் விரிவுபடுத்தப்பட்டது 2002 Wild life (Protection) Act, Amendment 2002 படி கன்ஸர்வேஷன் மேனேஜ்மென்ட் கமிட்டியில், வளத்துறை பஞ்சாயத்து, தன்னார்வ அமைப்புகள் (NGO's) மற்றும் விவசாயத்துறை, கால்நடைத்



P. அழகர் I. அழகர்

தலைவர்

கொட்டக்குடி கார்டர்

பொதுமக்களுள் கார்டர் ஒன்றியம்

தேனி மாவட்டம்

வெ: 9382222905, 9150829490



பெறுநர்

தேதி.....

மாண்புமிகு தமிழக முதல்வர் அவர்கள்,
தனியிரிவு
தலைமைசெயலகம்
சென்னை-9.

திரு K.T. பச்சையல் அவர்கள்,
வனத்துறை அமைச்சர்
தலைமை செயலகம்,
சென்னை.

உயர்திரு முதன்மை தலைமை வளப்பாதுகாவலர்
மற்றும்
தலைமை வன உயிரின காப்பாளர் அவர்கள்,
தமிழ்நாடு வனத்துறை,
சென்னை.

பொருள்: கொட்டக்குடி கள்ளர்வேசன் ரிசர்வ்
ஏற்படுத்தவதற்கான அறிக்கை-தேனி
வனக்கோட்டம்-தமிழ்நாடு.

கொட்டக்குடி பஞ்சாயத்து மக்களான நாங்கள்
காடு மற்றும் வனஉயிரினங்களை பாதுகாக்க ஆர்வமாக
உள்ளோம். எங்களுடைய பஞ்சாயத்தில் பல்வகை
காடுகள், புதர்காடுகள் மற்றும் சோலைவளம்,
பல்வெளிகளும் காணக்கிடைக்கின்றன. இவற்றில்
பிகவும் அரியவகை வன உயிரினங்களான நீலகிரி
வரையாடு, காட்டுமாடு, சிறுத்தை மற்றும் பறவைகளான





P. தய்யாசி

தலைவர்

கொட்குடி கிராமம்

பொதுமக்களுள் கிராமம் ஒன்றியம்

தேனி மாவட்டம்

கொ: 9362222905, 9150829490



நீலகிரி நெட்டகாலி மற்றும் சாம்பல் மார்பு சிரிப்பாணி முதலியவை உள்ளன. மேற்கண்ட வன உயிரின வகைகள் இந்திய வனவிலக்குப்பாதுகாப்பு சட்டம் 1972 (Wild life (Protection) Act of India 1972) ன்படி பாதுகாக்கப்பட்டவை. கொட்டக்குடி பஞ்சாயத்தில் போடி வனச்சரகத்திற்கு கீழ்க்கண்ட பீட்கள் (Forest Beats) உள்ளன. கொழுக்குமலை, கொட்டக்குடி வடக்கு, கொட்டக்குடி தெற்கு, குளங்கனி வடக்கு, குளங்கனி தெற்கு மற்றும் பீட்கள் வரை ஆகியன. கொட்டக்குடி பஞ்சாயத்தில் உள்ள 6 வார்டுகள் உட்பட 11 குடியிருப்பு மக்கள் கொட்டக்குடி கள்ளர்வேசன் ரிசர்வ் அமைக்க ஆர்வமாக உள்ளனர். இந்த பஞ்சாயத்திற்கு உட்பட மக்கள் வனத்துறையுடன் ஒன்றாக சேர்ந்து காடுகளை மற்றும் வன உயிரினங்களை பாதுகாக்க ஒத்துழைப்பு தருவார்கள்.

எங்களுடைய கொட்டக்குடி பஞ்சாயத்து தற்பொழுது மிகவும் பிரபலமான இடங்களான கொழுக்குமலை & எஸ்டேட், குளங்கனி, கொட்டக்குடி சென்ட்ரல் எஸ்டேஷன் மற்றும் டாப்ஸ்டேஷன், UNDPயின் நிதியோடு Green தன்னார்வ அமைப்பின் உள்ளூர் மக்களுக்கு சுற்றுலா வழிகாட்டி (Tourist guide) பயிற்சியும் கைவினைபொருட்கள் தயாரிப்பு முறையையும் சுற்றுத்தந்தனர். கொட்டக்குடியை கள்ளர்வேசன் ரிசர்வ் ஆக அமைப்பதன் மூலம் உள்ளூர் சுற்றுலாவும் உள்ளூர் பொருள்களையும் வளத்துறையினரும் சேர்ந்து பயனடைவார்கள். இதன் மூலம் தமிழ்நாடு வனத்துறை சுற்றுலாமல் (Eco tourism guide) சான்றிதழ் மற்றும் வனஉயிரினங்கள் சார்ந்த





P. பவித்ராசி
P. பாய்முரசி

தலைவர்

கொட்டகுடி அணை

கொழும்புத்தலை அணை ஒன்றியம்

தேனி மாவட்டம்.

வலை: 9362222905, 9150829490



பயிற்சி அளிக்கவேண்டுகிறோம். குரங்களி மற்றும்
டாப்ஸ்டேஷன் பகுதிகளில் சுற்றுலா சோதனை
சாஷுகளை அமைக்கவும், சுற்றுலா பயணிகள்
தங்குவதற்காக விடுதிகளை அமைத்தால்
வனத்துறையும் உள்ளூர் பொதுமக்களும்
பயனடைவார்கள். தமிழ்நாடு வனத்துறையில் ஏதேனும்
வேலைவாய்ப்புகளில் முன்னுரிமை வழங்க, கொட்டகுடி
அணைவேலன் ரிசர்வ் அமைப்பதன்மூலம் வேலை
வாய்ப்பு ஏற்படும்.

மேற்கண்டவைகள் மூலம் உள்ளூர் மக்களின்
வாழ்க்கை தாந்தை உயர்த்தியும், வளையிரினங்களை
பாதுகாக்கவும், குப்பைச்சூழ்வுகளை அகற்றுவதிலும்,
வனத்துறைக்கு வருவாய் அளிக்க செய்வதாக
இருக்கும்.

வளலிலங்கு பாதுகாப்பு சட்டம்
விரிவுபடுத்தப்பட்டது 2002 Wild life (Protection) Act,
Amendment 2002 ன்படி அணைவேலன்
மேனேஜ்மென்ட் சமிட்டியில், வனத்துறை பஞ்சாயத்து,
தன்னார்வ அமைப்புகள் (NGO's) மற்றும்
விவசாயத்துறை, கால்நடைத்துறையைச் சேர்ந்த ஒரு
உறுப்பினர் இருப்பார். கொட்டகுடி பஞ்சாயத்தில்
கீழ்க்கண்ட உறுப்பினர்கள் முன்மொழிவு அளிக்கிறார்கள்.

R. P. Subban
(R. பாண்டியன்)
தலைவர்
கொட்டகுடி பஞ்சாயத்து
தேனி.



அனைத்து இந்திய அண்ணா திர.சு.கழகம்



P. தயிழாசி

தலைவர்

கொட்டகுடி அறாட்சி

பொதுநாயக்கனூர் அறாட்சி ஒன்றியம்

தேனி மாவட்டம்.

செல்: 9362222905, 9150829490



தேனி

கொட்டகுடி கன்சர்வேஷன் ரிசர்வ் ஏற்படுத்தினால் வருங்காலத்தில் தமிழ்நாடு வனத்துறையினருடன் சேர்ந்து காடுகளையும், வனயிலங்குகளையும் பாதுகாக்க நாங்கள் ஆர்வமாக உள்ளோம் என்பதை தெரியப்படுத்திக் கொள்கிறோம்.

இப்படிக்கு
16. தலைவர்,
கொட்டகுடி அறாட்சி
(P. தயிழாசி)
தலைவர்
கொட்டகுடி அறாட்சி
பொதுநாயக்கனூர் அறாட்சி ஒன்றியம்
தேனி மாவட்டம்



K.ஆறுமுகம்

ஊராட்சி மன்றத் தலைவர் (கூக்கால்)
மலைபுண்டு விவசாயிகள் சிற்பனைக்குழு தலைவர்
மேல்மலைப்பகுதி கிராம வளர்ச்சி ஒருங்கிணைப்பு சங்கச் செயலாளர்

கூக்கால் பஞ்சாயத்து
கொடைக்கானல் தாலுகா
மொபைல்:9965628335

நாள்:

பெறுநர்

மாண்புமிகு தமிழக முதல்வர் அவர்கள்,
தனிப்பிரிவு,
தலைமைச் செயலகம்,
சென்னை - 600 009.

உயர்திரு K.T.பச்சைமால் அவர்கள்,
வனத்துறை அமைச்சர்,
தலைமைச் செயலகம்,
சென்னை. - 600 009.

உயர்திரு முதன்மை தலைமை வனப்பாதுகாவலர் மற்றும்
தலைமை வன உயிரின காப்பாளர் அவர்கள்,
தமிழ்நாடு வனத்துறை,
சென்னை.

பொருள்: கூக்கால் கன்னார்வேசன் ரிசர்வ் ஒற்படுத்துவதற்கான
அறிக்கை - கொடைக்கானல் வனக்கோட்டம் - தமிழ்நாடு

கூக்கால் பஞ்சாயத்து மக்களான நாங்கள் காடு மற்றும் வன உயிரினங்களை பாதுகாக்க ஆர்வமாக உள்ளோம். எங்களுடைய பஞ்சாயத்தில் பல்வகை காடுகள், புதர்க்காடுகள் மற்றும் சோலைவனம், பூவெலிகளும் காணப்படுகின்றன. இவற்றில் மிகவும் அரியவகை வன உயிரினங்களான வரையாடு, காட்டுமாடு, சிறுத்தை, பறவைகளான சாம்பல் மார்பு சிறிப்பான் முதலியவை உள்ளன. மேற்கண்ட வன உயிரின வகைகள் இந்திய வனவிலக்கு (பாதுகாப்பு) சட்டம் 1972 (Wild Life (Protection) Act of India 1972) படி பாதுகாக்கப்பட்டவை.

கூக்கால் பஞ்சாயத்து, பூம்பாறை பார்ட்ட ரேஞ்சுக்கு உட்பட்ட குடியிருப்பு மக்கள் கன்னார்வேசன் ரிசர்வ் அமைக்க ஆர்வமாக உள்ளனர். இந்த பஞ்சாயத்திற்கு உட்பட்ட மக்கள் வனத்துறை மற்றும் வனக்குழு ஒன்றாக சேர்ந்து காடுகள் மற்றும் வன உயிரினங்களை பாதுகாக்க ஒத்துழைப்பு தருவார்கள்.

K.ஆறுமுகம்

ஊராட்சி மன்றத் தலைவர் (கூக்கால்)

மலைப்பூண்டு விவசாயிகள் விற்பனைக்குழு தலைவர்

மேல்மலைப்பகுதி கிராம வளர்ச்சி ஒருங்கிணைப்பு சங்கச் செயலாளர்

கூக்கால் பஞ்சாயத்து

கொடைக்கானல் தாலூகா

மொபைல்:9965628335

நாள்:

/2/

கூக்கால் கன்ஸர்வேசன் ரிசர்வ் அமைத்தால் மேற்படி மக்களின் வாழ்வாதாரம் உயர்வதற்கு வனத்துறை உதவி செய்ய வேண்டும். கூக்காலுக்கு உட்பட்ட வனப் பகுதிகளில் சுற்றுலாத் தளமாக மாறி வரும் நிலையில், அங்குள்ள மக்களுக்கு வாழ்வாதாரம் அளிக்கும் வகையில் வனத்துறை பொதுமக்களுடன் இணைந்து Eco-Tourism அமைத்து அவர்களுக்கு வேண்டிய உதவிகளை செய்து தர வேண்டும். காடழல் வன விலங்குகள் உள்ளன. ஹை விலங்குகளிடமிருந்து பொதுமக்களுக்கு பாதுகாப்பு கொடுக்க வேண்டும். தமிழ்நாடு வனத்துறையில் ஏதேனும் வேலை வாய்ப்புகளில் முன்னுரிமை வழங்க கூக்கால் கன்ஸர்வேசன் ரிசர்வ் அமைப்பதன் மூலம் வேலை வாய்ப்பு ஏற்படும். ஹை கிடத்தீயூள்ள மக்கள் ஒரு குழு அமைத்து காடுகளை வனத்துறைடன் சேர்ந்து காடழல் ஏற்படாமலும் குப்பைகள் சேராமலும் பாதுகாப்போம். மேற்படி காடுகளை பாதுகாக்க வனத்துறை பொதுமக்களுக்கு பயிற்சி கொடுக்க வேண்டும். ஹை காடழல் என்னென்ன மிருகங்கள் உள்ளன என்பதை பொதுமக்களுக்கு தெரியப்படுத்த வேண்டும்.

வனவிலங்கு பாதுகாப்பு சட்டம் விரிவுபடுத்தப்படும் 2002 Wild Life (Protection) Act, Amendment 2002-படி கன்ஸர்வேசன் மேனேஜ்மெண்ட் கமிட்டியில், வனத்துறை பஞ்சாயத்து, தன்னார்வ அமைப்புகள் (NGOs) மற்றும் விவசாயத்துறை, கால்நடைத் துறையைச் சேர்ந்த ஒரு உறுப்பினர் இருப்பார்.

K.ஆறுமுகம்

ஊராட்சி மன்றத் தலைவர் (ஊக்கால்)

மலைப்பூண்டு விவசாயிகள் விற்பனைக்குழு தலைவர்

மேல்மலைப்பகுதி கிராம வளர்ச்சி ஒருங்கிணைப்பு சங்கச் செயலாளர்

ஊக்கால் பஞ்சாயத்து
கொடைக்கானல் தாலூகா
மொபைல்: 9965628335

நாள்:

13/

ஊக்கால் கன்சர்வேசன் தீர்வு ஏற்படுத்தினால் வருங்காலத்தில் தமிழ்நாடு வனத்துறையினருடன் சேர்ந்து காடுகளையும், வனவிலங்குகளையும் பாதுகாக்க நாங்கள் ஆர்வமாக உள்ளோம் என்பதை தெரியப்படுத்திக் கொள்கிறோம்.

இப்படிக்கு



தலைவர்

ஊக்கால் ஊராட்சி

கொடைக்கானல்.

(K.ஆறுமுகம்)

ஊக்கால் ஊராட்சி மன்றத் தலைவர்

மலைப்பூண்டு விவசாயிகள் விற்பனைக்குழு தலைவர்

மேல்மலைப்பகுதி கிராம வளர்ச்சி ஒருங்கிணைப்பு சங்கச் செயலாளர்

கொடைக்கானல் தாலூகா.

NO-67/COILD/31.01.2013

To,
Selvi. J. Jayalithaa,
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Tamil Nadu

31st January 2013

Sub: Proposal for Theni Conservation Reserve, Bodinayakanur Taluk, Theni District.

Respected Madam,

The Theni Forest Division has immense biodiversity value and its forests support the livelihoods of numerous local communities. This proposal aims to conserve these forests and livelihood base for the people through the establishment of a **Conservation Reserve** in the Bodinayakanur Taluk of Theni District in Tamil Nadu as per **Section 36A** of the **Wildlife Amendment Act, 2002**. Towards this, the forest areas within the boundaries of Kottagudi Village, Bodi North Hills Village and Agamalai Village are proposed. These areas harbour the endemic and endangered Nilgiri Tahr, Indian Gaur, Slender Loris, Leopard and Asian Elephant which being under the Schedule 1 are liable for the highest protection under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Large towns such as Bodi are dependent on these forests for their water supply including for consumption purposes. As per the requirements in Section 36A of the Wildlife Amendment Act, 2002, this biodiversity-rich region occurs next to the Pampadam Shola National Park in the Idukki District of Kerala.

The local communities and Panchayats of the three villages have come forward to conserve the wildlife and forests and participate in Reserve management. The local communities include the adivasis-Paliyars whose livelihood and cultural heritage depends on these forests and the non-timber forest products. Local communities are largely dependent on firewood and run small tourism ventures for their livelihood. Through the Conservation Reserve the local communities have requested for eco-tourism initiatives with related training from the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, improved marketing of non-timber forest products and mitigation strategies during conflicts with wildlife.

This participative model of conservation will be beneficial to both wildlife conservation and the local communities as local support and participation will be gained for wildlife conservation while resource utilization will not change and livelihood support would be gained for the local communities. This would also garner income for the Tamil Nadu Forest Department through the tourism initiatives. Please find attached herewith the entire proposal with the Panchayat letters.

I kindly request you to undertake the needful in order to improve the conservation of these biological resources in Theni District by garnering much-needed support and participation from local communities and improving the livelihoods of these hill-dwelling communities.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,



Arun Kanagave
Research Associate
WILD, Coimbatore
+91 9443510474

To,
Thiru K.T Pachamal,
Hon'ble Minister for Forests,
Tamil Nadu

31st January 2013

Sub: Proposal for Theni Conservation Reserve, Bodinayakanur Taluk, Theni District.

Respected Sir,

The Theni Forest Division has immense biodiversity value and its forests support the livelihoods of numerous local communities. This proposal aims to conserve these forests and livelihood base for the people through the establishment of a **Conservation Reserve** in the Bodinayakanur Taluk of Theni District in Tamil Nadu as per **Section 36A** of the **Wildlife Amendment Act, 2002**. Towards this, the forest areas within the boundaries of Kottagudi Village, Bodi North Hills Village and Agamalai Village are proposed. These areas harbour the endemic and endangered Nilgiri Tahr, Indian Gaur, Slender Loris, Leopard and Asian Elephant which being under the Schedule 1 are liable for the highest protection under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Large towns such as Bodi are dependent on these forests for their water supply including for consumption purposes. As per the requirements in Section 36A of the Wildlife Amendment Act, 2002, this biodiversity-rich region occurs next to the Pampadam Shola National Park in the Idukki District of Kerala.

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Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,



Arun Kanagavel
Research Associate
WILD, Coimbatore
+91 9443510474

To,

Thiru. Gautam Dey, I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force),
Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Tamil Nadu

31st January 2013

Sub: Proposal for Theni Conservation Reserve, Bodinayakkanur Taluk, Theni District.

Respected Sir,

The Theni Forest Division has immense biodiversity value and its forests support the livelihoods of numerous local communities. This proposal aims to conserve these forests and livelihood base for the people through the establishment of a **Conservation Reserve** in the Bodinayakkanur Taluk of Theni District in Tamil Nadu as per **Section 36A of the Wildlife Amendment Act, 2002**. Towards this, the forest areas within the boundaries of Kottagudi Village, Bodi North Hills Village and Agamalai Village are proposed. These areas harbour the endemic and endangered Nilgiri Tahr, Indian Gaur, Slender Loris, Leopard and Asian Elephant which being under the Schedule 1 are liable for the highest protection under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Large towns such as Bodi are dependent on these forests for their water supply including for consumption purposes. As per the requirements in Section 36A of the Wildlife Amendment Act, 2002, this biodiversity-rich region occurs next to the Pampadam Shola National Park in the Idukki District of Kerala.

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I kindly request you to undertake the needful in order to improve the conservation of these biological resources in Theni District by garnering much-needed support and participation from local communities and improving the livelihoods of these hill-dwelling communities.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,



Arun Kanagasabai
Research Associate
WILD, Coimbatore
+91 9443510474

To,
The Conservator of Forests,
Madurai Circle,
Tamil Nadu

31st January 2013

Sub: Proposal for Theni Conservation Reserve, Bodinayakanur Taluk, Theni District.

Respected Sir,

The Theni Forest Division has immense biodiversity value and its forests support the livelihoods of numerous local communities. This proposal aims to conserve these forests and livelihood base for the people through the establishment of a **Conservation Reserve** in the Bodinayakanur Taluk of Theni District in Tamil Nadu as per **Section 36A** of the **Wildlife Amendment Act, 2002**. Towards this, the forest areas within the boundaries of Kottagudi Village, Bodi North Hills Village and Agamalai Village are proposed. These areas harbour the endemic and endangered Nilgiri Tahr, Indian Gaur, Slender Loris, Leopard and Asian Elephant which being under the Schedule I are liable for the highest protection under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Large towns such as Bodi are dependent on these forests for their water supply including for consumption purposes. As per the requirements in Section 36A of the Wildlife Amendment Act, 2002, this biodiversity-rich region occurs next to the Pampadam Shola National Park in the Idukki District of Kerala.

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Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,



Arun Kanagavel
Research Associate
WILD, Coimbatore
+91 9443510474

To,
The District Forest Officer,
Theni Division,
Tamil Nadu

31st January 2013

Sub: Proposal for Theni Conservation Reserve, Bodinayakanur Taluk, Theni District.

Respected Sir,

The Theni Forest Division has immense biodiversity value and its forests support the livelihoods of numerous local communities. This proposal aims to conserve these forests and livelihood base for the people through the establishment of a **Conservation Reserve** in the Bodinayakanur Taluk of Theni District in Tamil Nadu as per **Section 36A** of the **Wildlife Amendment Act, 2002**. Towards this, the forest areas within the boundaries of Kottagudi Village, Bodi North Hills Village and Agamalai Village are proposed. These areas harbour the endemic and endangered Nilgiri Tahr, Indian Gaur, Slender Loris, Leopard and Asian Elephant which being under the Schedule I are liable for the highest protection under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Large towns such as Bodi are dependent on these forests for their water supply including for consumption purposes. As per the requirements in Section 36A of the Wildlife Amendment Act, 2002, this biodiversity-rich region occurs next to the Pampadam Shola National Park in the Idukki District of Kerala.

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I kindly request you to undertake the needful in order to improve the conservation of these biological resources in Theni District by garnering much-needed support and participation from local communities and improving the livelihoods of these hill-dwelling communities.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,



Arun Kanagasavel
Research Associate
WILD, Coimbatore
+91 9443510474

To,

Thiru. Bhagwan Singh, I.F.S.,

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden,
Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Tamil Nadu

31st January 2013

Sub: Proposal for Theni Conservation Reserve, Bodinayakanur Taluk, Theni District.

Respected Sir,

The Theni Forest Division has immense biodiversity value and its forests support the livelihoods of numerous local communities. This proposal aims to conserve these forests and livelihood base for the people through the establishment of a **Conservation Reserve** in the Bodinayakanur Taluk of Theni District in Tamil Nadu as per **Section 36A** of the **Wildlife Amendment Act, 2002**. Towards this, the forest areas within the boundaries of Kottagudi Village, Bodi North Hills Village and Agamalai Village are proposed. These areas harbour the endemic and endangered Nilgiri Tahr, Indian Gaur, Slender Loris, Leopard and Asian Elephant which being under the Schedule I are liable for the highest protection under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Large towns such as Bodi are dependent on these forests for their water supply including for consumption purposes. As per the requirements in Section 36A of the Wildlife Amendment Act, 2002, this biodiversity-rich region occurs next to the Pampadam Shola National Park in the Idukki District of Kerala.

The local communities and Panchayats of the three villages have come forward to conserve the wildlife and forests and participate in Reserve management. The local communities include the adivasi-Paliyars whose livelihood and cultural heritage depends on these forests and the non-timber forest products. Local communities are largely dependent on firewood and run small tourism ventures for their livelihood. Through the Conservation Reserve the local communities have requested for eco-tourism initiatives with related training from the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, improved marketing of non-timber forest products and mitigation strategies during conflicts with wildlife.

This participative model of conservation will be beneficial to both wildlife conservation and the local communities as local support and participation will be gained for wildlife conservation while resource utilization will not change and livelihood support would be gained for the local communities. This would also garner income for the Tamil Nadu Forest Department through the tourism initiatives. Please find attached herewith the entire proposal with the Panchayat letters.

I kindly request you to undertake the needful in order to improve the conservation of these biological resources in Theni District by garnering much-needed support and participation from local communities and improving the livelihoods of these hill-dwelling communities.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,




Arun Karanth
Research Associate
WILD, Coimbatore
+91 9443510474

To,
Thiru Mohan Verghese Chankath IAS,
Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Tamil Nadu

31st January 2013

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