

PROTECTED AREA NETWORK OF TAMILNADU



P.BANU PRIYA

Foreword

Tamil Nadu is blessed with abundant diversity of ecosystems. Tamil Nadu state has made earnest effort to bring more areas under protected area network. At present about 30% area is under protected area network which includes terrestrial, inland, coastal and marine ecosystems. Protected areas are important for Conservation of Biological resources and areas of rich biodiversity. An important compilation made by Ms.P.Banupriya State Forest Service officer trainee (SFS) of 2020-2022 batch from Tamil Nadu is commendable. This compilation of protected area network of Tamil Nadu will be a useful guide to the readers, tourists, foresters and public to know the important facts about the areas and will entice them to explore further. The attempt made by the author is appreciable and wish her to make similar compilation in the future.

Best Wishes.



V. Thirunavukarasu, IFS
APCCF & Principal
CASFOS, Coimbatore

Preface

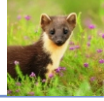
Tamil Nadu, the southern most state of the Indian peninsula is spread over 1,30,058 Sq.km land mass and accounts for about 4 % of the total area of the country. The topography of Tamil Nadu broadly consists of the coastal plains in the east, uplands and Western ghats as one proceeds westwards. The central plains account for more than half the area of the State. Tamil Nadu has rich history of Forest and Wildlife Management, the ancient literature speak volumes about concerns of Forest and Wildlife, “Thirukkural” has numerous quotes dedicated to soil, earth, water, forest and wildlife.

The Protected area network in the State covers 7,069.72 Sq.km, about 30% of the recorded forest area of the state with 5 National Parks, 16 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 17 Bird Sanctuaries and 2 Conservation Reserves. Some of the Protected areas also are constituent parts of the five Tiger Reserves – Anamalai, Mudumalai, Kalakkad Mundanthurai, Srivilliputhur Meghamalai and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserves. Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, the first biosphere reserve in the country has areas falling in three southern states – Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve in the state is the first marine biosphere reserve not only in India but in the entire south and south-east Asia. Agasthiyamalai Biosphere Reserve is the third biosphere reserve in the state. All the three biosphere reserves find place in the world network of “Man and Biosphere Reserves” of UNESCO.

The Scientific management of Forests and Wildlife in the State commenced with the “British Raj” period and this legacy is continuing till date. In this Booklet, I compiled the important informations about all the Protected areas in Tamilnadu and its significance as a “ready reckoner” which will be informative and useful. I extend my gratitude to our Respected Principal sir, Thiru. V. Thirunavukarasu, IFS., APCCF & Principal, CASFOS and the learned faculty members of CASFOS, Coimbatore for their guidance and motivation to write this book. I would also like to thank Tamilnadu Forest Department, My Department colleagues and Biologists for their consistent support to work on “Protected area network of Tamilnadu”.

-Miss. P. Banu Priya
SFS Officer Trainee (Tamilnadu)

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PROTECTED AREA NETWORK OF TAMILNADU



Mukurthi National park

Tamil Nadu has been a pioneer State in Protected Area management and development of forest resources and wildlife. The total area under the protected area management in the state is 7,072.95 Sq.km which comes to 30.92% of the State's Forest area. The Protected Areas in the State includes 5 National parks, 16 Wildlife sanctuaries, 17 Bird sanctuaries, 2 Conservation reserves and 5 Tiger Reserves viz. Anamalai tiger reserve (ATR), Kalakkad–Mundanthurai tiger reserve (KMTR), Mudumalai tiger reserve (MTR), Sathyamangalam tiger reserve (STR) and Srivilliputtur-Megamalai tiger reserve (SMTR).

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 Agasthiyamalai, which are internationally acclaimed for their rich and unique biodiversity. The Western Ghats is one of the 25 global hotspots and one of the 3 mega centers of endemism in India. The genetic assemblage of Tiger Reserves, Mukurthi, Srivilliputhur, Kanniyakumari and Megamalai owe their richness in flora and fauna to their locations in Western Ghats.

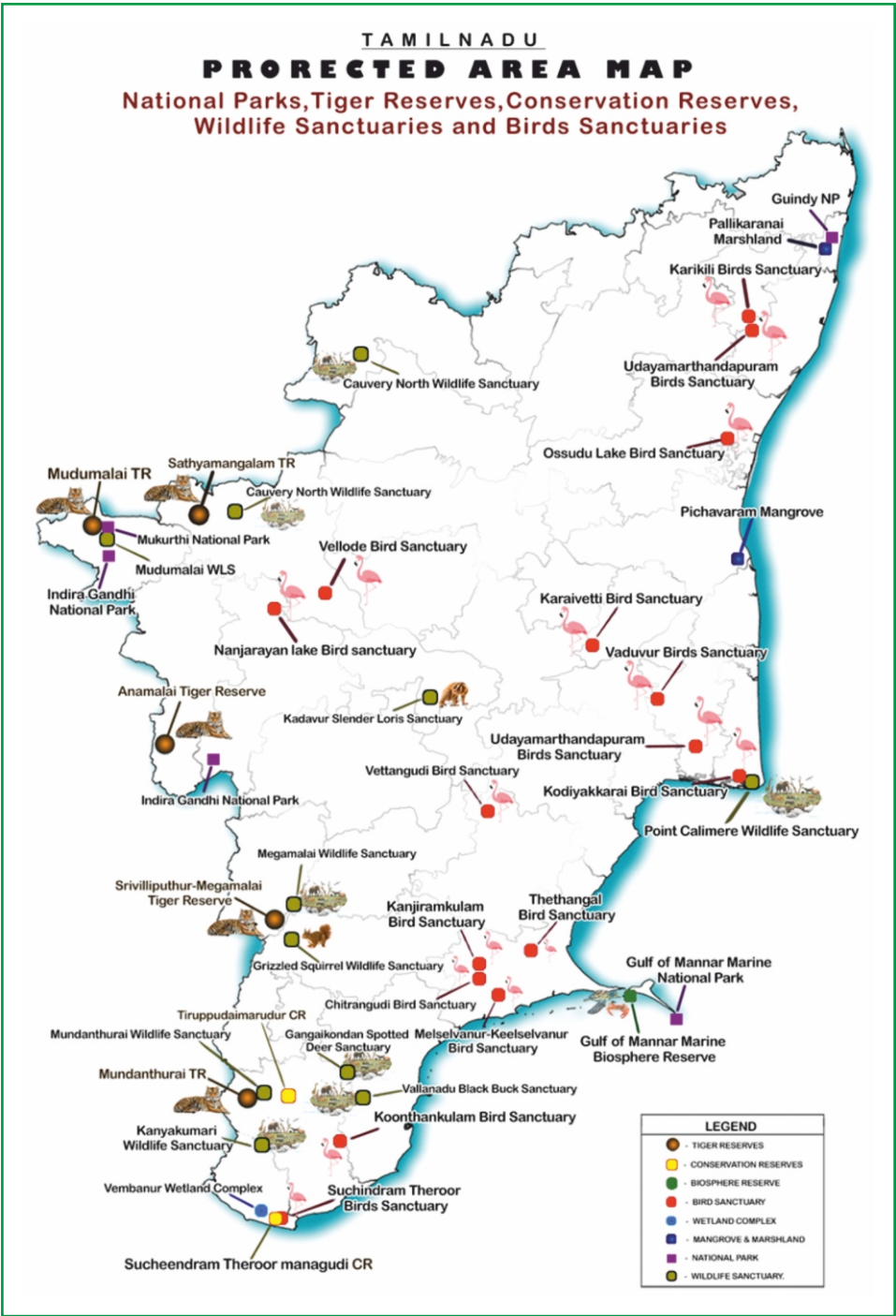
TAMIL NADU - A LAND OF RICH BIODIVERSITY

Tamil Nadu, the southernmost State of the Indian peninsula is spread over 1,30,058 Sq.km land mass and accounts for about 4 % of the total area of the country. It lies between 8° 05' and 13° 34' North latitudes and 76° 14' and 80° 21' East longitudes. The topography of Tamil Nadu broadly consists of the coastal plains in the east, uplands and hills as one proceeds westwards. The central plains account for more than half the area of the State. The geographical area of the State has a roughly rhomboidal appearance with the longer diagonal of it stretching from Pulicat Lake in the north to Kanniyakumari in the south and Gudalur in the west to Point Calimere in the east.

Tamil Nadu is endowed with rich biodiversity, right from marine coastal systems in the Gulf of Mannar to terrestrial evergreen forests in the Western Ghats. Tamil Nadu shares the Western Ghats with the States of Kerala, Karnataka. It shares the Eastern Ghats with the States of Andhra Pradesh.



Agasthiyamalai Biosphere reserve, KMTR



NATIONAL PARKS IN TAMILNADU

National parks are protected area notified under section 35 of Wildlife protection Act, 1972 which has Ecological, faunal, floral, geomorphological, zoological association or importance for the purpose of protecting and propagating or developing wildlife therein or its environment. The difference between a Sanctuary and a National Park mainly lies in the vesting of Rights of people living inside. Unlike a Sanctuary, where certain Rights can be allowed, in a National Park, no rights are allowed. No grazing of any livestock shall also be permitted inside a National Park while in a Sanctuary, the Chief Wildlife Warden may regulate, control or prohibit it. In addition, while any removal or exploitation of wildlife or forest produce from a Sanctuary requires the recommendation of the State Board for wildlife and from a National Park requires recommendation of the National Board for Wildlife.



Neelakurinji ,Mukurthi national park

1. Guindy National Park

Guindy National Park is a protected area located in Chennai, one of the smallest National Park of India and one of the very few national parks situated inside a city. The Guindy national Park was originally a “Game reserve” during British era. The park is an extension of the grounds surrounding the Raj Bhavanen closing beautiful forests, scrub lands, lakes and streams.



The park has a role in both ex-situ and in-situ conservation and is home to various fauna such as Blackbucks, Spotted deers, Jackals, a wide variety of Snakes, Geckos, Tortoises and over 130 species of birds, 14 species of mammals, over 60 species of Butterflies and Spiders, Grasshoppers, Termites, Crabs, Snails, Slugs, Scorpions, Earthworms, Millipedes are abundantly found in this National park.

Notification G.O (Ms) No 773, Fisheries and Forest department, Dated :04-09-1978.

Location South Chennai.

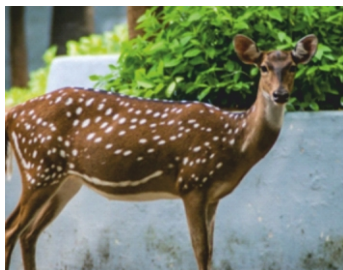
Area 282 Ha.

Forest type Dry evergreen scrub and thorn forests.

Flora *Albizia amara*, *Acacia planifrons*, *Clausena dentata*, *Borassus flabellifer*, *Randia dumetorum*, *Randia malabarica*, *Carissa spinarum*, *Acacia chundra*, exotic cactus species *Cereus peruviana* and *Glycosmis mauritiana*.

Fauna Black buck, Chital, Jackal, Pangolin and variety of birds.

Other facilities Snake park and Children's park are situated within this campus.



Spotted deer



White cobra

2. Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park

The Gulf of Mannar, first Marine Biosphere Reserve in the South and South East Asia, running down south from Rameswaram to Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu. This Marine Biosphere Reserve encompasses a chain of 21 islands and adjoining coral reefs off the coasts of the Ramanathapuram and the Tuticorin districts.



Sea turtle

In India, the Gulf of Mannar region in Tamilnadu is one of the four major coral reef areas with its rich biodiversity of about 4223 species of various flora and fauna, part of this Gulf of Mannar between Rameswaram and Tuticorin surrounding shallow coastal waters has been declared as a Marine National Park in 1986 by the Government of Tamil Nadu and later the first Marine Biosphere Reserve of India in 1989 by the Government of India.

Notification G.O (Ms)No 962, Fisheries and Forest department, Dated :10th September 1986.

Location The Coasts of Thoothukudi and Ramanathapuram Districts.

Area 623.23 Ha. (21 islands).

Forest type Mangroove forests and Dry thorn forest.

Fauna The Gulf of Mannar region is enriched with productive habitats such as coral reefs, seagrasses, mangroves, estuaries, rocky shores and sandy beaches. The diverse nature of ecosystems in the Gulf of Mannar supports a wide variety of significant species including 181 species of seaweeds, 15 species of seagrasses, 117 species of corals, 158 species of arthropods, 856 species of molluscs, 1147 species of fin fishes, 5 species of sea turtles apart from the seasonally migrating marine mammals like whales, dolphins, porpoises and turtles. There are 117 coral species identified so far in Gulf of Mannar. They belong to 40 genera and 14 families.



Sea anemone



Sea turtle



Dugong

3. Indira Gandhi National Park

Indira Gandhi National Park is a part of Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary. The area 117.10 Sq.km of Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary was declared as a National Park in the year of 1989. The park is rich in mixed deciduous forest with fair population of rosewood and teaks. The ever-changing topography of this park consist dry scrub forests, grasslands with shola forest, moist deciduous and evergreen forests and grasslands at high elevations.



Grass hills

Notification G.O.(Ms) 782 ,Environment and forest(FR V) ,Dated :22nd November, 1990.

Location Anamalais in Coimbatore and Tirupur Districts.

Area 10,179 Ha.

Forest type Varies from Dry deciduous to Semi-evergreen, Evergreen and Montane wet temperate containing *Tectona grandis*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, *Hopea parviflora*, *Mesua ferrea* and *Calophyllum* and many miscellaneous tropical species.,

Fauna The faunal species includes Nilgiri Langur, Giant Squirrel, Lion tailed macaque, Gaur, Elephant, Chital, Sambar, Mouse Deer, Barking Deer, Tiger, Panther, Wild Dog, Nilgiri tahr, Bonnet macaque etc. The Variety of bird species includes Malabar whistling thrush, Grey jungle fowl, Malabar and Great pied hornbills, Ceylon frogmouth, Malabar trogon, Red Tree Pie, Whiskered Bulbul, Spotted Dove, Black Headed Oriole, Pigeons etc

Significance UNESCO world Heritage site.



Asian Elephant



Lion tailed macaque

4. Mukurthi National Park

Mukurthi National Park is a protected area located in the western corner of the Nilgiris Plateau in the Western Ghats mountain range of South India. It is located on the high altitudes of the Nilgiris, comprising rolling downs interspersed with temperate sholas in depressions. The landscape is extremely picturesque and home of endemism. This forms part of the Nilgiris biosphere reserve.



Mukurthi national park

Notification G.O.(Ms) No 193, Environment and Forest (FR V) Department, Dated :12-12-2001.

Location The Nilgiris District

Area 7846 Ha.

Forest type Primarily Grassland, Tropical moist deciduous forest, Montane wet temperate mixed forests locally termed 'Sholas', with beautiful brooks.

Flora The area is home to numerous endemic plants particularly of annual Impatiens plants. *Alchemilla indica* and *Hedyotis verticillaris* are found only within or on the fringes of this park. *Rhododendron arboreum* or *Rhododendron nilagiricum*, are seen throughout the grasslands. Other common Shola trees and shrubs includes *Syzygium calophyllifolium*, *Daphniphyllum neilgherrense*, *Cinnamomum wightii*, etc.,

Fauna Nilgiri tahr, Tiger, Leopard, Elephant, sambar, barking deer, Nilgiri marten, Otter, Jungle Cat, Jackal etc. Avifauna consists of Laughing thrushes, Whistling thrushes, Woodcock, Wood pigeon and Black eagle are noticed.

Significance The National park is a part of Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve, India's first Biosphere Reserve. As part of the Western Ghats, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Nilgiritahr



Rhododendron

5. Mudumalai National Park

The Mudumalai National Park lies on the Northwestern side of the Nilgiri Hills (Blue Mountains), in Nilgiri District. It shares its boundaries with the states of Karnataka and Kerala. The national park has been part of Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve since 1986 and was declared a tiger reserve. It is bordered in the west by Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, in the north by Bandipur National Park and in the east by Sigur Reserve Forest.



Moyar river

Notification G.O.(Ms) No.83, Environment and Forest (FR V) Department, Dated: 16-06-2005.

Location Eastern hills of the Western Ghats.

Area 103.24 Sq.km.

Forest type Southern tropical dry thorn forest, Dry deciduous forest, Moist deciduous forest, Semi evergreen, Bamboo brakes, Riparian forest.

Flora *Tectona grandis* and *Anogeissus latifolia* are the dominant tree species. Prominent tree species include *Butea monosperma*, *Terminalia elliptica*, *Schleichera oleosa*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, *Syzygium cumini*, *Bombax ceiba*, *Bambusa bambos* and *Diospyros spp* grow along river courses.

Fauna The protected area is home to several endangered and vulnerable species including Elephant, Tiger, Gaur and Leopard. There are at least 266 species of birds in the sanctuary, including critically endangered Indian white-rumped vulture and Long-billed vulture.

Significance Important wildlife corridor for the Elephant and Tigers.



Spotted deers



Nilgiri biosphere

TIGER RESERVES IN TAMILNADU

Project Tiger was launched by the Government of India in the year 1973 to save the endangered species of tiger in the country. Tiger reserves are the protected area which is notified under section 38V of Wildlife protection Act, 1972 to protect the tiger population and its habitats. In Tamilnadu ,there are five tiger reserves are notified for the conservation and protection of tigers namely, Anamalai tiger reserve (ATR), Kalakkad - Mundanthurai tiger reserve (KMTR), Mudumalai tiger reserve (MTR), Sathyamangalam tiger reserve (STR) and Srivilliputtur-Megamalai tiger reserve (SMTR).



1. Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR)

The Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR) of Tamil Nadu is in the South Western Ghats forms part of the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve. The KMTR is the first tiger reserve in Tamilnadu and 17th tiger reserve in the country. It was the first tiger sanctuary in the country. There are eleven dams in and around the reserve and 14 rivers are flowing in the tiger reserve with three hydroelectric power stations. The terrain is undulating with several valleys and porous rocks.



Notification G.O (Ms). No. 145 Environment and Forests (FR-V) Department, Dated 28.12.2007.

Location Western Ghats – Tirunelveli and Tenkasi districts.

Area 1601.542 Sq.km.

Flagship species Tiger, Lion tailed macaque, Nilgiri tahr, Elephant.

Forest types 11 major forest types includes West Coast tropical evergreen forests, Southern dry mixed deciduous forests, Ochlandra Reed Brakes, Tropical riparian fringing forests, Dry teak forests, Southern moist mixed deciduous forests, Southern montane wet grass land, Southern hilltop evergreen forests, Carnatic umbrella thorn forests, Tirunelveli Semi evergreen forests, Grass lands.

Biodiversity There are 2254 species of Angiosperms recorded and about 58 red listed species are recorded. 29 species are strictly endemic plants, 448 endemic plants and there are 601 kinds of medicinal plants, 46 pisces, 45 amphibians, 88 reptiles, 337 Aves, 79 mammals are recorded in KMTR.

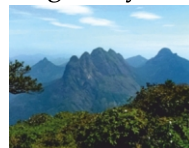
Tiger population 15-18

Eco tourism sites Agasthiyar falls, Manimutharu falls, Thalayanai, Mundanthurai and Kuthiraivetti.

Significance “River Sanctuary” and part of Agasthiyamalai Biosphere Reserve.



Agasthiyar falls



Pothigai hills

2. Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR)

Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR) is located on the southern side of the South Western Ghat landscape surrounded by Parambikulam Tiger Reserve on the East, Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary and Eravikulam National Park on the South Western side. The Kariyan shola, Grass hills and Manjampatti of Anamalai Tiger Reserve has been identified as a world heritage site by the UNESCO.



Notification G.O (Ms) No.199 Environment and Forests Department, Dated: 13.08.2012.

Location Southern Western ghats – Coimbatore and Tirupur districts.

Area 1479.87Sq.km.

Significance UNESCO Heritage site.

Flagship species Tiger, Lion tailed macaque, Nilgiri tahr, Elephant, Nilgiri marten.

Forest types Wet evergreen forests, Semi evergreen forests, Moist deciduous, Dry deciduous, Dry thorn and Shola forests.

Biodiversity Around 2500 species of Angiosperms are found in ATR with several species of Balsam, Orchids and Kurinji. There are 70 species of fishes, more than 70 species of amphibians, 120 species of reptiles, 300 species of birds and 80 species of mammals.

Tiger population 20-23

Eco tourism sites Topslip, Monkey falls, Valparai, Amaravathy Crocodile park.



Thirumoorthy falls



Grasshills



Valparai

3. Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR)

Mudumalai Tiger Reserve lies on the North eastern and North Western slopes of Nilgiris, descending to the Mysore plateau, at the tri-junction of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. MTR has a rich floral and faunal diversity and is a good source area for tigers, co-predators and prey species. The terrain is undulating with the elevation ranging from 960m to 1266m.



Notification G.O (Ms). No. 200, Environment and Forests (FR 5) Department, Dated:13.08.2012

Location Tri-junction of three states (Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka).

Area 688.59 Sq.km

Flagship species Tiger, Elephant, Nilgiri tahr, Primates.

Forest types Southern Tropical dry thorn forest, Dry deciduous forest, Moist deciduous forest, Semi evergreen forest, Riparian forest

Biodiversity 76 species of butterfly, 50 species of fish, 21 species of amphibians, 52 species of reptiles, 282 species of birds 55 species of mammals are reported.

Tiger population 80-100.

Eco tourism sites Theppakadu Elephant camp, Pykara falls.



Theppakadu camp



Pykara falls



Moyar river

4. Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR)

Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) is located in the strategic confluence region of Western and Eastern Ghats. This area holds a significant population of tiger, and it is also contiguous to other Tiger conservation landscapes like Bandipur, Mudumalai and Nagarahole. The habitat has tremendous biodiversity, and is contiguous with Mudumalai (MTR) and Bandipur tiger reserves (BTR).

Highest number of tiger population is recorded in STR among all five tiger reserves in tamilnadu.



Notification G.O (Ms) No.41 Environment and Forest Department, Dated: 15.03.2013

Location In confluence of Western ghats and Eastern ghats

Area 1408.405 Sq.km

Flagship species Tiger, Elephant, Panther, Leopard, Sloth bear, Slender loris etc.,

Forest types Tropical evergreen (Shola), Semi-evergreen, Mixed-deciduous, Dry deciduous, Thorn forests and Evergreen forests.

Biodiversity 13% of Indian mammal diversity is found in Sathyamangalam. About 40 species of larger mammals, over 225 species of birds, 30 species of reptiles, 85 species of butterflies, 15 species of amphibians, and 10 species of fishes are recorded in the region. More than 700 species of flora is documented in STR and more than 60 are endemic to STR

Tiger population 100-120

Significance Important corridor for Tigers and Elephants, part of Nilgiris Biosphere reserve.



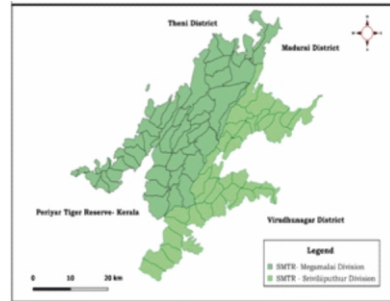
Bhavanisagar dam



Sultan bridge

5. Srivilliputtur Megamalai Tiger Reserve (SMTR)

SMTR is located in the southern eastern projections of the Western Ghats, in southcentral Tamil Nadu in 3 districts namely Theni, Madurai and Virudhunagar. SMTR is part of the Agasthyamalai landscape of Western Ghats, which is ranked as one of the world's top 12 'Mega Biodiversity' hotspots. The entire SMTR landscape with its integrated corridors and physical linkages provides a very healthy genetic dispersion of the elephants, tigers and other co-predators.



Notification G.O (MS) No: 14, Environment & Forests (FR-5) Department, Dated: 08.02.2021

Location Theni, Virudhunagar and Madurai Districts

Area 1016.5713 Sq.km

Flagship species Lion tailed macaque, Nilgiri tahr, Nilgiri langur, Grizzled giant squirrel.

Forest types West coast tropical evergreen forest, West coast semi evergreen forest, Southern moist mixed deciduous forests, Riparian fringing forests, Carnatic umbrella thorn forest, Southern mixed deciduous forest and has interspersing Shola forests and grasslands.

Biodiversity It harbours large number of endemics, endangered and vulnerable flora and fauna viz. Lion Tailed Macaque, Nilgiri tahr, Grizzled giant squirrel, Slender loris

Tiger population 15

Significance Catchment of Rivers like Vaigai, Periyar, Suruliar.



Sasthakovil falls



Suruli falls

BIRDS SANCTUARIES IN TAMILNADU

Birds sanctuaries are the protected areas notified under section 26A(1) of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 for the conservation and protection of Birds species .In Tamilnadu, till 2022 there are 17 birds sanctuaries declared as protected area. The first bird sanctuary in the state was Vedanthangal birds sanctuary which is the oldest sanctuary in the country established in the year 1998. The 17th bird sanctuary in Tamilnadu is recently notified in the year 2022 called Nanjarayan bird sanctuary in Tiruppur district. Most of the birds sanctuaries in the state are tanks and wetland complex and out of 17 birds sanctuaries, 8 bird sanctuaries are declared as Ramsar site .



Greater flamingo

1. Vedanthangal Birds Sanctuary

Vedanthangal is the oldest bird sanctuary in the country located in the Maduranthakam taluk. More than 40,000 birds from various parts of the world visiting the sanctuary during the migratory season of every year

Location Kanchipuram district

Area 30Ha

Notification G.O.(M.s)No.199 Environment and Forests(F.R.V), Dated :08.07.1998

Forest Type Dry thorn forests.

Flora A tank having a compact grove of *Barringtonia* and *Acacia nilotica* trees

Avifauna This sanctuary is famous for their breeding heronry including Cormorants, Egrets, Grey heron, Open-billed stork, Darter, Spoonbill, White Ibis, Night herons, Grebes, Grey pelican etc. Many migratory birds like Garganey , Teals, Shovellers, Pintails, Stilts, Sandpipers etc. A variety of resident birds like Coots, Moorhen and Terns can also be seen.

Best season The nesting season commences late in October and the birds are through with breeding and disperse to their feeding grounds about February. The best season is November to February.

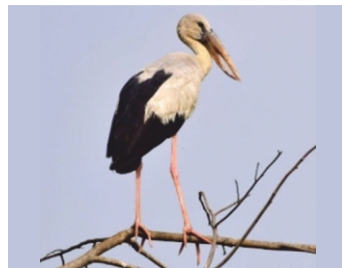
Significance Ramsar site and IUCN category.



Vedanthangal



Greater egret



Open bill stork

2. Pulicat Birds Sanctuary

Pulicat Lake is the second largest brackish-water eco-system in India after Odisha's Chilikalake. Pulicat Lake Bird Sanctuary is located in pulicat Lake which is a popular birding spot in South India located in the Tirupati district of Andhra Pradesh and the Thiruvallur District of Tamil Nadu. The lake is fed mainly by the River Kalangi and the River Arani.



Pulicatlake

Year of Establishment 1980.

Location Thiruvallur district.

Area 759 Sq.km

Flora The sanctuary area has some very significant patches of remnants of southern tropical dry ever green forests interspersed with mangrove forests, littoral vegetation and cane brakes.

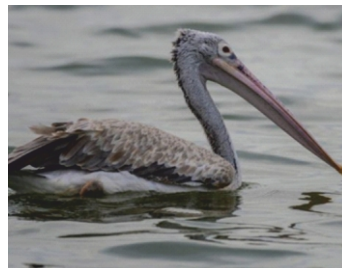
Avi fauna The sanctuary has many greater flamingos. It also attracts many migratory birds and also is a feeding and nesting ground for aquatic and terrestrial birds such as Pelicans, Storks, etc

Best season October to March is best to spot flocks of wintering birds in the lake. Migratory birds start arriving from the month of October. "Flamingo festival" is celebrated every year in the month of November-January

Significance IBA status.



Flamingo



Spot billed pelican

3. Vaduvor Birds Sanctuary

Vaduvor Bird Sanctuary is located in Vaduvorlake, Mannargudi Taluk, Thiruvarur District, Tamilnadu. The sanctuary is located near the rice-bowl of Tamil Nadu and granary of south India. The 316-acre-large Vaduvor Lake is home to thousands of avian visitors every year from different continents. The sanctuary attracts more than 40 species of water birds. The farmers of this region also love the arrival of migratory birds as the irrigation water becomes fertile once it was enriched with the excretory of the birds.



Vaduvor tank

Establishment year 1999.

Location Nagapattinam District.

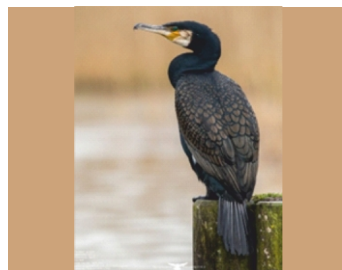
Area 128.10 Ha.

Avi fauna 138 different species of birds have been observed on various occasions , which include the Little grebe, Eurasian spoonbill, varieties of Herons, Indian shag, Darter, Ibis, Kingfisher, Teals, Ducks, Northern pintail, Eurasian wigeon, Northern Shoveller, Garganey, Coots, Moorhens, Lapwings, Spot-billed and Siberian pelicans, Jacanas, Black-winged stilt, Red/ green shank, Little stint, Brahminy kite, Terns, Plovers, Sandpipers, Cormorant, varieties of Egret, Painted and Open-billed storks. Great cormorant

Best season November and December more than 20,000 winged visitors reach this area.



Red wattled lapwing



Great cormorant

4. Udayamarthandapuram Birds Sanctuary

Udayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary is a protected area located in Thiruvarur District. The sanctuary consists of human-made irrigation tanks, interconnected by an ancient network of canals that receives water from the Mettur Dam. The Site is an important staging and breeding ground for several species of water birds. The tank remains dry between the months of April and August.



Location Thiruvarur District.

Year of Establishment 1999.

Area 45 Sq.km.

Avi fauna Notable species observed include the Oriental darter, Black-headed ibis, Eurasian wigeon, Northern pintail and Garganey, Purple-moorhens and Openbill storks can be seen here. Other migratory birds in the sanctuary include the white-ibis, Indian reef heron, White-necked stork, Grey-heron, Coot, Night heron, Purple-heron, Little cormorant, Spoonbill and Darter.

Best season November to February.

Significance Ramsar site.



Open bill stork



Purple heron



Indian Reef heron

5. Karikili Birds Sanctuary

Karikili bird sanctuary is located in the Chengalpattu District is situated about 10 km from Vedanthangal, and there are two tanks combined established as the bird sanctuary in the year 1988. This region is surrounded by open areas, paddy fields and scrub forest. Several migratory birds such as Northern Pintail, Garganey, Common Sandpiper were recorded from Karikili Several water birds use Vedanthangal as a nesting site and Karikili as a foraging site.



Location Chengalpattu District.

Establishment year 1988.

Area 61.21 Ha.

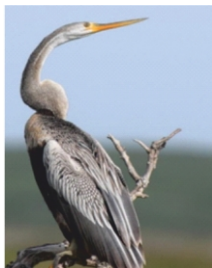
Flora The vegetation is mainly composed of *Barringtonia acutangula* and *Acacia nilotica* trees, raised as plantations by the Forest Department. Surrounding vegetation is composed of scrub and thorn forests.

Avifauna Several migratory birds visiting the sanctuary such as Northern Pintail, Garganey, Common Sandpiper, the near-threatened Oriental darter and Spot-billed pelican breed here.

Fauna The wetland also supports several mammal, reptile and amphibian species such as the Jungle cat, Bonnet macaque, Jackal, Python, Sand boa and Frogs.

Best season November to February.

Significance Ramsar site and IBA.



Oriental darter



Common sandpiper

6. Vellode Birds Sanctuary

Vellode Birds Sanctuary is located in Erode district sprawls over a total area of 77.185 Ha. The nature reserve comprises of 75.935 Ha of Periyakulam lake and 1.250 Ha of poramboke lands of the Vadamugam Vellode village. The bird sanctuary is visited by non migratory and migratory birds. Generally, the migratory birds start to arrive to the reserve at the commencement of the Northeast monsoon.



Periyakulam lake

At the onset of the monsoon, the bird sanctuary turn a perfect home ground for the winged visitors mainly because of abundant bird food in the lake and in the nearby farming fields and a great deal of trees for resting and nesting. The presence of abundant fish species are also a part of bird food for the migratory and resident birds.

Establishment year 1996

Location Erode District.

Area 77.185 Ha.

Flora The primary flora of the Vellode Bird Sanctuary comprises of *Acacia nilotica* plantation Some of the other noticeable flora here include *Azadirachta indica*, Palmyra and Eucalyptus tree all along the embankment and lush growth of *Prosopis juliflora*.

Avi fauna Little cormorant, Darter, Spoonbill, Indian reef heron, Grey heron, White necked stork, Little egret, Pond heron etc.



Spoon bill



Little egret

7. Vettangudi Birds Sanctuary

Vettangudi Bird Sanctuary is located in Vettangudipatti village of Sivagnaga District. This sanctuary covers the tanks of Vettangudi, Periyakollukudi and Chinna Kollukkudi villages. The Vettangudi Bird sanctuary is the natural habitat of winter migratory birds. This area of small drainage basins attracts more than 8,000 winter migratory birds belonging to 217 species, mostly from European and North Asian countries

Establishment year 1977.

Location Sivagangai District.

Area 38.4 Ha.

Flora Fresh water Lake with groves of trees such as *Prosopis juliflora*, *Acacia nilotica* and on the bund with tamarind trees.

Avi fauna Cormorants, Herons, Teals, Pelicans, White storks, Painted storks. It is a breeding habitat for Grey Herons, Darters, Spoonbills, White Ibis, Asian Open Bill Stork and Night Herons. It has also attracted Little Cormorant, Little Egret, Cattle Egret, Common Teal, Spot bill Ducks and Pintail.

Best season November to February.



Painted stork



Common teal

8. Melaselvanur & Keelaselvanur Birds Sanctuary

Melaselvanoor - Keelaselvanoor Bird Sanctuary located near Sayalkudi in Ramanathapuram district in Tamil Nadu is home to various migratory birds. This is the biggest bird sanctuary in Tamil Nadu. The sanctuary is a part of Melaselvanoor and Keelaselvanoor villages of Kadaladi taluk of Ramanathapuram district. This sanctuary is considered to be the best heronry site in Ramanathapuram district.



Location Ramanathapuram District.

Establishment year 1998.

Area 593.08 Ha.

Forest Type Dry thorn forests.

Flora Fresh water lake with *Acacia nilotica* plantation act as nesting site for various migratory birds.

Avi fauna Little cormorant, Darter, Spoonbill, Indian reef heron, Grey heron, White necked stork, Little egret, Pond heron etc. Pelicans, Painted Storks, Open billed Storks, White ibis, Spoon bills and Egrets regularly nest in the sanctuary.

Best season November to February.



Pond heron



White Ibis

9. Kanjirankulam Birds Sanctuary

Kanjirankulam birds Sanctuary is located in Ramanathapuram district. The sanctuary offers ideal habitat for winter migratory birds with considerable diversity for nesting, feeding and breeding behaviour. It is one of the preferred nesting sites for heronry species and colonial birds migrating to South India. Many of the different varieties of migratory birds arrive from various parts of countries for feeding purpose. About 4500 birds belonging to 43 species have been listed during the peak season

Location Ramanathapuram District.

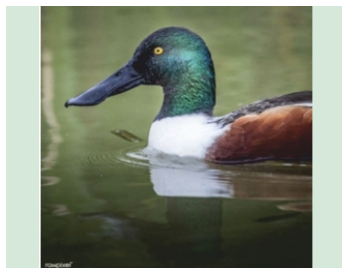
Establishment year 1989.

Area Kanjirankudi-104 ha and Chitrangudi 47.63 ha.

Flora There is no natural forest within the sanctuary. *Acacia nilotica* plantations were raised by the Forest Department are found in the sanctuary. The other major flora in the tank bunds and foreshore are *Achyranthes aspera*, *Borassus flabellifer*, *Calotropis gigantea*, *Senna auriculata*, *Tamarindus indica*, *Cleome viscosa*.

Avi fauna The sanctuary has threatened species for example Spot-billed Pelican, Painted Stork. The rare species recorded in the sanctuary are Great Cormorant, Purple Heron, Yellow Bittern, Chestnut Bittern, Black Bittern, Comb Duck, Northern Shoveller, Common Teal etc.

Best season November to February.



Northern Shoveller



Terns

10. Karaivetti Birds Sanctuary

The sanctuary is a large irrigation tank located in the northern alluvial plains of the Kaveri river. It is one of the largest freshwater lakes in southern Tamil Nadu. This freshwater lake is fed by Pullambadi, Kattalal canal and attracts thousands of birds every year.



Location Ariyalur District.

Area 4.54 Sq.km.

Establishment Year 1997.

Flora Aquatic vegetation includes *Sedge sp.*, Bulrush & Hydrilla are found. Shoreline trees include wattle, neem, Indian beech sp., and *Casuarina sp.*

Avi fauna Important birds including the high flying Bar-headed goose, White stork, Woolly-necked stork, Rosy pelican, Spoonbill, Open bill stork, and Grey heron, Night heron, Pond heron, Purple heron, Egrets and Glossy ibis. The diving birds little cormorant, kingfisher, Indian cormorant and sixteen species of ducks, including Spot-billed duck, Common pochard, Tufted pochard and Northern Shoveler, Plus Coots and Twenty three species of waders, including whiskered tern, Gull- Billed tern, and Little tern, Sandpipers, Little ringed plover and Kentish plover, have been recorded in the sanctuary.

Best season November to February.

Significance Important Bird Areas (IBA's).



Rosy pelican



Kingfisher

11. Koonthankulam Birds Sanctuary

Koonthankulam birds sanctuary is an important protected area known for the congregation of migratory and local aquatic birds. This sanctuary consists of two buffer irrigation tanks namely Koonthankulam tank and Kadankulam tank. The sanctuary encompasses floodplain and agricultural ecosystems Koonthankulam bird sanctuary is a century old heronry with a recorded history.



Notification G.O. Ms. No. 301 Environment and Forest (FRV) Department, dated :30.11.94.

Location Tirunelveli District.

Area 129.33 Ha.

Flora Common tree species found in and around the tank are include *Azadirachta indica*, *Ficus religiosa*, *Tamarindus indica*, *Terminalia catappa*, *Pongamia pinnata*, etc. Aquatic vegetation includes many species of sedges (*Cyperus*), *Aponogeton*, *Pistia*, etc. *Biophytum poterioides* is an uncommon herb found in the sanctuary. The Acacia niloticaplantation spanning 35 Ha in Koonthankulam is the main breeding ground for aquatic birds and for heronry.

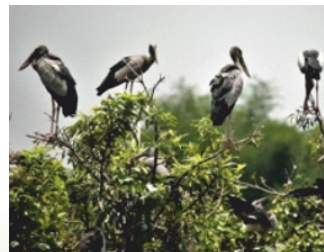
Avi fauna The Sanctuary is abound with mammals like Mongoose, Palm civet, Black naped Hare, Water snakes, Cobra, Sand boa, Lizards and Frogs etc., Birds such as Little cormorant, Darter, Flamingoes, Painted stork, Spoonbill, Indian reef heron, Grey heron, White necked stork, Little egret, Pond heron etc.

Best season January to July.

Significance The villagers consider these birds as harbingers of rain, prosperity and a good harvest. Recently declared as Ramsar wetland site.



Greater flamingo



Painted stork

12. Theerthangal Birds Sanctuary

Theerthangal bird sanctuary known as “Theerthangal kanmai” is located in Nainarkovil taluk and Ramanathapuram district of southern Tamilnadu. It is the 14th bird sanctuary of the State and fourth in Ramanathapuram district. Many of the migratory birds arrive from various parts of the world for feeding and nesting purpose. About 15000 birds belonging to 42 species have been recorded in the sanctuary.



Location Ramanathapuram District.

Area 29.29 Ha.

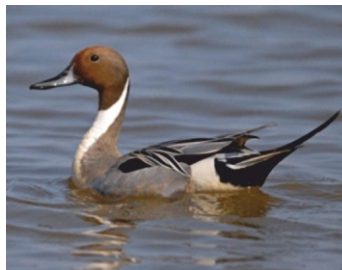
Establishment year 2010.

Forest Type Dry thorn forests.

Flora The other major flora in the tank bunds and foreshore are *Achyranthes aspera*, *Borassus flabellifer*, *Calotropis gigantea*, *Senna auriculata*, *Tamarindus indica*, *Cleome viscosa*, *Terminalia catappa*, *Ipomoea carnea*.

Avi fauna Spot-billed Pelicans, Cormorants, Glossy Ibis, Black Winged Stilt, Darter, Grebes, Large Egret, Little Egrets, Moorhen, Night Herons, Painted Stork, Pintails, Pond Heron, Sandpiper, Shovelers, Red-lapwing, Terns and White Ibis.

Best season November to April.



Pintail



Red lapwing

13. Oussudu Lake Birds Sanctuary

Oussudu Lake is a large shallow wetland in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu. It is the most important fresh water lake and is 12 Kilometers from Puducherry Town. Oussudu plays a very vital role in recharging the ground water aquifers for Villupuram and Pondicherry, which is largely dependent on groundwater for its drinking water supply.



Establishment year 2015.

Location Villupuram district.

Area 15.54 Sq.km.

Flora The major trees recorded around the lake are *Dalbergia paniculata*, *Acacia auriculiformis*, *Terminalia arjuna*, *Thespesia populnea*, *Tamarindus indicus*, *Khaya senegalensis*, *Ficus benghalensis* etc. The shrub such as *Ficus hispida*, *Fluggea leucopyrus*, *Cassia auriculata*, *Rauvolfia tetraphylla*, *Plumbago zeylanica*, *Phoenix laurierii*, *Lantana camara*, *Azadiracta indica* etc.

Avi fauna A total of 166 species of birds were recorded. Flamingos, Darter, Spotted-billed Pelican, Great white Pelican, Painted Stork, Eurasian Spoon Bill and Pallid Harrier are coming under near threatened category.

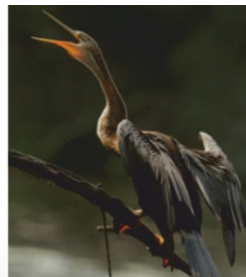
Fauna Spotted deer, Jackal, Jungle cat, Common mongoose, Black napped hare, Bonnet macaque, Indian porcupine, Bandicoot rat etc.

Best season November to April.

Significance The area serves as an important corridor for the migratory birds which move to Point Calimere during winter .It also has been identified as a heritage sites by IUCN.



Pallid harrier



Darter

14. Sakkarakottai Tank Birds Sanctuary

The Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary otherwise known as “Sakkarakottai Kanmai” is located in Ramanathapuram district. Many of the different varieties of migratory birds arrive from various parts of countries for feeding purpose. The sanctuary is basically an irrigation tank that is used for storing water for agriculture recharged by the northeast monsoons from October till January. The tank remains completely dry from March to August.



Location Ramanathapuram district.

Area 230.495 Ha.

Establishment year 2012.

Flora *Acacia nilotica* plantations were raised by the Forest Department. The other major flora in the tank bunds and foreshore are *Achyranthes aspera*, *Borassus flabellifer*, *Calotropis gigantea*, *Senna auriculata*, *Tamarindus indica*, *Cleome viscosa*.

Avi fauna The Sanctuary has species richness of nearly threatened species such as Pelican, Painted stork, Eurasian Spoon bill, White ibis, Darter, Flamingo and water birds such as common coot, Pintail, Garganey, Egrets, Cormorants, Black winged stilt, King fisher, Common myna, Brahminy kite, Spotted Owlet etc.

Fauna The irrigation tank has very less faunal species which include Indian Grey Mongoose, Indian Palm Squirrel, Jackal, Bandicoot Rat.

Best season November to January.



Garhaneey



Brahminy kite

15. Chitrangudi Birds Sanctuary

The Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary otherwise known as “Chitrangudi Kanmai” is located in Mudukulathur taluk and Ramanathapuram district of southern Tamil Nadu. It is notified as a sanctuary for the conservation of avian fauna that inhabit the water body. Many of the different varieties of migratory birds arrive from various parts of countries for feeding purpose. About 11000 birds belonging to 43 species have been listed during the peak season. As the sanctuary is basically an irrigation tank, there is no natural forest within the sanctuary. Babul (*Acacia nilotica*) plantations were raised by the Social Forestry wing of the Forest Department during 1980s.



Location Ramanathapuram district.

Area 0.4763 Sq km.

Year of Establishment 1989.

Flora The major flora in the sanctuary are *Hygrophila schulli*, *Achyranthes aspera*, *Borassus flabellifer*, *Calotropis gigantea*, *Tridax procumbens*, *Parthenium hysterophorus*, *Senna auriculata*, *Tamarindus indica*, *Ipomoea carnea*, *Evolvulus alsinoides*, *Cucumis sativa*.

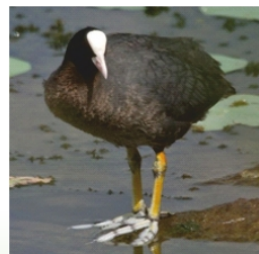
Avi fauna Pelican, Painted stork, Eurasian Spoon bill, White ibis, Darter, Flamingo and water birds such as common coot, Pintail, Garganey, Egrets, Cormorants, Black winged stilt, King fisher, Common myna, Brahminy kite, Spotted Owlet and more than 30 common birds are documented.

Fauna The irrigation tank has very less faunal species which include Indian Grey Mongoose, Indian Palm Squirrel, Jackal, Bandicoot Rat.

Best season November to January.



Black winged stilt



Common coot

16. Kazhuveli Wetland Birds Sanctuary

The Kazhuveli wetland situated in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu has been declared as the 16th Bird Sanctuary. The sanctuary declaration was made under subsection (1) of section 18 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The Kazhuveli wetlands is referred to as the 2nd largest Brackish Water Lake in South India, only after Pulicat lake. The Sanctuary covers 13 villages in the Villupuram district.



Notification G.O (Ms) No.123 Environment ,Climate and Forests(FR.5) department ,Dated:06.12.2021.

Location Vilupuram district.

Area 5151.60 Ha.

Flora The shrub species found in this sanctuary such as *Ficus hispida*, *Fluggea leucopyrus*, *Cassia auriculata*, *Rauwolfia tetraphylla*, *Plumbago zeylanica*, *Phoenix laurieri*, *Lantana camara*, *Azadiracta indica* etc

Avi fauna The sanctuary is home to a diverse species of avifauna and is a feeding ground for long-distance migrants from the cold subarctic regions of Central Asia and Siberia including Black-tailed Godwits, Eurasian Curlew, White Stork .



Eurasian Curlew



Black-tailed Godwits

17. Nanjarayan Birds Sanctuary

The Nanjarayan Tank also known as Sarkar Periyapalayam Reservoir, is located on the outskirts of Tirupur city near Koolipalayam, about 60 kilometres from Coimbatore. A muddy, green patch on the farthest end of a 440-acre lake is where we spot pelicans, painted storks, and coots, in hundreds, during a walk along the lake on a windy morning. The Nanjarayan Tank, a bio-diversity hotspot, has just been announced as the 17th bird sanctuary of Tamil Nadu in the state. This undisturbed habitat attracts birds in large numbers.



Notification G.O (M.s) No.154 , Environment ,Climate change and forest (FR 5) department ,Dated :12.09.2022.

Area 125.86 Ha.

Location Tiruppur district.

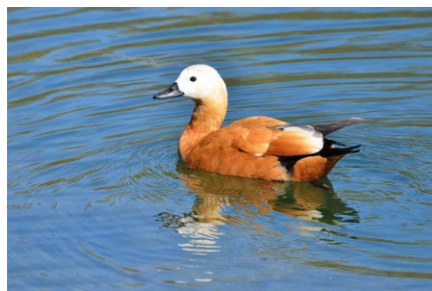
Avi fauna 181 species of birds, including migratory and residents includes Bar-headed goose, Ruddy shel duck, Northern shoveler.

Fauna 16 species of reptiles, over 40 varieties of butterflies, 11 species of mammals.

Significance Important wetland area.



Bar headed goose



Ruddyshe duck

WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES IN TAMILNADU

Wildlife sanctuaries are the protected areas notified under section 26A(1) of wildlife protection Act,1972 for the conservation and protection of wildlife. Tamilnadu is the state rich in bio diversity which has more number of protected areas to protect the various critically endangered, threatened, vulnerable species. In Tamilnadu, till 2022, 16 protected areas are declared as wildlife sanctuaries. The first wildlife sanctuary in the state is Mundanthurai wildlife sanctuary which was established in the year 1962. The 16th wildlife sanctuary in the state was recently notified in Dindugal-Karur districts called “Kadavur slender loris sanctuary “ for the conservation and protection of Endangered species –Grey slender loris.



Grizzled squirrel

1. Gangaikondan Spotted Deer Sanctuary

Gangaikondan Spotted Deer Sanctuary is the 1st Spotted Deer Sanctuary in the country located in Tirunelveli district and it is one of the Southern most habitats for Spotted Deer in India. Geographically it is located between the Longitudes N 08°49'25.67" E 77°45'14.44". The territorial jurisdiction of the sanctuary falls in Tirunelveli Taluk.



Spotted deer

Gangaikondan Reserved Forests has a total area of 441.61 Ha in 2 bits of Reserve forests 288.40 Ha on the eastern side of NH 7 & 152.76 Ha on the western side. The Sanctuary can be accessed by Road from Tirunelveli city-24 Km, Nearest Railway Station, Gangaikondan : 8 Km.

Notification G.O (M.s) No.150 ,Environment and Forest (FR 5) Department ,Dated :01.10.2013.

Area 288.40 Ha.

Forest type Southern Thorn Scrub Forest.

Flora *Acacia Planifrons* , *Prosopis juliflora*, *Flueggea leucopyrus*, *Acacia Leucophloea*, *Arbus precatorius*, *Capparis sepiaria*, *Canthium dicocum*, *Commiphora wightii*, *Cassia auricaulata*, *Capparis zeylanica*, *Niphuria epetala*, *Scilla indica*, *Biophytum sensitivum*, *Psida acuta*, *Curculio orchiodes*, *Randia dumatorum*.

Fauna Sambar, Spotted Deer, Common Mongoose, Black Napped Hare and healthy population of peafowl more than 100 numbers.

Key species Spotted deer.

Significance 1st Spotted Deer Sanctuary in the country.

2. Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary

The name Mudumalai means "the ancient hill range". Indeed, it is as old as 65 million years when Western Ghats were formed. The sanctuary is composed of hills and valleys with several perennial streams and swamps. It is also a part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (1st Biosphere Reserve in India) along with Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala) in the West, Bandipur National Park (Karnataka) in the North, Mukurthi National Park and Silent Valley in the South. It is having a most spectacular attraction since it is located in tri-junction of the above three states.



Asian elephants

Establishment G.O (M.s) No.02, Fisheries and Forest (FR 5) Department ,Dated :02.01.1990.

Location The Nilgiris.

Area 21776.00Ha.

Forest type Tropical and sub tropical moist forests.

Flora *Tectona grandis*, *Phyllanthus emblica*, *Lagerstromia parviflora*, *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Bauhinia racemosa*, *Radermacera xylocarpa*, *Sterculia villosa*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, *Randia dumetroum*, *Litsea mysorensis*, *Casseria ovoidas*, *Cinnamomum malabattrum* and *Olea dioca* etc.

Fauna Tiger, Elephant , Gaur, Spotted deer, Sambar, Sloth bear, Leopard., etc., It also comprises within itself holding 50 species of Fishes, 227 species of Birds, 34 species of reptiles and 55 species of Mammals.

Eco-Tourism Mudumalai Museum, Pykara Lake and Elephant Camp.

Significance IUCN Category II.

3. Cauvery North wildlife Sanctuary

The Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary is named as it is located above the north of Cauvery river in Tamil Nadu state and south of river connects to the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary of Karnataka state. This sanctuary comes under the Melagiri Hill ranges which is a significant wildlife corridor in the confluence of Eastern ghats and Western ghats where it forms the vital link to the MM Hills, BR Hills, Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary and Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. The sanctuary covers parts of Dharmapuri forest division and Hosur forest division in northern western Tamil Nadu.



Black panther

Establishment G.O (M.s) No.30, Environment ,Climate change and Forest (FR 5) Department, Dated : 24.02.2014.

Location Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts.

Area 50433.48 Ha.

Forest type Dry Deciduous, Southern Tropical Dry Thorn and Riverine Forest.

Flora *Terminalia arjuna*, *Syzygium cumini*, *Tamarindus indica*, *Mangifera indiga*, *Ficus spp*, *Acacia spp*, *Tamilnadia uliginosa*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, *Lagerstromia lanceolata*, *Olea diacocca*, *Persa macrantha*, *Erthroxylon monogynaum*.

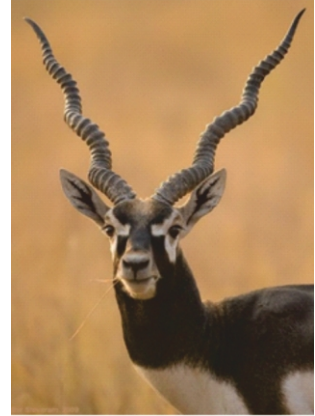
Fauna Panther, Elephant, Grizzled Giant Squirrel, Spotted Owl, Red Fox, Dhole, Sloth Bear, Four- horned antelope.

Eco-Tourism/Tourism Hogenakal Falls, Arkavathi River.

Significance IUCN Category IV.

4. Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary

The Point Calimere Sanctuary primarily focuses on the protection and conservation of the black antelopes, an endangered and endemic species that are found in this region. It's a sandy coast covered in saline swamp and thorny scrub around the backwaters. The region also boasts of the presence of many mangroves owing to its coastal properties. Also, some 257 species of birds have been recorded, 119 of them water birds, including the vulnerable species Spoonbill Sandpiper and Grey Pelican and some 30,000 Greater and Lesser Flamingos.



Blackbuck

Notification G.O(M.s) No.1821 ,Agriculture Department, Dated :13-01-1967.

Location Districts of Thanjavur, Thiruvarur and Nagapattinam.

Area 1728.81 Ha.

Forest type Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest.

Flora Predominant species found in this sanctuary are *Manilkara hexandra*, *Prosopis juliflora*, *Memecylon umballatam*.

Fauna Blackbuck antelope, Spotted deer, Jackal, Bonnet macaque, Wildboar, Monitor Lizard, Short-nosed fruit bat, Small Indian civet, Star tortoise, Indian grey mongoose, Black-naped hare, Jungle cat and Feral pony, Bottlenose dolphin, Olive ridley turtle, Bryde's whale.

Key species Blackbuck.

Eco-Tourism Boombugar Beach, Kodiyakarai Beach and Nagur Beach.

Significance IUCN Category IV.

5. Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary

Sathyamangalam wildlife sanctuary is located at the confluence of scenic Western and Eastern Ghats in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve in Erode district of Tamil Nadu. Not only it is considered as the biggest protected area in Tamil Nadu, but also it is hailed as the most expansive wildlife sanctuary in South India. It falls under Sathyamangalam Forest Division which is part of the Bramhagiri-Nilgiris-Eastern Ghats Elephant Reserve notified in 2003. The terrain is hilly and undulated with altitude ranging between 750m and 1649m.



Tiger

Establishment G.O (M.s) No.122 ,Environment and Forest (FR 5) Department ,Dated : 03.11.2008.

Location District of Erode (Sathyamangalam).

Area 1,41,160.94 Ha.

Forest type Tropical Evergreen, Semi Evergreen, Mixed Deciduous, Dry deciduous, Thorn forest.

Flora Predominant species found in this sanctuary are *Acalypha alnifolia*, *Barleria cuspidata*, *Cassia montana*, *Albizia amara*, *Chloroxylon swietenia*, *Gyrocarpus jacquini*, *Azadiracta indica*, *Tamarindus indica*, *Santalum album*, *Sterculia villosa*, *Randia dumetroum*, *Zizyphus* and associates etc.

Fauna Tiger, Elephant, Gaur, Leopard, Spotted Deer, Blackbuck, Sambar deer, Barking Deer, Wild Boar, Sloth Bear, Four-horned antelopes.

Key species Tiger, Vultures, Elephant.

Significance Being home to more than 850 Indian elephants with 6 Elephant corridors makes it part of the 7th elephant reserve (Nilgiri-Eastern Ghats Elephant Reserve) and the largest elephant habitat in India.

6. Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary

The Anamalai Wildlife Sanctuary was notified in 1976 and renamed as Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary in 1987 to commemorate the visit of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's visit in 1987. It was upgraded and given better protection status two years later as a National Park

Establishment G.O (M.s) No.288 ,Fisheries and forest department, Dated : 10.10.1976.

Location District of Coimbatore and Tirupur.

Area 84,149 Ha.

Forest type Dry deciduous, Moist deciduous Forest and East deccan dry evergreen forests.

Flora Predominant species found in this sanctuary are *Hopea parviflora*, *Mesua ferrea*, *Calophyllum tomentosum*, *Vateria indica*, *Candium coromandalicum* *Bauhinia racemosa*, *Shorea roxburgii*, *Grewia tilifolia*, *Lagerstromia lanceolata*, *Olea diaccoa*, *Persa macrantha* etc.

Fauna Leopard, Lion tailed Macaque, Gaur, Tiger, Elephant, Nilgiri tahr, Malabar spiny dormouse, Nilgiri langur, Sambar deer, Sloth bear, Giant squirrel, Indian pangolin etc.

Key species Tiger, Great Indian hornbills, Elephant.

Eco-Tourism Topslip (ATR), Amravathy dam and Crocodile park.

Best season to visit The best time to visit Anamalai Wildlife Sanctuary is from December to April when the weather is pleasant and there is a good chance of sighting wild animals in their natural habitat.

Significance IUCN Category IV.



Great indian hornbill

7. Mundanthurai Wildlife Sanctuary

Mundanthurai Sanctuary is the second largest wildlife sanctuary in Tamil Nadu covering a rambling area of 895 sq km and is located in the Southern Western Ghats. It is one of the oldest wildlife sanctuary declared in India before the enactment of wildlife protection act.



Nilgiri tahr

Later, it has been upgraded as Tiger sanctuary (India's first) in 1967, now, it is included in the Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve of Tirunelveli. This sanctuary plays a major role in satisfying the thirst of nearby villages since its having three historical dams within this landscape.

Establishment 1962.

Location Tirunelveli District.

Area 58207.58 Ha.

Forest type West Coast tropical evergreen forests, Southern dry mixed deciduous forests.

Flora 27 species are endemic only to this region which includes *Agasthiyamalaia pauciflora*, *Elaeocarpus venustus*, *Garcinia travancorica*, *Gluta travancorica*, *Goniothalamus rhynchantherus*, *Homalium travancoricum*, *Homaium jainii*, *Orophea uniflora*, *Phlogacanthus albiflorus*, *Polyalthia shendurunii*, *Symplocos macrocarpa* and *Symplocos sessilis*.

Fauna Tiger, Elephant , Gaur, Leopard, Crocodile, Sambar Deer, Spotted Deer, Giant Flying Squirrel, Wild Dog, Wild Boar, Mouse Deer, 33 species of Fishes, 273 species of Birds, 81 species of reptiles, 57 species of Mammals, 37 Amphibians.

Key species Nilgiri tahr, Tiger, Lion Tailed Macaque.

Significance UNESCO, IUCN Category IV.

Eco tourism Kayal Park, Agasthiyar Falls, Manimuthar Falls, Kuthiraivetti.

Temple Tourism Sorimuthu Ayyanar Temple.

8. Vallanadu Blackbuck Wildlife Sanctuary

Vallanadu is the one of the notable places where the Blackbuck population exists. This sanctuary is located in an isolated hillock surrounded by scrub forest in Tuticorin district. This sanctuary can be easily approached from Tirunelveli. The nearest airport is at Thoothukudi. Blackbucks can be found only during early morning and late in the evening.



Blackbuck

Establishment G.O. (Ms).No.1028 Fisheries and Forests (FR.5) Department, Dated: 28.09.1987.

Location Tuticorin District.

Area 1641 Ha.

Forest type Tropical dry thorn forest.

Flora The forest are covered with thorn scrubs and most of the species are xerophytes and thorny species. Few of the notable plants are *Azadirachta indica*, *Dodonia viscosa*, *Carissa carandus*, *Pterolobium indicum*, *Euphorbia* and *Acalypha fruticose*.

Fauna Blackbuck, Spotted deer, Bonnet Macaque, Jungle cat, Wildcat, Black naped Hare, Scaly anteater, Viper and Rat snakes.

Key species Blackbuck.

Significance IUCN Category IV.

9. Grizzled Giant Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary

The Grizzled Giant Squirrel can be found only in South India and Srilanka. They are very distinctive in the way they look and breeds once in a year, that too giving birth to single offspring. This sanctuary take immense care in protecting these creatures. This sanctuary is blessed with diverse habitats, there are grass lands, wet evergreen forests, semi evergreen, moist deciduous, open deciduous and closed deciduous. Lots of trees adore this sanctuary, which are the abode to millions of squirrels living here



Grizzled giant squirrel

Establishment G.O (M.s) No.399 , Environment and Forest Department ,Dated : 26.12.1988.

Location Virudhunagar District.

Area 48520 Ha.

Forest type Mix of Tropical Evergreen Forest, Semi Evergreen Forest, Dry Deciduous Forest and Moist Mixed Forest.

Flora 69 plant species includes *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Emblia officinalis*, *Strychnos nuxvomica*, *Wrightia tinctoria*, *Dalbergia paniculata*, *Hardwickia binnata*, *Tectona grandis*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Terminalia chebula*, *Abrus precatorius*, *Actinopteris radiata*, *Anisomeles malabarica*, *Diospyros melanoxylon*, *Begonia malabarica*, *Erythrina variegata*, *Mallotus philippensis*, *Lannea coromandelica*, *Syzygium cumini*, *Diospyros ebenum*, *Calophyllum inophyllum*, etc..

Fauna Elephant herds are quite common, other animals include tiger, Leopard, Gaur, Nilgiri tahr, Spotted deer, Barking deer, Sambar, Wild-boar, Porcupine, Nilgiri langur, Lion-tailed macaque, Common langur, Slender loris, Bonnet macaque, Sloth bear, Giant Squirrel and Flying Squirrel. 43 Key species Grizzled giant squirrel

Eco tourism Sasthakovil.

Temple tourism Sadhuragiri Temple.

Significance IUCN Category IV.

10. Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary

The sanctuary is bounded at North by Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, East by Tirunelveli District, South by Kodayar left bank channel and Thovalai channel and in West by Kerala State. The highest point is 1829.4 m at the tri-junction of Mahendragiri, Kalakad and Veerapuli followed by Mahendragiri (1645.2 m), Mottaichi peak (1590.4 m) and Varaittumudi (1426.2 m)



Nilgiri marten

Establishment G.O. (Ms).No.128 Environment and Forests (FR.5) Department
Dated: 20.11.2007.

Location Kanniyakumari District.

Area 40239.55 Ha.

Forest type Southern hilltop tropical evergreen forests, West Coast semi-evergreen forests, Moist teak forests, Southern Moist mixed deciduous forests, Southern thorn forests, Ochlandra reed brakes.

Flora *Cynometra beddomei*, *Elaeocarpus serratus*, *Begonia bachulkarii*, *Momordica sahyadrica*, *Meistera newmanii*, *Polyalthia longipedicellata*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Terminalia chebula*, *Abrus precatorius*, *Actinopteris radiata*, *Anisomeles malabarica*, *Diospyros melanoxylon* etc., The carnivorous plants also reported such as *Drosera burmanii*, *Drosera indica*, *Utricularia pubescens*, *Utricularia aurea*.

Fauna Indian Gaur, Elephant, Indian Rock Python, Lion tailed Macaque, Mouse deer, Nilgiri tahr, Sambar Deer, Flying lizard, large brown flying squirrel, land monitor, Bandicoot rat are some of the other animals found in the sanctuary.

Key species Elephant, Nilgiri tahr.

Eco tourism , Kalikesam, Zero point at Kaliyal.

11. Meghamalai Wildlife Sanctuary

Meghamalai, popularly referred to as High Wavy Mountains, is a groovy and misty mountain variety located inside the Western Ghats of Theni district, Tamilnadu Sharing its boundaries with Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel Sanctuary and Periyar Tiger Reserve in Kerala. The Vaigai River, which is the livelihood of the people of Theni, Dindigul, Madurai, Ramanathapuram districts, originates on this mountain range

Establishment 2009.

Location Theni and Madurai District

Area 26910.81 Ha.

Forest type Dry deciduous, Moist deciduous, Tropical wet evergreen forests.

Flora The Sanctuary area serving a type locality for many narrow endemic plant species include *Ardisia blatterii*, *Ixora monticola*, *Hedyotis rajasekaranii* and *Elytranthe pseudopsilantha*, *Odontochilus rotundifolius*, *Eria pseudoclavicaulis*, and *Chrysoglossum halbergi* etc.

Fauna Tiger, Flying Squirrel, Lion tailed Macaque, Elephant, Bonnet macaque, Nilgiri Langur, Giant Squirrel, Sambar Deer, Spotted Deer, Barking Deer, Mouse Deer, Gaur, Indian Flying Fox, Meghamalai Rock Gecko.

Key species Salim ali fruit bat, Lion tailed macaque, Malabar giant squirrel.

Tourism Vellimalai, Manalar Dam, Suruli Falls, Cumbum Valley.



Malabar giant squirrel

12. Nellai Wildlife Sanctuary

Nellai Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in the Southern Western Ghats of Tamilnadu and falling in the revenue taluk of Tenkasi, Shenkottai, Kadayanallur and Sivagiri between latitude 8°30" and 9°30" and longitude 76°10" and 78°20" bound on the north by the Grizzled Squirrel Sanctuary, and in the south by Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu.



Indian gaur

Establishment G.O. (M.S) .No.12 Environment and Forests (FR.5) Department Dated 04.02.2015

Location Tirunelveli and Tenkasi district.

Area 35,673.33 Ha.

Forest type Southern Hill-Top Tropical Evergreen Forests, West Coast Tropical Evergreen Forests, Tirunelveli Semi Evergreen Forests, Southern Tropical Moist Mixed Deciduous, Southern Dry Mixed Deciduous Forests, Carnatic Umbrella Thorn Forests.

Flora *Palaquium ellipticum*, *Stereospermum personatum*, *Pterospermum suberfolium*, *Cullenia rosayraona*, *Canarium strictum*, *Valeria malabarica*, *Heritiera papilo*, *Knema attenuata*, *Vitex altissima*, *Myristica malabarica*, *Hopea parviflora*, *erospermum spp.* *Kingiodendron pinnatum*, *Stereospermum personatum*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, *Chukrasia tabularis*, *Artocarpus heterophyllus*.

Fauna Spotted Deer, Sambar Deer, Leopard, Tiger, Elephant, Wild Boar. This area is an important habitat for Hornbills, Nilgiri langur, Nilgiri tahr etc., 45 species of mammals, 55 species of birds, 6 numbers of Amphibian species, 37 species of reptiles are commonly found in this division

Key species Elephant, Leopard, Palm civet, Indian gaur.

Eco Tourism Sitraruvi, Thalaiyanai (proposed).

13. Kodaikanal Wildlife Sanctuary

Kodaikanal wildlife sanctuary is situated in the Dindigul district. There are around twenty-six noteworthy waterfalls that are found here. The sanctuary is well-known for Nilgiri Tahr and Asian Elephant. The Sanctuary also hosts a variety of floral population for example, the *Sonerilapulneyensis* a succulent herb endemic to Pambar Shola. Pambar Shola is its real natural surroundings. One sensation of Kodaikanal is the Kurinji Plants which bear flowers called Kurinji flowers (*Strobilanthus*) found on the Palani hills. They flower only once in 12 Years. In the valleys there are dense patches of broad - leaved, evergreen rain forests called Sholas.



Sloth bear

Notification G.O.(Ms.) No.143 Environment And Forests (Fr.5) Department, Dated: 20.09.2013.

Location Dindugal and Theni District.

Area 60,895.482 Ha.

Forest type In the valleys there are dense patches of broad - leaved, evergreen rain forests called Sholas.

Flora *Magnolia nilagirica*, *Hydnocarpus pentandrus*, *Impatiens fasciculata*, *Atalantia wightii*, *Boswellia serrata*, *Commiphora caudata*, *Rhododendron arboretum*, *Elaeocarpus blascoi*, *Glyptopetalum lawsonii*. The major planted species are Eucalyptus, Wattle and Pine.

Fauna Panther, Giant malabar squirrels, Civet cats, Leopard, Gaur, Elephant, Nilgiri tahr, Sloth bear, Porcupines, Wild Boar, barking deer, Sambar, Mouse deer.

Tourism Perumal Malai, Vellari Malai, Bear Cholas Falls, Fairy Falls, Thalaiyar Falls, Berijam lake.

14. Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary Block A and Block B

The Point Calimere wildlife Sanctuary Block A and B was notified separately in the year 2013 with the primary focuses on the protection and conservation of the black bucks (antelopes), an endangered and endemic species that are found in this region. Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary is situated on a low promontory on the Coromandel coast in Nagapattinam district. The Great Vedaranyam Swamp stretches for about 48 km from east to west, parallel to the Palk Strait and separated by a sand bank. The ungulates in Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary such as blackbuck, spotted deer, wild boar and feral horse are a significant role in native indigenous seed dispersal. Five freshwater channels empty into the Swamp, most of which have running water only during the monsoon.



White cobra

Year of establishment 2013.

Area 12407.27 Ha

Location Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam.

Forest type Consists of tidal swamps, Dry evergreen forests and mangroves.

Fauna The sanctuary is famous for blackbuck. Other mammals include chital, Black-naped Hare, wild boar, jackal, etc. The water birds of the great swamp and the dolphins and turtles that often come quite close to the shore are the special interests.

Avi fauna The sanctuary is famous for its flamingoes A vast variety of water birds such as Teals, Gulls, Terns, Plovers, Stilts etc. can also be seen during winter month.

Best season For water birds November to February; for Blackbuck and Chital all the year round.

15. Kalakkad Wildlife Sanctuary

This is one of the oldest declared sanctuary notified in the year 1976 in Tamil Nadu. It is declared mainly to protect and conserve the Lion-Tailed Macaque which is present abundantly over the area. Now, this sanctuary became the part of Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve having boundaries with Nellai Wildlife Sanctuary and Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary. Also, this sanctuary forms a part of Agasthiyarmalai Biosphere Reserve.



Lion tailed macaque

This sanctuary receives rainfall on both the monsoons and so it can be found greenish all time. This sanctuary is blessed with lots of water bodies and so many varieties of water creatures. This sanctuary is a home to lakhs of bird species. As this sanctuary has dense tree and lush forest, it is a safe haven for many lovely birds. Few of the notable ones are Grey Francolin, Rain Quail and Streak-throated Woodpecker.

Establishment G.O. (Ms). No.183 Forests and Fisheries Department Dated: 06.03.1976.

Location Tirunelveli District.

Area 84,149 Ha.

Forest type West Coast tropical evergreen forests, Southern dry mixed deciduous forests.

Flora *Abrus precatorius*, *Actinopteris radiata*, *Anisomeles malabarica*, *Diospyros melanoxylon*, *Begonia malabarica*, *Erythrina variegata*, *Mallotus philippensis*, *Pleiospermium alatum*, *Plumbago zeylanica*, *Homalium travancoricum*, *Homaium jainii*, *Orophea uniflora*, *Phlogacanthus albiflorus*.

Fauna Leopard, Lion tailed Macaque, Gaur, Tiger, Elephant, Nilgiri tahr, Malabar spiny dormouse, Nilgiri langur, Sambar deer, sloth bear, Indian giant squirrel, Indian pangolin etc.

Eco-tourism Thalaiyanai.

Temple tourism Nambi Kovil.

Significance UNESCO, IUCN Category IV.

16. Kadavur Slender Loris Sanctuary

The Tamil Nadu Government has notified India's first sanctuary for the endangered Slender Loris. Slender Loris is a small, nocturnal primate, commonly found in the tropical scrub and deciduous forests of Southern India and Sri Lanka. The sanctuary will cover Vedasandur, Dindigul East and Natham taluks in these districts.



Slender loris

The sanctuary will play an important role in conservation of the endangered wild species. Slender Loris is considered endangered according to IUCN and is listed on the Red List of Threatened Species under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Now, declaring the Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) is a big setback since there are 18 hamlets located on the Kadavur hills that will be badly affected as they are located within the proposed ESZ limits.

Notification G.O.(Ms).No.175 Environment climate change and Forests Department Dated: 12.10.2022

Location Karur and Dindugal district.

Area 11,806.56 Ha.

Forest type Dry deciduous, Moist deciduous Forest.

Flora Major flora found in this sanctuary are *Albizia odoratissima*, *Toona ciliata*, *Swietenia macrophylla*, *Acacia leucophloea*, *Bauhinia racemosa*, *Carisa carandus*, *Cassia auriculata*, *Acacia instia*, *Dendrocalamus strictus*, *Shorea roxburghii*, *Butea monosperma*, *Chloroxylon swietenia*.

Fauna Leopard, Indian Gaur, Elephant, Nilgiri langur, Sambar deer, Spotted deer, Sloth bear, Indian giant squirrel.

Key species Grey slender loris.

CONSERVATION RESERVES OF TAMILNADU

Conservation Reserves are protected areas which are declared as per the Government notification in accordance with Section 36-A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Conservation Reserves can be declared by the State Governments in any area owned by the Government, particularly the areas adjacent to National Parks and Sanctuaries and those areas which link one Protected Area with another. Such declaration should be made after having consultations with the local communities.

Conservation Reserves are declared for the purpose of protecting landscapes, seascapes, flora and fauna and their habitat. The rights of people living inside a Conservation Reserve are not affected. In Tamilnadu, there are two conservation reserves namely, Thirupudaimaruthur Birds conservation Reserve and Sucheendram Theroor –Managudi Conservation reserve.



1. Thirupudaimaruthur Birds Conservation Reserve

The Thirupudaimaruthur Birds Conservation Reserve (TBCR) is the first Conservation Reserve declared in the country situated around the temple of Naarambunathar of Lord Shiva and Gomathi, his consort. It is notified in the year 2003



Location located in the village of Thirupudaimaruthur of Cheranmahadevi Taluk in Tirunelveli District of Tamil Nadu.

Area 2.84 Ha.

Flora The plants found here are mostly riparian species consisting of tall trees. The common tree species found here are; *Terminalia arjuna*, *Basia latifolia*, *Ficus benghalensis*, *Azadirachta indica*.

Fauna Palm civet, bonnet macaque, three-striped palm squirrel and other smaller mammals are common in the village vicinity. Indian Flying Fox is the common species and found in large numbers.

Significance Congregation of migratory and local water and terrestrial birds.



Bird nesting in temple premises

2. Sucheendram Theroor – Managudi Conservation Reserve

The Sucheendram-Theroor-Managudi Conservation Reserve is among the finest tropical wetlands of the world and lies on the southern end of the Indian Peninsula. The major units of the Reserve are Sucheendram Wetland Complex, Theroor Wetland Complex and Managudi Estuary. Managudi estuary acts as a link between these wetlands and the sea. The Conservation Reserve has several direct benefits to the socio-economic well-being of the people



Location Kanniyakumari district.

Area 485 Ha.

Flora Calophyllum, which is very common around ponds and other trees generally found on the reserve include *Ficus bhengalansis*, *Ficus religiosa*, *Azadiracta indica*, *Peltophorum pterocarpum*, *Prosopis juliflora*, *Thespesia polpulnea* and *Pongamia binnata*. Other vegetation include a wide range of grasses, sedges, scrubs and creepers. *Tephrosia purpurea*, *Tribulus terrestris*, touch-me-not, *Clitoria*, *Calotropis gigantia*, *Jatropha*, etc. are commonly seen.

Avifauna A total of 103 species of wetland birds coming under 22 families and 55 genera have been recorded. Out of the 103 species of wetland birds recorded here, five species, namely *Pelecanus philippensis*, *Anhinga rufa melanogaster*, *Mycteria leucocephala*, *Threskiornis melanocephala* and *Limosa limosa* are 'Near-threatened' species according to Bird Life International and they occur from one to 3 percent level of the global population.



Sucheendram tank

Other wildlife species in this wetland complex include reptiles such freshwater snakes, estuarine snakes and aquatic turtles including marine turtle at the estuarine site. Amphibians include Ranidae and Bufonidae. The wetland borders are habitation for the Indian Python, Common Cobra, Russell's Viper, 53 two species of Sand Boa, Rat Snake, Green Whip Snake, Brown Whip Snake, Garden Lizard, Common Monitor Lizard, Geckos of many species, two species of Mongoose and the Giant Fruit Bat.

Significance Ramsar site and IBA.



Suchindram - Theroor tank



Miss.P.Banu priya, Officer Trainee of State Forest Service batch 2020-2022, CASFOS, Coimbatore belongs to the State of Tamilnadu and a Post graduate in Electronics & Communication Engineering

“ Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better “

- Albert Einstein