# TAMILNADU BIO-DIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND GREENING PROJECT

## Background

Tamilnadu is endowed with a rich treasure trove of biodiversity in its forest mainly found in Western and Eastern Ghats. The State has the distinction of having 3 Tiger Reserves and 3 Biosphere reserves. The conservation of biodiversity is of paramount importance to the forest management of the State. Therefore, Tamilnadu Forest Department has formulated a project primarily focusing its attention on conservation of vital biodiversity both inside the Protected Area as well as in other Reserved Forests. In order to support the main goal of biodiversity conservation, the project also envisages large scale tree cultivation in private lands in order to increase the natural resource base outside the forest area. Training, Education, Research and Extension activities have also been designed to develop the institutional capacity development which will enhance the quality of biodiversity conservation efforts and ecosystem management. This project also ensures ecologically sustainable development initiatives by promoting community participation in eco development, tribal development and eco tourism.

## Objective

The objective of the project is "*to strengthen biodiversity conservation by improving the ecosystem and the management*

*capacity as well as undertaking tree planting outside the recorded forest areas, thereby contributing to environmental conservation and harmonized socio-economic development of Tamilnadu.*"

## Outlay and period

This project will be implemented over a period of 8 years from 2011-12 to 2018-19 with an outlay of Rs.686 Crores. The cost breakup is as follows:

| **Sl.No** | **Component** | **Outlay** (Rs. in Crores) |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Biodiversity Conservation | 93.46 |
| 2 | Increasing Natural Resource base | 182.55 |
| 3 | Institutional Capacity Development | 177.48 |
| 4 | Others (Physical contingency administration, escalation etc.) | 232.79 |
| | **TOTAL** | 686.28 |

**Project Management Unit (PMU)**

A Project Management Unit (PMU), which is a registered Society, will implement this project all over the State. PMU will also have Project Management Consultants to support smooth implementation. The implementation of works will be done by the concerned District/Divisional Forest Officer / Wild Life Warden / Field Directors. The Conservator of Forests will exercise their codal power for monitoring & supervision.

## Components and activities

The major components of this Project are as follows:

i) Biodiversity Conservation

ii) Increasing the Natural Resource Base

iii) Institutional Capacity Development

The above three components will be implemented with the involvement of consultants at various levels. The Gist of each component is given below.

### I. Biodiversity Conservation:

This component is focused on restoring and enhancing biodiversity within the existing network of Protected Areas as well as in the Reserved Forests by strengthening scientific understanding and by upgrading technical capacity of Forest Department. The following category of activities will be taken up under this component,

| Component | Category of Activities |
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| **Biodiversity Conservation** | **1. Habitat restoration, enhancement & management**<br>➢ Strengthen wetland planning and management (12 Bird Sanctuaries)<br>➢ Improve critical habitats (terrestrial) by Removing Invasive and Exotic Species (3,050 ha)<br>➢ Conserve critically endangered/ endangered species of flora and fauna (9 Divisions) |

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| | ➢ Improve management of water, habitat and herbivores in Guindy National Park<br>➢ Improve management of water, habitat and herbivores in Vallanadu Black Buck Sanctuary<br>➢ Improve management of water in PAs and RFs (80 places)<br>➢ Monitor impacts of climate change on biodiversity<br><br>**Resource protection**<br>➢ Strengthening of monitoring incidences of fire, poaching and encroachment in PAs and RFs (16 places)<br>➢ Consolidation of forest boundaries by construction of RF Cairns (80,000 numbers)<br><br>**Reduction of human-animal conflict**<br>➢ Identify and manage traditional migratory routes (Mainly in 14 Divisions)<br>➢ Establish elephant-proof trench (400 km)<br>➢ Establish solar-powered fencing (200km)<br><br>**Ecologically sustainable development**<br>➢ Socio-economic and forest dependency surveys of village communities (63 villages)<br>➢ Eco-development activities (30 villages abutting PAs and Elephant Reserves)<br>➢ Ecologically sustainable development for tribal (33 forest fringe tribal villages)<br>➢ Community-based ecotourism (25 sites) |

## II. Increasing the natural resource base

Tree planting in private lands will be promoted on a large scale with an objective of contributing towards bringing 33% of geographical area under forest and tree cover. This will contribute to increased supply of wood and non-wood products from private lands thereby reducing the pressure on natural forests. Tree based farming system will be developed as a viable economic enterprise to the farmers and their technical capacities will also be enhanced. Long rotation tree crops especially timber species will be planted up to a maximum of 70% of the target. Short rotation species such as casuarina will be planted up to a maximum of 30%. Financial incentives will also be paid to the farmers in the third financial year after planting.1000 million seedlings will be planted in farm lands in 5years. Further, research on production forestry, agro forestry and farm forestry will also be undertaken to develop 'lab to field' transfer mechanism.

TCPL component envisages the following activities.

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| **Increasing the Natural Resource Base** | ➢ Tree cultivation in private lands (TCPL) (100,000,000 seedlings for 143,000 ha)<br>➢ Research on production forestry/ agro-forestry/ farm forestry (10 topics) |

## III. Institutional Capacity Development

To develop the capacity of the staff for smooth implementation of the project, a series of capacity development programmes by way

of trainings, workshops, study tours and consultative meetings will be held. For this purpose training need analysis will be undertaken to identify the skill gaps. The staff of the Forest Department will get an opportunity to upgrade their capacity by availing various training programmes and study tours in domestic and international fora. Enhanced outreach and environmental education will be a major activity which will effectively utilize the infrastructure in 30 Forest Extension Centers already created under Tamilnadu Afforestation Project. Construction of Circle Offices, District Forest Offices, Range offices etc. will also form a part of this project.

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| **Institutional Capacity Development** | ➢ Capacity Development (23,959 trainee)<br>➢ Monitoring & Evaluation<br>➢ Construction of buildings<br>➢ Augmentation of office facilities & equipment<br>➢ Strengthening mobility<br>➢ Project Management Staff |

**CHIEF PROJECT DIRECTOR (TBGP)**