

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
(SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH, CHENNAI)**

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 230 OF 2024 (SZ)

With

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 231 OF 2024 (SZ)

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based on the News Item in The New Indian Express dt: 22.05.2024 titled, "State paying heavy price for forest department's blunders".

Versus

The Chief Secretary,

Government of Kerala and ors.

....Respondents

**REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF
FORESTS/2RD RESPONDENT**

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Dated at Chennai on this the 04rd day of January, 2025.


M/s. E.K.KUMARESAN

Standing Counsel for State Government of Kerala - NGT(SZ) Chennai Bench

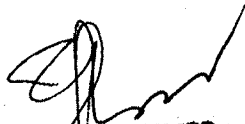
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Report submitted in NGT OA No. 230/2024

Exotic plantations of Eucalyptus, Acacia, Wattle were planted by Kerala Forest Department for industrial purposes in 1960s. It was to cater to the demand of industries at that time. An extent of 7622.0410 Ha Acacia auriculiformis, 2291.417 Ha Acacia mangium, 6780.230 Ha Eucalyptus and 1758.210 Ha of Wattle plantations are at present in the forests of Kerala. With the changing perspective of forest management, the Department has now embarked upon phasing out exotic monoculture plantations due to their ecological incompatibility. There is no planting of exotic species being carried out in the forests of Kerala now. The planting of wattle was stopped since 1992, that of Acacia auriculiformis, Acacia mangium since 2018 & of Eucalyptus since 2019. A detailed eco-restoration plan for reverting Eucalyptus, Acacia auriculiformis, Acacia mangium and Wattle plantation to their natural state or replanting with indigenous species was drawn up for necessary follow through in furtherance of the same (Annexure - 1). As per G.O.(MS) No. 29/2021 dated 17.12.2021, Government of Kerala has approved Eco-restoration Policy (Annexure - 2). The Policy, covers all of the exotic monoculture plantations of Eucalyptus, Acacia & Wattle in the forests for their phased removal and consequent restoration to natural state or planted with suitable indigenous species. It envisages eradication of the exotics and the eco-restoration of these areas over the next two decades.

Since the adoption of this policy, Exotic plantations covering an extent of 5585.57 Ha had been treated for removal from the forests of Kerala and an extent of 1346.54 Ha have been planted by indigenous species from 2022 onwards. The particulars of areas under the treatment are as below:

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<u>Areas where exotic plantations were treated for removal and Natural Species Planted</u>			
Circle	Division	Locality	Area (Ha)
Southern Circle	Thenmala	Chaliyakara	30.00
	Punalur	Iruthode, Verukuzhi, Kadamankode and Poovalikuzhi.	24.00
	Konni	Mundomoozhi, Adichanpara, Utumbannur and Thalamanam.	41.00
	Achankovil	Munnumukku, Pandarapara, Mlanthadam, Koorampara, Pathammile, Kompiline, Shavakota.	90.00
	Ranni	Laha, Manakayam, Kurambanmoozhi, Mekkanam, Manpilav, Gurunathanmann, Arayanjilimon.	50.00
High Range Circle	Kottayam	Kilikulam, Kannimala Kulamakal	14.00
	Kothamangalam	Mullaringhadu	50.00
	Munnar	Vattapara, Iddalimotta, Thirthamala, Thirthamala Top, Manila, Pudukkudi Kaitachal-Eettychuvadu	53.22
	Marayoor	Anchanattupara and Pothadi	78.00
Central Circle, Thrissur	Thrissur	Chembikunnu	405.55
	Vazhachal	Malayatoor Idiyara Reserve	10.00
	Chalakudy	Kodaserry Reserve	32.00
Northern Circle	Kannur	1960 teak & softwood plantation in Nedumpoil section	40.02
	North Wayanad	Ambalakandi, Kakolamkunnu, Pannimukkamthara and adjoining areas	17.25
		Removal of exotic weeds (senna) in Tirunelli	50.00

23/11/2014
 27/08/2014
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Agasthyavanam Biological Park	Wildlife, Thiruvananthapuram	Aanapattu para Konnam, Vilakadichuppara, Chakkaparam Cheurmankalm Mannakkonam, Mukkothivayal, Parakkonam	50.00
Field Director, Kottayam	Periyar Tiger Reserve/Munnar Wildlife Division	Vallakadavu, Kozhikanam, Dam site, Brandypara, Mullayar, Seethakulam, Uppapara, Jolymala, Ponnambala medu, Thampuranchola, Pazhathottam.	311.50
Total			1346.54

Areas where eradication of exotic plantations are under process

Circle	Division	Location	Area (Ha)
Southern Circle	Thenmala	Chempazhikam, Peramkovil and Andur green areas	22.72
	Thiruvananthapuram	Kundalamkuzhi, Chuladi, Milpalam, Kuttapara, Anchumarutimudu, Kottayappan Kav, Nellikapara, Udimudu, Anapetti and Kudavanad areas.	327.96
	Punalur	Kuravanthavalam	62.78
High Range Circle	Marayoor	Pothady	30.00
	Kottayam	Kulamavu, Eurumalil HNL Captive Plantations in Nagarampara Range.	458.02
Central Circle	Vazhachal	1997 Teak Plantation Athirapally 15th Block.	20.9
	Thrissur	Kottampathur, Kutti Marut, Chittanda and Thichur in Vadakancherry range.	212.00
Eastern Circle	Nenmara	Vellaram Kadavu, Chemmanam Pathi, Chappakkad, Sitarkundu, Kottekulam, Padagiri, Talipadam, Chatankot, Vellaparakunnu.	240.60
	Nilambur North	Arimbrakuth, Central Nursery Compound	19.37
	Palakkad	Varalipati, Nadupati, Poolapara, Vattapara,	564.54

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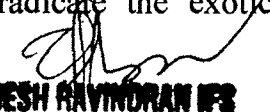
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		Kotharamanakad	
	Nilambur South	Vattikal, Churulipotti, Poolakappara	88.52
	Mannarkad	Pottikkal	13.16
Northern Circle	Kasarkode	Kattipara, Kayanni, Madathumkad, Kadumanatukka, Chinadi, Kattipallam, Guddaduka, Kattikaje 1Bellacherry, Balavanthadukka and Karaduka areas.	128.99
	South Wayanad	Parathodu, Koncharikunnu Kochumala areas	73.01
	Kannur	Kannur Range	10.00
Field Director, Project Tiger, Kottayam	Munnar Wildlife Division	Neduwarp and Bantar areas in the Shola National Park Range.	140.00
Field Director, Palakkad	Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary	Senna infested areas.	3173.00
Total			5585.57

For removal of Invasive Alien species like senna spectabilis from the areas protected and reserved forests of Wayanad, species-specific management protocols have been developed by KFRI to control the current spread of the invasive population and prevent re-production, so as to stop the further spread through flowering and fruiting. Based on these protocols, senna spectabilis are being removed from Wayanad landscape. In North Wayanad Division out of this, 77 Ha had been removed. The phasing out from the remaining area are under process. In Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, 821 Ha of senna infested area has been cleared of senna removed and in the remaining 927 Ha of area eradication of senna is under progress.

The exotic monoculture plantations were raised in the past based on the circumstances prevailing then. It is not easy to conjecture that these were blunders based on the changing focus of the management at present. However, Kerala Forest Department is taking earnest efforts to eradicate the exotic

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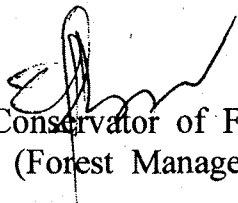

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monocultures from its plantations in a phased manner and to restore these areas into natural forests.

The above facts are reported for necessary inclusion in the submissions before the Hon'ble NGT in the Suo Moto OA: 230/2024.

Dated thisday of November,2024.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Management)

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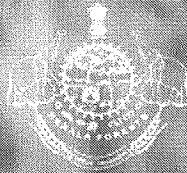
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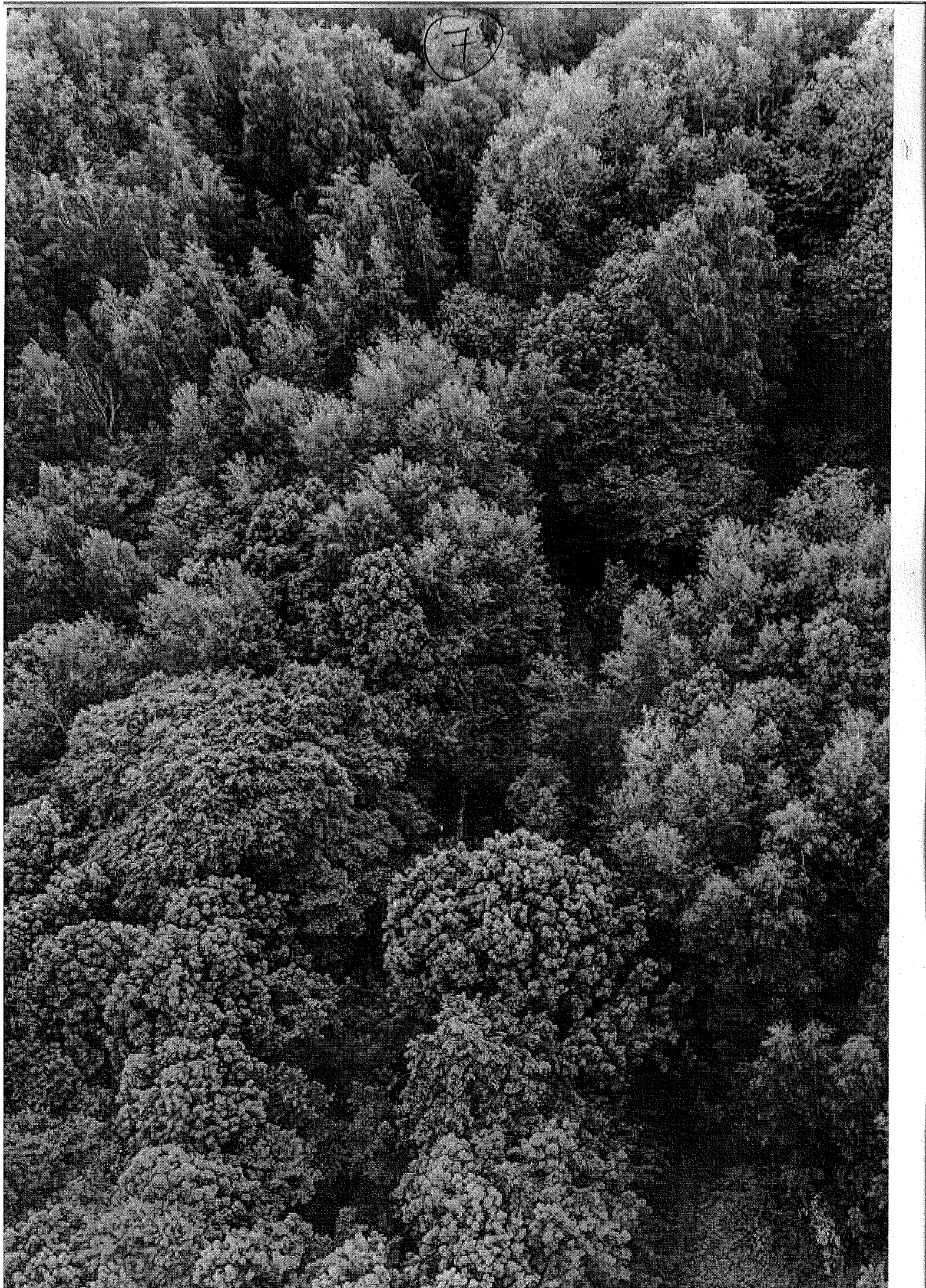
Government of Kerala



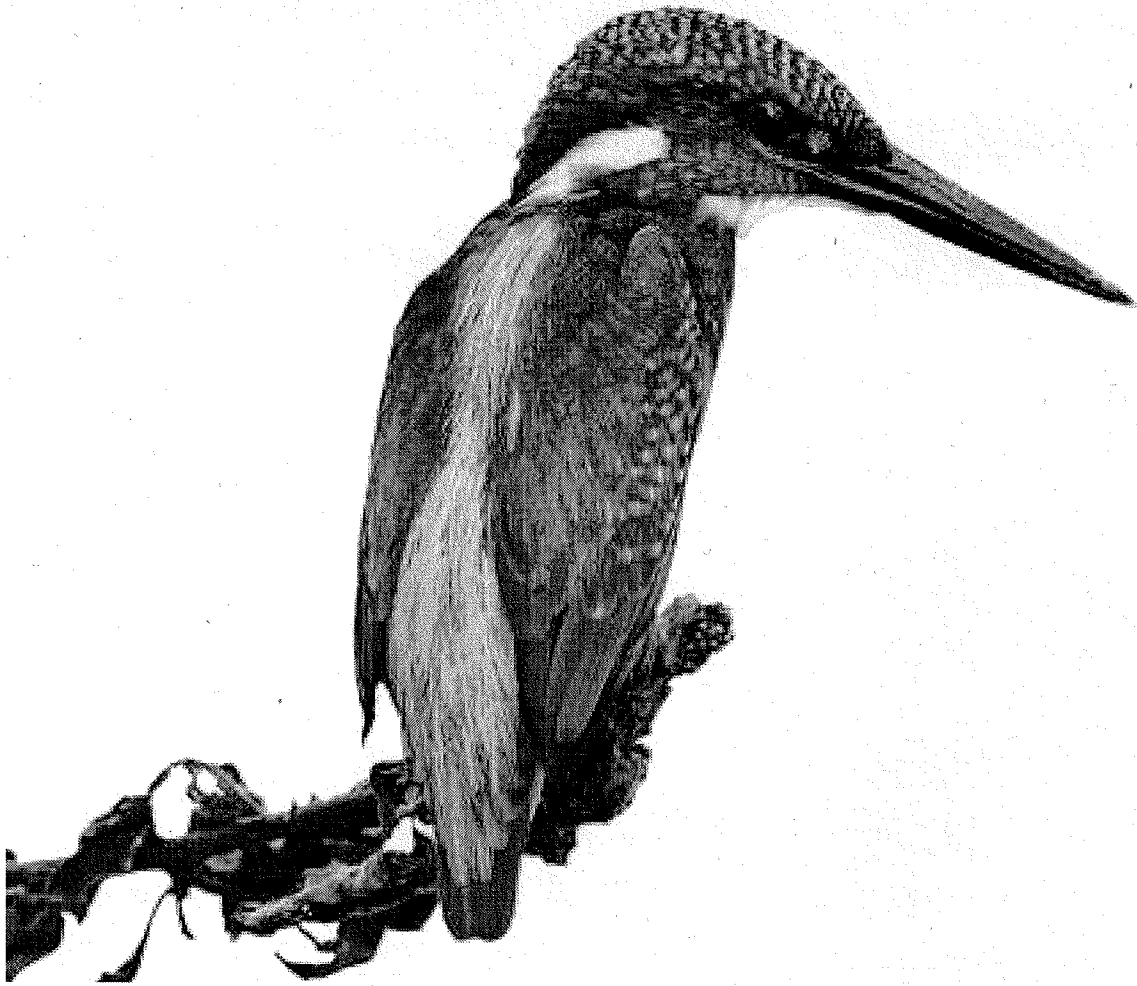
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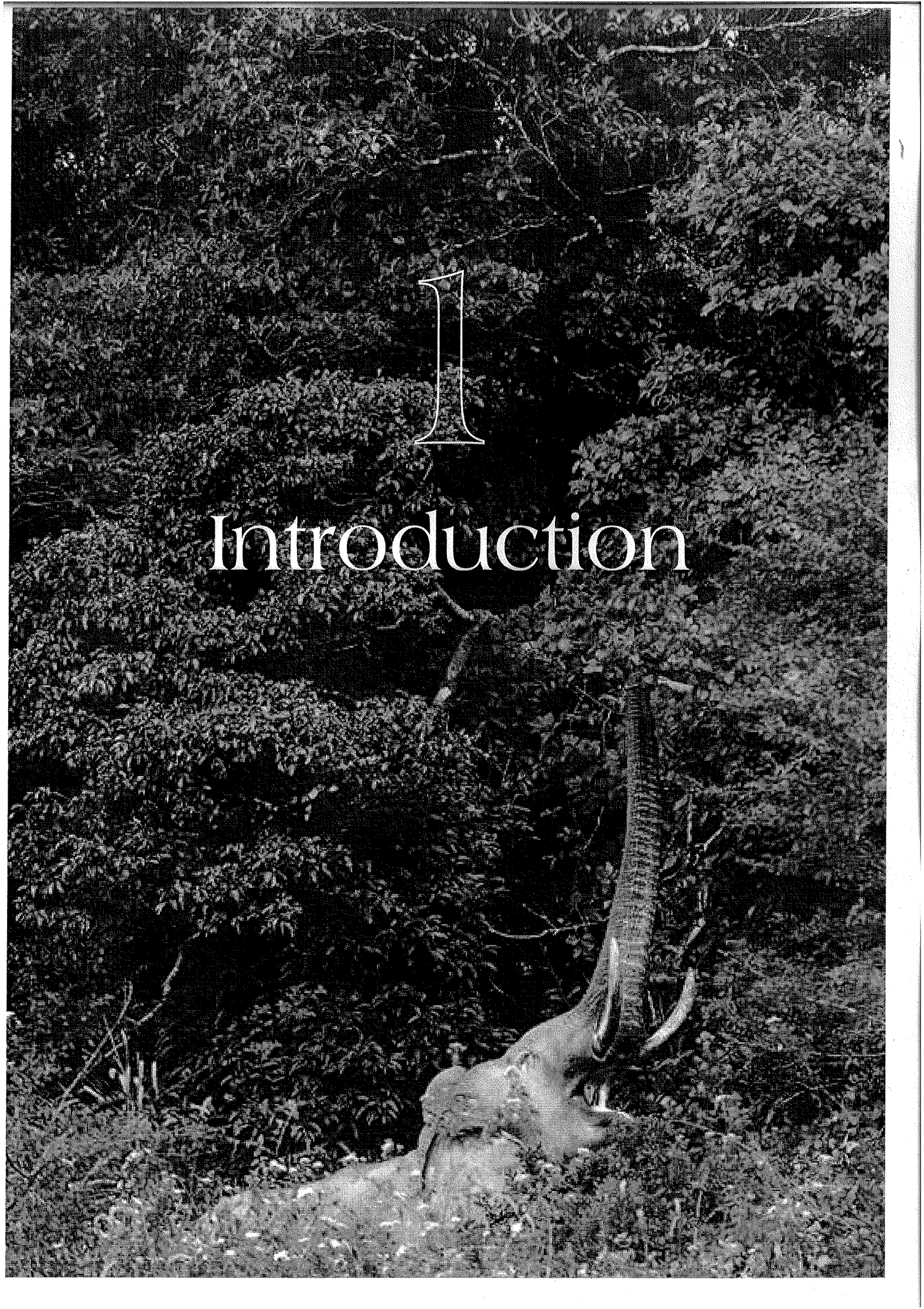
Ecorestoration Policy 2021

(GO (MS) 29/2021/F&WLD dated 17-12-2021)



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A black and white photograph of a dense forest. In the foreground, a large, thick tree trunk is visible, leaning slightly to the right. The background is filled with a thick canopy of leaves and branches, creating a textured, layered appearance. The lighting is somewhat dim, suggesting a shaded forest environment.

I

Introduction

- 1.1 Kerala, a green isle on the southern tip of the Western Ghats is blessed with nature's bounty seen in its forests, sea and rivers. Our forests, rivers, backwaters, wetlands and human habitats are home to rich biodiversity. Conservation of our natural environment, especially forests, is essential to ensure the ecological stability of Kerala, which has high population density and higher standards of living. The forests play a crucial role not only in ensuring water security of the State, which is fast moving from water-rich to water-scarce situation, but also in regulating floods due to heavy rains.
- 1.2 The Western Ghats, one of the eight 'hottest of the hotspots' of biodiversity in the world, has been included in UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites. Copious rains, abundant sunlight, high humidity and exceptional geography play a crucial role in shaping Kerala's exceptional and rich biodiversity. In a State which is witnessing rapid developmental activities, maintaining environmental health is essential for water security, ecological stability and sustainable development.
- 1.3 The National Forest Policy mandates that 33 percent of the geographical area should be under forest cover. As of now, about 30 percent of the State's total geographical area is under forest cover. This includes different kinds of forests like tropical evergreen forests, tropical moist deciduous forests, dry deciduous forests, shola forests, grasslands, mangroves and plantations.
- 1.4 Historically, Kerala society's high level of environmental awareness and affinity towards nature have helped in protecting forests and natural resources.



- 1.5 Like elsewhere in the world, with the onset of modernity, in Kerala too, the pressure on nature has been increasing day by day. With unscientific developmental activities leading to increasing pressure on natural resources, climate change induced events such as drought, heavy rains and flood have become a regular phenomenon in Kerala. Soil erosion in catchment areas, river-bank erosion etc. result in alarmingly low storage capacity of reservoirs causing floods. This leads to widespread destruction of life, agriculture, property and biological wealth.
- 1.6 Forests and trees are the prime repository of carbon. The rich and resplendent biodiversity, high water availability and geographical peculiarities of the forests of the Western Ghats play a significant role in increasing carbon storage and hence ameliorate global warming. Good management and restoration of forests augment carbon sequestration. In fact, each Panchayat/ Municipality/ Corporation in Kerala need to become 'carbon-neutral'.



- 1.7 The ecological health of existing forests has deteriorated due to various reasons. As part of facilitating rapid industrialization, between 1950s and 1980s, the State's rich natural forests were cleared for exotic monoculture plantations like Eucalyptus, Acacia, Mangium, Wattle etc. As of now, there are around 27,000 Ha of exotic monoculture plantations and 90,000 Ha of Teak plantations in the forests of Kerala. To ensure the ecological and hydrological security of the State, it is imperative that ecorestoration programmes are taken up with the participation of forest-dependent communities which is the need of the hour.
- 1.8 In addition to this, the proliferation of invasive species that are not suitable for our environment has also led to depletion of natural forests. The depleted habitats are also forcing wild animals to stray out to human habitations and farmlands for food and forage, thus reportedly compounding human wildlife conflict. Studies have shown that invasive flora and fauna have caused serious damages to natural habitats and ecosystems. Eradicating such invasive species that harm the environment is of high priority.



1.9 Collection of Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) is the primary livelihood and source of income for the tribal communities living in and around the forests of Kerala. Depletion of forests adversely affect the life and livelihood of tribal communities who solely depend on forests for their sustenance. Historical role of tribal communities in forest protection should be further strengthened. They should also be provided with basic amenities, which are eco-friendly. Involving tribal communities as equal partners in forest conservation should be done with proper planning and accorded due importance.

1.10 Not only the forests but the land-use pattern in non-forest areas too have a major role in ensuring the environmental, ecological and hydrological security of Kerala. In the beginning of the 20th century, Kerala had around 700 sq km of mangroves. This has now been reduced to an area of just 24 sq km. Mangroves are necessary for the stability of seashores, for prevention of coastal erosion and breeding of fish.

- 1.11 Climate induced cyclones and coastal erosion have become a recurrent threat to Kerala coast. Coastal protection is extremely crucial for the peaceful life and livelihood of millions of people who live along the coast. Establishing 'Bio-shield' to ensure coastal protection gains significance in this context and steps will be taken to implement the same in association with the State Departments of Water Resources, Local Self Government and Forests, apart from local bodies.

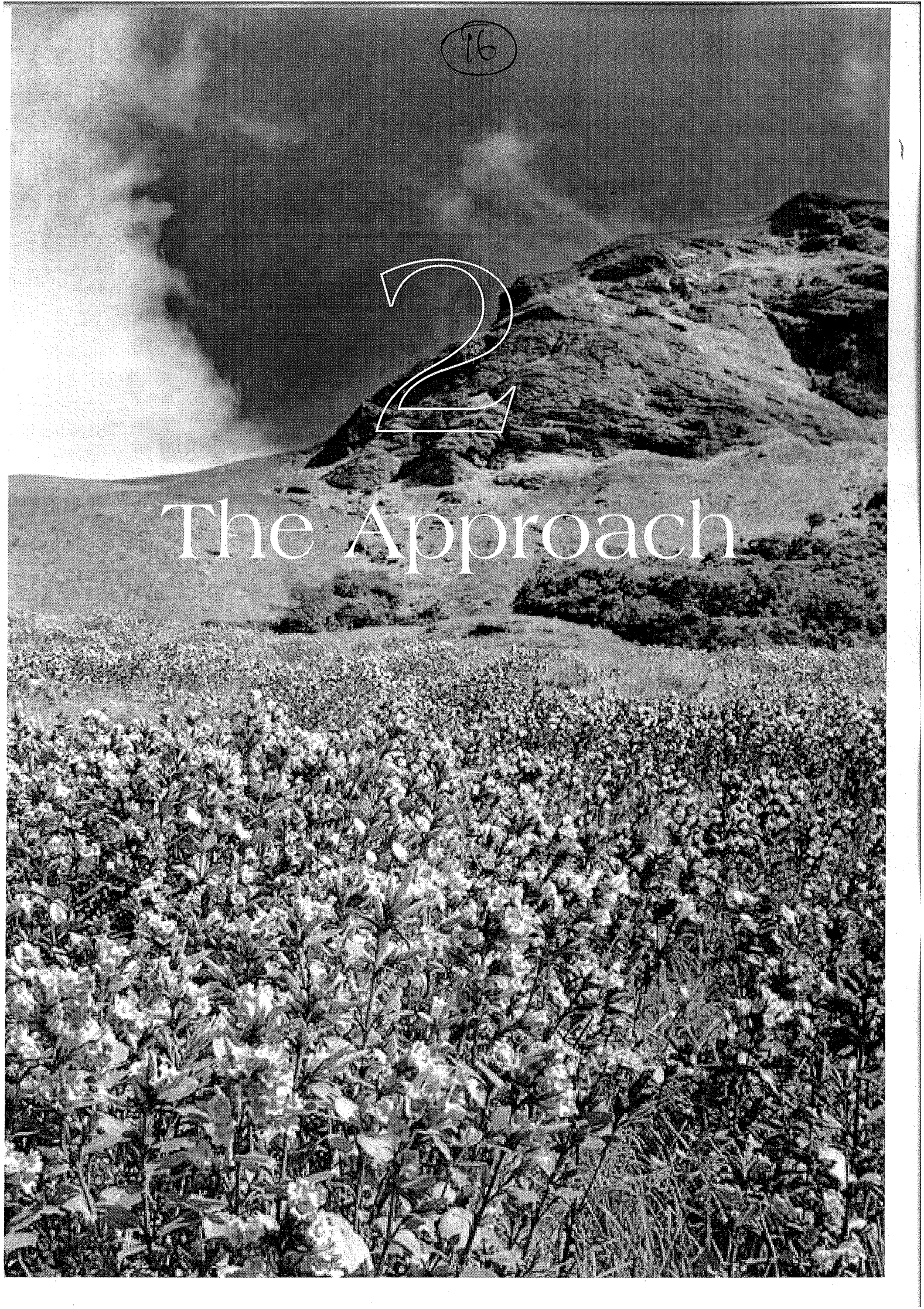
- 1.12 Similarly, wetlands, river banks and sacred groves in non-forest areas are rich zones of biodiversity and play crucial role in ecological processes. Unscientific developmental activities have adversely affected these areas. By protecting and restoring them, improved ecological services can be ensured.

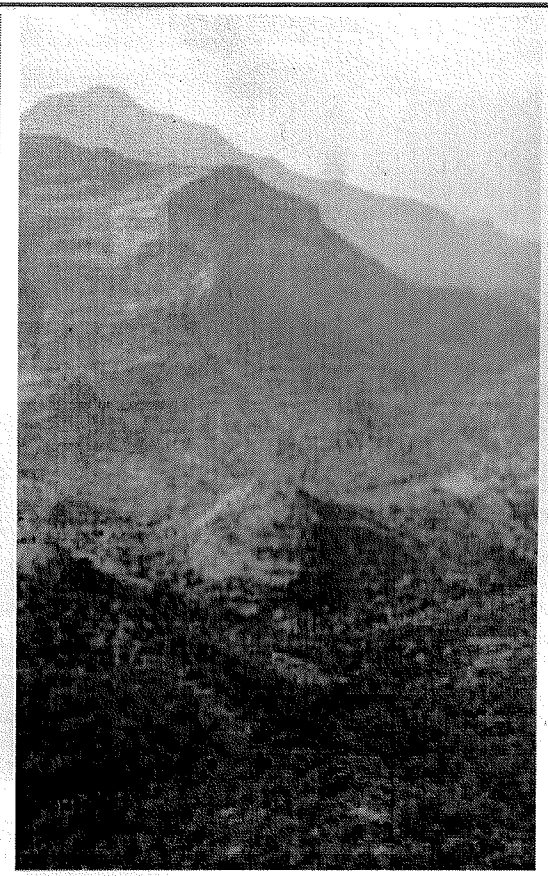
- 1.13 Kerala is a State which has been effectively carrying out wildlife conservation activities in the forests including Protected Areas. Along with this, conservation in diverse habitats outside the forests should also be carried out more effectively. Participation of other government institutions, private establishments, students, local self government institutions and civil society will add value to this activity. Moreover, creating environmental awareness among the public, especially students is also essential.

- 1.14 Co-ordination of various land-use activities is essential to achieve the ecological stability of the State which consists of varied geographical entities. This mega-initiative will be possible only through the collective efforts of people from all walks of life and different Government Departments.

2

The Approach





For the sustainable development of Kerala that is spread over an area of 38,863 sq km, the Government envisages ecorestoration programmes in the State. As part of this, the Government plans to implement the following projects on a priority basis.

2.1 The forest areas which have lost its splendour and biodiversity will be taken up for ecorestoration and the activities will be carried out through civil society. Apart from ensuring ecological and hydrological security, this will provide employment opportunities for the local forest-dependent people.

2.2 Exotic monoculture plantations of Eucalyptus, Acacia and Wattle, which are not suitable to the environment and habitats and have become irrelevant will be eradicated in a phased manner to facilitate restoration of these areas to natural forests. This gains significance in the backdrop of frequent natural disasters and increasing incidents of human-wildlife conflict. This mammoth programme, to be implemented in an area of about 27,000 Ha will be completed over two decades.

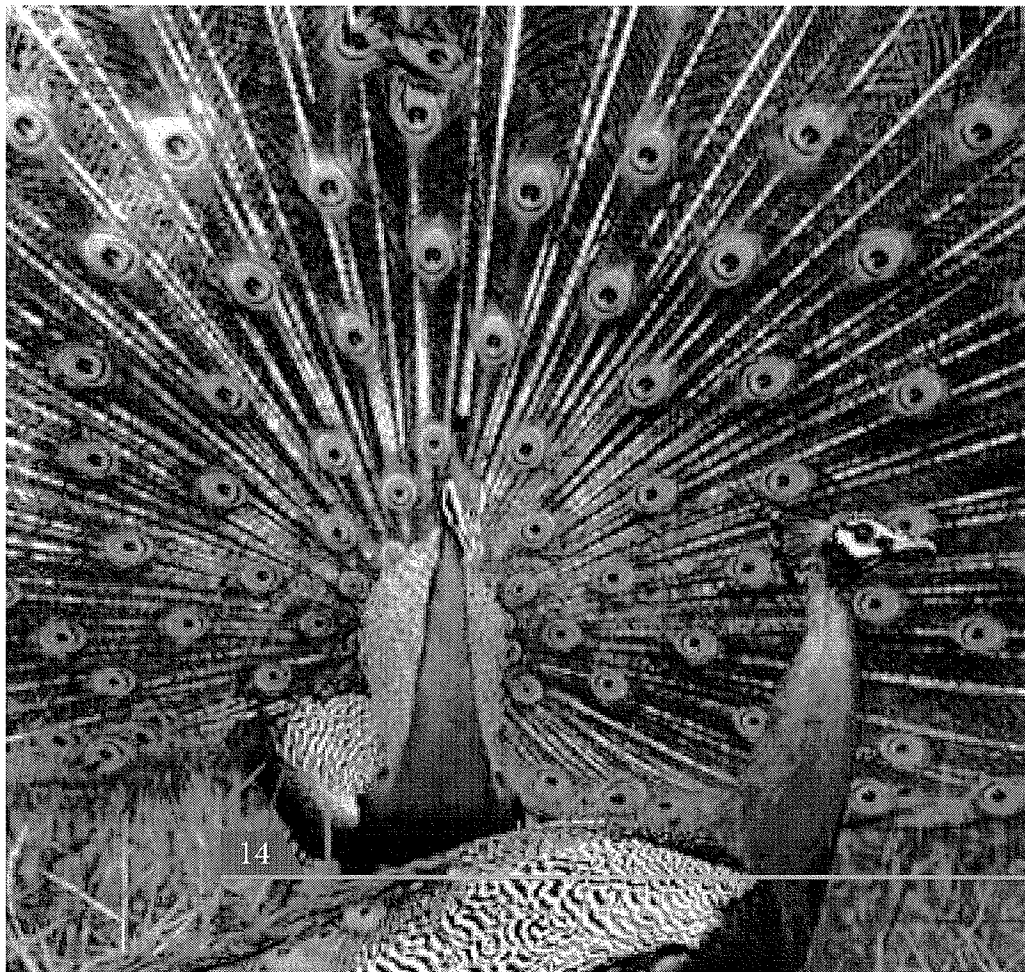
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- 2.3 Focusing on soil and moisture conservation, those Teak plantations owned by the Government, which are either failed or showing poor growth, because of unfavourable climate/poor soil fertility, and those located in wildlife corridors, in disaster-prone areas or along river-banks will be restored as natural forests. This will be implemented, after assessing the status of existing habitats and concerns of the forest-dependent communities.
- 2.4 Steps will be taken to remove those species which are posing threat to biodiversity. These include plants like Lantana, Mikenia and Senna apart from exotic fauna like African snail and African mushi, which are not suitable for our habitats. Along with this, efforts will be taken to conserve our native species.
- 2.5 One of the main causative factors for the degradation of forests and loss of biodiversity is forest fire. With improved fire-fighting techniques and participation of local forest-dependent communities, forest fire will be kept under control.

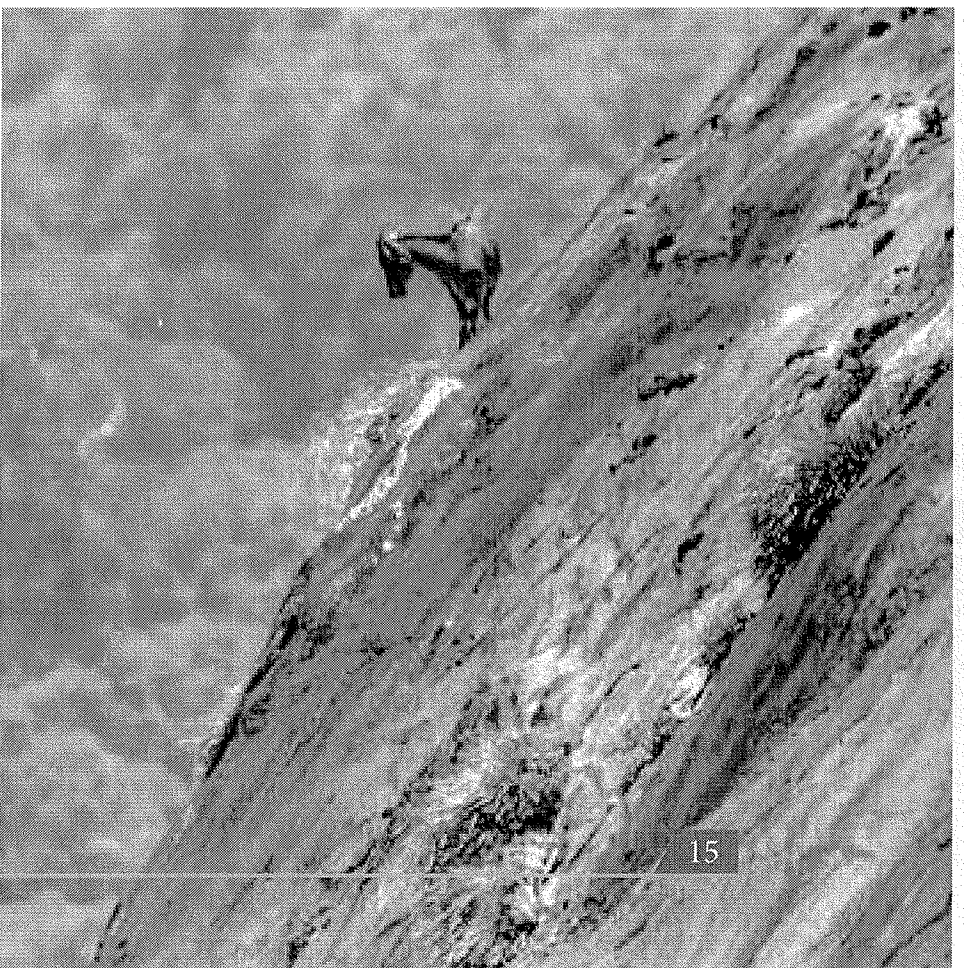
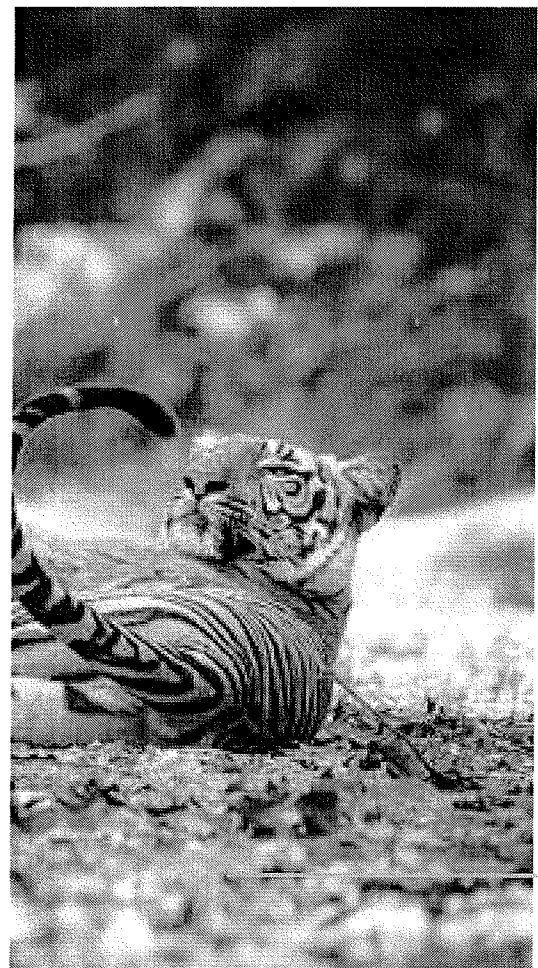
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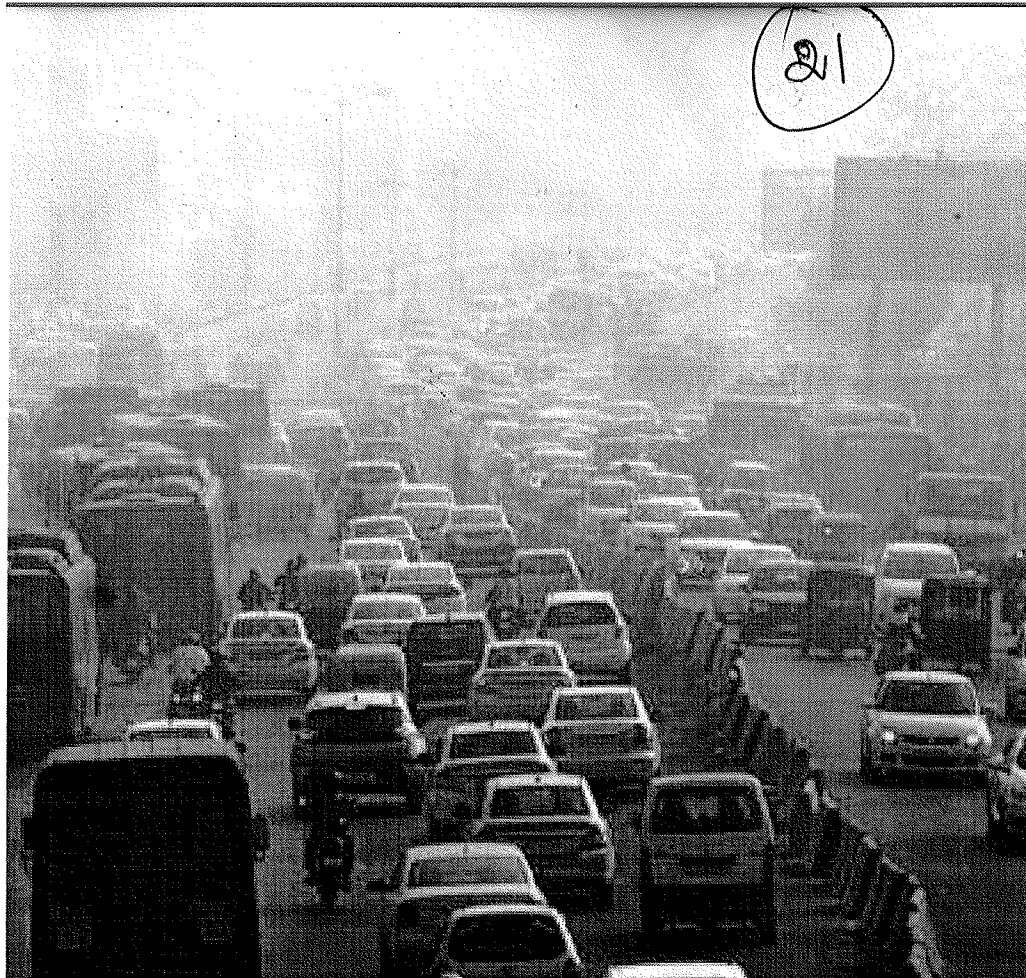
- 2.6 Steps will be taken, on a priority basis, to equip Forest Department with modern facilities so that early warnings on probable disasters in deep interior forest areas are received and mitigation measures taken in time.
- 2.7 To ensure the upliftment of forest-dependent tribals and to create suitable livelihood opportunities for them, steps will be taken to provide modern education, basic infrastructure and also their participation will be ensured in forest conservation and afforestation activities. Taking into account the ecological services provided by the forests and to reduce human-wildlife conflict, and as a measure to reduce natural calamities, based on their willingness and as per laws and rules in vogue, they shall be relocated to other places.
- 2.8 Sustainable collection, value addition and marketing of NTFPs will be carried out with the help of tribal communities. The possibilities of Participatory Forest Management and



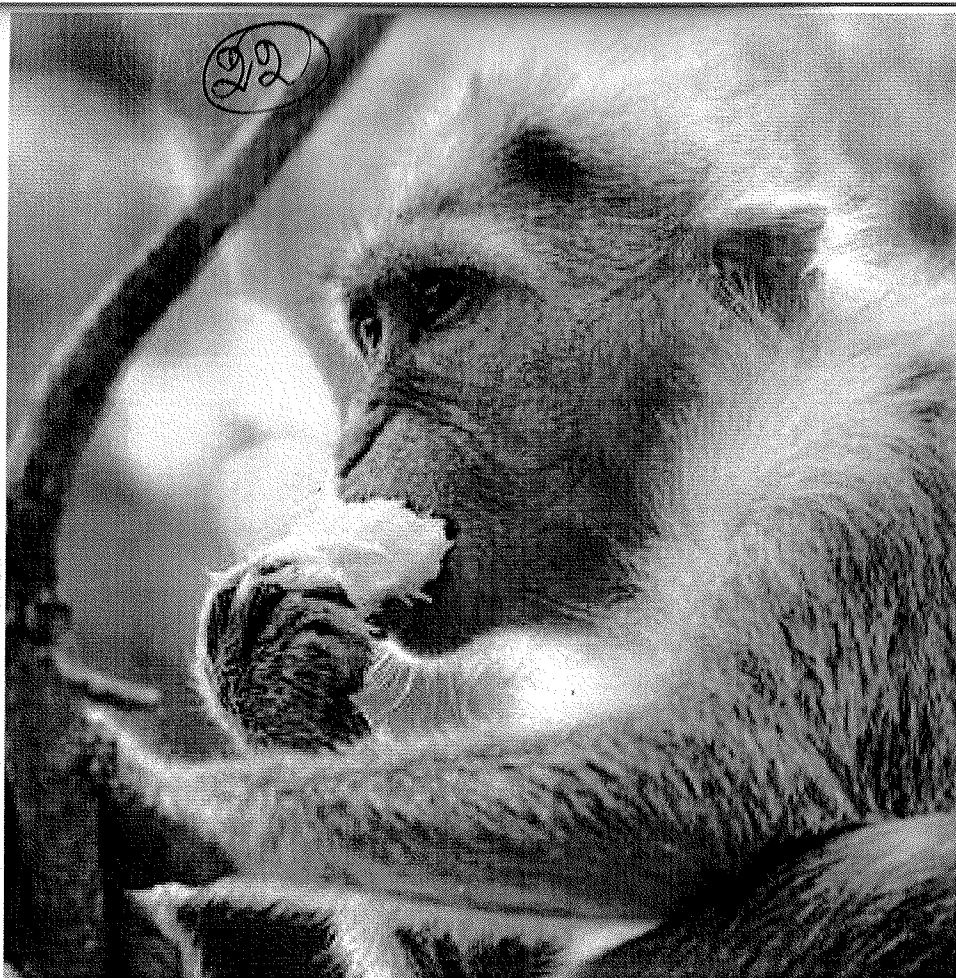
the Forest Rights Act, 2006 will be explored for this. This could create more employment opportunities for the forest-dependent tribal communities.

- 2.9 The flora and fauna which are on the verge of extinction due to over-exploitation and degradation of habitats will be identified and steps will be taken to ensure their regeneration and conservation. This could help retain the rich biodiversity and ensure better ecological services in future.
- 2.10 Considering the ecological services that forests provide, and to ensure wildlife protection and to reduce human-wildlife conflict, steps will be taken with the consent of the land owners, to take over the private properties/estates which are located either adjacent to forest areas or are surrounded by forests, after providing eligible compensation and these areas will be restored as natural forests. This will ensure connectivity between fragmented forest patches, movement of wildlife and will help in reducing human-wildlife conflict.





- 2.11 To ensure better habitat and food security for wild animals, suitable indigenous plants (eg: wild mango, wild gooseberry and wild jackfruit) will be planted. Along with this, in water-scarce areas, availability of water shall be ensured by constructing check dams and ponds in forest areas.
- 2.12 Steps will be taken to acquire and restore mangroves of ecological importance with the consent of owners after providing eligible compensation. Along with this, with the support of the local bodies, consent of owners and people's participation, steps will be taken to protect special habitats outside the forests like sacred groves, wetlands and riverine forests.
- 2.13 Suitable steps will be taken with the participation of local residents and local bodies for the protection of rivers, ocean, coastal areas and conservation of biodiversity in marine and



riverine ecosystems. This will help improve the livelihoods of coastal people and will also improve agricultural production along river banks.

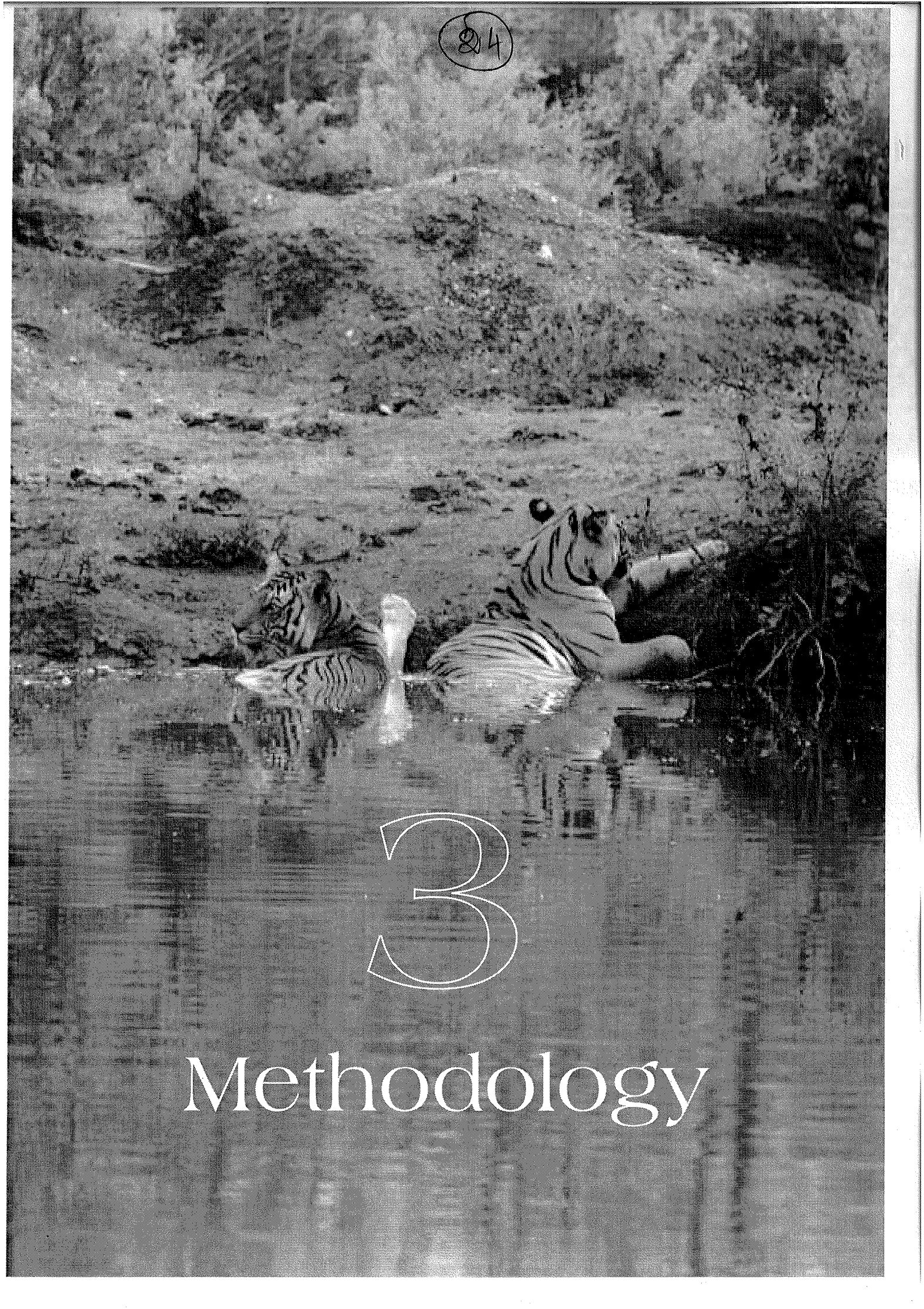
- 2.14 Planting trees in private land will be promoted so as to increase the tree cover outside forest areas which in turn would increase the carbon sequestration and reduce dependency on forests. Good quality seedlings will be produced and distributed for this purpose in consultation with the Departments concerned and steps will be taken for bringing out necessary legislation for cutting and utilising the trees planted by farmers and lease-holders.
- 2.15 For those species which are grown for wood and other purposes like Teak, Rosewood, Sandalwood etc., scientific management techniques will be ensured so as to improve productivity. Modern scientific technology will be utilized for this.

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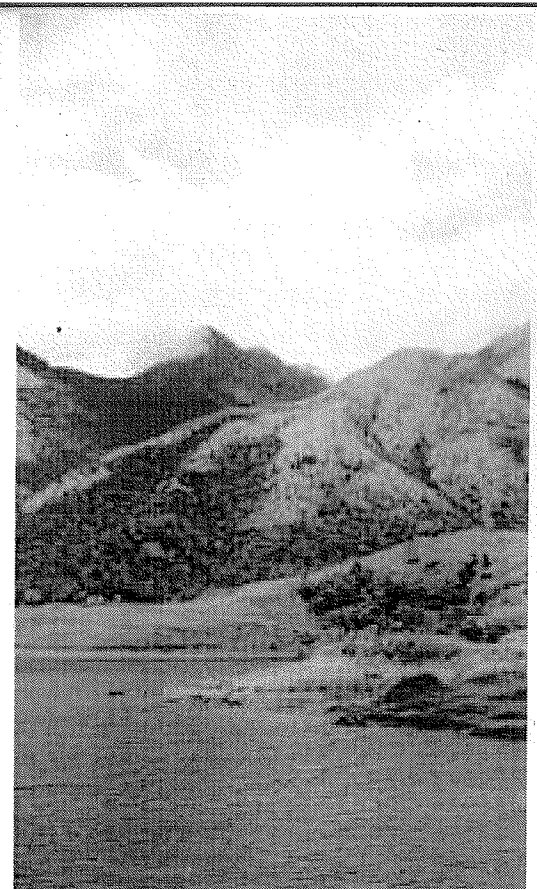
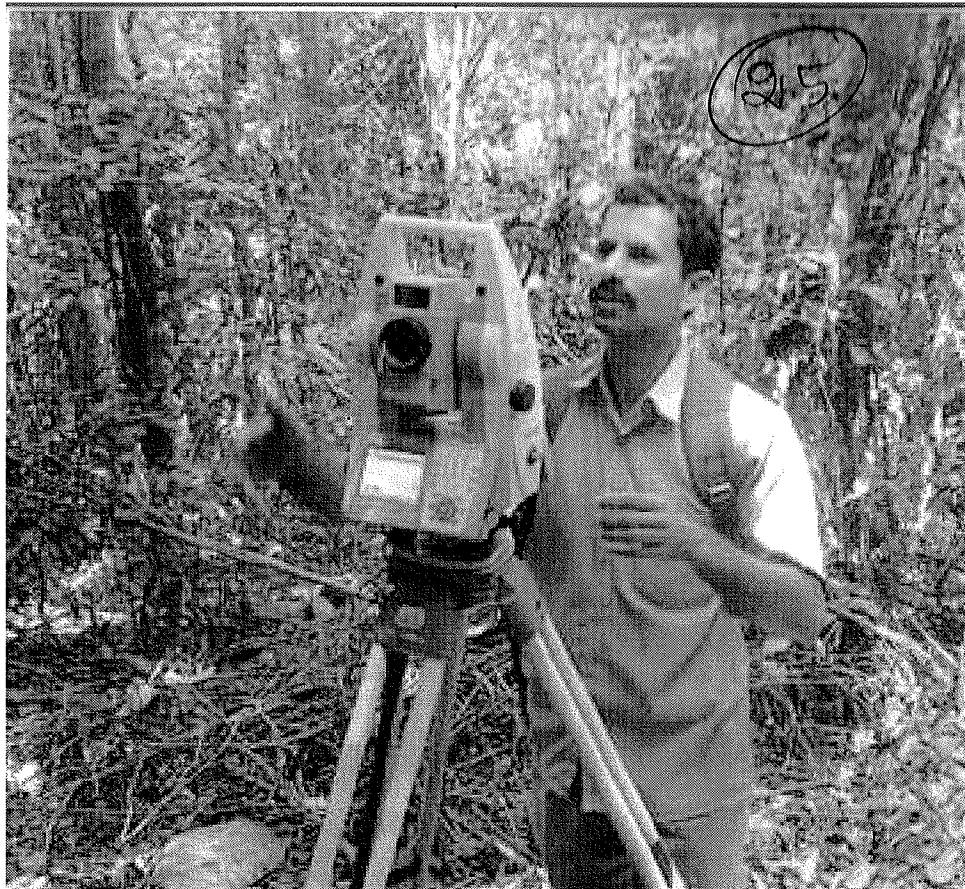
2.16 Modern scientific measures that are contemporary and effective will be adopted for afforestation and plantation management activities. A conducive environment for the flawless implementation of this shall also be created.

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A black and white photograph of two tigers in a pond. One tiger is lying on the right side of the pond, and another is on the left. The water is calm, reflecting the tigers and the surrounding environment. The background shows a rocky or sandy bank with some sparse vegetation.

3

Methodology



Successful implementation of the above-mentioned comprehensive ecological approach is highly essential for building a “Navakeralam” (New Kerala). The above-said activities which are foundational to the ecological security of the State can be achieved through the action plan given below.

- 3.1 To protect the forests, using modern scientific methods, forest boundary demarcation will be completed and cairns constructed. The forest boundaries will be digitized and steps will be taken to incorporate the details in revenue records. This will help prevent encroachment of forest land, reduce and resolve boundary-related disputes along forest boundaries.

- 3.2 To improve and restore the health of existing forests and to ensure soil and water conservation, the Government-owned forests which include degraded forests, Acacia/Wattle/Eucalyptus plantations, existing failed Teak plantations (after collection of usable teak, if any, subject to Working Plan prescriptions), those with poor growth, those situated in animal corridors, natural disaster-prone areas and along



the river-banks will be converted to natural forests in a phased manner.

- 3.3 Raw materials from clear-felled commercial plantations will be given to small-scale forest-based industries in Kerala for a fair price and 50 percent of this revenue will be used for ecorestoration activities while the remaining 50 percent will be used for improved management of the Teak plantations which are retained and for the upliftment of forest-dependent communities, in addition to modernizing forest management activities. This will be operated through a Revolving Fund.
- 3.4 Plants like Lantana, Mikania and Senna which are not suitable for our environment and are adversely affecting the habitats, will be removed on a war-footing, and soil and water conservation measures shall be taken up so as to aid the growth of native indigenous plant species.
- 3.5 Participatory approach of forest management will be followed for implementing the above activities. Such measures will

improve the employment opportunities of forest-dependent communities. In addition, these activities will result in improved ecosystem services to the public at large. The State Government shall promote and guide all such efforts, which are led by the forest-dependent communities.

- 3.6 Uncontrolled forest-fire causes degradation of forests, thereby leading to loss of biodiversity, water scarcity and soil erosion. Forest fire prevention measures will be taken up through participatory forest management initiatives and by exploring the possibilities of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).
- 3.7 Basic infrastructure including more Forest Stations, vehicles, arms and ammunition shall be made available to improve forest protection activities.
- 3.8 Through interventions like scientific collection, value addition and better marketing of NTFPs, livelihood and employment opportunities for the tribal communities and thereby forest protection will be ensured. An action plan will be implemented by exploring the possibility of synchronizing the principles of Participatory Forest Management and the Forest Rights Act, 2006 for ensuring the sustainable availability of NTFPs.



- 3.9 Sacred groves are islets of biodiversity. The State has thousands of sacred groves, of which, the majority are under private ownership. Projects to protect such sacred groves will be encouraged with the participation of public. Such small forest patches will aid in increased ecosystem services and create better environmental awareness among the public.

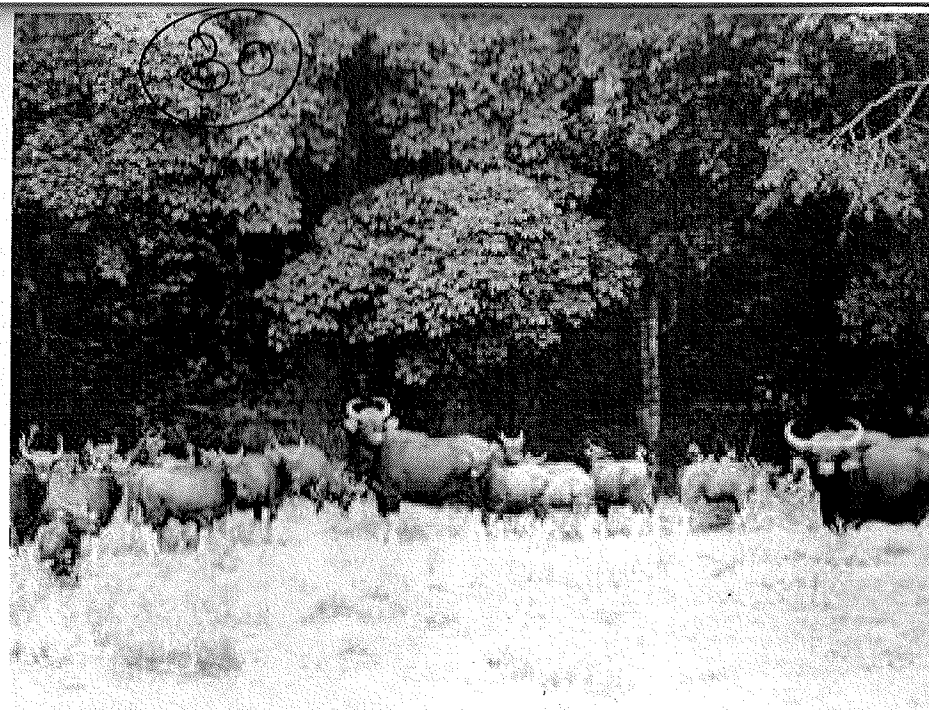
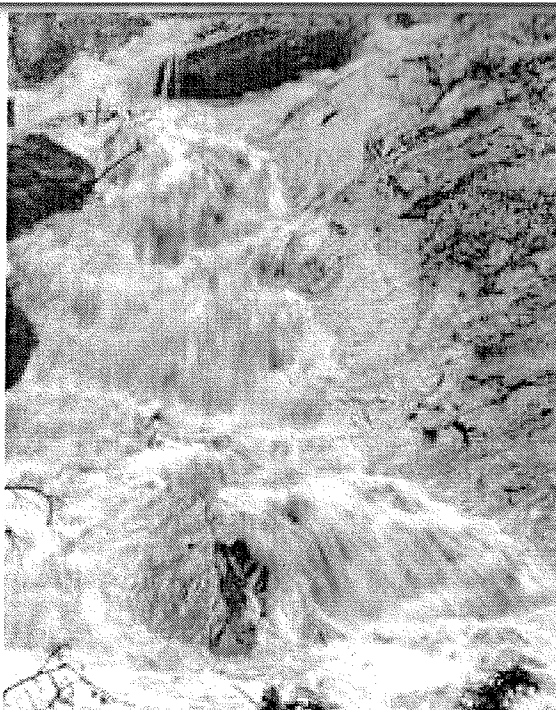
- 3.10 There is a need to protect the remaining mangroves in the State, especially those owned by private individuals and other Departments. Co-operation and coordination of the Local Self Government Department and the general public is highly essential for this. To protect the ecologically important mangroves, steps will be taken to acquire private-owned mangroves based on their consent, after paying eligible compensation. This will help in increasing the forest area, in addition to the conservation of the fast-declining mangrove habitats.

- 3.11 For the Panchayats of Kerala to become "Carbon-Neutral", planting of trees is an inevitable step. The services of Local Self Government Department, Kudumbasree, Vana Samrakshana Samithies, Eco Development Committees and Self-Help Groups will be utilized for this purpose. This will create many more employment opportunities.



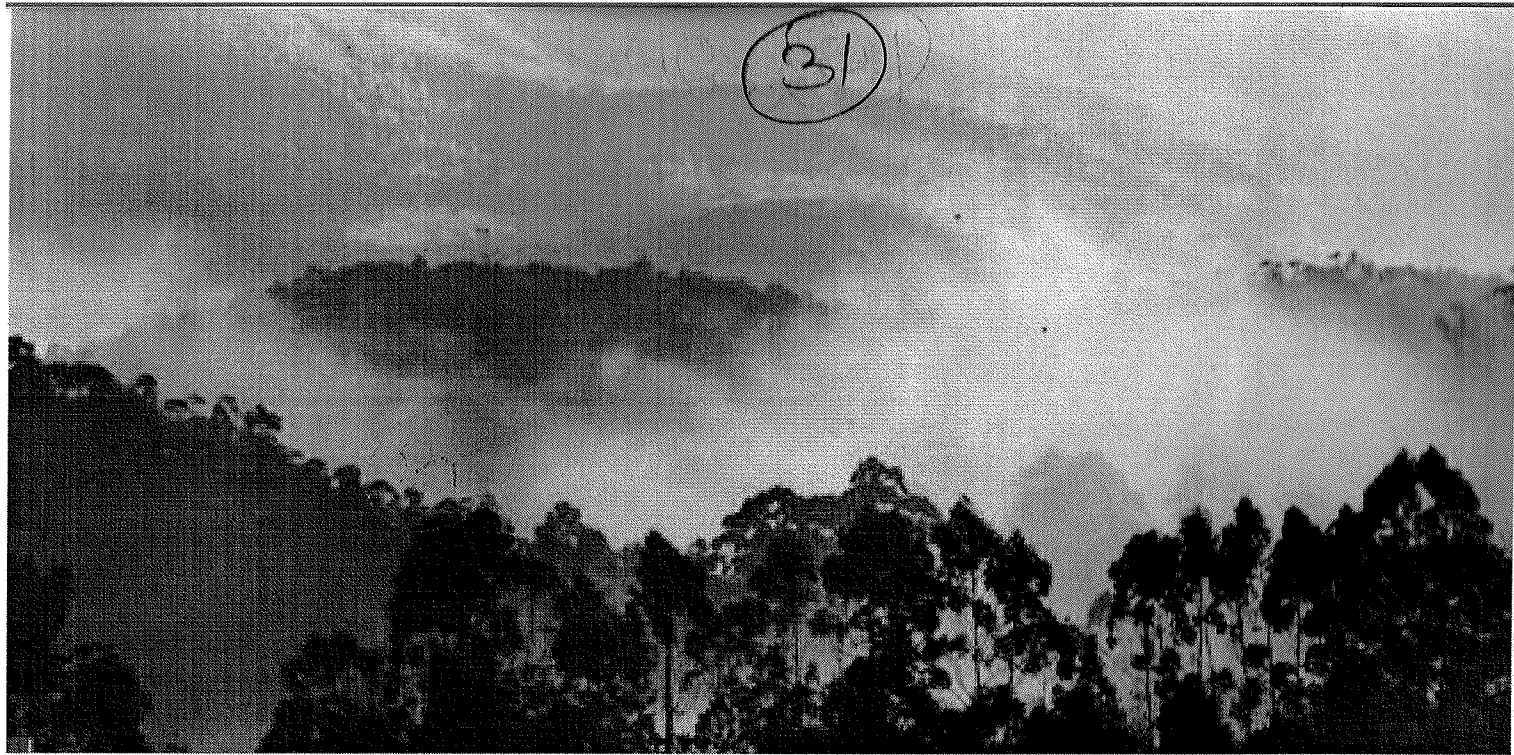


3.12 For ecorestoration, planting of local indigenous species based on specificity of each location shall be promoted. In places with red soil and laterite stones, Irul (*Xylia xylocarpa*), Karimaruth (*Terminalia tomentosa*), Mango tree (*Mangifera indica*), Jackfruit tree (*Artocarpus hirsutus*), Njaaval (*Syzygium cumini*), Kanjiram (*Strychnos nux-vomica*), Athi (*Ficus racemosa*), Banyan tree (*Ficus bengalensis*) and/or other suitable species will be promoted. In sea shores, trees like Poovarashu (*Thespesia populnea*), Vaaka (*Albizia lebbek*), Coconut tree (*Cocos nucifera*), Veliparuthi (*Pergularia daemia*), Noni (*Morinda citrifolia*), Kudampuli (*Garcinia cambogia*) and/or other suitable species will be promoted. Planting of bamboos, reeds, Nanku (*Mesua ferrea*), Venkotta (*Lophopetalum wightianum*), Vetti (*Aporosa lindleyana*), Punna (*Calophyllum ionophyllum*), Kara (*Elaeocarpus serratus*), Ambazham (*Spondias pinnata*), Venthekku (*Lagerstroemia microcarpa*), Kilimaram (*Commiphora caudata*), Athi (*Ficus racemosa*), Poovam (*Schleichera oleosa*), Aattuvanchi (*Homonoia riparia*) and/or other suitable species will be promoted along the riverbanks. Trees like Ashoka (*Saraca indica*), Aryaveppu (*Azadirachta indica*), Kudampuli (*Garcinia cambogia*), Pathimukham (*Caesalpinia sappan*), Mandaram (*Bauhinia acuminata*), Kanikkonna (*Cassia fistula*), Bamboo, Guava (*Psidium guajava*), Ayani (*Artocarpus hirsutus*),



Charalpazham (*Flacourtia montana*), Ebony tree (*Diospyros ebonum*), Kudappana (*Corypha umbraculifera*), Kilinank and/or other suitable species will be planted in the plains. When it comes to low-lying marshy lands, Manimaruth (*Lagerstroemia speciosa*), Neermaruth (*Terminalia arjuna*), Ungu (*Pongamia pinnata*), Cholavenga (*Bischofia javanica*), Njaval (*Syzygium cumini*), Pambarakumbil (*Trewia nudiflora*), Kadamb (*Anthocephalus cadamba*) and/or other suitable species will be planted. Similarly in higher altitudes trees like Mazhukanjiram (*Anogeissus latifolia*), Rosewood (*Dalbergia latifolia*), Kulamav (*Persea macrantha*), Vaali (*Diospyros* sp.), Marotti (*Hydnocarpus pentandrus*), Vayana (*Cinnamomum malabattrum*), Cholappoovam (*Dimocarpus longan*), Ooshippazham (*Berberis tinctoria*), Valiyavellapine (*Vateria indica*), Chenkuringi (*Gluta travancorica*), Ennappine (*Prioria pinnata*), Kunthirikkam (*Canarium strictum*), Nirambali (*Nageia wallichiana*), Kondappana (*Corypha umbraculifera*) and/or other suitable species will be given priority. Steps will be taken to plant more such plants which are suitable to each region.

- 3.13 Effective interventions will be taken up for the protection of coastal region from erosion. As part of this, with the support of local people, "Theeravanam" (coastal forests) will be

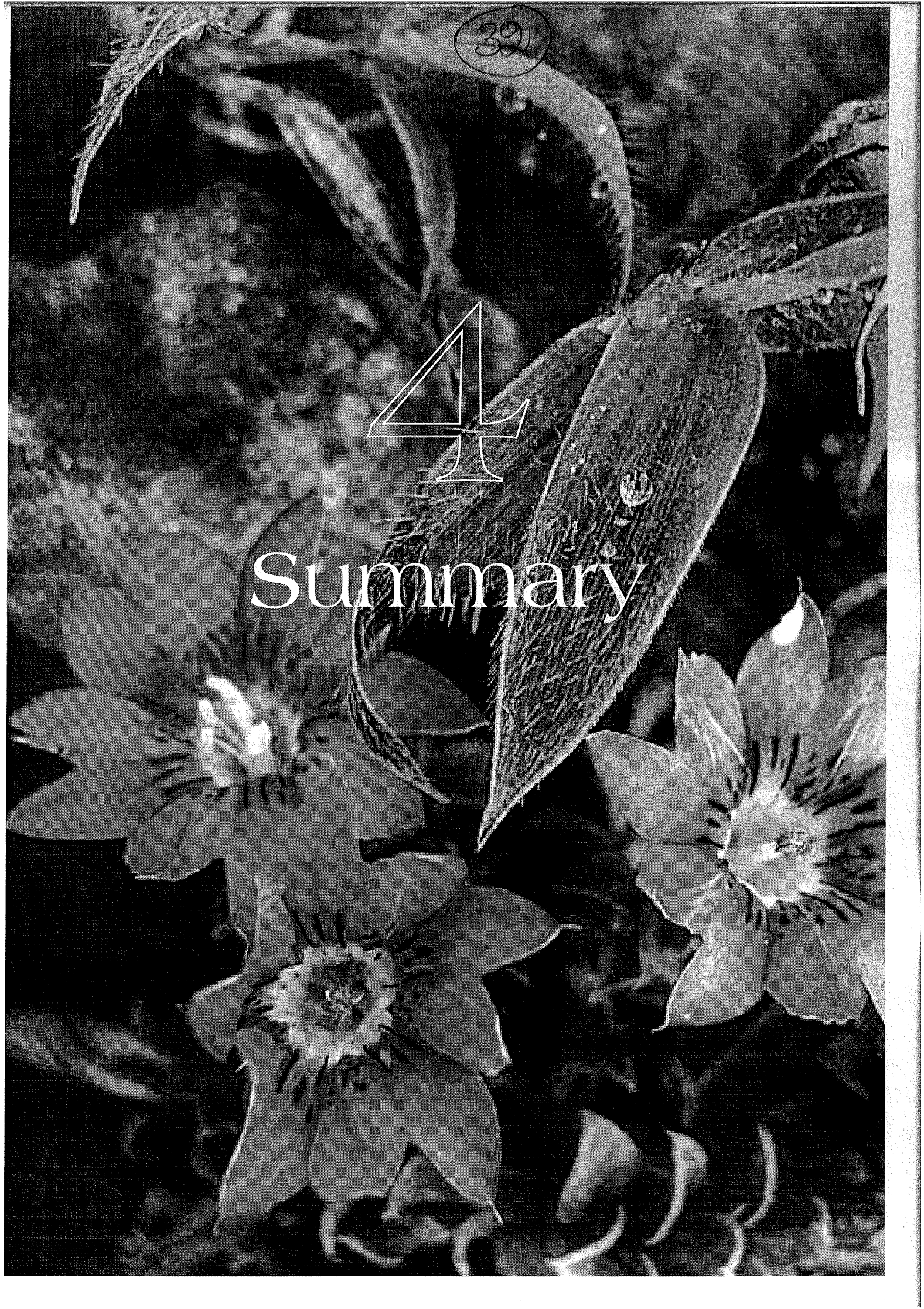


established by planting those plants which are suitable for coastal zones. These activities can be carried out with the participation of local self government institutions through MGNREGS.

- 3.14 To prevent soil erosion along the river banks and the catchment area of reservoirs, suitable species apart from bamboos and reeds will be planted with the support of local people. The saplings for this purpose will be raised and distributed through the MGNREGS and the Social Forestry wing of the State Forest Department.
- 3.15 Projects for setting up small forest patches in schools and cities and planting trees in private properties will be promoted, and this will be expanded in association with the State Education and Local Self-Government Departments.
- 3.16 Long-term research projects will be taken up to assess ecosystem services. Modern training facilities shall be ensured for human resource development. Suitable action plans will be implemented to create environmental awareness.

4

Summary





4.1 Aimed at environmental protection, the previous Government had brought out a White Paper on environment. It had brought out different environmental issues existing in different parts of the State. Aligning to the broad framework of the White Paper, this policy document presents a general view on how forests and allied sectors can be conserved.

4.2 The ecological issues resulting from the over-exploitation of natural resources and depletion of habitats is critically affecting the quality of human life. A healthy and natural environment is the key to sustainable economic growth and a sound society. Understanding the fundamental link between them and acting accordingly will take us close to sustainable development.

- 4.3 The ecological health of existing forests has diminished due to various reasons. Hence, it is important to implement programmes to protect and facilitate conservation and enrich ecological health, with the participation of the general public, especially the forest-dependent communities. This document puts forth the vision and necessary interventions towards this.
- 4.4 This policy explains a perspective aimed at removing the presence of those plant and animal species that pose a threat to the ecological health of our natural habitats. Along with that, it also put forward proposals to examine which species are suitable for each habitat and promote the same.
- 4.5 This will turn out to be a process through which the species which are not conducive to our environment/habitat are removed not only in our forest areas but also in other habitats as well. At the same time, it will also be an activity to plant and protect species that are friendly to the habitats.



- 4.6 To ensure sustainable development by ensuring protection of environment and livelihoods, the State Forest Department, local Self Government Institutions, other Government Departments, Non-Government Organisations, commercial establishments, students, public and voluntary organisations should come together in a mutually-complementing manner. In furtherance of this, it is envisioned to come up with a plan, in association with partners concerned, for sustainable development based on eco-restoration.
- 4.7 Kerala becomes the first State to take up such a large-scale ecorestoration programme. This will improve major ecosystem services and job opportunities. The Ecorestoration Policy, 2021 proposed to be implemented through public participation, will be a milestone in the history of Kerala. It also points to the significance of forming a people's movement, thereby rallying the masses for ecorestoration and environmental protection.
- 4.8 The Policy envisages major social mobilization of the forest-dwelling communities and the public at large to achieve forest conservation and environmental protection. The environmental awareness thus created in the Society will be passed on to the generations to come thereby paving the way for protecting Kerala's forest wealth and it's ecology.



36



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Kerala Forests & Wildlife Department



38

M
1.11.24
SN 2

Advocate General <advocategeneralkerala@gmail.com>

NGT OA 231/2024 Attention S.O , SN2 Section

1 message

PCCF FM <apccfpro@gmail.com>

1 November 2024 at 17:29

To: advocategeneralkerala@gmail.com

ACTUAL REPORT & TRANSLATED ENCLOSURES

FORWARDED.

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Regards,
PCCF (FM)

 **NGT OA 231-24.pdf**
2146K

39

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Management)



Forest Headquarters, Vazhuthacaud
Thiruvananthapuram
E-mail: pccf-flr.for@kerala.gov.in
Phone No. 0471-2327804

Pro(4)-5402/2024

Dated : 30.10.2024

To

The Advocate General,
Ernakulam.

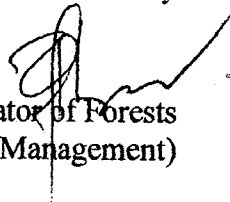
Sir,

Sub :- NGT OA: 231/2024 – Suo Motu (News item titled “Protest brews in Kerala over allowing Eucalyptus plantation in forest areas of state” appearing in the Deccan Herald dated 20.05.2024 - reg.

Ref :- Letter No. SN2-OA 230/2024 & OA 231/2024 dated 09.10.2024 of Advocate General, Kerala.

Kind attention is invited to the subject and reference cited above. I am submitting herewith the report in the NGT OA No. 231/2024 for necessary action.

Yours faithfully

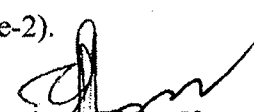

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Management)

Report submitted in NGT OA No. 231/2024

KFDC is a public sector enterprise owned by the State. The main activities of KFDC include management of timber and softwood plantations including its felling, auctions, planting and silvicultural management.

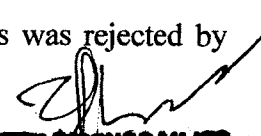
1. In accordance with the provisions of the Working Plan Code, 2014, the Management Plan of KFDC (2020-21 to 2024-25) was approved by the Government of India vide letter F. No. F(C) A/11.6/4/WP/KER dated 18.08.2020. As per the above Management Plan, planting of exotic species (*Acacia* and *Eucalyptus* etc) are discontinued, and the prescription was to replant with fast-growing indigenous species.
2. Subsequently, vide GO (MS) 29/2021/F&WLD dated 17.12.2021, the Government of Kerala notified its Eco-Restoration Policy, 2021 wherein it was specifically provided for phasing out exotic and invasive species from the forests of Kerala as a strategy for safeguarding the hydrological and ecological security of the State. Widely acclaimed as a path-breaking document, the Policy is pivotal to the concerted efforts of the State Government in mitigating human-wildlife conflict particularly through the creation of healthy habitats for Wildlife. Thus, the approved Management Plan of KFDC (2021-25) is in alignment with the Eco-restoration Policy of the State.
3. On 11.11.2022, a proposal for the amendment of the Management Plan of KFDC (2020-21 to 2024-25) was submitted to MoEF & CC by the MD, KFDC requesting some additions to be made to the approved Management Plan (annexure-1).
4. On receipt of this proposal, on 14.12.2022, the MoEF & CC directed MD, KFDC to discuss the proposed amendments in the State-level Standing Consultative Committee (as provided for in the National Working Plan Code, 2014) chaired by the PCCF & HoFF to secure its recommendations and get clarifications from State Government with respect to selecting *Eucalyptus* for planting in light of state's Eco-restoration policy, 2021 (annexure-2).

STATE ARCHIVER
 2024/01/12 10:10:10
 STATE ARCHIVE


GENERAL MANAGER
 PER. 304310
 GENERAL CHIEF CONSULTANT OF FORESTS
 (FOREST MANAGEMENT)
 FOREST HEADQUARTERS
 THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695014

5. Subsequently, in a letter dated 24.02.2023, the MoEF & CC has given approval for the amendment of Chapter II -7 Pulpwood Working Circle for proposal to extract only Eucalyptus trees wherever stock is greater than 25% in an identifiable unit and allow miscellaneous trees to grow and form natural forests with replanting not recommended. (7.2.1 Eucalyptus), while other amendments/additions proposed in Chapter II 7.4.2, xii and xiii, and for planting Eucalyptus in Acacia harvested areas were not accepted (annexure-3).
6. On this matter, on 15.05.2023, the Chief Conservator of Forests (Working Plan & Research) wrote to MD, KFDC to ensure that all communications to the MoEF & CC as regards the preparation/operation/modification of Management Plan of KFDC/any Silvicultural activities / other similar activities involving forest land should invariably be routed through the O/o. Chief Conservator of Forest (Working Plan & Research) Kerala so as to ensure compliance with the National Working Plan Code and other legal requirements (annexure-4).
7. On 23.01.2023, KFDC submitted a proposal to the Government seeking clarification and permission to plant Eucalyptus in its plantations. In response to this, in a meeting held on 03.05.2023, the Additional Chief Secretary (Forest & Wildlife) had suggested to submit the proposal to MoEF & CC after obtaining approval from the Technical Committee for the State (SCC).
8. Consequently, MD, KFDC submitted a proposal (annexure-5) to the Standing Consultative Committee chaired by the PCCF & HoFF, which considered the proposal in its meeting held on 01.02.2024. In the said meeting, the Standing Consultative Committee rejected the proposal pointing to it being not in conformity with the existing Government Policy on the matter (annexure-6). It may be noted that the proposal was rejected by the Technical Committee (Standing Consultative Committee) constituted as per the provisions of the National Working Plan Code 2014, (Chapter III, para 3.1.11).
9. In the meanwhile, vide G.O. (Rt). No. 221/2024/F&WLD dated 07.05.2024, Government of Kerala gave permission to plant Eucalyptus in the plantations of KFDC (annexure-7) which led to some confusion as:
 - a) The amendment proposal to the Management Plan of KFDC containing the prescriptions to replant Eucalyptus in KDFC plantations was rejected by

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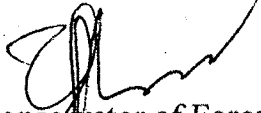

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(A2)

the Standing Consultative Committee (SCC) for Working Plans held on 01-02-2024, as it was not in conformity with the provisions of the Eco-restoration Policy of the State. In fact, the MoEF & CC had earlier instructed the MD, KFDC, to discuss this amendment proposal in the SCC and get its recommendation before sending for approval. Accordingly, the SCC had discussed this proposal on 01-02-2024 and rejected it.

- b) The partial approval given by the MoEF & CC on the proposal submitted by the KFDC is for extracting the existing Eucalyptus trees only and it is not about permission to replant with Eucalyptus. Detailed explanations regarding this was informed to Government (annexure-8). Later, Government of Kerala has amended the GO No. 221/2024/F&WLD dated 07.05.2024 (annexure-9) revoking its decision to allow replanting with eucalyptus in areas where it is felled during the currency of existing Management plan.

Dated thisday of November,2024.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Management)

RAJESH RAVINDRAN IFS

PEN. 384318

PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS

(FOREST MANAGEMENT)

FOREST HEADQUARTERS

THRIKARANATHAPURAM-686014

43

Annexure - 1

reference

169



KERALA FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(A Government of Kerala undertaking)

Regd. Office: AARANYAKOM KARAIPPUZHA KOTTAYAM 686003 KERALA INDIA

Tel: 0481 - 2582640 (Min) 2581204 (Ext) 205 (Office) Fax: 0481 - 2581138

Email: md_kfdcltd@yahoo.co.in Web: www.kfdc.kerala.gov.in

No: C2-4678/2018 / 493

Date: 11.11.2022

To

The Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Regional Office (Southern Zone),
Kendriya Sadan, IV Floor, E & F Wing
17th Main Road, II Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560034

Sir,

Sub: Amendments to approved Management Plan of KFDC for the period from 2020-21 to 2024-25- request for approval - reg.

Ref: KFDC Management Plan approval letter No F(C) A/11-6/4/WP/KER/409 dated 18.08.2020 from MoEF, Bangalore.

17/11/22

Kerala Forest Development Corporation (KFDC) has started functioning in 1975 with objective of ensuring a sustained supply of raw materials to the wood based industries, particularly for the pulp and paper industries.

KFDC had supplied pulpwood in large scale to industries like Western India Plywood Ltd, Punalur Paper Mills, Hindustan News Print Ltd, Tamilnadu News print & Papers Ltd etc. Eucalyptus and Acacia are the two pulpwood species cultivated and sold as pulpwood by KFDC. The Management Plan of KFDC for the period from 2015-16 to 2019-20 has been prepared with the above objective, Acacia and Eucalyptus plantations have been harvested with the concurrence of MoEF and replanted in time with pulpwood species like Acacia and Eucalyptus as per approved Management Plan. Plywood and pulpwood from such plantations planted in previous years at KFDC have been supplied as raw material to industries in these sectors, till this year.

A/GP/10

The lion share of KFDC's revenue comes from the sale of this plywood, pulpwood and timber.

To: FSS
Plywood

by
18/11
To: FSS

For: Gnanu
18/11/22

But, when the Management Plan from 2020-21 to 2024-25 was prepared, in accordance with the Kerala Government policy, it was recommended to completely avoid Acacia and Eucalyptus species and plant indigenous species like Cashew, Melia dubia, Albizia, Gmelinia, Macaranga peltata, Ailanthus, Mahogany and Bamboo for replanting. Approval was accorded for the above Management Plan on 18.08.2020, vide the reference.

In 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 KFDC has proceeded with planting as per the prescription in the approved Management Plan and planted a total of 132 ha of indigenous species. But from these three years of experience, the following things had to be faced.

1. For a commercial organization like KFDC, planting only indigenous species will have a negative impact on the income of the organization.
2. Among indigenous species, only nominal species such as Melia dubia and Macaranga peltata have a market. Only these species can be planted commercially.
3. The cost of planting these species is ten times that of planting seedlings like Eucalyptus.
4. Native species seedlings are more susceptible to browsing and have less disease resistance. Hence the success rate is very low.
5. Although Melia dubia grows rapidly, the seed germination rate is only 5 to 10%.
6. Planting seedlings without solar fencing causes wildlife attack. Solar fencing is expensive.

After the 2022-2023 planting season, KFDC has planted 132 ha of indigenous species.

In view of the difficulties faced in selection of species for planting, a committee was constituted on 20.10.2022. The committee held a detailed discussion on this issue. Minutes of committee is enclosed as Annexure I.

According to the committee, since Acacia is an invasive species rather than an exotic, it was suggested that plantations where Acacia is harvested should be planted with Eucalyptus at least once, taking into account the heavy regenerative nature of Acacia. Acacia natural regeneration can be controlled as Eucalypts grow very quickly.

Since Eucalyptus is not an invasive species, it can be planted in uninhabited areas and Munnar Silent Valley.

Indigenous species like *Melia dubia* and *Macaranga peltata* can be planted in 20% of the total planting area.

In the meeting of State Planning Board held on 03.11.2022 to discuss on additional grant to KFDC, Managing Director presented this issue before the Member Secretary and PCCF (Forest Department representative). They opined that since KFDC is a commercial entity, it does not have to follow the state policy.

On discussing this issue with the PCCF & Head of Forest Force, he also opined that the policy to discontinue exotics is not applicable to commercial organizations like KFDC and asked to get a clarification from Government on continuing replanting of Eucalyptus in the areas highly prone to wildlife attack, away from habitations.

In view of the above, permission is requested to make the following additions in the approved Management Plan of KFDC for the period from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

Slno.	As per approved Management Plan	Addition proposed
I	<p>Chapter II. Pulpwood Working Circle</p> <p>7.4.2. PROPOSED SPECIES</p> <p>ix. In certain localities adjoining private settlement, local people are campaigning against <i>Acacia</i> species, particularly <i>Acacia auriculiformis</i>, raising allegations of allergic problem from the windblown pollens during flowering season. In areas where the protest from people are high, we need to look for alternative species like Cashew, <i>Gmelina arborea</i>, <i>Albizia falcateria</i>, <i>Melia dubia</i>, <i>Macaranga peltata</i>, <i>Ailanthus triphysa</i>, Mahogani, Bombax etc.</p> <p>xi. Species to replace <i>Acacia</i>: Since the</p>	<p>xii. Considering the invasive nature of <i>Acacia</i>, <i>Eucalyptus</i> can be planted to suppress the natural growth of <i>Acacia</i> in the area where <i>Acacia</i> is harvested.</p> <p><i>Eucalyptus</i> can be planted in areas where <i>Eucalyptus</i> clone/hybrid has been harvested, in areas prone to wildlife attack and in the Silent Valley area of Munnar.</p>

<p>Government has taken a policy decision to phase out Acacia plantations from the State, KFDC may identify suitable fast-growing indigenous species having soft-wood or hard-wood properties for their replanting programmes. Indicative species for this are Gmelina, Ailanthus, Macaranga peltata, Euvodia, Albizzia, Melia dubia, cashew inter-planted with Ailanthus, medicinal trees etc. Support (technical and financial) for this will be solicited from the National Medicinal Plant Board.</p>	<p>xiii. In 20% of the area where replanting is done in Eucalyptus and Acacia felled areas native species as described in points (ix) & (xi) above will be planted so that there will be a smooth transmission to native species.</p>	
<p>II</p>	<p>In regeneration schedule 2020-21, 21-22,22-23,23-24, 24-25 (Page no. 218 -228)</p> <p>In Annexure V M to V Q Species proposed is Cashew/Matty/Melia dubia/ Suitable native species</p>	<p>Species proposed is Eucalyptus pellitta/ E.grandis/ Cashew/Matty/ Melia dubia/ Suitable native species depending on the area and previous species.</p>

In the pulpwood working circle, (Chapter II - 7.2.1 - page 54) an area of 565.93 hectares of plantations in Thiruvananthapuram, Punalur and Thrissur divisions were identified as having poor stock and natural growth. Since the stock in these plantations is very low, it is not economically feasible to replant after harvesting, so they were proposed to manage as natural forest in view of eco-restoration and excluded from the harvesting schedule. Since these plantations have been excluded from the harvesting schedule, the Eucalyptus trees planted by KFDC in this area cannot be extracted. Since miscellaneous growth predominates, only the available Eucalypts wherever economical can be extracted and can allow to grow naturally without replanting.

as per approved Management Plan	Addition proposed
Chapter II - 7. PULPWOOD WORKING	<i>Proposed to extract only Eucalyptus trees wherever stock is greater than 25% in a demarkable unit and allow miscellaneous trees to grow and form natural forests. Replanting is not recommended.</i>
<u>CIRCLE</u>	
<u>2.1 EUCALYPTUS</u>	
<p>The total poor stocked Eucalyptus hybrid and clonal plantations comprises of 565.93 Ha area, which falls 377.62 ha in Thiruvananthapuram Division, 141.88 Ha in Punalur Division, 46.43 Ha in Thrissur Division. Now these plantations were predominant with miscellaneous growth. Clear felling and replanting will not be economically viable. So, in view of Eco Restoration, it is proposed to manage the area as Natural Forest. Unit wise, year wise, list of plantations in each division to be retained for eco restoration are given in Annexure L-A & Table 27</p>	
<p>It is also proposed that such identified plantations (565.93 ha) may handed over to Kerala Forest Department. The valuation of the Eucalyptus in the plantation should be worked out and the matter to be take up with Government level for compensating KFDC equivalent to Valuation amount on mutual agreed terms.</p>	


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As per approved Management Plan	Amendment proposed
Annexure V A to V R (only for Acacia, Eucalyptus and Albizia felled areas) species proposed is Cashew/ Matty/ Melia dubia/ Suitable native species	Annexure V A to V R (only for Acacia, Eucalyptus and Albizia felled area) species proposed is E.grandis (Munnar), E.pellitta (Thrissur, Punalur, Thiruvananthapuram) upto 80% area/ Cashew/ Matty/ Melia dubia/ Neolamarckia cadamba/ Acrocarpus fraxinifolius/ Toona ciliate/ other suitable species in 20% or more area annually as decided by Managing Director

It is humbly requested to accept the above 2 proposals and allow the proposed amendments in the approved Management Plan of KFDC for the period from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

Encl: Minutes of committee.

Yours faithfully,


GEORGI P MATHACHEN IFS
Conservator of Forests &
Managing Director

49

Annexure - 2

362567/2022/WP&R



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE
Integrated Regional Office (Southern Zone),
Kendriya Sadan, IVth Floor, E & F Wings, 17th Main Road,
IInd Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560 034,
Tel.No.080-25635905, E-Mail: rosz.bng-mef@nic.in



BY SPEED POST/E-MAIL
F(C) A/11.6/4/WP/KER/VOL-II
Dated the 14th December, 2022

1088

To,

The Managing Director,
Kerala Forest Development Corporation Ltd (KFDCL),
Aranyakom, Karpuza, Kottayam -586003

Sub: To obtain clarification from the State Forest Department with respect to replanting of Eucalyptus species -regd.

Sir,

I am directed to refer letter No. C2-4678/2018/5793 dated 11-11-2022 form Managing Director, KFDC on the subject mentioned above. In this regard, it is informed that the proposed amendments to the approved Management Plan of KFDC for the period from 2020-21 to 2024-25 was examined in the office. As mentioned in the proposal, the clarification from the Government regarding replanting of Eucalyptus in the areas highly prone to wildlife attack away from habitations, is not provided. The Scientific/technical justification of using Eucalyptus, which itself is an exotic species to suppress the natural growth of Acacia in the area where acacia is harvested, has not been made out. Thus being a technical issue warranting wider consultation, it is requested to discuss the proposed amendments in State Level Standing Consultative Committee Meeting to secure its recommendations and also get clarifications from State Government with respect to selecting Eucalyptus as one of the species to be planted in the area managed by KFDC. The same may be provided for further examination of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

(B.N. Anjan Kumar)
Asst. Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Secretary to Government, Government of Kerala, Forests & Wildlife (C) Department, Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, PIN - 695001
2. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Working Plan), Kerala Forest Departmentth floor, Vanalakshmi, Forest Headquarters, Vazhuthacadu, Kerala Forest Department


(B N Anjan Kumar)

Asst. Inspector General of Forests (Central)

(5)

Annexure (2)

3

(236)



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE
Integrated Regional Office (Southern Zone),
Kendriya Sadan, IVth Floor, E&F Wings, 17th Main Road,
IInd Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560 034,
Tel.No.080-25635905, E.Mail: roos.bng-mefenic.in



BY SPEED POST/E-MAIL
F(C) A/11.6/4/WP/KER/VOL-II
Dated the 24th February, 2023

13/7

To.

The Managing Director,
Kerala Forest Development Corporation Ltd (KFDC),
Aranyakom, Karpuza, Kottayam -686003

Subject: Permission to replant Eucalyptus in KFDC plantations - Amendments to approved Management Plan of KFDC for the period from 2020-21 to 2024-25 - regd.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to KFDC letters No. C2-4678/2018/5793 dated 11-11-2022 and letter No. C2-4678/2018/6119 dated 23-01-2023 on the subject mentioned above. In this regard, it is informed that the request of KFDC for amendment to the approved Management plan of KFDC for the period 2020-21 to 2024-25 has been examined in the office and after careful consideration, approval is hereby accorded for amendment proposed in Chapter II - 7. Pulp wood Working Circle (7.2.1 Eucalyptus). The other amendments/ additions proposed in Chapter II, 7.4.2, xii and xiii, and corresponding annexures are not agreed to.

Yours faithfully,

ok

(B.N. Anjan Kumar)

Asst. Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Secretary to Government, Government of Kerala, Forests & Wildlife (C) Department, Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, PIN - 695001
2. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Working Plan), Kerala Forest Department floor, Vanalakeshmi, Forest Headquarters, Vazhuthacadu, Kerala Forest Department

ok

(B N Anjan Kumar)

Asst. Inspector General of Forests (Central)

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KFDHQ 2862 2023-WP and R WP

27379 2023

invariably be routed through the office of the CCF (Working Plan & Research), Kerala so as to meet the mandatory requirements prescribed under the National Working Plan Code and other legal instruments.

Yours faithfully,

Signed by

Pramod G Krishnan IFS

Date: 15-05-2023 11:01:27

**ADDL. PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF
FORESTS**

**(Vigilance & Forest Intelligence) &
Chief Conservator of Forests (Working
Plan & Research)**

Copy to Sri. B N Anjan Kumar IFS, Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central), Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Kendriya Sadan, IV Floor, E & F Wings, 17th Main Road, II Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560034, for kind information

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Annexure -b

Kerala Forest Development Corporation

(A Government of Kerala undertaking)

Registered Office: Aranyakam, Karappuzha, Kottayam-686003, Kerala, India Phone: 0481-2582640 (MD), Email:md-kfdcktm@yahoo.co.in, Web:www.kfdc.kerala.gov.in

No.C2-4678/18/7957

Dtd: 03.01.2024

To

Chief Conservator of Forests,
Working Plan & Research,
Thiruvananthapuram

Subject: Permission to plant Eucalyptus in plantations of KFDC-reg

- Ref:
1. Letter No.F(C) A/11-6/4/WP/KER/409, dtd 16.08.2020 of MoEF & CC regarding approval of management plan of KFDC
 2. This office letter No.C2-4678/2018 dtd 11.11.2022
 3. F(C)A/11-6/WP/KER/VOL II 1088 dtd 14.12.2022 of MoEF & CC
 4. This office letter No.C2-4678/18/5845 dtd 21.11.2022
 5. This office letter No.C2-4678/18/5965 dtd 16.12.2022
 6. This office letter No.C2-4678/18/6118 dtd 23.01.2023
 7. Letter No.D3/372/2022 dtd 03.05.2023 of Additional Chief Secretary, Forest Wildlife(D) Department
 8. This office letter No.C2-4678/18/6622 dtd 01.06.2023
 9. This office letter No.C2-4678/18/6975 dtd 24.07.2023
 10. Minutes of the meeting chaired by Hon. Minister of Forest & Wildlife dtd 19.09.2023

Your attention is invited to the above subject and references. To ensure sustainable supply of raw materials to wood-based industries, particularly plywood and paper industries, the government owned Kerala Forest Development Corporation (KFDC) started functioning in 1975 and with the objective KFDC has supplied large quantities of pulpwood to firms like Western India Plywood Ltd., Punalur Paper Mills, Hindustan Newsprint Ltd., and Tamilnadu Newsprint & Papers Ltd. The Management plan of KFDC from 2015-16 to 2019-20 was prepared with the above objective. During the period Acacia and Eucalyptus plantations were harvested with the approval of MoEF and pulpwood species like Acacia and Eucalyptus were planted as per the approved management plan.

Plywood and pulpwood from Acacia and Eucalyptus plantations planted in previous years at KFDC have been supplied as raw material to industries in these areas till this year. The major portion of KFDC's revenue comes from the sale of these plywood, pulpwood and timber.

However, for the period from 2020-21 to 2024-25 the Management Plan was prepared, in accordance with the Kerala Government policies. It was recommended to completely avoid Acacia and Eucalyptus species and plant indigenous species like cashew, Melia, Ailanthus, Mallotus, Albizia, Mahagony and bamboo which as per reference (1) had received the approval of the Union Ministry of Forest and Environment on 18.08.2020

Due to the lack of scientific and technical knowledge to plant and maintain indigenous species of seedlings, these species are subject to severe attacks by wildlife/pests and have low disease resistance, much effort has been spent to protect the planted seedlings. Despite spending a lot of money, implementing various preventive measures including solar power fences and a lot of human effort, not even 50% of the seedlings planted in each plantation could be saved.

In view of the difficulties faced in selecting the species, a committee was constituted by the KFDC on 20.10.2020. The above committee having of their senior officers held detailed discussion on the issue has evaluated that instead of switching to indigenous species at once, it is advisable to switch to indigenous species in a phased manner. As a first step, it was decided to completely eliminate invasive species such as Acacia manjium, wattle and Subabul. For Eucalyptus, since it is not invasive, the Committee recommended that eucalyptus should be planted in areas where acacia is cut, and that 20% of such planting areas should be covered with native species.

As under the current management plan of KFDC, eucalyptus planting is not reflected, under reference (2) permission was sought from Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India during 2023-24.

The MoEF in response has informed vide reference (3) that the proposal is to be routed with the recommendation of the State Standing Consultative Committee (SCC) for approval of the Central Government.

Pointing out of the above facts, KFDC had issued letters to the Government under reference (4), (5), and (6) seeking permission to plant eucalyptus in the plantations.

In response, the Government in the Department had informed as per reference (7) that in the case the management plan does not provide for such planting KFDC may submit a recommendation to Kerala Government for inclusion of such a specific prescription in the management plan after routing through Standing Consultative Committee of the for recommending it to the Central Government.

Accordingly, vide references (8) and (9), the recommendations were sent to the Government and the Chief Conservator of Forest (Working Plan), State Forest Department for placing it before the Standing Consultative Committee of the State Government.

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By this time, the 2023-24 planting season was over. 130 Ha planted with indigenous species in the season had met with the same fate as the previous years and at the present role, it was felt plantations will soon be poorly stocked and the very existence of KFDC work be defeated.

On 19.09.2023 for a decision regarding planting of eucalyptus in KFDC plantations, the issue was presented by KFDC in a meeting presided over by the Hon'ble Minister of Forests and Wildlife.

As a business entity, planting species like eucalyptus is essential for the smooth running of KFDC. The Managing Director also informed the meeting that this should be continued at least until it is confirmed that the planting of indigenous species in plantations is successful.

The Additional Chief Secretary opined that KFDC may be allowed to plant Eucalyptus till the management plan period of KFDC from 2021-2022 to 2024-25 and the meeting decided accordingly (Minutes enclosed)

Only the 2024 planting season remains under the current approved management plan. The recommendation of the Technical Committee needs to be obtained to obtain permission from the Union Ministry of Forests and Environment for planting eucalyptus in KFDC plantations during the 2024 planting season.

No action has been taken even after proposals (8) and (9) have been given. Further delay in the process will lead to the end of the planting season. The above matter is once again submitted for the consideration and approval of the Technical Committee on the basis of approval of the Government for plantation of Eucalyptus.

Yours faithfully,

Georgi.P.Mathachen IFS,
Chief Conservator of Forest &
Managing Director

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Annexure - 6

Minutes of the Meeting of the Standing Consultative Committee on Working Plans held on 01.02.2024 at 10.30 AM (Hybrid Mode)

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am under the Chairmanship of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HOFF, Kerala. The list of participants is appended in Annexure I. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Working Plan & Research) welcomed the members and briefed the agenda. This was followed by the discussion of Agenda items.

Agenda

1. Presentation of amendments in the Management Plan of Kerala Forest Development Corporation.

Nature of prescription in the Management Plan	Proposal	Justification
Identify suitable indigenous species for replanting exotic plantations.	Acacia and Eucalyptus Plantations can be clear felled and replanted with Eucalyptus in areas where Eucalyptus clones/hybrid has been harvested, in areas prone to wildlife attack and in Silent Valley area of Munnar.	Exotic species outperform indigenous species in terms of disease resistance, cost of planting, resistance to browsing, seed germination and profitability.

The Managing Director, KFDC presented the amendment proposal. Committee discussed the proposal in detail. Since the proposal is not in confirmation to the existing Government policy, [REDACTED]

Nature of prescription in the Management Plan	Proposal	Justification
Thinning of Acacia at 6 th year and retain till 18 th year for timber.	Retain mature <i>Acacia auriculiformis</i> and <i>A. crassicarpa</i> which have crossed 12 years, for timber and clear fell all plantations upto 12 years for pulpwood/plywood and regenerate with suitable species.	Demand for timber is low.

The above proposal has been discussed and deviation has been approved by the committee with the following condition:

- 1) Method of regeneration should be specified and clear felling should not be done over large extent. (Suggested by Assistant Inspector General of Forests (MoEF&CC).

Agenda II: Presentation of Preliminary Working Plan Report of Ranni, Konni, Malayattoor, Nilambur (North), Nenmara, Wayanad (North)

The Divisional Forest Officers concerned presented the Preliminary Working Plan Reports. The Head of Forest Force has advised that the Conservator of Forests (Working Plan) Kollam & Kozhikode should clearly & critically review the progress of Working Plan preparation regularly. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Working Plan & Research) remarked that surveys and studies (including the study by Technical Committee for evaluation of teak plantations etc) be formed an integral part of Working Plan preparation. Assistant Inspector General of Forests (MoEF& CC) observed that all PWPRs presentations were in accordance with the New Working Plan Code 2023 and hence can be approved.

The Committee, after discussion has approved the Preliminary Working Plan report of Ranni, Konni, Malayattoor, Nilambur (North), Nenmara and Wayanad (North).

The respective Divisional Forest Officers shall submit the preliminary Working Plan Report through Territorial Circle Heads to Chief Conservator of Forests (Working Plan & Research) as approved in Standing Consultative Committee immediately after incorporating the suggestions given by the committee for onward submission to MoEF&CC.

Agenda III: Extension Proposals of Mankulam, Wayanad (South), Mannarkkad, Kannur, Kasargode, Thrissur, Ranni and Nilambur (South)

The Chief Conservator of Forests (Working Plan & Research) briefed that the Working Plan of Thrissur, Ranni and Nilambur (South) Divisions are expiring by March 2024. Though the preparation of Working Plan report for these divisions has already started, it may take some more time for completion and, hence an extension of the current Working Plan for another two years (till 31st March 2026) is proposed. Extension proposals

were presented by Divisional Forest Officers. Thrissur and Nilambur (South), and the members discussed the points.

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (MoEF&CC) remarked that extension to the current Working Plan may be approved for continuity of management, and it must be ensured that the working plan is prepared on time. Assistant Inspector General of Forests (MoEF&CC) also pointed out that the plantations due for thinning in 2024-25 and 2025-26 should only be proposed in the extension proposal. All arrear plantations should not be taken up during the extension period, and the felling of plantations should be restricted based on area instead of number of the plantations as proposed.

With the above suggestions, the Extension proposals of Thrissur and Nilambur (South) were recommended by the committee. The respective Divisional Forest Officers shall immediately incorporate the suggestions mentioned above and submit the Extension proposal through the territorial Circle Heads to Chief Conservator of Forests (Working Plan & Research) for onward submission to MoEFF&CC.

The Chief Conservator of Forests (Working Plan & Research) briefed that the Working plan of Mannarkkad, Kannur, and Kasargode Division expired in March 2023. Already, an extension has been accorded for one year (till 31st March 2024). Though the preparation of Working Plan report is in its final stage, it may take some more time for completion, and hence extension of the current working plan for another year (till 31st March 2025) is proposed. Extension proposals of Manarkkad, Kannur and Kasargode were presented by the concerned Divisional Forest Officers and the members discussed the points. Assistant Inspector General of Forests (MoEF&CC) remarked that the proposals, got approved in the Extension Plan be executed during the extension period.

With the above suggestion, the Extension proposals of Manarkkad, Kannur and Kasargode were recommended by the committee. The respective Divisional Forest Officers shall immediately incorporate the suggestions mentioned above and submit the Extension Plan proposal through the territorial Circle Heads concerned to Chief Conservator of Forests (Working Plan & Research) for onward submission to MoEFF&CC.

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The Committee decided not to recommend the extension proposals of Mankulam and Wayand (South) as the IRO has already accorded a two year extension of current Working Plan and the draft Working Plan report of these two divisions are in the final stage of submission. Concerned Working Plan officer should ensure that the draft and final Working Plan be finalized and re submitted in such a way that the approved Working Plan can be ready in hand by first week of April 2024.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF

Sms

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annexure - 7

Kerala Govt

Summary

Department of Forests and Wildlife – Permission to plant Eucalyptus in plantations
of Kerala Forest Development Corporation –Issue order

Forest and Wildlife (D) Department

G.O (Rt) No.221/2024/F&WLD

Dated Thiruvananthapuram, 07.05.2024

- References:-
1. Letter No.C2/4678/18-6118 dtd 23.01.2023 of Managing Director, Kerala Forest Development Corporation
 2. Letter No-C3-2116/95/D/8012 dtd 15.01.2024 & letter No.C2-4678/2018/161 dtd 20.02.2024 of Managing Director, Kerala Forest Development Corporation
 3. Minutes of the meeting dated 19.09.2023.

Order

Considering the request in the letters of the Managing Director of Kerala Forest Development Corporation dated various dates in the reference and the fact that they are a business organization, the Kerala Forest Development Corporation is permitted to plant Eucalyptus in its plantations for the remaining period of 2024-25 of the approved Management Plan period of 2020-21 to 2024-25.

(By order of the Governor)

K.R.Jyothilal,
Additional Chief Secretary

By order signed by

Suja.S.K,
Section Officer
Dated 15.05.2024

- Copy to:
1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Forces, Thiruvananthapuram
 2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Management), Thiruvananthapuram

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3. Managing Director, Kerala Forest Development Corporation,
Aranyakam, Karappuzha, Kottayam
4. Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department
5. Principal Secretary, Industrial Department

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annexure - 8

**Addl. Principal Chief
Conservator of Forests
(Admin) & Chief Conservator
of Forests (WP&R)
(additional charge)**



O/o Chief Conservator of
Forests, (WP&R), Forest
Headquarters, Vazhuthacaud,
Thiruvananthapuram: 695014
Tele fax: 0471-2529262
E-mail: ccf-
wp.for@kerala.gov.in

WP- 5419/2019

18-05-2024

To

**The Additional Chief Secretary,
Forest & Wildlife Department,
Thiruvananthapuram.**

Sir,

Sub: KFDC Management Plan- Amendment – reg.

- Ref:-**
1. Letter No. C2-4678/2018 dated 11.11.2022 of KFDC. ✓
 2. Letter No. F(C) A/11.6/4/WP/KER/VOL-II/088 dated 14.12.2022 of MoEF & CC.
 3. Letter No. F(C) A/11.6./4/WP/KER/VOL-II/347 dated 24.02.2023 of MoEF & CC.
 4. Letter No. KFDHQ/2882/2023-WP and R/WP dated 15.05.2023.
 5. Letter No. C2-4678/18/7957 dated 03.01.2024 of KFDC. ✓
 6. Minutes of Standing Consultative Committee on Working Plan held on 01.02.2024.
 7. G.O.(Rt). No. 221/2024/F&WLD dated 07.05.2024 ✓

In inviting kind attention to the subject referred above, I may submit the following:

1. In accordance with the provisions of the Working Plan Code, 2014, the Management Plan of KFDC (2020-21 to 2024-25) was approved by the Government of India vide letter F.No. F(C) A/11.6/4/WP/KER dated 18.08.2020. As per the above Management Plan, planting of exotic species (*Acacia* and *Eucalyptus* etc) were discontinued, and the prescription was to replant with fast-growing indigenous species. ★
2. Subsequently, vide GO (MS) 29/2021/ F&WLD dated 17.12.2021, the Government of Kerala enacted the landmark Eco-Restoration Policy, 2021 wherein it was

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135458/2024

specifically provided for phasing out of exotic and invasive species from the forests of Kerala as a strategy for safeguarding the hydrological and ecological security of the State. Widely acclaimed as a path-breaking document, this Policy has also become foundational to all the concerted efforts of the State Government to mitigate the human-wildlife conflict particularly through creation of healthy habitats for wildlife. Thus the Management Plan of KFDC has also aligned with the Eco-restoration Policy of the State.

3. On 11.11.2022, a proposal for the amendment of the Management Plan of KFDC (2020-21 to 2024-25) was submitted to MoEF & CC by the MD, KFDC requesting following additions to be made to the approved Management Plan (Ref.1)

Sl.no	As per approved Management Plan	Addition proposed
I.	<p><u>Chapter II, Pulpwood Working Circle</u> 7.4.2. PROPOSED SPECIES ix. In certain localities adjoining private settlement, local people are campaigning against Acacia species, particularly <i>Acacia auriculiformis</i>, raising allegations of allergic problem from the windblown pollens during flowering season. In areas where the protest from people are high, we need to look for alternative species like Cashew, <i>Gmelina arborea</i>, <i>Albizia falcataria</i>, <i>Melia dubia</i>, <i>Macaranga pelteta</i>, <i>Ailanthus triphysa</i>, Mahogani, Bombax etc.</p> <p>xi. Species to replace Acacia: Since the Government has taken a policy decision to phase out Acacia plantations from the State, KFDC may identify suitable fast-growing indigenous species having soft-wood properties for their replanting programmes. Indicative species for this are <i>Gmelina</i>, <i>Ailanthus</i>, <i>Macaranga pelteta</i>, <i>Euvodia</i>, <i>Albizia</i>, <i>Melia dubia</i>, cashew inter-planted with <i>Ailanthus</i>, medicinal trees etc. Support (technical and financial) for this will be solicited from the national Medicinal Plant Board.</p>	<p>xii. Considering the invasive nature of Acacia, Eucalyptus can be planted to suppress the natural growth of Acacia in the area where Acacia is harvested. Eucalyptus can be planted in areas where Eucalyptus clone/hybrid has been harvested, in areas prone to wildlife attack and in the Silent Valley area of Munnar.</p> <p>xiii. In 20% of the areas where replanting is done in Eucalyptus and Acacia felled areas native species as described in points (ix) & (xi) above will be planted so that there will be a smooth transmission to native species.</p>
II.	In regeneration schedule 2020-21, 21-22, 22-23, 23-24, 24-25 (Page no. 218-228)	Species proposed is <i>Eucalyptus pellitta</i> / <i>E.grandis</i> /Cashew/ <i>Matty</i> / <i>Melia dubia</i> / Suitable

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35458/2024

	In Annexure V M to V Q Species proposed are <i>Cashew/ Matty/ Melia dubia/ Suitable native species.</i>	native species depending on the area and previous species.
iii.	<p>Chapter II – 7 PULPWOOD WORKING CIRCLE</p> <p>7.2.1 EUCALYPTUS</p> <p>The total poor stocked Eucalyptus hybrid and clonal plantations comprises of 565.93 Ha area, which falls 377.62Ha in Thiruvananthapuram Division, 141.88Ha in Punalur Division, 46.43Ha in Thrissur Division. Now these plantations were predominant with miscellaneous growth. Clear felling and replanting will not be economically viable. So in view of Eco – Restoration, it is proposed to manage the area as Natural Forest. Unitwise, Year wise, list of plantations in each division to be retained for Eco- Restoration are given in Annexure L-A & Table 27.</p> <p>It is also proposed that such identified plantations (565.93 ha) may handed over to Kerala Forest Department. The valuation of the Eucalyptus in the plantation should be worked out and the matter to be take up with Government level for compensating KFDC equivalent to Valuation amount on mutual agreed terms.</p>	Proposed to extract only Eucalyptus trees wherever stock is greater than 25% in a remarkable unit and allow miscellaneous trees to grow and form natural forests. Replanting is not recommended.
	Annexure V A to V R (only for Acacia, Eucalyptus and <i>Albizia</i> felled areas) species proposed is <i>Cashew/ Matty/ Melia dubia/ Suitable native species.</i>	Annexure V A to V R (only for Acacia, Eucalyptus and <i>Albizia</i> felled areas) species proposed is <i>E.grandis</i> (Munnar), <i>E.pellitta</i> (Thrissur, Punalur, Thiruvananthapuram) upto 80% area/ <i>Cashew/ Matty/ Melia dubia/ Neolamarcaiacadamba/ Acrocarpus fraxinifolius/ Toona ciliate//</i> other suitable species in 20% or more area annually as decided by Managing Director.

- On receipt of this proposal, on 14.12.2022, the MoEF&CC directed MD, KFDC to discuss the proposed amendments in the State-level Standing Consultative Committee (as provided for in the National Working Plan Code, 2014) chaired by the

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- PCCF&HoFF and its conformity to the State's Eco-restoration Policy, 2021 (Ref 2).
5. Subsequently, in a letter dated 24.02.2023, the MoEF&CC has given approval for the amendment of Chapter II - 7 Pulpwood Working Circle (7.2.1 Eucalyptus), while other amendments/additions proposed in chapter II 7.4.2, xii and xiii, and *corresponding Annexures* were not accepted (Ref.3).
 6. On this matter, on 15.05.2023, the Chief Conservator of Forests (Working Plan & Research) wrote to MD, KFDC to ensure that all communications to the MoEF&CC as regards the preparation/operation/modification of Management Plan of KFDC/any Silvicultural activities / other similar activities involving forest land should invariably be routed through the O/o. Chief Conservator of Forest (Working Plan & Research) Kerala so as to comply with the National Working Plan Code and other legal requirements (Ref. 4).
 7. On 23.01.2023, KFDC submitted a proposal to the Government seeking clarification and permission to plant Eucalyptus in its plantations. In response to this, in a meeting held on 3.05.2023, the Additional Chief Secretary (Forest & Wildlife) had suggested to submit the proposal to MoEF&CC after obtaining approval from the Technical Committee for the state (SCC) (Ref 5).
 8. Consequently, MD, KFDC submitted the proposal to the Standing Consultative Committee chaired by the PCCF&HoFF, (Ref.5) which considered the proposal in its meeting held on 01.02.2024. In the said meeting, the Standing Consultative Committee rejected the proposal on the grounds of non-conformity with the existing Government Policy on the matter (Ref.6). It may be noted that the proposal was rejected by the technical committee (Standing Consultative Committee) constituted as per the provisions of the National Working Plan Code 2014, (Chapter III, para 3.1.11).
 9. In the meantime, vide G.O. (Rt). No. 221/2024/F&WLD dated 07.05.2024, Government of Kerala has given permission to plant Eucalyptus in the plantations of KFDC (Ref.7). This has created certain unclear situations such as:
 - a. The amendment proposal to the Management Plan of KFDC containing the prescriptions to replant Eucalyptus in KDFC plantations was rejected by the Standing Consultative Committee (SCC) for Working Plans held on 01-02-2024, as it was not conforming to the provisions of the Eco-restoration Policy of the State. In fact, the MoEF&CC had earlier instructed the MD, KFDC to discuss this amendment proposal in the SCC and get its recommendation before sending for approval. Accordingly only, the SCC discussed this proposal on 01-02-2024 and rejected it.
 - b. Even, the partial approval given by the MoEF&CC (Ref.3) on the proposal submitted by the KFDC is for extracting the existing Eucalyptus trees only and it is not about permission to replant with Eucalyptus. On a telephonic conversation, this was

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confirmed by the Regional Office of MoEF&CC.

In view of the above circumstances, particularly considering the legal and policy issues and imperatives involved, it would be appropriate to get necessary clarification from the MoEF & CC regarding their letter dated 24.02.2023(Ref 3) before considering any further action on this matter. Till that time, it would be highly appropriate that the GO (Rt). No. 221/2024/F&WLD dated 07.05.2024 be kept in abeyance.

This has the approval of the PCCF&HoFF.

Signed by

Yours faithfully

Pramod G Krishnan I F S

Date: 18-05-2024 19:52:12

ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL CHIEF

CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS

**Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Admin) &
Chief Conservator of Forests (WP&R) (additional charge)**

Enclosures:

1. Letter No. C2-4678/2018 dated 11.11.2022 of KFDC.
2. Letter No. F(C) A/11.6/4/WP/KER/VOL-II/088 dated 14.12.2022 of MoEF &CC.
3. Letter No. F(C) A/11.6./4/WP/KER/VOL-II/347 dated 24.02.2023 of MoEF &CC.
4. Letter No. KFDHQ/2882/2023-WP and R/WP dated 15.05.2023.
5. Letter No. C2-4678/18/7957 dated 03.01.2024 of KFDC.
6. Minutes of Standing Consultative Committee on Working Plan held on 01.02.2024.
7. G.O.(Rt). No. 221/2024/F&WLD dated 07.05.2024

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Annexure - 9

Kerala Govt

Summary

Department of Forests and Wildlife – Order granting permission to plant
Eucalyptus in plantations of KFDC – Amended order issued

Forest and Wildlife (D) Department

G.O (Rt) No.236/2024/F&WLD

Dated Thiruvananthapuram, 20.05.2024

- References:-
1. Letter No.C2-4678/2018/161 dated 20.02.2024 of Managing Director, KFDC
 2. Letter No F(C)A/11.6/4/WP/KER/VOL-II/347 dtd 24.02.23 of MoEF & CC
 3. G.O.(Rt)No.221/2024/F&WLD dated 07.05.2024
 4. Letter No.WP-5419/2019 dtd 18.05.2024 of Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Administration) & Chief Conservator of Forests (Working Plan & Research)

Order

Taking into account the request of the Managing Director, KFDC in the reference (1) letter, the order under reference (3) had granted permission to plant eucalyptus in the plantations of Kerala Forest Development Corporation (KFDC) only during the remaining currency of the Central Government approved management plan, ie., the planting season for the year 2024-25.

In line with the Eco-restoration Plan 2021 of the State Government and aligned to the larger scheme to mitigate human wildlife conflict, it was decided to completely eliminate Acacia, Eucalyptus species from the forest areas of the State by planting suitable indigenous species.

In communicating its approval for the management plan of KFDC for 2020-21 to 2024-25 as per reference (2) of Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, it is seen that the Central Government has granted approval only for amendment proposed in Chapter II-7-Pulpwood Working Circle (7.2.1 Eucalyptus).

In the above circumstances, in the Management plan of KFDC during 2020-21 to 2024-25 as approved by the Central Government vide reference (2) (Chapter

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II-7-Pulpwood Working Circle 7.2.1 Eucalyptus), sanction is hereby accorded only to cut the Eucalyptus trees and the Government order under reference (3) hereby stands amended accordingly.

(By order of the Governor)

K.R.Jyothilal,
Additional Chief Secretary

By order signed by
Suja.S.K,
Section Officer
Dated 21.05.2024

- Copy to:
1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Forces, Thiruvananthapuram
 2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Management), Thiruvananthapuram
 3. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Administration) & Chief Conservator of Forest (W P & R), Thiruvananthapuram
 4. Managing Director, Kerala Forest Development Corporation, Aranyakam, Karappuzha, Kottayam
 5. Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department
 6. Principal Secretary, Industrial Department

- Copy to:
1. PA to Additional Chief Secretary
 2. CA to Joint Secretary

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL
GREEN TRIBUNAL
(SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH, CHENNAI)
IN
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 230 OF
2024 (SZ)**

With

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 231 OF
2024 (SZ)**

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU
based on the News Item in The New
Indian Express dt: 22.05.2024 titled,
"State paying heavy price for forest
department's blunders".

Versus

The Chief Secretary,
Government of Kerala and ors.

....Respondents

**REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE
PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR
OF FORESTS / 2RD RESPONDENT**

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