

POLICY NOTE 2011-2012

FOREST DEPARTMENT

Introduction

Forests provide environmental stability, ecological security, food security and water security to the country and also provide livelihood security to the forest fringe people. Medicinal plants from forests provide health security to the millions of people depending upon traditional systems of medicine. Forests play an important role in bio-geo-chemical cycles particularly carbon cycle and hydrological cycle. Carbon sequestration potential of forest is very important for mitigation of climate change and hence has a direct bearing on the very survival of humanity.

Tamil Nadu is endowed with rich forest areas in Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats and coastal plains. Western Ghats Range is one of the mega endemic centres and one of the twenty five global hotspots of bio-diversity and a number of other micro centres of endemism are located in

Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu has the highest number of flowering plants among all the states in the country and hence, it has the responsibility of conserving this wealth of the country. Tamil Nadu forests are very rich in medicinal plants and wild relatives of cultivated plants which are very important from the conservation point of view. All the fourteen endemic mammals of Western Ghats and all the five primates of peninsular India are found in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu also has a considerable population of National Heritage Animals namely Elephant and Tiger and their numbers are now showing an increasing trend.

2. Extent of Forests

Tamil Nadu has 22,877 sq.kms. of recorded forest area which is 17.59% of the geographical area of 1,30,058 sq. kms of the State. The Forest and tree cover is 28,306 sq. kms which is 21.76% of the total geographical area of the State as assessed by the Forest Survey of India (State of Forest

Report 2009) as against 33.33% envisaged in National Forest Policy, 1988. There is an urgent need to increase the forest / tree cover of the State.

3. Forest Policy

The Government of India enunciated the National Forest Policy, 1988 for management of State Forests in the Country. The basic objectives of the policy are :

- Maintenance of environmental stability and restoration of the ecological balance.
- Conserving the natural heritage by preserving the natural forests which represent remarkable biological diversity and genetic resources.
- Checking soil erosion and denudation in the catchment areas of rivers, lakes, reservoirs for mitigating floods and droughts.
- Increasing substantially the forest /tree cover through massive afforestation.

- Meeting the requirement of fuel wood, fodder, minor forest produce and small timber of the rural and tribal populations.
- Increasing the productivity of forests to meet essential needs.
- Encouraging efficient utilization of forest produce and maximizing substitution of wood.
- Creating a massive people's movement with the involvement of women for achieving these objectives and to minimize pressure on existing forests.

The principal aim of Forest Policy is to ensure environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance including atmospheric equilibrium which is vital for sustenance of all life forms, human, animal and plant. The derivation of direct economic benefit must be subordinated to this principal aim. The forests in the State are being managed to achieve the above policy objectives.

4. Objectives of Forest Management

The forests of Tamil Nadu are being managed with the following objectives:

- Biodiversity and genetic resource conservation by protection of forests and wildlife.
- Augmentation of water resources in forest areas.
- Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded forests for improvement of forest cover.
- Enhancing tree cover outside forests for livelihood security and climate change mitigation.
- Welfare of Tribal and Forest fringe villagers to ensure economic prosperity and ecological stability.

5. Strategy

Forest policy plans to chart new paths, forge new relationships and adapt to the rapidly shifting social environment and forest demands by adopting

the thrust areas listed below, which will promote a comprehensive forest based development of the State.

- Conservation of forests and wildlife.
- Forest Protection and forest resource management.
- Catchment area management for augmentation of water resources.
- Increase forest cover inside forests to ensure ecological security to the people.
- Increase tree cover outside forests for livelihood security.
- Tribal development to ensure ecological stability and economic prosperity.
- Coastal ecosystem conservation and management.
- Research and Technology support, for scientific forest management.
- Empowerment of women for sustainable forest management.

- Human Resources Management and Infrastructural development for efficient delivery mechanism.

6. Bio-diversity conservation

Bio-diversity is the soul of forests and Tamil Nadu is known for bio-diversity. There are 10 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 5 National Parks, 3 Biosphere Reserves, 13 Bird Sanctuaries and 1 Conservation Reserve. Tamil Nadu also has one Zoological Park and 8 Zoos for Wildlife Conservation besides 4 Elephant Reserves and 3 Tiger Reserves. The protected area of the country is 1,58,515 sq. km. which constitutes 4.82% of the total geographical area of the country. The Protected Area of Tamil Nadu extends to 4,578 sq. km. which constitutes 3.52% of total geographical area of the State. Thus there is a need to increase the protected area network in the State by 1,691 sq. km. to reach the national average of 4.82%.

The list of Sanctuaries, National Parks, Biosphere Reserves and Conservation Reserve etc. in the State are furnished as below:-

Sl.No	Name of Wildlife Sanctuary
WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES (10)	
1	Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary
2	Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary
3	Mundanthurai Wildlife Sanctuary
4	Kalakad Wildlife Sanctuary
5	Grizzled Giant Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary
6	Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary
7	Vallanadu Black Buck Sanctuary
8	Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary
9	Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary
10	Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary
BIRD SANCTUARIES (13)	
1	Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary
2	Karikili Bird Sanctuary
3	Pulicat Lake Bird Sanctuary
4	Vettangudi Bird Sanctuary

- 5 Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary
 - 6 Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary
 - 7 Udayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary
 - 8 Vaduvor Bird Sanctuary
 - 9 Koonthankulam-Kadankulam Bird Sanctuary
 - 10 Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary
 - 11 Vellode Bird Sanctuary
 - 12 Melaselvanur-Kilaselvanur Bird Sanctuary
 - 13 Theerthangal Bird Sanctuary
- NATIONAL PARKS (5)**
- 1 Mudumalai National Park
 - 2 Indira Gandhi National Park
 - 3 Mukurthi National Park
 - 4 Guindy National Park
 - 5 Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park (21 Islands)
- BIOSPHERE RESERVES (3)**
- 1 Nilgiris
 - 2 Gulf of Mannar
 - 3 Agasthiarmalai

CONSERVATION RESERVE (1)

- 1 Thirupudaimaruthur Bird Conservation Reserve

ELEPHANT RESERVES (4)

- 1 Nilgiris – Eastern Ghats
- 2 Nilambur – Silent Valley - Coimbatore
- 3 Anamalai – Parambikulam
- 4 Srivilliputhur – Periyar

TIGER RESERVES (3)

- 1 Kalakkad - Mundanthurai
- 2 Anamalai
- 3 Mudumalai

The State of Tamil Nadu is a pioneer in the conservation of endangered tropical plant species in that it has established a Gene pool Garden over an area of 242.14 ha. at Nadugani of Nilgiris District. A total of 451 species have been assembled in this garden. Apart from this, Tamil Nadu has established 12 Medicinal Plants Conservation Areas(MPCAs) and 8 Medicinal Plant Development Areas (MPDAs) for conservation and propagation of medicinal plants.

The angiosperm diversity of Tamil Nadu with 5,640 species ranks first among all the States in the Country. This includes 533 endemic species, 230 red-listed species, 1,559 species of medicinal plants and 260 species of wild relative of cultivated plants. The faunal diversity of Tamil Nadu includes 165 fresh water fishes, 76 species of amphibians, 177 species of reptiles, 454 species of birds and 187 species of mammals.

Biodiversity conservation in Tamil Nadu is given top priority by strengthening forest protection through regular beat perambulation, organized raids, anti-poaching camps and special combing operations. The protection efforts of the Department have been strengthened by providing jeeps to 225 territorial and wildlife range officers during 2005-2006. The availability of these jeeps has completely revamped forest protection in the State.

Status of Population of the important Wild Animals

Systematic and scientific methods were adopted to conduct wildlife censuses on annual basis to study the population dynamics of important wild animals. Synchronized census have been conducted for accurate assessment of Tiger and Elephant population in the State of Tamil Nadu.

The following is the population of important wild animals in Tamil Nadu as per the latest census reports.

Tiger	-	163
Panther	-	244
Elephant	-	4,015
Black buck	-	2,343
Nilagiri Tahr	-	1,250
Lion Tailed Macaque	-	1,107
Grizzled Giant Squirrel	-	477
Gaur	-	8,110

7. Nature Conservation

The objective of the scheme is to maintain and carry out conservation oriented works for

improving wildlife habitats in the State. The wildlife and bird sanctuaries in the State are managed scientifically. Engaging wildlife protection watchers, construction of watch towers and anti-poaching sheds in those areas are carried out. During 2010-2011, an amount of Rs.0.35 crore has been spent under this scheme.

During 2011-2012, it is proposed to implement the scheme at a cost of Rs. 0.59 crore.

8. Centrally Sponsored Schemes

39 schemes were implemented during the year 2010-2011 at a cost of Rs.17.80 crore. 33 of these schemes are centrally sponsored with 100% central assistance and the remaining are shared schemes between Government of India and State Government. With the financial assistance from Government of India, the development activities for various wildlife Sanctuaries / National Parks have been undertaken. Project Tiger, Project Elephant, Conservation and Management of Mangroves,

Conservation and Management of Wetlands and Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves are some of the major schemes implemented under these Centrally sponsored schemes.

9. Project Tiger

The Forest Department has taken various measures to conserve tigers and their habitats. The importance of tiger conservation lies in the fact that the presence of this predator is an indicator of sound health of an ecosystem. Presently, Government of India provides 100% assistance for non-recurring works and 50% for recurring works for management and protection of the Tiger reserves. Habitat conservation, Eco-development activities, Protection, Fire prevention measures, Improvement of water sources, Tourism development, Controlling of human-animal conflict and Improvement of infrastructure facilities are some of the activities which are being carried out. During 2010-2011, an

amount of Rs.6.43 crore has been spent under this scheme.

During 2011-2012, it is proposed to implement this scheme at a cost of Rs.6.35 crore.

10. Project Elephant

Project Elephant is implemented in four elephant reserves i.e. Nilgiris elephant reserve, Coimbatore elephant reserve, Anamalai elephant reserve and Periyar elephant reserve. With considerable population of elephants, Tamil Nadu is a leading State in elephants and their habitat management. Out of 26,000 elephants estimated in India, this State has a population of 4,015 elephants. 100% Central assistance is received every year from Government of India for this scheme. The scheme is being implemented to protect the elephants and improve their habitats, including fire prevention measures, water facilities to elephants, payment of compensation to the damages caused to crops and loss of human lives

caused by elephant, digging of elephant proof trenches etc, to control the human-animal conflict. This scheme was implemented with a cost of Rs.2.64 crore during 2010-2011 including expenditure towards setting up rescue centres for elephants which are orphaned from wild, rescued from wild or private persons for illegal possession.

During 2011-2012, it is proposed to implement this scheme at a cost of Rs.3.09 crore.

11. Wetland Conservation in Tamil Nadu

Wetland systems directly or indirectly support lakhs of people providing goods and services to them by checking floods, by preventing coastal erosion, by mitigating the effects of natural disasters like cyclones and tidal waves, by storing rainwater, by recharging ground water aquifers, by providing nesting ground for many wading birds and water fowls, by providing food and shelter for mammals, by acting as a carbon sink and help to remove a wide range of pollutants. Out of 94 wetlands

identified in India, 3 are in Tamil Nadu. These are Point Calimere, Kazhuveli and Pallikaranai Wetlands. Major activities involved in Wetland management are Habitat improvement, Wildlife Protection in Wetlands, Eco-development activities around Wetlands, Bio-upgradation, Awareness creation, Research, Monitoring and Nature Education. During the year 2010-2011, it was implemented at an outlay of Rs.1.27 crore.

During 2011-2012, it is proposed to implement this scheme at a cost of Rs.2.17 crore.

Besides this, the Forest Department will take up restoration of Pallikaranai Marsh land at a cost of about Rs.15.8 crore.

12. Western Ghats Development Programme (WGDP)

The objective of scheme is to conserve the forest area of the Western Ghats except Nilgiris district. It is being implemented in Coimbatore, Erode, Dindigul, Kanniyakumari, Madurai, Theni, Tirunelveli, Tiruppur and Virudhunagar districts.

Fire prevention works, soil and moisture conservation works, anti-poaching measures and solar fencing are some of the major activities carried out under this scheme. During 2010-2011, an amount of Rs.2.70 crore has been spent under this scheme. In Dindigul, Madurai and Theni districts, the scheme has been implemented at a cost of Rs.1.82 crore through the Tamil Nadu Watershed Development Agency fund. It is proposed to implement this scheme during 2011-2012 with an outlay of Rs.3.10 crore.

13. Hill Area Development Programme (HADP)

The objective of scheme is to conserve the forest areas of Nilgiris district. Soil and moisture conservation works, fencing shola forests, fire prevention measures, anti-poaching measures and improving wildlife habitats are being carried out under this scheme. During 2010-2011, an amount of Rs.4.25 crore has been spent under this scheme.

During 2011-2012, it is proposed to implement this scheme at a cost of Rs.5.84 crore.

14. Arignar Anna Zoological Park

Arignar Anna Zoological Park with an area of 602 ha. is located in Vandalur, close to Chennai. The park exhibits 1,541 animals and includes 47 species of mammals, 59 species of birds, 31 species of reptiles, in all numbering 137 species of wildlife. The Zoological Park attracts about 17 lakh visitors annually. During 2011-2012, it is proposed to further develop this Zoological Park.

15. Human-Animal Conflict

The challenges involved in the wildlife and biodiversity conservation are many. The problem of human wildlife conflicts is one among them which is posing a very severe threat to conservation of wildlife. Human wildlife conflict is a phenomenon which manifests as a result of a serious competition between the two for food, water, space or any other

resource between wildlife and humans at the same place and time leading to overlap of their operational areas. Such conflicts could result in causing severe damage, not only to the life and property of man, but will also cause an irrecoverable damage to the wildlife and its habitats.

In Tamil Nadu State, the more commonly involved wild animals in the human wildlife conflicts where damage is caused are elephants, tigers, leopards, wild boars, gaurs etc., whereas on the other side of the human wildlife conflicts, almost all the wildlife and their habitat are affected by the human interruptions / interferences and their activities.

Incidents of wild animals straying out of forest occur due to normal migration of animals, habitat fragmentation, habitat loss and degradation. When the strayed animals come across human habitations, human animal conflict arises. Such conflicts result in damage to crops, property, loss of livestock and injury / loss of human life.

The following mitigation measures have been taken to resolve the problem of human animal conflict.

1. The development of water resources in the forest areas.
2. The development of tree fodder resources in the forest areas.
3. Creation of physical barrier – solar power fencing and elephant proof trenches.
4. Monitoring and anti-depredation drives.
5. Awarding adequate and timely compensation to the affected families

During 2010-2011, solar fences were erected over a length of 125 kms., at a cost of Rs.2.27 crore. During 2010-2011 an amount of Rs.1.98 crore has been paid towards compensation to the victims.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has enhanced the compensation to be paid in case of death / permanent incapacitation of human beings in human-animal conflicts from Rs.1.5 lakh to Rs.3 lakh. A Revolving fund of Rs.2.5 crore with

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests will be created to settle the claims immediately.

During 2011-2012, a scheme for mitigation of human-elephant conflict will be implemented in Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Erode, Dindigul and Tirunelveli forest circles at a cost of Rs.10 crore.

16. Forest Protection

The forests in the State are under severe anthropogenic pressures and the forest resources are under constant threat due to various factors. The threats include sandalwood smuggling, illicit felling of other valuable trees, encroachments, forest fires, grazing, ganja cultivation in forest areas etc. All these threats are being managed through constant vigil. The protection and vigilance wing of the department passes on information related to forest and wild life protection to concerned divisions for immediate action. The forest personnel are being specially trained to handle latest weapons in order to take up innovative combative and patrol

strategies and offence detection methodologies. The protection works include consolidation of forest boundaries by erecting cairns, fire prevention through fire line maintenance and cutting new fire lines, involving local people in fire fighting through the creation of Joint Fire Management Committees, employing fire watchers on a regular basis during the dry season, constructing fire watch towers, and employing anti-poaching watchers.

17. Forest laws

The history of utilization of flora and fauna goes back to prehistoric time. The industrial revolution, consumptive utilization of wild flora and fauna compounded the problems of forest protection. Way back in 1894, Forest Policy laid emphasis for preservation of forest but commercial utilization of forest produce and wildlife beyond carrying capacity posed serious problem to ecosystem and many species became extinct.

Tamil Nadu is one of the pioneer States in the field of forest protection. The then Madras Presidency enacted legislation way back in 1882 namely Madras Forest Act, 1882 (now known as Tamil Nadu Forest Act) for conservation and protection of forests in Madras Presidency. There was great emphasis for preservation of wild elephant and way back in 1873, an enactment namely Madras Wild Elephant Preservation Act, 1873 was enacted to prevent indiscriminate destruction of wild elephant.

At present, the State also implements Central Acts like Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (for protection of wild fauna and flora), Forest Conservation Act, 1980 (to regulate diversion of forest land for non forestry purposes) and Biological Diversity Act 2002. For conserving and enriching forest cover/tree cover in private lands, Tamil Nadu Hill areas (Preservation of Trees) Act, 1955 and Tamil Nadu Preservation of Private Forest Act, 1949 have been enacted.

The movement of timber including scheduled timber during transit is regulated by Tamil Nadu Timber Transit Rules 1968, Tamil Nadu Sandalwood Transit Rules 1967, Tamil Nadu Maintenance of Accounts in respect of Scheduled Timber Rules 1988, Tamil Nadu Timber (Movement Control) Order 1982 and Tamil Nadu Wildlife (Transit) Rules 1991.

18. Intensification of Forest Management

The erstwhile Integrated Forest Protection Scheme aimed at protecting the forest resource by strengthening protection measures to control forest fires, survey and demarcation of forest boundaries to prevent encroachment by construction of cairns, carrying out fire prevention works, improvement of roads for better protection, provision of better communication facilities, preparation of working plans for scientific management of forest divisions etc.

With a view to make the Integrated Forest Protection Scheme more broad based, Government of India revised and renamed this scheme as "Intensification of Forest Management". In addition to the above components, four new components have been added in the existing scheme, which are as follows:

- Protection and Conservation of Sacred Groves.
- Conservation and Restoration of Unique Vegetation and Ecosystems.
- Control and Eradication of Forest Invasive species.
- Preparedness for Meeting Challenges of Bamboo Flowering and Improving management of Bamboo forests.

During 2010-2011, this scheme was implemented at a cost of Rs.2.44 crore.

During 2011-2012, it is proposed to implement it at a cost of Rs.4.24 crore.

19. Catchment Area Management

The objective of catchment area management is to protect and conserve the soil, water and other natural resources. From 1997 onwards under Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project, developmental activities are being implemented with this objective in forest areas within the watersheds. This programme is being implemented with the complete co-operation, support and active participation of the people. Water harvesting structures like check dams and percolation ponds have been constructed in forests and forest fringe areas for augmentation of water resources and to provide scope for increased level of underground water availability. Till 2010-2011, 28,226 Nos. of check dams and 3,729 Nos. of percolation ponds have been constructed. These structures have the capacity to lock and store 1,967 million cubic feet of water.

During 2011-2012, it is proposed to take up catchment area management at a cost of Rs.14.38 crore under State Funds.

20. Increasing forest cover inside forests

This thrust area aims at restoration of the original forest vegetation in the degraded forests, to restore the biodiversity and to increase productivity of the forests to meet livelihood needs of the forest dependents. As forests support livelihood options of several forest dependents, it is necessary to uplift the quality of life of the forest dependents and to restore the degraded forests in Tamil Nadu through their participation. The Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project and National Afforestation Programme are the main schemes which contribute to increase of forest cover.

21. Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project

With the financial support from Japan Bank for International Co-operation, Tamil Nadu

Afforestation Project (Phase I) was implemented from 1997-1998 to 2004-2005. Under this programme 4.8 lakhs ha. of degraded forests were restored at a cost of Rs.688 crore.

TAP Phase-II is being implemented from 2005-2006 and will be completed by 2012-2013 at a cost of Rs.567.42 crore. The project aims to restore the forest cover through soil and moisture conservation works, afforestation, and by providing alternate employment to the people living in forest fringe villages. From 2005-2006 to 2008-2009, 1.78 lakhs ha. of degraded forests around in 800 villages have been treated.

During 2011-2012, maintenance of older plantations over an extent of 95,000 ha, buffer zone activities like community development and income generation activities in 460 villages will be taken up at a cost of Rs.45.21 crore with JICA funds. Besides maintenance of plantations raised over an extent of 31,050 ha during last year, III year Buffer Zone activities, soil and moisture conservation works in TAP Phase I area to augment water

resources in these areas will also be taken up under State Funds at a cost of Rs.12.59 crore during 2011-2012. The total outlay for both JICA Funds and State Fund will be Rs.57.80 crore during 2011-2012.

22. Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project

To strengthen biodiversity conservation as well as undertaking tree planting outside the forest areas to increase tree cover, Tamil Nadu Forest Department would implement a Japan International Cooperation Agency assisted externally aided project named "Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project". The Loan agreement between Government of India and Government of Japan has been signed. The project will be implemented from 2011-2012 to 2018-2019 with an outlay of Rs.686 crore through creation of a Project Management Unit sanctioned by the Government.

23. National Afforestation Programme

This is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with 100% central assistance. The objective is to improve the degraded forests through joint forest management by Forest Development Agencies. During the first four years of 11th Five year plan ie., from 2007-2008 to 2010-2011, an expenditure of Rs.29.39 crore has been incurred.

For 2011-2012, proposals have been sent to Government of India towards "Advance work" for Rs.6.87 crore.

24. Green India Mission

The national mission for a Green India is one of the eight Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) with the following objectives:-

a) Increased forest/tree cover on forest/Non forest lands and improved quality of forest cover.

b) Improved ecosystem services including biodiversity, hydrological services and carbon sequestration.

c) Increased forest based livelihood income of households living in and around the forests.

d) Enhanced annual CO₂ sequestration. The operational guidelines on this mission are awaited from Government of India for preparation of State specific Action Plan.

25. Increasing green cover outside forests

To increase the green cover outside forests, programmes like Tree cultivation in private lands, Raising Teak plantation in Padugai lands and Free distribution of seedlings to institutions and individual households are being implemented. These programmes would also help to bridge the gap between future supply and demand of fuelwood and timber in the State. The Madras School of Economics in its study report "Wood Balance Study- Tamil Nadu, 2009" has assessed that the total demand for fuelwood in the state would be

between 15.17 and 23.22 million cu.m. by 2013. The total demand for timber would vary between 5.4 and 6.5 million cu.m. by 2013 and between 5.7 and 7.7 cu.m. by 2018. In order to bridge the gap between supply and demand tree cultivation outside forest areas needs to be increased and expanded.

26. Tree cultivation in private lands

In order to encourage tree cultivation outside forests, a new scheme was launched in the State during 2007 and continued during 2008-2009, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. This programme involves planting of quality tree seedlings in the fallow lands of small and marginal farmers as inter crops. Quality seedlings are raised from the seeds obtained from the "seed production areas" of the department. This scheme not only ensures increased income to farmers but also paves way for wood based entrepreneurship in the State by providing the needed pulpwood, matchwood, furniture wood etc for future industrial needs. The increase of tree cover improves the quality of the

environment in the villages in addition to rural development. About 3 crore seedlings have been planted in 49,195 ha. during 2007-2008 to 2010-2011, in the private lands of farmers at a cost of about Rs.43.74 crore. 71,454 farmers have been benefited from this scheme till 2009-2010.

During 2011-2012, this scheme is proposed to be implemented at a cost of Rs.13.00 crore.

27. Raising teak plantations on padugai lands

The objective of the scheme is to create timber resources in the State by planting teak on the canal banks and on river padugai lands to increase tree cover outside the Reserve Forests and to prevent soil erosion in the canal and river banks. The proposal to raise teak plantations on canal and river banks and padugais of Dindigul, Madurai, Sivaganga, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Trichy, and Villupuram districts at a total cost of Rs.35.31 Crore for a period of 6 years from 2008-2009 to 2013-2014 covering an area of

20,700 ha. has been approved by the Government. From 2008-2009 to 2010-2011 teak plantations have been raised over an area of 19,986 ha. and maintenance works were carried out for the plantations raised earlier at a total cost of Rs. 25.52 crore.

During 2011-2012, maintenance work for the Teak plantations raised earlier will be carried out at a cost of Rs.6.44 crore.

28. Free distribution of seedlings

The overuse of natural resources has resulted in pollution levels exceeding the threshold levels. The emissions from vehicles and industries are polluting the urban environment subjecting the inhabitants to increased health risks. The ill effects of environmental pollution can be mitigated by increasing the green cover. During 2010-2011, 4 lakh seedlings were raised and distributed free of cost to institutions and households at a cost of Rs.0.20 crore.

During 2011-2012, it is proposed to continue the scheme at a cost of Rs.0.50 crore.

29. Forestry Extension centres

Forestry extension services and technology support for raising tree seedlings are provided through 30 forestry extension centres in the State. The extension centres provide quality tree seedlings like Bambusa tulda & Bambusa nutans (Mullilla Moongil), Casuarina junghuniana (Savuku), Tectona grandis (Theku), Azadirachta indica (Vembu), Melia dubia (Malai Vembu) and other tree seedlings besides grafted Tamarind and Nelli plants to the farmers which will provide increased income. These seedlings are planted in private lands and serve as demonstration plots established in farmlands.

30. Tribal Development Project

In order to bring tribal people to the mainstream, village development works, providing

communication, education, health, and drinking water facilities etc., need to be provided. A project for Tribal Development at an outlay of Rs.7.78 crore has been sent to NABARD for providing funds. A comprehensive proposal at an outlay of Rs.30.09 crore for tribal development for improving communication and educational facilities etc. is under consideration of the Government.

31. Forest Research

The objective of the scheme is to improve bio-diversity conservation, improve productivity and thereby produce more goods and services for the benefit of people through research experiments.

The co-ordination between the Research and Extension wings of the department has resulted in transfer of technology for adoption of improved forestry and farm field practices

During 2010-2011, an amount of Rs.2.32 crore has been spent on Research activities.

During 2011-2012, this scheme is proposed to be continued at a cost of Rs.3.56 crore.

32. Empowerment of women

The programmes of the Forest Department have established the fact that rural women have a pivotal role in controlling decisions pertaining to restoration of forests, Joint Forest Management, Resource sharing and employment generation. The guidelines established have provided scope for inclusion of 50% women in Village Forest Committees and 1/3rd of women folk in the executive committee. Upto 2009-2010, 2,317 VFCs were established with 6,92,754 members including 3,47,224 women. 132 VFCs are headed by women presidents. The formation of women Self Help Groups has paved way for economic liberation of the women in the villages. The women have improved skills on micro-finance activities. One positive aspect of TAP is the continuous formation of women SHGs for economic development. From

1997-1998 to 2009-2010 around 7,174 women SHGs have been formed and 1,04,976 women have enrolled as members.

33. Human Resource Development

Tamil Nadu Forest Department has a huge manpower resource. Of the 11,384 posts in the Forest Department, 3,375 are permanent, 5,744 temporary and 2,265 posts are supernumerary. All these staff need to be suitably trained and their skills upgraded to meet the objectives of the forest policy. The existing Tamil Nadu Forest Academy at Coimbatore and Tamil Nadu Forestry College at Vaigai Dam are endeavouring to meet these challenges. In Tamil Nadu Forest Academy Coimbatore, training is imparted to Rangers (18 months) and Foresters (6 months) while in Tamil Nadu Forestry College, Vaigai Dam training is imparted to Forest guards (6 months) and Forest Watchers (1 month). Apart from these, few special courses of short duration ranging from 3 days to 10

days are conducted as and when required under specific programmes. Basic facilities required for the staff will be further strengthened during 2011-2012 through construction of residential buildings and improving infrastructural facilities in the training institutes.

34. 13th Finance Commission Grants in-aid

Under the Grants-in-aid recommended by the 12th Finance Commission Rs.27.35 crore was spent for maintenance of forests from 2005-2006 to 2009-2010. The 13th Finance Commission has recommended an amount of Rs.142.48 crore for Tamil Nadu towards grants-in-aid for Forests for the period 2010-2011 to 2014-2015 for development of forests and preservation of forest wealth. During 2010-2011 the scheme was implemented at an outlay of Rs.6.88 crore.

During 2011-2012, the scheme is proposed to be implemented at an outlay of Rs.28.74 crore.

35. Improvement of Forest Roads

1,380 kms length of WBM Roads and Black topped Roads, 1,943 kms. length of gravel roads totalling 3,323 kms of length of roads are under the control of Forest Department. These roads are being utilized by forest officials and people. These roads get damaged due to natural wear and tear. Hence, these roads are being improved and maintained. During 2010-2011, improvement of forest roads, over a length of 19.53 kms., were carried out at a cost of Rs.2.04 crore. During 2011-2012, Rs.16.79 crore is proposed to be spent for improvement of forest roads over a total length of 156.30 kms.

36. Part-II schemes

During 2011-2012, the following 19 Part-II schemes will be implemented at a cost of Rs.461.69 lakhs. The priority areas are Human-animal conflict mitigation, Tribal development including improvement of roads in tribal areas and supply of seeds/ seedlings to public / farmers.

Sl. No.	Name of the scheme	Amount (Rupees in lakhs)
1	Digging of Elephant proof trench along RF boundaries 67 kms @ Rs.2.10 lakhs per Km	140.70
2	Driving menacing animals into forests	30.00
3	Creation of Water Holes inside the Forests @ Rs. 5.00 lakhs each in Dharmapuri Division, Srivilliputhur, Vellore Division and Sathyamangalam Division	20.00
4	Providing assured drinking water facilities to 4 tribal settlements @ Rs.4.20 lakhs each	16.80
5	Raising seedlings as per the choice of people and effecting free supply to public 5,00,000 No. of seedlings	30.00
6	Improvement to Roads in Forest Areas	59.50
7	Celebration of International Year of Forest – (IYF2011)	25.00
8	Construction of District Forest Officer, Sivaganga's Quarters at Sivaganga Division @ Rs.25 lakhs and construction of two Combined Quarters of Forest Guard and Watcher at Manjampatti and Karattur @ Rs.10/- lakhs each in Anamalai Tiger Reserve Pollachi	45.00

9	Improvement of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests office at Panagal Maligai, Chennai	10.00
10	Improvement of old buildings at Tamil Nadu Forestry Training College Vaigai Dam	10.00
11	Imparting combat training to 300 Forest Guards	1.58
12	Maintenance of thornless Bamboo Germplasm Bank	1.00
13	Improvement of library in Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Head of Forest Force)'s Office	6.00
14	Purchase of vehicles – one mini lorry and one motor cycle	8.00
15	Strengthening of existing percolation pond	5.00
16	Establishment of Germplasm Bank of fruit yielding Trees for Pollinators and Seed Dispersers	15.00
17	Collection of seeds from the best trees of Fast Wood species used by Farmers for cogeneration of Food and Wood	12.11
18	Establishment of Clonal – Germplasm Bank for Sandal	20.00
19	Tribal Women Avocation – sowing of seeds in Kurumalai, Mavadappu and Kulipatti settlements at Anamalai Hills	6.00
Total		461.69

FOREST CORPORATIONS

37. Tamil Nadu Forest Plantation Corporation Limited (TAFORN), Tiruchirappalli

Tamil Nadu Forest Plantation Corporation Limited was established on 13.06.1974 with headquarters at Tiruchirappalli under the Companies Act, 1956. The authorised share capital of this Corporation is Rs.10.00 crore and the paid-up share capital is at Rs.5.64 crore. About 75,000 ha. of Reserved Forests and Reserved lands were taken on lease from the Tamil Nadu Forest Department for plantation.

The Corporation has adopted modern technology like improved Eucalyptus clones, Cashew grafts and site matching. Due to this, the productivity has improved and the corporation has been making profits continuously from 1995 onwards. During 2010-2011, 1.94 lakhs metric tonnes of pulpwood have been supplied to paper mills. During 2011-2012, 1.85 lakhs metric tonnes of pulpwood is proposed to be supplied.

Production and Financial Results

PRODUCTION OF PULP WOOD

Year	Production (in Metric tonnes)
2008 - 2009	1.37 lakh
2009 - 2010	1.51 lakh
2010 - 2011	1.94 lakh
2011 - 2012	1.85 lakh (Proposed)

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

(Rupees in lakh)

Sl. No.	Particulars	2008 – 2009	2009 – 2010	2010 - 2011
1	Income	4,616.97	5,165.22	6,380.75
2	Expenditure	3,684.25	4,304.16	4,411.33
3	Profit (+) / Loss (-)	(+) 932.72	(+) 861.06	(+)1,969.42

Future Proposals for 2011-2012 :

During the year 2011-2012, it is proposed to raise fresh plantations as follows:-

Physical Target **Financial Target (Rs.in lakh)**

- a) Eucalyptus : 3,600 Ha. 701.08
 b) Cashew : 800 Ha. 169.84

38. Tamil Nadu Tea Plantation Corporation Limited (TANTEA), Coonoor

With the objective of rehabilitating the Sri Lankan repatriates, the State Government has undertaken 'Tea Project' in Nilgris district and raised tea plantations in 1968, through the Forest Department over an area of 4,432 hectares. Later, during the year 1976 the 'Tea Project' was registered as a Company under the Companies Act, 1956 i.e., "Tamil Nadu Tea Plantation Corporation Limited" which is now popularly known as "TANTEA".

The authorized share capital of TANTEA is Rs.10.00 crore and the paid-up share capital is Rs.5.96 crore. The Government of Tamil Nadu holds 100% of the share capital of TANTEA which

is a large business entity in the plantation sector in the Nilgiris and Coimbatore Districts.

The Corporation has raised tea plantations over an area of 4,431.92 hectares and installed 8 Tea Factories with a total capacity of 120 lakhs kg. of made tea per annum. TANTEA provides employment to about 6,350 permanent workers and about 2,500 casual workers. Free housing and other amenities like water supply, free medical facilities etc. are also provided to its workers. It also runs three Garden hospitals and seven primary schools for the workmen. The casual workers and their family also enjoy free medical facilities at its hospitals.

The Government have notified wages at Rs.132.94 per day per worker in TANTEA from 01-04-2011 in addition to all the statutory benefits like EPF, Bonus, Gratuity, etc.,

Production and Financial Results

The sale price of tea was impressive during 2009-2010 and therefore the Corporation had earned a profit of Rs.1,047.40 lakh. However, due to adverse climatic conditions and poor tea prices, TANTEA incurred losses during 2010-2011.

Production of made tea and financial results

Year	Made Tea production	Profit (+) / Loss (-)
2008 – 2009	101.05 lakh kg	(+) Rs. 921.21 lakh
2009 – 2010	103.98 lakh kg	(+) Rs.1,047.40 lakh
2010 – 2011	93.22 lakh kg	(-) Rs.1,532.50 lakh (Un audited)
2011 – 2012	108.00 lakh kg*	-

* Target

During the current year(2011-12), this Corporation has produced 26.42 lakh kgs and sold 24.57 lakh Kgs of made tea till June 2011.

Future Plans

(i) Improving Retail Sale

It is proposed to expand the retail marketing of tea through the reputed public sector organizations like M/s Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and by increasing the number of retail dealers. An agreement with M/s. BPCL has also been executed in 2009-2010 and packed teas are being sold through M/s. BPCL network all over Tamil Nadu.

(ii) Production of “ Organic Tea”

It is proposed to produce 'organic tea' by applying organic inputs in a phased manner to improve the soil health, environment and quality of product. To begin with, action has already been taken to convert 7.5 Ha of land as organic tea plantation in Coonoor Tea Division.

(iii) ISO Certification

Action is being taken to get the Certification ISO 22000 : 2005 for the Corporation.

39. Arasu Rubber Corporation Limited, Nagercoil

Arasu Rubber Corporation Limited is a Public Sector undertaking and fully owned by the State Government. It has raised rubber plantation over an area of 4,279.78 ha. of forest lands taken on lease from the Forest Department in Kanniyakumari District where the soil, climate and topography are conducive for the growth of rubber trees. The Corporation was registered under the Companies Act 1956 and has been functioning with effect from 1.10.1984. There are 1,637 permanent workers and 336 of them are Sri Lankan repatriates.

The authorized share capital of Arasu Rubber Corporation is Rs.10.00 crore and the paid-up share capital is Rs.8.45 crore.

(i) Production and Financial Results

Sl. No.	Year	Production (in Metric tonnes)		Total Revenue (Rupees in lakhs)	Profit (+) / Loss (-) (Rupees in lakhs)
		Target	Achievement		
1	2001 – 2002	2800	2511	998.38	(-) 646.47
2	2002 – 2003	2800	2828	1238.29	(+) 59.27
3	2003 – 2004	2700	2668	1450.35	(+) 117.44
4	2004 – 2005	2025	2037	1252.42	(+) 20.82
5	2005 – 2006	2500	2562	1872.83	(+) 69.41
6	2006 – 2007	2115	2116	1937.98	(+) 543.14
7	2007 – 2008	2100	2003	1946.82	(+) 178.12
8	2008 – 2009	2000	1680	1758.73	(+) 10.80
9	2009 – 2010	2050	2030	2331.87	(+) 216.07
10	2010 – 2011	1700	1823	4487.77	(+)1738.56
11	2011 – 2012	2000	121.52 *	428.60 *	

* (Figure shows upto June 2011).

(ii) Future proposals

Revised schedule of programme for felling and replanting of rubber over an extent of 1,100 ha for five years is approved by the Government. In pursuance of Government order, an extent of 340 ha will be planted during 2011-2012.

**K.T. PACHAMAL
MINISTER FOR FORESTS**