

District Tourism Promotion Council,
Civil Station, Kalpetta North,
Wayanad. 673122.

Dated: 30/04/15

Ref. No: T3 -345/2015/DTPC

From

District Collector
& Chairman

To

ശ്രീ. ബാലുഷ്.....

വടനാട് പ്രകൃതി സംരക്ഷണ സമിതി.

പുഴക്കര വെള്ളേരി.....

Sir,

Sub: DTPC, Wayanad-Workshop on developing proposal for developing Positive Partnership for environmental Challenges in Wayanad district- request for attending the workshop-reg:-

Ref: Decision of the meeting held on 25-04-2015 at District Collector's Chamber, Wayanad.

Please refer to the reference cited, It is decided to conduct a workshop on 06/05/2015 at 10am at conference hall of Priyadarsini Tea Estate, Mananthavady for developing proposal for a strategy on positive partnership for environmental challenges in Wayanad. (A copy of the discussion points are enclosed)

I request you to kindly attend the above meeting on time with valuable suggestions, advices, opinions etc....You are requested to bring one or two members of your organisation if you as desire. The vehicle facility also will be arranged from DTPC office, Kalpetta to Priyadarsini Estate Mananathavady and back for attending the workshop. The vehicle will start from DTPC office on 06-05-2015 at 8am.

Yours faithfully


DISTRICT COLLECTOR
& CHAIRMAN

Proposal for a Strategy Meeting on

A Positive Partnership for Sustainable Development

Background and Perspective

Wayanad is situated in the Western Ghats, a World Heritage site that is universally acknowledged to be a treasure trove of bio-diversity. This area is one among the eight global "hot spots" that harbor a wealth of fauna and flora.

While there are many elements of concern that demand attention in Wayanad— including the impact of climate change, the toxic effects of fertilizer and pesticide use, sand mining, quarrying, safe disposal of wastes etc., this paper looks at one geographic space – the area covered by the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary and its surrounding areas. The paper is prepared for the purposes of a discussion with some of the stakeholders and it is hoped that the discussions will throw up some strategic ideas that can mitigate the risks that are currently faced.

The Landscape as a perspective for the strategy

There are two main meanings for the word **landscape**: it can refer to the visible features of an area of land, or to an example of the genre of painting that depicts such an area of land. Landscape, in both senses, includes the physical elements of landforms such as mountains, hills, water bodies such as rivers, lakes, ponds and the sea, living elements of land cover including indigenous vegetation, human elements including different forms of land use, buildings and structures, and transitory elements such as lighting and weather conditions.

Combining both their physical origins and the cultural overlay of human presence, often created over millennia, landscapes reflect a living synthesis of people and place that is vital to local and national identity. The character of a landscape helps define the self-image of the people who inhabit it and a sense of place that differentiates one region from other regions. It is the dynamic backdrop to people's lives.

The approach that we take in formulating a strategy therefore takes into effect the whole of the physical and living elements including human aspects in its totality. The economic, developmental and health aspects of livelihood of people in the landscape also is of equal and vital concern in all the recommendations that will come out of this exercise.

Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS)

WWS covers an area of 344 square kilometers located in two discontinuous units -Muthanga with 266 km² and Tholpetty with 77km². Located adjacent to Nagarhole and Bandipur Tiger Reserves of Karnataka and the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve of Tamil Nadu these forests add up to a total area of 2184 square kilometers and are part of the 5520 square kilometer Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve

The worlds largest reserve of Asian elephants are found in these adjacent forests of the three States that constitute Elephant Reserve No. 7. WWS affords a sanctuary for the elephants from the other States during the hot and dry months.

Along with Nagarhole, Bandipur and Mudumalai, these forests are also one of the most important habitats of the tiger. In a recent count it was estimated that WWL has a population of 70 tigers, with an estimated 30 tigers/100 sq. km in Muthunga and 16/100 sq. km in Tholpetty. This compares with the estimaes of 11.9 tigers/ sq. km in both Nagarhole and Bandipur.

There are 45 species of mammals, 227 species of birds, 50 species of reptiles, 35 species of amphibians 80 species of fish and 143 species of butterflies that are found in WWS. Among these 9 species of mammals, 6 species of birds, and 16 species of fish are threatened. WWS is the only place where two species of Vultures – the Red headed and the White backed are found.

The Core area of the WWS covers 11 sq. km with a Buffer of 233 sq.km. However National Highway 212 (Kozhikode to Kollegal) passes through the heart of this Sanctuary, as do at least five other major roads and numerous Panchayat and forest roads. There are as many as 62 human settlements within the Sanctuary with a sizable tribal population.

WWS – major challenges

The major problems faced by the Sanctuary apart from the issues connected with the movement of vehicles and people within the Sanctuary area includes grazing by cattle and goats, forest fires, and man-animal conflicts involving elephants and tigers. Animals also fall prey to electrocution, road kills in addition to poaching and retaliatory attacks when the animals come out of the forests.

In the recent past these challenges were exacerbated in the wake of agitations mounted against the Gadgil and Kasturirangan reports.

WWS is also facing critical resource shortages in being able to implement the plans needed to mitigate man-animal conflicts.

In the context of the larger environmental concerns in the district, a strategy needs to be formulated to ensure that confidence is rebuilt between the authorities responsible for protection of the environment and the concerns and needs of communities whose understanding and support are essential for protection of the environment

Purpose of the meeting

The purpose of this meeting is to have a small group of stakeholders in the district come together with a few experts to arrive at an outline of a strategy that could address the major challenges being faced by the WWS.

We will try to understand the issues that need to be addressed in a dispassionate and objective manner. After these are noted we could examine the impact of various interventions that are already in place and see how these can be further strengthened, improved or supplemented with new initiatives.

Encouragement of birding activities and involvement of school children and young people resident in the peripheral areas of the WWS for rebuilding confidence are among strategies that could be considered. There are good examples from other parts of the country that could be examined in this context.

This strategy could be then taken forward in appropriate ways by the district administration, the Forest Department, and other stake holders.

It is proposed that there will be two presentations – one an introduction to some of the global issues concerning the environment and one relating specifically to Wayanad with a focus on the issues related to WWS. Following this a general discussion among the participants and experts is expected to throw up some leads to strategic answers. The second half of the meeting will concentrate on developing these leads through group work so that the day ends with a few concrete suggestions.

The venue of the meeting will be at Priyadarsini Tea Estate, Manathavady:

Agenda: Meeting on 6th May, 2015

10:00 – 10:30	Welcome Address	Shri N.K. Rasheed, President, District Panchayat, Wayanad
	Objectives of the Meeting	ShriKeshavendra Kumar, District Collector, Wayanad
Keynote Session		GopalanBalagopal IAS (Retd): Chair
10:30 – 11:00	Story of Hornbills in Dandelli	ShriManoj Kumar, CCF, Madikeri
11:00 – 11:30	Keynote Address: Wayanad – challenges and opportunities for a positive partnership	PramodKrishan, CCF, Palghat
11:30 – 12:00	Tea/Coffee Break	
12:00 - 13:30	General Discussions on issues from the Key Note Session and possible ways forward.	
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch Break	
Group Work for identification of strategic recommendations		Shri Samba Shiva Rao, Sub Collector, Manathavady : Chair/Coordinator
14:30 - 16:30	Group work on identified themes emerging from discussions.	
16:30 – 17:30	Presentation of small group recommendations and finalization of action points for future.	Shri.Keshavendra Kumar, District Collector.