



ABSTRACT

Forests – Wildlife – Declaration of Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay – Notification under section 36A (1) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (Central Act 53 of 1972) – Published.

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTS (FR.5) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms).No.165

Dated: 21.09.2022

சுபகிருது, புரட்டாசி-4

திருவள்ளூர்ஆண்டு- 2053

Read:

1. G.O.(D).No.34, Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department, dated 15.02.2022.
2. From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden letter No.WL5/34622/2021, dated 17.08.2022
3. Government letter No.15084/FR.5/2021, dated 18.07.2022 and 17.08.2022.
4. From the Deputy Inspector General (Forest), Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change letter No.1-12/2022 WL, dated 30.08.2022.

ORDER:

Government on 03.09.2021 had made an announcement that in order to protect the endangered Sea Cow species and its marine habitats in Tamil Nadu, a "Dugong (*Dugong dugon*) Conservation Reserve" will be established in the Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay".Accordingly, Government had issued orders in the Government Order first read above for creation of a Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay.

2. Dugongs are flagship species in Palk Bay area. These are endangered mammals which thrive mainly on sea grass i.e., Cymodocea. Dugongs are protected under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (Central Act 53 of 1972). In view of the endangered status of Dugongs, there is an imminent need to protect Dugongs and their habitat. Towards this the Government has decided to notify a "Dugong Conservation Reserve" in the Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay.

3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden has sent the draft Notification for the notification of a Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay under section 36A(1) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (Central Act 53 of 1972). TheDraft Notification for declaration of Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay was sent to Government of India for obtaining its concurrence. In the letter fourth read above, the Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Wild Life), Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has stated that the Government of India has conveyed its concurrence.

4. The Government, after careful examination, accepts the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden to notify a Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay under section 36A(1) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (Central Act 53 of 1972). Accordingly, the Notification appended to this order will be published both in English and Tamil in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette and in Tamil in the District Gazette of the Thanjavur and Pudukkottai District.

5. The Works Manager, Government Central Press, Chennai is requested to send 25 copies of each of the Notification to Government, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden and the Collector of Thanjavur and Pudukkottai District as soon as the notification is published.

6. The Tamil Development and Information Department is requested to send immediately a Tamil translation of the Notification to the Works Manager, Government Central Press, Chennai for publication in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette and in the District Gazette of Thanjavur and Pudukkottai District.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

SUPRIYA SAHU
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Works Manager,
Government Central Press, Chennai-1.(we)
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force), Chennai-15.
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Chief Wildlife Warden, Chennai-15.
The Secretary to Government of India,
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,
(CS.I Division), 5th Floor, Vayu Wing,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi – 110 003.
The Collector, Thanjavur and Pudukkottai.
The District Forest Officer, Thanjavur and Pudukkottai.

Copy to:-

The Special Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Chief Minister's Office, Chennai-9.
The Special Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister (Forests),
Chennai-9.
Office of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chennai-9.
The Private Secretary to Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department, Chennai – 9.
The Tamil Development and Information Department, Chennai – 9.
The Law Department, Chennai – 9.
SF/SCs.

/FORWARDED BY ORDER/

P. Sahu
21.9.22
SECTION OFFICER
Sahu

APPENDIX.

NOTIFICATION.

WHEREAS, the Government of Tamil Nadu considers that the area described in the Schedule below is of adequate ecological and biological significance for the purpose of protecting, propagating, developing wildlife and its environment.

AND WHEREAS, Palk Bay is a shallow bay located on the southeast coast of India. Its environment is unique in the sense that it is almost an enclosed bay with input from several small rivers along its coast. The marshlands of this backwater system support lush growth of mangrove forests which harbour a wide variety of birds both native and migratory. The backwaters act as breeding and feeding grounds for a wide variety of fin-fish and shell-fish. The enclosed nature of the bay provides the ideal habitat for dugongs, dolphins, porpoises and turtles to frequent the region.

AND WHEREAS, the region is rich in biodiversity having all the important groups of flora and fauna in its environment. The total number of species and their endemic form given in parentheses are Foraminifera 51 (2), Tintinnids 12, Flora 143 (1), Sponges 275 (31), Coelenterates other than corals 123 (49), Stony corals 128 (43), Polyzoa 100 (15), Polychaeta 75 (22), Insecta 1 (1), Crustacea 651 (159), Mollusca 733 (26), Echinodermata 274 (2), Prochordata 66 (41), Fishes 580, Turtles 5, Birds 61, and Mammals 11.

AND WHEREAS, the endangered species Dugong (*Dugong dugon*) lives within 10 metre depth not far from the shore, usually in groups limited to 5 to 7 individuals among the sea grass beds. The sea grass, *Cymodocea*, is their primary diet. Their presence has been continuously recorded in the Palk Bay. Dugongs can grow to a size of over 300 kilograms measuring 3.0 to 3.5 metre in length. Due to uncontrolled fishing carried out in the past and also due to reduction in their grazing area viz., the sea grass *Cymodocea*, their numbers have come down drastically.

AND WHEREAS, it was scientifically proved that the coastal areas of Thanjavur and Pudukottai districts in Palk Bay is covered by around 12,250 hectares of seagrass beds, and protecting seagrass beds and dugongs in this area, will also help for the breeding of commercially valuable finfishes, crabs and shrimps, thereby benefitting thousands of small scale and marginal fishermen, who depend on fishery productivity for their daily livelihood in the nearshore areas.

AND WHEREAS, it is necessary to conserve and sustain this area in Palk Bay as a conservation reserve from an ecological as well as environmental point of view.

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 36A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (Central Act 53 of 1972), the Governor of Tamil Nadu, after having consultations with the local communities hereby declares the areas of Palk Bay, as specified in the Schedule below, as "Dugong Conservation Reserve" on and from the date of 21st September 2022.

THE SCHEDULE

The area comprises of a polygon formed by the coastal boundaries of Thanjavur and Pudukkottai districts, starting from Adirampattinam in Thanjavur district to Ammapattinam in Pudukkottai district, also bounded by the contour at a distance of 10 kilometres or 5.3996 nautical miles from the coastal boundary, towards the sea.

1. **Name of the Districts** : The Coastal waters of Thanjavur and Pudukkottai districts.

2. **Location** : Along Palk Bay from Adirampattinam to Ammapattinam

3. **Boundary Description** :

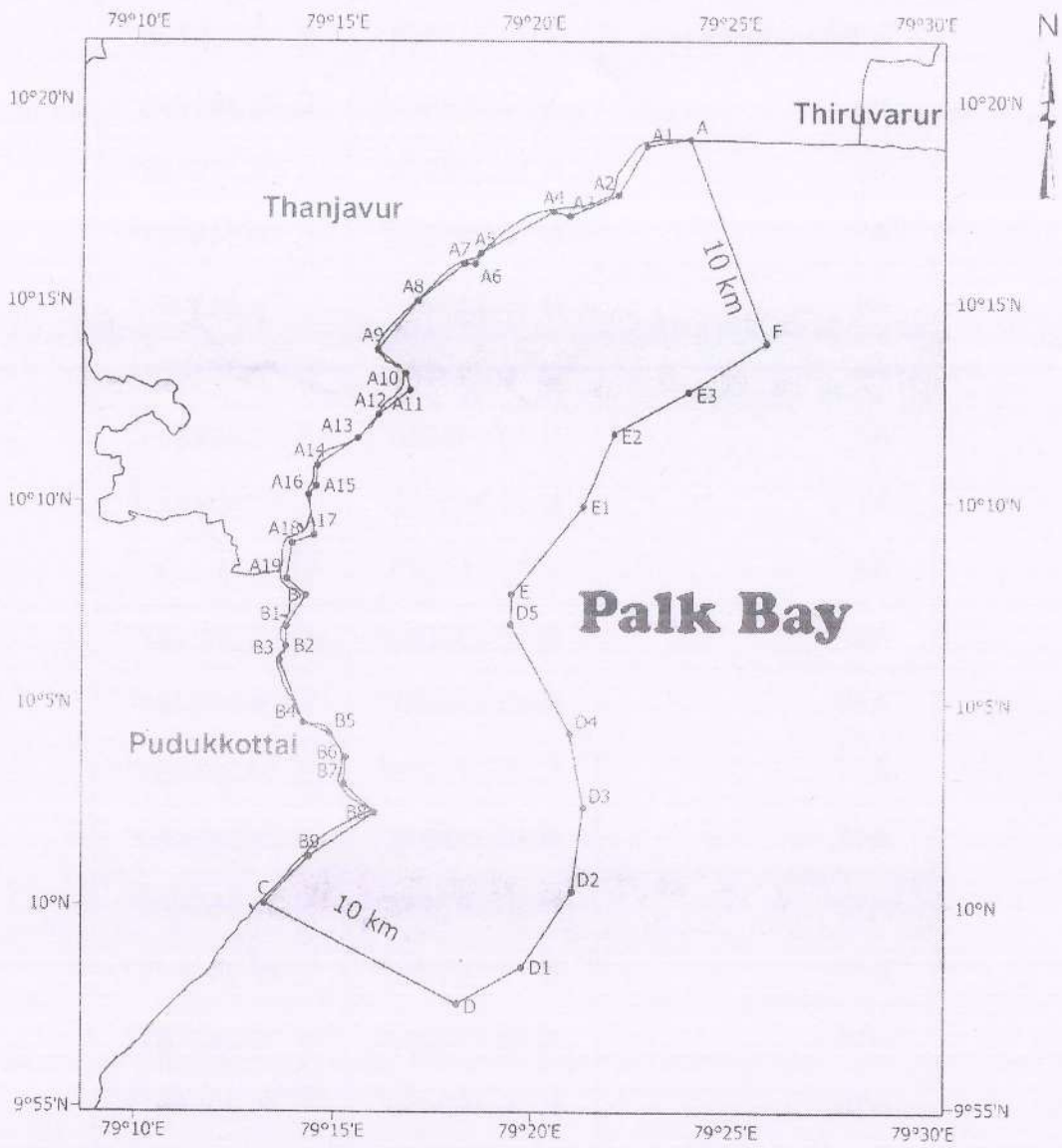
Northern Boundary - Starting from Adirampattinam (A) coastal village in Thanjavur District runs towards southwest along the coast of Palk Bay to a distance of 33.68 kilometres vide points A1 to A19 and reaches Kattumavadi (B) village in Pudukkottai District.

Western Boundary - Starting from Kattumavadi (B) village in Pudukkottai District runs towards south east along the coast of Palk Bay to a distance of 11.9 kilometres vide points B to B8 and turns gradually towards south west direction along the coast of Palk Bay and joins Ammapattinam (C) village in Pudukkottai district vide point B8 and B9 at a distance of 6.5 kilometres.

Southern Boundary - Starting from Ammapattinam (C) coastal village in Pudukkottai District reaches point D towards eastern side of the conservation reserve area at a distance of 10 kilometres in sea water.

Eastern Boundary - Starting from point D in coastal waters of Palk Bay runs towards northern direction along the sea waters from D to E vide points D1 to D5 at a distance of 22.10 kilometres and from E to F vide points E1 to E3 at a distance of 17.20 kilometres and joins Adirampattinam (A) coastal village in Thanjavur district which is in the northern side of the conservation reserve area. The distance from point F to A is 10 kilometres.

Dugong Conservation Reserve



Legend

- Boundary Points
- Dugong Conservation Reserve

4. Details of Geo coordinates of the boundaries:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
A(Adirampattinam)	N 10.317478°	E 79.400368°
A1	N 10.314433°	E 79.381775°
A2	N 10.294274°	E 79.370116°
A3	N 10.285352°	E 79.348967°
A4	N 10.287215°	E 79.342037°
A5	N 10.269827°	E 79.311261°
A6	N 10.265360°	E 79.308893°
A7	N 10.265552°	E 79.304287°
A8	N 10.250228°	E 79.284932°
A9	N 10.230090°	E 79.267797°
A10	N 10.220187°	E 79.279785°
A11	N 10.213236°	E 79.281553°
A12	N 10.202918°	E 79.268080°
A13	N 10.193158°	E 79.259690°
A14	N 10.181838°	E 79.242613°
A15	N 10.173208°	E 79.242182°
A16	N 10.169453°	E 79.238887°
A17	N 10.152799°	E 79.241439°
A18	N 10.149392°	E 79.232060°
A19	N 10.134700°	E 79.229871°
B (Kattumavadi)	N 10.127745°	E 79.237960°
B1	N 10.114945°	E 79.229772°
B2	N 10.106732°	E 79.229657°
B3	N 10.100852°	E 79.226856°

Point	Latitude	Longitude
B4	N 10.075290°	E 79.237071°
B5	N 10.070686°	E 79.248043°
B6	N 10.060927°	E 79.254864°
B7	N 10.049980°	E 79.254021°
B8	N 10.038175°	E 79.267102°
B9	N 10.020014°	E 79.239716°
C(Ammapattinam)	N 10.000782°	E 79.220688°
D	N 09.959380°	E 79.301730°
D1	N 09.974602°	E 79.329388°
D2	N 10.005863°	E 79.350705°
D3	N 10.040421°	E 79.355364°
D4	N 10.070793 °	E 79.349678°
D5	N 10.115832°	E 79.324297°
E	N 10.128324°	E 79.324720°
E1	N 10.164710°	E 79.355084°
E2	N 10.195120°	E 79.368318°
E3	N 10.212597°	E 79.400156°
F	N 10.233008°	E 79.432901°

Note : All Geo coordinates are expressed in decimal degrees and in WGS 84 Datum

5. Distance:

Points	Distance (in kms)
A to B	33.68
B to C	18.40
C to D	10.00
D to E	22.10
E to F	17.20
F to A	10.00
Total	111.38 kilometres

6. Distance between adjacent boundary points:

Points of Line Segments	Distance between adjacent boundary points (in kms)
A (Adirampattinam) to A1	2.00
A1 to A2	2.51
A2 to A3	2.50
A3 to A4	0.75
A4 to A5	3.92
A5 to A6	0.60
A6 to A7	0.50
A7 to A8	2.70
A8 to A9	2.90
A9 to A10	1.70
A10 to A11	0.80
A11 to A12	1.90
A12 to A13	1.40
A13 to A 14	2.30
A14 to A15	0.90
A15 to A16	0.50
A16 to A17	1.80
A17 to A18	1.10
A18 to A 19	1.70
A19 to B	1.20
B (Kattumavadi) to B1	1.60
B1 to B2	0.90
B2 to B3	0.70
B3 to B4	3.20
B4 to B5	1.10
B5 to B6	1.30
B6 to B7	1.20
B7 to B8	1.90
B8 to B9	3.60
B9 to C	2.90

Points of Line Segments	Distance between adjacent boundary points (in kms)
C (Ammappattinam) to D	10.00
D to D1	3.50
D1 to D2	4.20
D2 to D3	3.90
D3 to D4	3.40
D4 to D5	5.70
D5 to E	1.40
E to E1	5.30
E1 to E2	3.70
E2 to E3	4.00
E3 to F	4.20
F to A (Adirampattinam)	10.00

7. Total Perimeter of the Reserve : 111.38 kilometres

8. Total Extent : 448.34 Sq. kilometres (or)
44,834.00 Hectares

SUPRIYA SAHU
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//True Copy//

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SECTION OFFICER
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