



ABSTRACT

Forests - Announcements 2022-2023 - Developing four Eco-Tourism destinations (Eco-tourism Circuits) in Eastern Ghats for conservation - Sanction of Expenditure - Orders - Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOREST (FR.9) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms) No.178

Dated: 17.10.2022

சுபகிருது, புரட்டாசி - 30

திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு - 2053

Read:

1. Announcement made by the Hon'ble Minister (Forests) during the Budget Session for 2022-2023 on 25.04.2022.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Chief Project Director, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project, Letter Ref. No.TBGP6/570/ 2022, dated 12.05.2022 and 01.07.2022.

ORDER:-

Eco-tourism is nature-based tourism that is based on the idea of using tourism to promote conservation. It is fast emerging as a mode towards channelise revenues to conservation and community development. Eco-tourism has a huge potential to generate livelihood for local communities who in turn can be motivated to play a key role in protection of biodiversity and conservation of wildlife.

2. Tamil Nadu's diverse landscape and rich biodiversity offers a huge potential for eco-tourism that can support many objectives of conservation. Considering the potential of eco-tourism activities in the State, the Government had made an announcement on the floor of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 25.04.2022 :

“ Forest Department shall implement community based eco-tourism comprehensively in the following six circuits

- (i) Catherine Falls - Nilgiris District.
- (ii) Dindigul Talakkuthu Falls - Parappalaru Dam
- (iii) Kurumbapatti - Yercaud
- (iv) Aiyur - Denkanikottai - Hoganekal Waterfalls
- (v) Kollimalai- Akash Ganga Waterfalls -Yelagiri
- (vi) Yelagiri - Amirthi - Jamunamarathur - Bheeman Waterfalls - Kular Cave

3. Accordingly, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Project Director, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project (TBGP) has sent a proposal for implementation of the following four Eco-Tourism circuits at a cost of Rs.1469.06 lakh, in Phase-I from the funds provided under "Tamil Nadu Bio-diversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response Fund" under Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) fund.

Sl. No.	Name of Ecotourism Circuit	Location
1	Kurumbapatti - Yercaud	Salem Forest Division
2	Aiyur - Denkanikottai - Hoganekal Waterfalls	Dharmapuri Forest Division
3	Kollimalai - Medicinal Plant Conservation Area - Akash Ganga Waterfalls	Namakkal Forest Division
4	Yelagiri - Amirthi - Jamunamarathur - Bheeman Waterfalls - Kular Cave	Tirupattur, Vellore, and Tiruvannamalai Forest Divisions

4. The proposed eco-tourism activities shall focus on the capacity building and training of local community to take tourism activities in a sustainable manner. Under the project, the Department shall work closely with local community and other stake holders to develop an integrated Eco-tourism Management Plan for providing necessary infrastructure to promote tourism activities.

5. The Government, after careful examination, have decided to accept the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Project Director (TBGPCCR) and sanction Rs.1469.06 lakhs towards implementation of following four Eco-Tourism circuits in Phase - I, during the years 2022-2028, as per the approved Minutes of Discussion (MoD), Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response (TBGPCCR). The expenditure shall be met from the funds of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening project.

Sl. No.	Name of Circuit	Location
1	Kurumbapatti - Yercaud	Salem Forest Division
2	Aiyur - Denkanikottai - Hoganekal Waterfalls	Dharmapuri Forest Division
3	Kollimalai - Medicinal Plant Conservation Area - Akash Ganga Waterfalls	Namakkal Forest Division
4	Yelagiri - Amirthi - Jamunamarathur - Bheeman Waterfalls - Kular Cave	Tirupattur, Vellore, and Tiruvannamalai Forest Divisions

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6. Administrative sanction for the remaining two projects viz., Catherine Waterfalls, the Nilgiris and Thalaikkuthu Waterfalls, Parappalar Reservoir, Dindigul shall be issued separately.

7. This order issues with the concurrence of Finance Department vide its U.O.No.26393/Fin(ECC&F)/2022, dated: 31.05.2022.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

**SUPRIYA SAHU
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Project Director,
Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project,
Chennai-100.

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

The Officer on Special Duty,
Tamil Nadu Wilderness Experiences Corporation Private Limited,
Chennai-15.

Copy to

The Finance Department, Chennai-9.

The Senior Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister (Forests), Chennai-9.

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

The Environment, Climate Change and Forests

Department (FR.6/FR.7/Genl.) Department, Chennai-9.

SF/SC.

//FORWARDED BY ORDER//

B. Manjula
SECTION OFFICER

17/05/22

