



## ABSTRACT

Forests – Announcement by Hon'ble Forest Minister (2024-2025) – Development of Community Based Ecotourism in Rameswaram in Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve - Ramanathapuram District – Orders - Issued.

### Environment, Climate Change and Forests (FR.9) Department

G.O. (D) No.145

Dated : 16.08.2024

குரோதி, ஆடி 31,  
திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு, 2055

Read :

1. Announcement made by Hon'ble Minister (Forests) on the floor of assembly on 25.6.2024.
2. From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden Letter No.WL6/18191/2024 dated 11.07.2024.

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### ORDER :

Hon'ble Minister (Forests) among others has made the following announcement on the floor of Assembly on 25.6.2024 :-

**“Community Based Ecotourism in Rameswaram Island will be developed at an estimated cost of Rs.15.00 crore through Community Based Organizations in the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust, Ramanathapuram District”.**

2. In the letter 2<sup>nd</sup> read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden has sent a proposal stating that Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust has 252 Eco Development Committees, which covers 2550 Self Help Groups. These Eco Development Committees are involved in the generation of alternative livelihood for fishermen and their families. Community based ecotourism is one such activity, which has potential for large scale employment generation and community asset development along with conservation of biodiversity. The objectives of the proposal are :

- To harness the potential of the Blue economy through responsible ecotourism.

- To support the infrastructure for the community-based ecotourism operated by the local Eco Development Committees.
- To generate employment opportunities for local youth and ensure community development through ecotourism.
- To generate awareness about the marine ecosystem among tourists.
- To develop the capacity of local youth for ecotourism related activities, such as lifeguard, scuba diving, kayak instructor, Eco-guide etc.,
- To develop a responsible and eco-friendly ecotourism at the Rameswaram island.

3. The project components with key activities and cost details are as detailed below :

Sl. No.	Project Components	Key activities	Cost (Rs. in Crore)
1.	Mangrove Nature Park and Coral Boating, Kunthukal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gateway Plaza as the reception facility</li> <li>• Mangrove Nursery Demonstration</li> <li>• Marine Interpretation Centre               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Marine cafe</li> <li>ii. Marine Safari through Coastal and Mangrove areas by special Vehicle.</li> <li>iii. Providing Glass bottom boats and Passenger Boat.</li> <li>iv. Developing Corallarium for generating awareness about marine ecosystem.</li> <li>v. Providing basic infrastructure, such as jetties, reception facilities etc.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	7.25
2.	Kunthukal Birds observation platform	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Bird Observation platform</li> <li>ii. Bird Observation Pergola</li> <li>iii. Marine Interpretation Centre</li> <li>iv. Marine cafe</li> <li>v. The Bird Observation, sandbar observation equipment such as spotting scope etc.</li> <li>vi. Capacity building and training</li> </ol>	7.75
<b>Total</b>			<b>15.00</b>

4. After Careful examination, the Government accord approval to the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden for development of Eco-Tourism in Rameswaram Island through GoMBRT under Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission (Tamil Nadu Shore). The Chief Mission Director, Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission is directed to send a detailed proposal after due consultation with Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden in this regard for necessary financial Sanction.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

**P. SENTHILKUMAR**  
**PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force), Chennai – 32.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and  
Chief Wildlife Warden, Chennai – 32.

The Chief Mission Director,  
Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission, Chennai – 15.

The Wildlife Warden,  
Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust,  
Ramanathapuram – 623 503.

The Pay and Accounts Officer, Chennai - 9.

The Resident Audit Officer, Chennai-9.

The Accountant General, Chennai-18.

Copy to :

The Special PA to Hon'ble Minister (Forests), Chennai-9.

The Private Secretary to Principal Secretary to Government,  
Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department,  
Chennai-9.

The Private Secretary to Special Secretary (Forests) /  
Special Secretary (E, CC),  
Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department,  
Chennai-9.  
SF / SC.

//FORWARDED / BY ORDER//

*J. Senthil Kumar*  
20/11/2024

2/b SECTION OFFICER

*X/32*  
20/11/2024

