



**ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT**

## **FORESTS**

**POLICY NOTE  
2017-2018**

**DEMAND No. 54**

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MINISTER FOR FORESTS**

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GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

2017

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**INTRODUCTION**

Forests in Tamil Nadu are known for its biological richness. The forest health has been the state's mandate recognizing its role in water, food, wood and livelihood security. Forests of Tamil Nadu support flora and fauna of wide diversity. The mountain ecosystem of western and eastern Ghats has healthy soil systems providing microbial habitats to terrestrial and aquatic eco-systems. The coastal plains, mangroves and marine eco-systems in the state are also protected and managed for its ecological and economic value.

Tamil Nadu has witnessed an increase in forest cover of 2501 sq.km which is the maximum among all states in the country for the period

2013-15 (Government of India, Forest Survey of India Report, 2015). This achievement has been made possible by the Government's policy of environmental stability through strategy of afforestation, restoration and biodiversity conservation with people's support. The state encourages shared responsibility with society for management of Forest resources.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is committed to sustainably manage, enhance the forest cover and improve wildlife habitats on scientific principles, while meeting the livelihood needs of the forest dependent communities. The state is keen in involvement of all stakeholders in the conservation, management and enhancement of forest and tree cover in the state. The objectives of forest department also emphasize on welfare of tribals and forest fringe communities involving them in enrichment of forests through rehabilitation and of restoration works besides augmentation of water resources and of

biodiversity. The state is well connected to the cause of healthy agriculture, farmer security, rural livelihood, tribal development and pristine urban landscape management, through many programmes that spans forestry.

Tamil Nadu has been a pioneer in Protected Area Management through which diversity of terrestrial / marine flora and fauna have been captured. The state holds a rich repository of biodiversity offering habitat to varied life forms. The State's sincere efforts in establishing range of Tiger habitats in Western and Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu have resulted in the increase of tiger numbers from 163 in 2011 assessment to 229 in 2014. This is as per "Status of Tiger" report jointly published by the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Wildlife Institute of India in 2015.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Summit adopted an action plan in

2015 for people, planet and prosperity and framed seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs are a UN Initiative and are universally acceptable goals that balance three dimensions of Sustainable Development, namely, Environmental, Social, and Economic. This has been adopted by the State with intention of addressing issues of climate change, conservation of genetic diversity, both in terrestrial and aquatic eco-systems and for the protection and restoration of degraded eco-systems in forests.

## **2. VISION:**

The Twelfth Five Year Plan for the State of Tamil Nadu encompasses preservation of entire ecological foot print of human activity and includes increasing the forest cover, protection of wetlands, conserving groundwater, rivers and other water bodies, protection of the coastal zones including fragile ecosystems, conservation of the zoological and botanical diversity of the State. All the initiatives of the Department are in

line with the Hon'ble Late Chief Minister's Vision 2023 to maintain the ecological balance across the State. During the annual plan period (2017-18) the Policy initiatives corresponding to each thrust area are stated below:

### **3. BIODIVERSITY AND GENETIC RESOURCE CONSERVATION:**

Tamil Nadu has 22,877 Sq. km. of recorded forest area, which amounts to 17.59% of the geographical area of the State. As per the assessment of the Forest Survey of India (India State of Forest Report, 2015), the forest cover of the State is 26,345 sq. km. constituting 20.25% of the State's geographical area. This is because Forest Cover of the State got increased by 2501 sq. km. during the period 2013-15. The forest and tree cover of the State now is 30,850 sq. km. which constitutes 23.72% of the total geographical area of the State as against 33% forest and tree cover to be achieved as mandated

in the National Forest Policy, 1988. The State has constituted Biodiversity Board to manage the key biodiversity resources in the state. The state forestry programs aims to identify economically important tree resources and improving their resources. Removal of weeds and planting with native species is an option being adopted to improve the natural resources. Protection and conservation of rare and endangered species, restoration and improvement in the quality of the forests are aimed to enrich biodiversity of the state forests.

#### **4. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION:**

Tamil Nadu has showed the way in the Protected Area management and conservation of wildlife. The total area under the protected area management is 7072.95 sq.km. which is about 30.92% of the State's Forest area. The Protected Areas in the State includes 5 National parks,

15 Wildlife sanctuaries, 15 bird sanctuaries and 2 conservation reserves besides 4 Tiger Reserves viz. Anamalai, Kalakad-Mundanthurai, Mudumalai and Sathyamangalam. These Protected Areas have been established under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Further Tamil Nadu also has the distinction of having 3 Biosphere Reserves viz. Nilgiris, Gulf of Mannar and Agasthiarmalai, which are internationally acclaimed for their rich and unique biodiversity. The Western Ghats are one of the 25 global hotspots and one of the 3 mega centers of endemism in India. Four Elephant Reserves are located within the landscape of Tamil Nadu. The steady increase of Tiger Population in the State from 76 (2006) to 229 in 2014 signifies, the commitment of the State towards Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation. The State proposes to improve wildlife wealth by adopting following schemes.



#### **4.1 Strengthening and enhancing quality of Wildlife habitat at Landscape level:**

Keeping in mind ecological requirements and landscape specific intervention measures, a special focus for Conservation at landscape level is being attempted and encouraged. For instance, elephants need large areas for sustenance and therefore cannot be conserved in small areas. The species like tigers can well be conserved by a Combination of smaller areas (Tiger Reserves). Thus, Protected Areas habitat management will focus on conservation efforts, taking into account larger landscapes.

Special efforts will be taken to remove alien (exotic) species and to encourage regeneration of native species preferred by the Wildlife. Augmentation of drinking water through natural water holes as well as by artificial means will be promoted for the benefit of Wildlife. Latest technology available within the system will be

utilized to upgrade protection status and management of all protected areas.

#### **4.2 Addressing Human Wildlife Conflict and Mitigation Measures:**

The Forest department has taken several measures that benefit both the wildlife and local human communities, enabling mutually beneficial co-existence. Nonetheless, there have been some instances of conflict, the following policy initiatives will be taken to address Human wildlife conflict and its mitigation:

1. Surveillance of vulnerable areas and monitoring of wildlife habitats.
2. Mitigation measures to prevent Human wildlife conflicts
3. GIS enabled information and technology driven system for monitoring of wildlife habitats to reduce human wildlife conflicts.

4. Sensitizing the local inhabitants through modern tools and technologies.
5. Timely distribution of relief to win confidence of people.
6. Protocols for the rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife straying out of forest areas.
7. Strengthening veterinary services for wildlife through Rapid Response Team and Mobile Veterinary Units.
8. Promotion of ex-situ conservation and wildlife rehabilitation centres.

### **4.3 Conservation of Coastal and Marine Eco systems.**

Tamil Nadu's marine and coastal ecosystems are of utmost importance for the overall well-being of the region including supporting activities such as fishing, shrimp

farming, saltpans, shipping and tourism. The most important eco-systems are the mangroves, coral reefs, mud floods, sand dunes estuarine wetlands, salt marshes, sea grass meadows etc., Despite their immense significance, these ecosystems are being rapidly degraded as a result of high population growth, unsustainable development, over exploitation of natural resources, loss of habitat, loss of biodiversity, pollution, and climate change. Therefore, there is an urgent need to conserve, protect and restore coastal and marine ecosystems, ensuring resilience and provision of ecosystem services. Hence, the State proposes to continue schemes for Protection and Conservation of important mangroves like Muthupet, Pichavaram and Ramanad, Coral Reefs and Marine life in Gulf of Mannar National Park and Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve, important wetlands like Pallikaranai, Kazhuveli, Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary (also a Ramsar Site) during 2017-18.

#### **4.4 Wildlife Health.**

Wildlife health is the result of interacting biological, social and environmental determinants that affect the ability of a species to cope with these changes. Emerging infectious diseases are a concern not only to humans but also to the conservation and welfare of wildlife species. The spread of Avian flu is a cause of concern. Recent emergence of the tiger as a new host for Canine Distemper, Geographic spread of Endotheliotropic Herpes Virus (EEHV) among elephants only reiterate the need for urgent measures for protecting the wildlife against diseases. Veterinarians have not only become an integral part of a team attending to wildlife emergencies but also have key responsibilities when it comes to alleviating stress and improve welfare aspects of the displaced wildlife. The wildlife health programmes will be promoted in the interest of wildlife in the State.

#### **4.5 Strengthening of Ex-situ Conservation:**

The Central Zoo Authority of India recognizes Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur - Chennai, Children's Park, Guindy - Chennai, Amirthi Zoo, Vellore, Kurumbapatti Zoological Park, Salem and Tiruchirappalli Zoo. The policy envisages:

1. Conservation of rare, endangered and threatened species through captive breeding programmes.
2. To create awareness for conservation support through outreach and education
3. To scale up veterinary research for providing solutions for wildlife health and upkeep.
4. To create a network of all Zoological Parks and Butterfly Parks in the State for exchange of good practices.
5. To seek Public Support for adoption of wild animals in captivity.

6. To provide highest standard of veterinary care to all the animals in captivity and in the Rescue Centres.

## **5. INCREASING TREE COVER OUTSIDE FORESTS:**

The National Forest Policy, 1988 has envisaged one-third of the geographical area under forest and tree cover. While there are efforts to increase the recorded forest area in Tamil Nadu tree planting outside forest areas also needs to be implemented in a big way. Partnerships need to be created with Non Governmental organizations, farming community, land owners, institutions and public so as to undertake a massive afforestation initiative outside forest areas. Economically important species are being supplied to farmlands and ecologically aesthetic species to urban areas and institutions.

## **5.1 Agro-forestry for Food and Wood Security in Tamil Nadu:**

Tree cultivation in Private lands (TCPL) has been a major agro forestry initiative of forest department to ensure food and wood security in the state. The State funded TCPL programme has been further continued as a major component under the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project (TBGP). Through this programme, fallow land available with farmers have been put to productive use. This programme not only ensures increased income to farmers in future but will also help meet future pulpwood and timber needs of the state.

The Tamil Nadu Forest Department is the Nodal department to implement the Agro forestry scheme in Tamil Nadu for the projects under "Sub-mission on Agro forestry (SMAF) under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).



Some of the objectives under Sub-Mission in brief are:-

- To encourage and expand tree plantation
- To Create rural livelihoods, especially for the small farmer
- To ensure availability of quality planting material
- To popularize various Agroforestry practices/models suitable to agro ecological regions and land use conditions.
- To create database, information and knowledge support in the area of agroforestry.
- To provide extension and capacity building support to agroforestry sector.

The project activities under the sub-mission on Agro Forestry include the following:-

- (i) Nursery Development for quality planting material (NDQPM)

- (ii) Peripheral and Boundary Plantation (PBP)
- (iii) Low Density Plantation on Farm Lands (LDPFL)
- (iv) High Density Block Plantation (HDBP)
- (v) Demonstration of Agroforestry Models
- (vi) Capacity Building & Trainings

The Tamil Nadu Forest Department will implement the scheme along with other departments.

## **5.2 Cultivation of Medicinal Plants and Women Empowerment:**

Inventory and assessments in forests of Tamil Nadu, particularly in the Western Ghats have established that these areas are rich in medicinal plants. However, over exploitation of medicinal plant from forests could lead to depletion of these natural resources. There is a need for ex-situ conservation of medicinal plants

to ensure sustainable supply of medicinal plants from areas outside natural forests. The forest department will create opportunities for women empowerment in forest fringe villages by providing necessary training and know-how for cultivation and harvest of important medicinal plant species. Economically important species in demand will be raised and sold to needy agencies.

### **5.3 Social Forestry Programme to meet the Timber, Fuelwood and fodder demand:**

Forests being a repository of biodiversity should not be looked upon only as a source of timber, firewood and fodder. The demand of timber, fuelwood, fodder should be met also from areas outside forests. The wastelands, unused and fallow lands will be used for raising timber, fuelwood and fodder plantations through Social Forestry programme. Panchayat lands, Revenue lands and other non forest lands will be taken up

for afforestation with suitable tree species under social forestry programme.

#### **5.4 Urban Forestry:**

Temperature rise, pollution and rapidly growing urban sprawls, calls for creating more tree parks as oxygen provider and green lungs. Rapid population increase and urbanization have resulted in increased levels of pollution in cities, towns and the surrounding sub-urban areas. Tree plantations will be raised in the urban and surrounding areas under the Urban Forestry programmes with the objectives of controlling the adverse effects of air, water and noise pollution and improving the aesthetic appearance of these areas.

The forest department will also undertake tree planting programmes along National Highways and State Highways to increase tree cover outside the forests.

## **5.5 Restoration of Green cover in Cyclone affected areas:**

The coastal districts of Tamil Nadu are susceptible to damages by high intensity cyclones. The vegetation in coastal districts keep getting damaged, whenever severe cyclones strike the coast. Restoration of green cover in Cuddalore district was undertaken by the forest department after severe damages were caused by Thane cyclone. During December 2016, the Vardah cyclone caused severe damage to the tree vegetation in Chennai city, Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram districts. The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has already commenced the restoration of Green cover in the Vardah cyclone affected areas by taking up planting of tree species and supply of saplings to public, institutions and organizations.

## **6. FOREST PROTECTION:**

### **6.1 Protection of Forest Resources and Consolidation**

The Forest wealth of the State is often vulnerable to damage and destruction due to encroachment, illicit felling of trees, fire, illegal grazing, ganja cultivation and poaching of wildlife. To deal effectively with the smuggling and pilferage of forest wealth, in addition to the staff in the territorial and wildlife divisions, forest protection squads have been in place. At present, thirteen Forest Protection Squads are functioning under the Protection and Vigilance wing of the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests. Besides the Forest Protection Squads, there are 5 Strike Force Squads, 17 Forest Stations, 11 Roving Check Posts and 112 Forest Check Posts to protect the forest and wildlife wealth of the State. Efforts are being taken to strengthen the infrastructure for forest protection and to equip the protection staff with facilities like

firearms, vehicles, wireless sets and other safety equipments.

Encroachment of forest lands by estate owners and adjoining patta holders is a serious problem. Action is being taken by the Forest department to evict such encroachments in cooperation with revenue and police officials. Modern instruments like GPS are being used in the field to effectively detect encroachments.

The Forest settlement process is an effort to regulate and protect the land at the disposal of the government, wherein the intention to declare such land as forests has already been notified. To consolidate and protect the existing forest resources, survey and demarcation of forest boundaries with subsequent construction of cairns will be continued on a large scale. The MIS/GIS database of the Forest department will be used to monitor the consolidation works and to protect the vulnerable forest areas against fire and other

offences. The provisions of the National Working Plan Code 2014 and the Management Plan Code will guide the consolidation process.

## **6.2 Incentivizing Communities for Forest Protection:**

The Forest Department has empowered and engaged the communities living in the forest fringes in a big way to protect the forest resources. Sustainable forest management is being achieved by incentivizing the local communities and also ensuring that the communities get ample labour opportunities in the protection and management of forests. The capacity building of the communities towards effective forest protection and management is being taken up in a big way.

## **6.3 Preserving Forest Health:**

The forests of Tamil Nadu offer immense goods and services. The kind and extent of ecosystem services flowing out of forests managed



by the Forest Department is very high as compared to other ecosystems. Hence, it is important that the health of the forests is maintained at the optimum level.

The Forest Department envisages to use the traditional forestry management methods together with modern tools to protect the forests and maximize the flow of ecosystem services.

## **7. CONSERVING WATER PRODUCTION LANDSCAPES:**

Wetland ecosystems that are part of forests constitute an essential component of the drainage systems of the State and are one of the most productive ecosystems. Wetlands are life supporting systems that ensure functioning of water cycle by storing water, reducing flooding, improving water quality, recharging aquifers, maintaining shorelines and preventing soil erosion. They also support a rich aquatic

biodiversity by serving as prime habitats for numerous aquatic and amphibian plant and animal species. For migrating water birds, wetlands provide critical feeding, nesting and breeding habitat. Wetlands are important for fisheries, food & medicinal plants and are a major source of livelihood. They act as important carbon sinks, nutrient transformer and a repository of rich genetic material. Wetlands are also an important attribute of our cultural heritage and deeply connected with societal beliefs and practices. India is also a signatory to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

With a view to secure and protect the wetlands of the State, the Government of Tamil Nadu has constituted the Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority vide G.O. (Ms) No. 55, Environment and Forests (FR.5) Department dated 25-05-2016 with the prime aim of conservation and sustainable management of Wetlands in the State. Tamil Nadu State Wetland

Authority is mandated with the task of policy development, implementing regulatory functions, capacity building, research networking, communications, awareness and raising funds for Wetland management.

The total Wetland area in Tamil Nadu is about 9,02,524 Ha comprising 6.92% of the geographical area of the State. The Government of India has notified the Central Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 as a significant step to conserve, manage and maintain the ecological character of the Wetlands with sustainable use of Wetlands. Central Wetland Rules 2010 require the State Government to prepare an inventory of wetlands and identify / prioritize wetlands for notification by the Central Government. This work is under progress and will be completed shortly.

At present there are 15 wetlands which have been notified as wildlife sanctuaries under

Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 for protection of Wildlife including birds.

## **8. TRIBAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT:**

Tribals live in the remote areas in the State where outreach of other departments is poor that leads to a poor developmental regime among the tribals. The Forest Department is the only agency that has long been involved with the tribal affairs and can take up developmental works successfully in collaboration with other State agencies. Degradation of forests has reduced the resource availability and the employment opportunities and has also affected the food availability, livelihood options and the quality of life of the tribals. There is a need to maintain and strengthen the historical relationship of the tribal population with forests by conserving the natural resources, creating opportunities for greater partnership in managing the natural resources and working together with the tribals to generate more eco-friendly

livelihood means so that their quality of life improves without compromising on their local environment. Following activities are envisaged in the direction.

1. Identification of problematic Tribal Villages and focusing on welfare measures by developing need based comprehensive plans.
2. Special emphasis on Tribal Settlements in Forest areas and addressing their long pending issues.
3. Developing opportunities for employing Tribal youth for day to day activities where ever gap is present and conducting Tribal Employment Melas with private companies.
4. Strengthening of different Tribal Committees by bringing them in conformity with Forest Right Committees formed under Forest Rights Act.

5. Capacity building of youth in Tribal Eco Tourism activities and conservation of Medicinal plants.
6. Improvement of road network in Tribal areas.

## **9. ENHANCING CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN FORESTS:**

Ecosystems and associated services are sensitive to changes in climate. Forests are subject to multiple stress. Climate change brings an additional stress that can result in serious impacts on the forests. Intermittent occurrences of drought and floods also result in an increase in soil erosion and degradation of the watershed, thereby affecting the forest cover. The effects of climate change, including increase in temperature, changes in precipitation patterns, rising sea levels and increased frequency of weather related anomalies will create risks for

forests, wildlife, marine and terrestrial ecosystems in the State. Many of the services that forests provide may become vulnerable on account of climate change. The climate change within the Forest eco-systems will be studied. Steps will be taken to reduce the adverse impacts of climate change by ecosystem based adaptations such as Societal adaptation to climate change by supporting communities, local knowledge and technologies that promote conservation of forests and enhancing ecosystem resilience in landscapes and seascapes, through scientific interventions.

## **10. ECOTOURISM:**

### **10.1 Pivotal role of Forest Department in promotion of low impact Ecotourism.**

The enchanting wild biodiversity of Tamil Nadu is mostly located in the Western and Eastern Ghats, on the foot hills, the flood plains, Coastal areas and the Seascape. They comprise

unique assets like Local Community, Wildlife, Waterfalls, Lakes, Rivers, Grasslands, Shola Forest, Hill stations, Mangroves, Coral Reef Islands, back waters etc. These areas provide a life time opportunity to tourists. The department will promote low impact community based eco tourism in the State by ensuring;

- i) Local community rights, their participation and benefit-sharing;
- ii) Minimum impact on the environment and local people
- iii) Respect for local culture
- iv) Capacity building of local communities in planning, providing and managing ecotourism facilities.
- v) Development of appropriate land use and water management planning and regulation for maintaining the ecological integrity of landscape.
- vi) Constitution of local Eco-tourism Management Committees.



## **11. SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF FOREST FRINGE VILLAGES:**

### **11.1 To Create Opportunities for Sustainable Livelihoods:**

Forests play a vital role in the rural economy. In many areas, forests and trees are among the few resources that are available to rural dwellers. They provide different kinds of benefits. The potential of Non Timber Forest Produces (NTFPs) for poverty alleviation is very important. The rural poor and tribal communities collect various kinds of products throughout the year to sustain their livelihood. Activities related to NTFPs provide employment. In fact sustainable NTFP management is key to the success of Joint Forest Management.(JFM.)

The people living in the Forest fringe villages have increasingly perceived the Forest Department as an agent of development. The

people in forest fringe villages are dependent on forests for wood, food, water and livelihood security. The reduction of marketable NTFPs like fruits, flowers, berries, tubers, resins, honey, leaves, creepers and other resources has accentuated the poverty conditions among the forest fringe communities. The Forest Department will continue its efforts towards socio-economic development of forest fringe villages by, (i) facilitating sustainable livelihood opportunities to the fringe and forest dwelling communities, (ii) facilitating convergence of different schemes for the overall development of forest fringe villages and (iii) Revitalising the established institutions of joint forest management.

## **12. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT:**

The forests of Tamil Nadu having 22,877 sq km of recorded area and wildlife are being protected and managed by Tamil Nadu Forest Department. Further, the National parks, Wildlife

sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves, Tiger Reserves, Elephant reserves are also being protected. With a view to effectively manage the forest wealth of the State, there is an imperative need to provide proper infrastructure to the manpower deployed in protection and management of forests and wildlife. The main components of infrastructure in communication, transport facilities, buildings, surveillance instruments like Drones and weapons need to be improvised and strengthened in order to meet emerging demands and challenges to match the modern requirements of the Tamil Nadu Forest department. steps are being taken to strengthen the forest protection by using the latest equipments like drones, Global Positioning Systems(GPS) Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) etc.

### **13. RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND EXTENSION:**

1. Forest Department has made landmark achievements in the areas of Forest

Research, Education and Extension. There are 54 Research centers spread over 7 agro climatic zones falling in 32 districts in Tamil Nadu. The main activities of Research during the year 2016-2017 were on biodiversity studies like, Retrieval of Rare, Endangered and Threatened (RET) species, Clonal assemblage of important timber species, like, Teak; Standardizing clonal technology for important timber and fruit bearing species, assemblage of medicinal plants and their common uses.

2. Department has also taken research on increasing the utility and market potential of Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) species. Research wing has also taken work relating to the use of Bio-fertilizers for increasing productivity.
3. The State has 32 Forestry Extension centers for dissemination of information to farmers

on tree cultivation. The Extension wing has effectively disseminated information to various stakeholders including farmers through training programmes, workshops and publications. The Children, Youth & Women are also sensitized through various programmes and works on biodiversity conservation.

4. The Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, Coimbatore is imparting professional training to the newly recruited Forest Range Officers not only of Tamil Nadu but also of other States.
5. The Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, Coimbatore and Forest College at Vaigai Dam also impart training to in-service front line staff like, Forest Range Officers, Foresters and Forest Guards for upgrading their professional skills for conservation and protection of biodiversity. The emphasis

is also on increasing productivity through clonal technology.

#### **14. MAINSTREAMING INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) INITIATIVES :**

The Vision and Mission of the ICT in Forest Department is to strengthen field-based applications of Remote Sensing and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) by making use of latest Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and also contributing to the planning interpretation, monitoring and evaluation of projects implemented. The ICT initiatives have been envisaged to improve the overall efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability in the system by -

- Development of Forestry Based applications integrating GIS and MIS Data.
- Utilizing GIS technology for Forest Monitoring and Research Development.

- Development of Generic and Office applications like Personnel Information System, Accounting and Budgeting Management System.
- Procurement of Data Collection Devices like PDA/Smart phones
- Creation of a Hardware and Software Infrastructure
- Sharpening the ICT skills of the manpower at all levels

## **15. PLANNING PROCESS TO SUPPORT FOREST MANAGEMENT:**

National Working Plan Code 2014 provides for uniformity in forest management planning across the country. The policy envisages streamlining of planning process for scientific forest management by preparing the Working Plans by adopting the provisions of National Working Plan Code 2014. All the forest divisions are managed under the prescriptions of such working plans. The wildlife

divisions are covered under research based Management Plans. The working plan and management plan guide the operations of forest management plan in the entire state.

## **16. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT:**

The modern day forest management requires increased responsibilities for facing the new challenges that are emerging day by day. Hence it is essential to impart new skills for effective accomplishment of these changing priorities by overcoming the deficiencies. The relevant Human Resource Development (HRD) activities will be taken up for maximizing the efficiency of the forest management.

During 2016-17, 79 young personnel in the rank of Forest Range Officers have been inducted in the department among which 12 are female officers. In addition to planned recruitment for vacancies, the HRD component has been



strengthened with proper promotion policy. The training component of the HRD has been strengthened by equipping the training Academy in the State for imparting timely and quality training to various categories of field staff. As a first attempt, Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, Coimbatore has started imparting training to newly recruited Forest Range Officers of other States also.

Cadre re-organization, training and skill up-gradation, are some of the interventions envisaged during 2017-18.

## **17. PROGRAMMES:**

In order to meet the policy vision and the needs of thrust areas, the following programmes are being implemented in the Department.

## **17.1. IMPORTANT ONGOING SCHEMES:**

### **Major State Schemes:**

#### **17.1.1 Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project:**

An externally aided Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project (TBGP) with an outlay of Rs 686 crore is being implemented from 2011-12, which will continue till 2018-19. It is being implemented through a Project Management Unit, registered under the Tamil Nadu Society Registration Act 1975. The project has been instrumental in reducing the threats to the native Biodiversity of the State and in enhancing the natural resource base besides improving the capacity of field staff. The JICA team which visited the state has appreciated the implementation of the programme in the State. This scheme will be implemented in 2017-18 with an out lay of Rs.88 crores.

### **17.1.2 Massive Tree Planting Programme:**

A massive tree planting programme has been continuing in the state from 2011-12 onwards with an objective to increase the green cover in the State. Planting and maintenance of 3.30 crore seedlings in the 32 districts throughout Tamil Nadu has been achieved through Massive Tree Planting Programme till 2016-17. During 2016-17, the programme was continued by planting 68 lakh seedlings out of which 60 Lakh seedlings were planted by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department and the remaining 8 lakhs seedlings by Forest Department under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). The scheme will continue with planting 69 lakh seedlings during 2017-18 with an outlay of Rs.65.85 crores. Of this, 64 lakh seedlings will be planted by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department and 5 lakh seedlings will be planted by the Forest Department.

### **17.1.3 Raising Teak Plantations:**

Since 2014-15, teak plantations have been raised over an area of 3260 ha, besides maintenance of older plantation in the padugais of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Trichy, Karur, Tirunelveli and Villupuram districts at an outlay of Rs.13.97 crore. The department intends to continue with the scheme during 2017-18.

### **17.1.4 Nature Conservation:**

The Nature conservation scheme is being implemented for in situ and ex-situ conservation of forest and wildlife resources by carrying out the conservation works like improving water resources, feeding of zoo animals and maintenance of zoo premises etc. The scheme was implemented with the above objective during 2016-17 with an outlay of Rs.0.175 Crores and is proposed to continue during 2017-18 with an outlay of Rs.0.824 crores.

### **17.1.5 Compensation for the damages caused by wildlife:**

The reduction in quality of wildlife habitats as well as their fragmentation is causing the wild animals to stray outside the forest areas and some times into human settlements, resulting in human-wildlife conflict. The department has taken several steps to augment various fodder and water resources in the wildlife habitat. The department is also paying compensation to the unfortunate victims for death, injury and damage to agriculture crops and property. During 2016-17, the Government has enhanced the rate of compensation amount to be paid for damages caused to properties and human death by wildlife. The compensation for human death and permanent incapacitation has been raised from Rs.3.00 lakh to Rs.4.00 lakh and for major injuries from Rs.0.30 lakh to Rs.0.591 lakh. The compensation has also been raised for damage to properties of various kind. Further, the immediate

relief paid for human death has been increased from Rs.0.25 lakh to Rs. 0.50 lakh. An amount of Rs.3.80crores was sanctioned by State scheme and Rs.59.00 lakhs sanctioned under various shared schemes for payment of compensation during 2016-17. Out of the above, a sum of Rs.4.27 crores was spent for 2921 beneficiaries. This same scheme will continue during 2017-18 with an outlay of Rs.5.30 crores.

#### **17.1.6 Asian Elephants Depredation and its Mitigation Measures:**

As a result of increasing human wildlife conflict, it has become essential to take up various mitigation measures by adopting a multi-pronged strategy involving habitat improvement and augmenting water sources, improving fodder resources for wildlife inside the forest area, formation of physical barriers along the forest boundary, as well as awareness creation amongst the local people. The construction of barriers like

elephant proof trench along forest boundaries to prevent human wildlife conflicts has been found to be effective and has been appreciated by the local people.

### **17.1.7 Eco-Restoration of Pallikaranai Marshland:**

The State Government is committed to protect the Pallikaranai marshland which is an unique fresh water swamp located within the Chennai Metropolitan area situated in parts of Perungudi, Pallikaranai and Thoraipakkam villages of Kancheepuram districts. An area of 690.65 ha is under the control of Tamil Nadu Forest Department and a comprehensive scheme has been sanctioned for a period of five years from 2011-12 with an outlay of Rs.15.75crore, for taking up various restoration activities like habitat improvement, protection, research, monitoring, publicity and awareness. Conservation Authority

of Pallikaranai Marshland, has been constituted to monitor all the activities.

### **17.1.8 Establishment of Butterfly Park and Nakshatravanam:**

A Butterfly Park and Nakshatravanam was established in 2015-16 for conservation and exhibition of butterflies for the benefit of tourists. This scheme has been implemented with the support of the tourism department. This park has been established over 10 ha area near Srirangam in Trichy district.

### **17.1.9 Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust (GOMBRT):**

The Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust was taken over by the Government of Tamil Nadu during 2013-14 after completion of UNDP-GEF scheme in 2012 by sanctioning Rs.10 crore @ Rs.2.50 crore per year for a period of four years from 2013-14 to 2016-17. A sum of



Rs.4.53 Crores was spent up to 2015-16. For the year 2016-17, a sum of Rs.1.43 Crores was spent for the Trust activities of GOMBRT inclusive of research, awareness creation, training programmes and eco-development activities. This scheme is proposed to be continued during 2017-18 with an outlay of Rs.0.74 crore.

#### **17.1.10 Arignar Anna Zoological Park, (AAZP) Vandalur:**

Arignar Anna Zoological Park is located in Vandalur near Chennai spreading over an extent of 602 Ha.of forest area. Since its establishment, this zoological park has emerged as a successful ex-situ conservation complex and a captive breeding centre for many endangered wildlife species like White Tiger, Lion Tailed Macaque and Nilgiri Langur. This park exhibits 2142 animals, which includes 43 species of mammals, 92 species of birds 35 species of reptiles numbering 170 species of wildlife in all.

This zoological park attracts about 25 lakhs visitors annually. The park was severely damaged by the Vardah cyclone. The park was restored in short duration and opened for public. The establishment of Butterfly Park within the Arignar Anna Zoological Park during the year 2015-16 is a new attraction to Park. The special interventions like online ticketing facility, live streaming of wildlife facilities proposed during 2016-17 are on way. The Park is emerging as a significant initiative for awareness and compassion for wildlife in Tamil Nadu.

#### **17.1.11 Rejuvenation Camp for Temple and Departmental Elephants:**

With an objective of monitoring and improving the health of elephants belonging to temples and mutts, a Special Health and Rejuvenation camp has been organized by the department with the support of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments department. The rejuvenation camp facilitates the Elephants to

revive their socialization skills and joyful experience which results in psychological improvement among the elephants. The camp for 32 elephants was conducted for 30 days from 09.02.2017 to 10.03.2017 for the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowment Department at a cost of Rs.1.05 crores. Forest Department have conducted the Elephant Rejuvenation Camp for 50 elephants from 20.3.2017 to 19.4.2017 for 30 days at a cost of Rs.0.71 crore. Forest Department will continue to support for the conduct of Elephant Rejuvenation camp during 2017-18.

## **17.2 CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES:**

These schemes are implemented with fund sharing by Government of India and the State Government in a ratio of 60:40 generally. The major centrally sponsored schemes are as follows:-

### **17.2.1 Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats**

Under this scheme Government of India sanctioned funds for 23 schemes for the developmental activities in National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Conservation reserves. The Government of India have sanctioned Rs. 4.03 crores and released Rs.2.91 crores (includes 50% State share) for the year 2016-17. Upto 31.3.2017 an amount of Rs.2.89 crores incurred for the implementation of the scheme. This scheme will be continued during 2017-18 with an outlay of Rs.4.60 crores.

### **17.2.2 Project Tiger:**

Tiger being the top carnivore the importance of its conservation lies in the fact that the presence of this predator is an indicator of the overall health of an ecosystem. Various measures to conserve Tigers and their habitats have been

taken up by the Forest Department in the four Tiger Reserves viz., Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve in Tirunelveli district, Anamalai Tiger Reserve in Coimbatore and Tirupur districts, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in Nilgiris district and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Erode district. The scheme provides assistance for works relating to habitat conservation and protection including fire prevention, eco-development, improvement of water sources, tourism development, mitigating human wildlife conflicts and improvement of infrastructure facilities in the Tiger Reserves. Government of India provides financial assistance in the ratio of 60:40 (Centre and State share) for works of Non-recurring nature. Further with respect of Recurring works the ratio between Central and State Government is 50:50. During 2016-17 the scheme was implemented at a cost of Rs. 15.05 crores. This scheme will continue during 2017-18 with an outlay of Rs.23.61 crore.

### **17.2.3 Project Elephant:**

Tamil Nadu is one among the leading States implementing Project Elephant, pursuing scientific management and habitat conservation. Project Elephant scheme is implemented in four Elephant Reserves. These Elephant Reserves have no separate legal status. This scheme is being implemented to protect the elephants and improve their habitats. The scheme also includes payment of compensation to farmers for the crop damages and loss of human lives caused by human wildlife conflict and further to take necessary steps to minimize such conflicts. The Government of India has introduced a revised funding pattern in the ratio of 60:40, with the State Government bearing share of 40%. During 2016-17 the scheme was implemented at a cost of Rs. 1.54 crore. The Scheme shall continue during 2017-18 with an outlay of Rs.3.03 crore.

#### **17.2.4 Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve:**

The Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve known for its 21 coral rich islands along with coast line from Rameswarama to Tuticorin was declared as Marine National Park in 1986 by the Government of Tamil Nadu and later in 1989 Government of India declared this as the first Marine Biosphere Reserve of India. With its rich biodiversity of about 4223 species of various flora and fauna, the Reserve is prominent for its coral reefs, seagrass and mangroves. The Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve supports several critically endangered species such as *Dugongdugon* (sea cow), sharks including whale shark, sea horses, green sea turtles, dolphins, sea cucumbers. Government of India sanctions funds for this Reserve under two separate schemes viz. Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve and Conservation and Management of coral reefs. The funding pattern in both the schemes is 60:40 between Central and State Governments. A sum

of Rs.0.57 crores was spent during the year 2016-17. The scheme will continue during 2017-18 and steps will be taken to dovetail funds from various on going schemes of different departments.

### **17.2.5 Wetland Conservation and Development:**

Wetlands are integral to a healthy environment. They help to retain water during dry periods, thus keeping the water table high and relatively stable. During the period of flooding, they act to reduce flood levels and to trap suspended solids and nutrients. Ecosystem services offered by wetlands include floodwater storage and control, recharge of aquifers, treatment of waste water and pollution abatement, general water quality improvement, habitats for fish, birds and plant species. In addition, wetlands are of high aesthetic and heritage values providing opportunities for recreation, research, and education.



In Tamil Nadu, this scheme is being implemented in Point Calimere, Kazhuveli and Pallikaranai Wetlands. Major activities involved in Wetland management are Habitat improvement, Wildlife Protection, Eco-development activities, Awareness creation, Research and Monitoring and Nature Education. The revised funding pattern for Wetland Conservation is in the ratio of 50:50 between the Government of India and the State Government. The Scheme will continue during 2017-18 with an outlay of Rs.1.84crore.

### **17.2.6 Biodiversity Conservation and Rural Livelihood Improvement Project (BCRLIP).**

The total area of the Agasthiarmalai Landscape in Tamil Nadu Part (other part is in Kerala) is 2707.49 Sq.Km. The Landscape consists of 166.75 Sq.Km. of Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary and 386.58 Sq.Km of forests in Theni Forest Division, 477.83 Sq.Km of Srivilliputhur

Grizzled Giant Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary, 895 Sq.Km. of Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR), 386.58 Sq.Km. of Nellai Wildlife Sanctuary and 457.78 Sq.Km of Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary. This scheme is being implemented with a view to conserve the entire spectrum of biodiversity, genetic diversity of species, research, monitoring, education and training besides economic well-being of the local people. The scheme is 100% funded by the Government of India, through an externally aided project viz., Biodiversity Conservation and Rural Livelihood Improvement Project (BCRLIP). The Scheme shall continue during 2017-18.

### **17.2.7 National Afforestation Programme**

The National Afforestation Programme (NAP) was being implemented by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department from 2002-03, with 100% central assistance till 2014-15. Thereafter, the funding pattern of the scheme has been modified

and now it is implemented on 60:40 sharing basis between Centre and State. The objectives of the scheme are (i) to increase and / or improve forest and tree cover, (ii) Rehabilitation of degraded forests and other areas by institutionalizing decentralized / participatory forest management and supplementing livelihoods improvement process(village development, employment generation). The scheme is being implemented in three tier set up viz., State Forest Development Agency at State level (a body registered under Societies Registration Act), Forest Development Agency at District level and Joint Forest Management Committees at Village level. There are 33 Forest Development Agencies in the state. Till 2016-17 an area of 76,264 ha. has been afforested at a cost of Rs 128.19 crores. The Scheme shall continue during 2017-18 with an outlay of Rs.5.88 crore.

### **17.2.8 Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants:**

Tamil Nadu is the home for Siddha system of medicine, one of the important branches of Indian system of medicine which focuses on the use of medicinal plants for treating various ailments. The traditional knowledge of medicinal plants has mostly diminished in the present generation. Medicinal plants are an integral part of the Indian heritage with the medico-religious significance of plants being documented as early as 3000 B.C in the Rig Veda. Medicinal Plant resources are dwindling and threatening both, health care practices and livelihoods of the local communities. Taking stock of the situation, the Tamil Nadu Forest Department has taken steps to implement schemes for conservation, development and sustainable management of medicinal plants. The scheme of Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of

Medicinal Plants is being implemented through Forest Department with the assistance from National Medicinal Plants Board, New Delhi. Comprehensive project proposals have been approved for an outlay of Rs.336.77 lakhs for a period of 6 years from 2013-14. An amount of Rs.230.38 lakhs has been spent so far. The Scheme shall continue during 2017-18.

#### **18. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2016 -17:**

- Three Wildlife Veterinary Units in Erode, Krishnagiri and Tirunelveli established at a cost of Rs.3.90 crore.
- The Government accorded sanction for implementation of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project at an outlay of Rs.102.16 crore.
- Programme for Conservation of Olive Ridley Sea turtles under TBGP has been implemented in eight Forest Divisions.

During the last three years 1,28,393 eggs were collected and 1,05,563 hatchings were released in their natural coastal habitat.

- The Government accorded sanction for "Raising of sandal plantation in Reserved Forests in the Traditional Natural Sandal bearing areas of Javadhi hills, Shervarayan hills, Kolli hills Pachamalai hills and Chitheri hills for a period of ten years from 2015-16 -2024-25 and also accorded financial sanction for Rs.5.00 crores for implementation of the scheme during 2016-17
- Government has accorded sanction for establishment of Forest "Genetics Tree Park" in Arignar Anna Zoological Park, consisting of 300 tree species, to protect the forest genetic resources.
- Government have sanctioned the scheme of "Safeguarding and planting of Palmyrah" at a cost of Rs.1.38 crores to be implemented

from 2016-17 to 2020-21. Rs.25.00 lakhs was sanctioned to implement the scheme during 2016-17. Upto 31.3.2017, an amount of Rs.23.06 lakh incurred for the implementation of the scheme.

- Government have accorded sanction to increase the quantum of compensation amount paid for the crop damages, loss of life caused by wildlife in tandem with relief sanctioned under "Disaster Management".
- To establish increased communication with other recognized Zoos and to improve the standards on par with international zoos, Government have accorded sanction to establish "Live streaming facility" and "Online ticketing facility" in Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur.
- Recognizing the sacrifices made by Forest officials in protecting and safeguarding the Forest wealth and wildlife, to commemorate

them, the Government have approved observance of Tamil Nadu Forest Department's Martyr's day every year on 11th of September.

- Government have accorded sanction to establish "Automatic Weather Stations" in seven Agro-climatic zones of Tamil Nadu, for an amount of Rs.14.00 lakhs, at Rs.2.00 lakhs each.
- During 2016-17, Government has sanctioned an innovative programme to conduct "Surveillance of Forest and Wildlife areas through Drone Technology", in Coimbatore, Trichy, Madurai and Tirunelveli Forest circles.
- During 2016-17 Government have accorded administrative sanction for implementation of the scheme of "Women Empowerment through conservation of medicinal plants



involving Women Self Help Groups" in Salem, Dharmapuri and Namakkal districts at a cost of Rs. 63.38 lakh for a period of three years from 2016-17 to 2018-19 and financial sanction a sum of Rs 19.25 lakhs for the year 2016-17 under the State Innovation Fund. Upto 31.3.2017, an amount of Rs. 19.25 lakh was incurred for the implementation of the scheme.

## **19. LOWEST DIVERSION OF FOREST AREAS:**

Eventhough there is increased demand for forest land for various developmental end users, the forest department has ensured minimum diversion of forest lands for any non-forestry purpose. Tamil Nadu has the lowest diversion of forest lands for non forestry purposes in the country. In a long span of more than 35 years, since enactment of Forest Conservation Act 1980, the diversion of Forest areas for non

forestry purpose is only about 4,597.93 hectares involving 396 cases.

## **20. FOREST REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE DETAILS:**

### **20.1. Forest Revenue:**

Major sources of revenue are by sale of sandalwood, timber and sale of social forestry plantations (Annexure-I). Dead sandalwood trees alone are extracted for sale. Matured teak trees aged over 30 years are being harvested every year. Supply of pulpwood raw materials is made from matured plantations of Eucalyptus and Wattle which are allotted by the Government to the paper mills and other wood based industries.

### **20.2. Expenditure:**

All the developmental programmes including afforestation, soil and water conservation, habitat improvement works in various sanctuaries and Tiger reserves, intensive care towards protection

of forest wealth, creation of awareness among the rural people have been continued in an effective manner. The necessary provisions for schemes made in the budget are narrated in Annexure-II.

## **21. CORPORATIONS:**

### **21.1. Tamil Nadu Forest Plantation Corporation Limited (TAF CORN):**

21.1.1. TAF CORN was established on 13.06.1974 with the objectives to raise, maintain and harvest Eucalyptus pulpwood and cashew to meet the needs of industries, to increase the productivity of forests, to provide rural employment, to conserve soil and moisture and to supply firewood to meet the needs of the rural people. At present there are six regions in TAF CORN viz., Pudukottai, Aranthangi, Karaikudi, Vridhachalam, Villupuram and Tirukoilur.

2.1.1.2 This Corporation has an authorized share capital of Rs.10 crore and a paid up share capital

of Rs.5.64 crore. The entire share capital of the Corporation is held by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Presently 73,722 ha, of Reserved Forests have been taken by TAFORN on lease from Tamil Nadu Forest Department. As per Government orders TAFORN pays 30% of the annual turnover as lease rent to the department.

21.1.3. Tamil Nadu Forest Plantation Corporation Limited has adopted several modern techniques in plantation to increase productivity. The details of the plantations raised and expenditure involved during 2015-16 and 2016-17 are given in Annexure-III.

21.1.4. The pulpwood supplied to paper mills during 2015-16 and 2016-17 are given in Annexure-III.

21.1.5. Cashew is the second major revenue earner in the Corporation. The details of revenue realized are given in Annexure-III.

21.1.6. The revenue and expenditure details of the corporation for 2015-16 and 2016-17 and the Budget Estimate for 2017-18 are given in Annexure-IV.

21.1.7. The details of fresh plantations to be raised and cost involved during 2017-18 are given in Annexure-IV.

## **21.2. Tamil Nadu Tea Plantation Corporation Limited (TANTEA):**

21.2.1 The Tamil Nadu Tea Plantation Corporation Limited was formed by the Government as a 'Rehabilitation Scheme' to rehabilitate the Repatriates from Srilanka under Shastri-Srimavo Pact, 1964. This Corporation has plantations of 4311.04 ha. of tea plantations on the lands leased out by Government of Tamil Nadu.

21.2.2 During the accounting year 2016-17, this Corporation has produced 282 lakh kg. of green tea leaf and 74.3 lakh kg of made tea.

21.2.3 At present this Corporation is providing employment to 4900 permanent workers and to about 1500 casual workers during rush crop season.

21.2.4 Tantea has spent Rs.5.30 Crores towards modernization of tea Factories and Rs.6.36 Crores were spent towards repairs/ improvement of labour lines during the year 2016-17.

21.2.5 An amount of Rs.3.28 Crores have been paid towards the settlement of gratuity to the retired employees of this Corporation during the year 2016-17.

21.2.6 Further, an amount of Rs.15 lakh was spent for issuing "Field Blanket" to the workmen of this Corporation for the year 2016-17.

21.2.7 Further this Corporation has spent Rs.6.12 Crores towards payment of 20% Bonus and ex-gratia to the workers & C and D Group Staff of this Corporation for the year 2016-17.

The physical achievement of green tea leaves and made-tea for the year 2015-16, 2016-17 and estimated quantum for 2017-18 are furnished in Annexure V.

The Revenue and Expenditure details are also furnished in Annexure V.

### **21.3. Arasu Rubber Corporation Limited (ARC):**

ARC with headquarters at Nagercoil was formed with the objective (i) to safeguard the future of the rubber plantations industry, (ii) to protect the interests of the workers and increase employment potentialities particularly for surplus rubber plantation labourers and rehabilitation of Srilankan repatriates, (iii) to avoid possible

speculative trends in acquisition and management of rubber and other plantation estates and (iv) to avoid concentration of ownership of rubber plantations in the hands of a few persons. The Corporation was registered on 01.08.1984 under the Indian Companies Act, 1956. It employs 1101 permanent workers including 257 Sri Lankan repatriates. It has rubber plantations over an area of 4160.695 Ha. of lands taken on lease from Tamil Nadu Forest Department in Kanniyakumari district, where the soil, climate and topography are conducive for the growth of rubber trees. The authorized capital of the Corporation is Rs.10 crore and the paid up share capital is Rs.8.45 crore. The Government of Tamil Nadu holds the entire share capital of the Corporation.

Production and financial achievements are furnished in Annexure-VI.



## **22. CONCLUSION:**

The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has been actively involved in taking measures which are aimed at achieving the goals like 33% Forest and Tree cover as laid out in the National Forest Policy, 1988 and protection and management of forest and wildlife and the various eco systems in the state. The Government of Tamil Nadu is taking special efforts to ensure sustainable development while meeting the livelihood aspirations of the forest dependent communities.

**DINDIGUL C. SREENIVASAN**  
**MINISTER FOR FORESTS**

## ANNEXURE-I

### Forest revenue:

Sl.No	Source of revenue	2017-18 Budget Estimate
1.	<b>Sandalwood</b>	7,150.00
2.	<b>Timber</b>	2288.63
3.	<b>Supply of raw materials to industries</b>	980.00
	<b>Other Minor Forest Produce</b>	65.47
4.	<b>Farm Forestry plantations excluding refund</b>	2,200.00
5.	<b>Sale of bamboo, cashew, softwood plantations, etc.</b>	469.10
6.	<b>Other receipts</b>	3020.60
	Sub total	<b>16173.80</b>
	<b>Deduct recoveries (-)</b>	<b>51.86</b>
	Total	<b>16121.94</b>

## ANNEXURE-II

### Expenditure:

<b>Name of the Scheme(s)</b>	<b>2017-18 Budget Estimate (Rs. in lakh)</b>
<b>State Plan schemes</b>	<b>38,216.71</b>
<b>Externally Aided Project</b>	<b>8,756.88</b>
<b>Centrally Sponsored Schemes</b>	<b>3,497.55</b>
<b>Schemes shared between State and Centre</b>	<b>1,355.51</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>51,826.65</b>

## ANNEXURE-III

### Tamil Nadu Forest Plantation Corporation Limited Achievements:

Sl. No.	Raising Plantation Species	Physical ( Ha)		Financial (Rs. in lakhs)	
		2015-16	2016-17	2015-16	2016-17
1.	Eucalyptus	4349	3176	1521.76	1320.71
2.	Cashew	711	298	243.24	136.35

### Pulpwood supply

Year	Quantity supplied (M.T)	Revenue (Rs. in lakhs)
2015-16	1,51,558.00	5165.71
2016-17	1,77,951.722	6,762.16
2017-18 (Budget Estimate)	1,43,000.000	5434.00

## Cashew

<b>Year</b>	<b>Revenue (Rs. in lakhs)</b>
2015-16	785.88
2016-17	778.40
2017-18 (Budget Estimate)	985.88

## ANNEXURE-IV

### Tamil Nadu Forest Plantation Corporation Limited

#### Revenue and Expenditure

(Rs.in lakhs)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Profit (+) Loss (-)</b>
2015-16	7741.10	5652.62	(+)1820.07
2016-17	9149.88	7194.70	(+)1806.18
2017-18 (Budget Estimate)	7576.32	6860.37	(+)566.33

#### Proposals for 2017-18

<b>Plantations</b>	<b>Physical (Ha)</b>	<b>Financial (Rs. in lakhs)</b>
Eucalyptus	3535	1329.34
Cashew	750	306.19

**ANNEXURE-V**  
**Tamil Nadu Tea Plantation Corporation**  
**Limited**  
**Area leased out to TANTEA**

Phase	Year	Planted area (in Ha.)		
		Nilgiris	Anamalai	<b>Total</b>
Phase I	1969-79	1858.74	..	<b>1858.74</b>
Phase II	1979-81	583.10	..	<b>583.10</b>
Phase III	1982-84	336.58	..	<b>336.58</b>
Phase IV	1990-95	576.26	956.36	<b>1532.62</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3354.68</b>	<b>956.36</b>	<b>4311.04</b>

**Green tea leaves and made-tea production**

<b>Details</b> (in lakh kgs.)	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b> <b>(Estimated)</b>
Harvest of green tea leaves	303.92	282.32	300.00
Made-Tea production	73.22	74.27	72.00

## Revenue and expenditure details

(Rs. in crore)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Profit(+) Loss (-)</b>
2015-16	58.93	79.09	(-) 20.16
2016-17	70.75	74.26	(-)3.51
2017-18 <b>(Estimated)</b>	76.48	74.53	(-)1.95



## ANNEXURE-VI

### Arasu Rubber Corporation Limited

#### Production and financial achievement

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No	Particulars	2015-16 (Actual)	2016-17	2017-18 BE
1.	Production of Rubber (in M.T)	1909.00	1840.00	1886.00
2.	Revenue and expenditure			
	a) Income	2788.96	2356.58	3409.60
	b) Expenditure	3701.45	3698.73	4004.91
3.	Profit (+) or Loss (-)	(-)912.49	(-)1342.15	(-)595.31