



ABSTRACT

Forests – Establishment of a Wildlife Rescue Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre at Pethikuttai, Coimbatore - Rs. 19.50 crores sanctioned – Orders - Issued.

Environment, Climate Change and Forests (FR.5) Department

G.O.(D)No.11

Dated: 12.01.2024

சோபகிருது வருடம், மார்கழி 27
திருவள்ளூர்ஆண்டு - 2054

Read:

1. G.O.(Ms.) No.93, Environment, Climate Change and Forests (FR.5) Department, dated 29.10.2021.
2. G.O.(D) No.263, Environment, Climate Change and Forests (FR.5) Department, dated 18.11.2022.
3. From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden Letter No. WL6/30525/2021, dated 25.01.2023 and 13.06.2023.

ORDER:-

Government had made an announcement on the floor of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 3rd September 2021 that three rescue, treatment & rehabilitation centres (RTRCs) shall be set up with following objectives;

1. Rescue injured, orphaned and sick wild animals including those that get strayed in habitations.
2. Provide expertise and service for scientific quarantine, rehabilitation and release of wild animals in identified habitats.
3. Function as leading institutions for consultation and guidance for addressing human animal conflict issues.
4. Develop and standardize protocols for rescue and rehabilitation of wild animals in their traditional habitats.

2. Further the Government had ordered that these Rescue Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres shall be equipped with the State-of-the-Art facilities and well-trained manpower to provide specialized treatment for wild animals. These centres shall also be well equipped with operation theatres, laboratories and other essential diagnostic equipment to provide the best possible treatment and care to wild animals. These centres shall also train rescue teams for conducting swift and smooth rescue operations of distressed wildlife. The Government had also directed that as these centres are being setup as the first of their kind centres, all efforts must be taken to set them up in consultation with National and International experts.

3. Government vide G.O.(MS) No.93 had accorded administrative sanction for setting up three RTRCs at Coimbatore, Tiruchirapalli & Tirunelveli Districts. It was further decided by the Government that the project could be taken up in two Phases and in Phase-I the first centre shall be set up at the Coimbatore District. Government vide G.O.(D) No.263 had accorded permission to the Chief Wildlife Warden for preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for establishment of a rescue and rehabilitation centre for Wildlife at Coimbatore through the Wildlife Trust of India. Accordingly, the Detailed Project Report has been submitted by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden.

4. The Wildlife Protection Act (1972) provides a framework for the conservation, protection and management of Wildlife. Government of Tamil Nadu has taken several initiatives in the spirit of the Wildlife Protection Act. Rescue, treatment & rehabilitation of Wild animals are critical interventions towards protection and conservation of wildlife. With increasing biotic pressure and climate change, human wildlife conflicts are bound to rise. This necessitates setting up of specialized centres with professionals to provide most appropriate rescue, treatment & rehabilitation for wildlife. Government of Tamil Nadu is committed to ensure that best possible interventions are provided for Conservation of wildlife in the State. Towards this objective, the first State-of-the-Art Rescue, Treatment & Rehabilitation Centre for wild animals shall be set up at Modur-Pethikuttai Reserve Forest in Sirumugai range in an area covering 53 hectares at a cost of Rupees 19.50 Crores (Nineteen Crores and Fifty Lakhs only).

5. It has been decided to set up the Rescue Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre at Coimbatore at Pethikuttai as it is close to areas where human wildlife conflict is reported frequently. The site is easily accessible from main road yet it provides a calm and peaceful environment for comfort and safety of wild animals. The site is well covered with green foliage to ensure adequate shade during day time. The site also has adequate water source to provide plenty of water for large animals including elephants.

The Rescue Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre at Coimbatore shall undertake the following activities:-

1. The Centre shall be well-equipped with trained rescue teams for conducting swift rescue operations of wild animals in distress.
2. The Centre shall provide expertise for scientific quarantine, rehabilitation & release of wild animals in identified habitats after providing necessary treatment.
3. It shall function as a leading institution for consultation & guidance to address human wildlife conflict issues.
4. The Centre shall develop and standardize protocols for rescue treatment and rehabilitation activities.

The Rescue Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre shall be divided into the following four zones:-

Human Zone:

This zone will have the administrative complex, Animal Care complex, Staff quarters, Watch tower, Store Room and Sheds etc.

Quarantine zone:

This zone will have facilities to accommodate large carnivores, birds, primates, small mammals, ungulates and reptiles. The complex can be used for quarantining a multitude of species. Since 95% of the reptiles (predominantly snakes) get released within 24 hours, all the reptilian rescue and rehabilitation activities will be confined to the quarantine zone.

Rehabilitation zone:

This zone will be the largest of all the zones because this is where all the temporarily disadvantaged animals meant for release will be held and rehabilitated. It will have five enclosures that will cater to the needs of all the key species likely to be admitted. There is adequate space for adding few more enclosures in future in case of any exigency. The primate and bird enclosures can be used interchangeably. These two enclosures put together will accommodate six different species during high caseload. The small animal nursery is meant for hand raising orphan birds and mammals other than larger herbivores. The large mammal or large herbivore nursery will be in the lifetime care zone as it has been designed primarily to nurse orphan calves. Deer, fawns and antelope or bovid calves can also be nursed in the ungulate stockades of quarantine and rehab zones.

Lifetime Care zone:

The life time Care zone is for holding a limited number of non-releasable animals. The zone in Phase-1 will have an ungulate and carnivore enclosure of 400-500

square meters of floor area each. Multiple ungulates (chital and barking deer) and carnivores (leopard) can be accommodated here.

The rescue centre will have animal enclosures to accommodate all the major species of animals being admitted for rehabilitation. Overall, there will be 14 enclosures.

The project shall be implemented with following details as in the table:-

Sl.No	Particulars	Amount (Rs in Lakh)
I	CAPITAL COST	
1	Site preparation and campus development	362.47
2	Quarantine Zone facilities	110.25
3	Rehab Zone facilities	211.93
4	Lifetime care Zone	293.43
5	Human Zone buildings	374.21
6	Elephant care hub, Tiger and Big cat enclosures	370.27
	Sub Total – (I)	1722.56
II	CAPITAL COST	
7	Vehicles	83.80
8	Equipment for capture, restraint and handling	17.64
9	Animal crates and cages	18.00
10	Veterinary, animal care and Diagnostics	35.09
11	Equipment for office, kitchen etc.,	19.16
12	Field equipment, gears and other minor ones	33.59
	Sub Total - (II)	207.28
13	Contingent and Unforeseen expenditures including documentation, monitoring charge, meeting etc.,	20.16
	GRAND TOTAL	1950.00

6. The Government after careful examination, accord sanction of Rs.19.50 Crores (Rupees Nineteen crores and fifty lakh only) towards establishing Rescue, Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre (RTRC) for wildlife at Pethikuttai, Coimbatore as per the Detailed Project Report by availing fund support from Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board. Required posts will be filled up through outsourcing or redeployment at appropriate stage by obtaining separate proposal.

7. The Project shall be initially funded by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board from their resources, subject to following conditions to be adhered by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden.

- a) The fund shall be released in installments on need basis as and when the necessary bills / UC are sent for the same by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden.
- b) Progress reports/ photos/ documentation shall be done for works carried out by the implementing agency periodically.
- c) Utilization Certificate along with audited expenditure statement and documentation for the completion of projects / schemes shall be furnished to TNPCB before release of every instalment.
- d) No additional funds shall be provided for the schemes / projects accepted and approved by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.
- e) Any unspent amount shall be returned to the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board along with interest amount, if any earned.
- f) The project shall be implemented by the Chief Wildlife Warden by following transparent procedure as envisaged in the Tender Transparency Act.

8. This order has been issued with the concurrence of Finance Department vide its U.O. No.3780/FS/P/2023, dated 17.11.2023.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

SUPRIYA SAHU
ADDITIONAL CHIEF 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 Chairman, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai – 32.
The Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai – 32.

Copy to:-

The Special P.A to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chief Minister's Office, Chennai-9.
The P.S to Secretary IV to Hon'ble Chief Minister,
The Special Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister (Finance & HRM), Chennai-9.
The Special Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister (Forests), Chennai-9.
The P.S. to Chief Secretary to Government, Chennai-9.
The Finance (E,CC&F) Department, Chennai – 9.
The Private Secretary to Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department, Chennai-9.
SF/SC.

//FORWARDED BY ORDER//

P. Selvi
12.1.24
SECTION OFFICER
Selvi
12-1-24

