

MAJOR ONGOING SCHEMES – 2014-15

STATE SCHEMES

Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project (TBGP)

An externally aided 'Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project' at an outlay of Rs. 686 crores is under implementation from 2011-12, which will continue till 2018-19. This project focuses on biodiversity conservation through forest protection and socio-economic development of forest fringe villagers and tribal communities. It will also help to continue the State's efforts in increasing tree cover outside forests by taking up tree cultivation in private lands. During 2013-14, the project was implemented at an outlay of Rs.96.80 crores. This scheme is being continued in 2014-15 with an outlay of Rs.143.69 crores.

Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project (Phase-II)

In order to uplift the quality of life of the forest dependants and poorer sections of the society and to restore the degraded forests through their participation, a massive Joint Forest Management based Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project-II was implemented at a cost of Rs.567.42 crores, with funding from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) since 2005-06. From 2005-06 to 2012-13, afforestation works were taken up over an extent of 1,77,500 hectares of degraded forests besides carrying out developmental works in 800 forest fringe villages including 150 tribal villages.

JICA Funds: A two year plan has been conceptualized for about Rs.50 crores to ensure sustainability of the project activities by utilizing the balance loan amount available under Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project Phase-II.

State Funds: Maintenance of plantations and soil moisture conservation works in TAP Phase-I areas were carried out at a cost of Rs.27.34 crores under TAP Phase-II during 2011-12 and 2012-13. During 2013-14, the scheme was implemented at a cost of Rs.12.28 crores. This scheme will be continued during 2014-15.

Massive Tree Planting Programme

In order to make tree planting a massive people oriented exercise as well as to increase green cover in the State, a massive tree planting programme was implemented at a cost of Rs.27.22 crores and about 64 lakh seedlings were planted in 32 districts of the State in commemoration with Hon'ble Chief Minister's 64th Birthday during 2011-12. This scheme is being continued to be implemented over an outlay of Rs.43.55 crores by planting 65 lakh seedlings in the 32 districts of the State from 2012-13 to 2014-15. An amount of Rs.23.15 crores was incurred by planting 65 lakhs seedlings in all over the State upto March 2014 and maintenance works are under implementation.

Further, the Government has accorded sanction for a sum of Rs.49.18 crores for a period of three years from 2013-14 to 2015-16 towards the implementation of the Massive Tree Planting programme marking the 66th Birthday celebrations of the Hon'ble Chief Minister by planting 66 lakh seedlings in all the 32 districts. Planting works are being carried out.

Raising teak plantations on padugai lands

The objectives of the scheme are to create timber resources in the State, to increase tree cover outside the Reserve Forests and to prevent soil erosion in the canal banks. During 2013-14, teak plantations were raised over an area of 8,863 ha. besides carrying out maintenance works in the padugais of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Trichy, Dindigul and Villupuram districts from the sanctioned amount of Rs.13.41 crores. This scheme will be continued during 2014-15.

Free distribution of seedlings

During 2013-14, under this scheme 9.76 lakh seedlings have been raised from the sanctioned amount of Rs. 93 lakh and the same are being distributed to various institutions and individual households free of cost. This scheme will be continued during 2014-15.

13th Finance commission

The 13th Finance commission has recommended allocation of a sum of Rs.142.48 crores under Grants in-aid for maintenance of forests for the period from 2010-11 to 2014-15 for Tamil Nadu. The objective is to provide fiscal resources, in support of State's commitment in forest and bio-diversity conservation. During 2013-14, this scheme was implemented with an outlay of Rs.35.62 crores. It is proposed to implement the scheme at an outlay of Rs.35.62 crores during 2014-15 also.

Replanting in Thane cyclone affected areas

Sanction has been accorded by the Government for the scheme called 'replanting in Thane cyclone affected areas' for restocking of the affected coastal areas in Cuddalore and Villupuram districts with tree species like teak, casuarina, eucalyptus etc., over a period of four years commencing from 2012-13 at a cost of Rs.14.96 crores. This scheme has been implemented by incurring expenditure to the tune of Rs.11.11 crores so far. It is being continued by carrying out maintenance works during 2014-15.

Water conservation and canopy improvement project

A comprehensive scheme with an outlay of Rs.50 crores is under implementation every year from 2012-13 to undertake extensive water harvesting works with funding assistance from NABARD. Main objectives of the scheme are to improve the soil moisture regime, to recharge ground water aquifer and to increase the availability of water for cultivation activities. This scheme has been implemented in 10 districts of Tamil Nadu viz. Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Dindigul, Kanniyakumari, Madurai, Namakkal, Salem, Tiruvallur, Vellore and Villupuram. It is proposed to continue this scheme at an outlay of Rs.50 crores during 2014-15.

Nature Conservation

The objective of the scheme is to carry out the works such as improvement of existing enclosures in Guindy National Park, construction of compound wall for protection of forests and wildlife, establishment of fodder plot for herbivores, etc. in Tamil Nadu Forestry Training College at Vaigai Dam. During 2013-14, this scheme was

implemented with a sanctioned amount of Rs.67 lakh. It is proposed to implement the scheme with an outlay of Rs.1.38 crores during 2014-15.

Payment of compensation for the damages caused by wildlife

Fragmentation of wildlife habitats due to population explosion and industrialization has made the wildlife to stray out of the forests into human habitations. This results in man animal conflict situations. It is essential to tackle this problem on a war footing manner by erecting appropriate physical barriers in the vulnerable areas, augmenting fodder resources and providing waterholes for wild animals within the forests and timely payment of compensation to the victims for the loss of human life, livestock, damages to agricultural crops and property caused by wildlife. During 2011-12, this Government has enhanced the rate of compensation for human death and permanent incapacitation from Rs.1.50 lakh to Rs.3.00 lakh and for crop damages from Rs.0.15 lakh to Rs.0.25 lakh per acre. Further a "Revolving Fund" of Rs.2.50 crores had been created during 2011-12 for quick settlement of compensation for damages caused by wildlife. An amount of Rs.3.40 crores was sanctioned under various schemes and payment made for compensation during 2013-14. This Government has taken adequate measures to prevent man-wildlife conflict besides it has also made necessary arrangements for speedy settlement of compensation for damages caused by wildlife, if any.

Asian elephants depredation and its mitigation measures

Human wildlife conflict is a complex problem to be managed by adopting a multi-pronged strategy involving habitat improvement including improving water sources, growing crops which are preferred by wild animals as fodder inside the forest areas itself, formation of physical barriers around the forest boundary, capacity building of the villagers, awareness creation and timely payment of compensation to the victims for loss of human life, livestock, damage to agricultural crops and property.

During 2013-14, elephant proof trenches have been dug for the length of 744 kms. along the forest boundaries in Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, Coimbatore, Nilgiris,

Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Erode, Dindigul, Tirunelveli, Kanniyakumari and Tiruppur districts besides carrying out other activities like construction of percolation ponds, check dams and water troughs, maintenance of elephant proof trenches, early warning system, trip wire alarm system and tranquilizing and translocation of problematic elephants in Vellore, Salem, Dharmapuri circles, etc. for which an amount of Rs.32.18 crores has been sanctioned. During 2014-15, maintenance activities are under implementation.

Creation of fodder resources and improvement of wildlife habitats

With a view to restrict the elephant movement within the forests, activities like raising green fodder bank inside the Reserved Forest areas, providing salt licks to meet the mineral requirements of the elephants, creation of water holes, construction of check dams and percolation ponds to meet their water demand in summer season have been undertaken. The Government have sanctioned Rs.20.87 crores for implementation of this scheme for a period of five years from 2011-12 to 2015-16. So far, a sum of Rs.13.60 crores has been incurred towards implementation of the scheme. It is being continued with an outlay of Rs.4.17 crores during 2014-15.

Preventing monkey menace in Tamil Nadu

To curb the monkey menace, works like establishment of two monkey capturing units at Velachery and Vandalur, establishment of a Nodal Centre at Zoo Veterinary Hospital in Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur and formation of ten cluster rehabilitation centres at Ooty, Coimbatore, Salem, Erode, Vellore, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram and Kanniyakumari districts have been undertaken at an outlay of Rs.2.75 crores.

Pallikaranai Marshland

The Pallikaranai marshland is a unique fresh water swamp located within the Chennai metropolitan area. This wetland is situated in Perungudi, Pallikaranai and Thoraipakkam villages of Kancheepuram District. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has taken initial steps to protect this marshland during 2002. As on date, an area

of 690.53 ha. is under the control of Forest Department, out of the total area of 807.08 ha.

In order to preserve the marshland to discharge its ecological functions, a comprehensive scheme has been sanctioned for a period of five years from 2011-12 to 2015-16 with an outlay of Rs.15.75 crores, for taking up various restoration activities like habitat improvement, protection, research, monitoring, publicity, awareness, etc. In order to ensure the implementation of the restoration works during the summer months on continuous basis and to receive funds from other funding agencies and donors, the setting up of a "Conservation Authority of Pallikaranai Marshland" has been approved by Government. Totally a sum of Rs.7.09 crores has been incurred towards implementation of the scheme so far. Implementation of this scheme is being continued during 2014-15.

Suchindrum-Theroor-Manakudy conservation area scheme

A special scheme to develop Suchindram-Theroor-Manakudy lake areas for birds conservation in Kanniyakumari district over a period of three years was sanctioned with an outlay of Rs.1.61 crores during 2011-12. So far, an amount of Rs. 1.50 crores has been incurred towards implementation of the scheme. It will be continued during 2014-15.

Butterfly Park and Nakshatravanam at Srirangam, Trichy

A special scheme for establishing a butterfly park in an area of 10 ha. in Upper Anaicut Reserve Forest near Srirangam for creation of Nakshatravanam and to conserve and exhibit the butterflies for the benefit of pilgrims and tourists is under implementation at an outlay of Rs.7.35 crores. An amount of Rs.4.72 crores has been incurred towards the implementation of the scheme so far. The works will be continued during 2014-15.

Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation

Establishment of Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation (Research, Training and Education) at Arignar Anna Zoological Park has been undertaken from 2012-13 to 2014-15 with an outlay of Rs.27.13 crores. This institute will have centres for reproductive biology, animal care science, conservation ecology, conservation education and sustainability, conservation and evolutionary genetics, migratory birds, species survival, wildlife forensic lab and hostel for scientists. So far, an amount of Rs.1.30 crores has been incurred towards infrastructure and other works. The remaining works are being carried out during 2014-15.

Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust

As the funding support of UNDP came to an end on 31.12.2012, the Government of Tamil Nadu has taken over the functioning of the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust by sanctioning Rs.10 crores, at Rs.2.50 crores per year for four years from 2013-14 to 2016-17. During 2013-14, research activities, awareness creation, training programmes and eco-development activities were undertaken at an outlay of Rs.2.50 crores. The activities will be continued during 2014-15 also.

Improvement of Zoo's

Under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister as Zoo Authority of Tamil Nadu, all the Zoo's in Tamil Nadu including Arignar Anna Zoological Park are given special focus for their development. During 2013-14, the State Government had allotted Rs.5.70 crores towards

- Grant for three Zoo's Kurumbapatti, Amirdhi and Trichy @ Rs.1 crores each,
- Improvement of visitors' amenities in Children's Park, Guindy @ Rs.1 crores,
- Replacing iron gates and grills of animal enclosures in AAZP @ Rs.1 crores
- Creation of wildlife awareness centre in Children's Park, Guindy @ Rs.70 lakhs

In addition, under State funds the Government has sanctioned Rs.5 crores for the improvement of Amirdhi Zoo at Vellore and Trichy Zoo. The works will be continued during 2014-15.

Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur

The Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur, spread over an extent of 602 ha. of forest area, is located at Vandalur, close to Chennai. The park exhibits 1,398 animals, which include 45 species of mammals, 70 species of birds, 29 species of reptiles covering 144 species of wildlife. It has emerged as a captive breeding centre for many endangered animal species like white tiger, lion tailed macaque, etc. It attracts about 20 lakh visitors annually. The animal adoption programme by sponsors is emerging as a significant initiative for inculcating awareness and compassion for wild animals among the public. Contribution of Rs.42.59 lakhs has been received from 128 sponsors so far.

In order to attract the visitors, researchers and students for understanding the forests and wildlife and for awareness creation, a Forest and Wildlife Museum has been established at Arignar Anna Zoological Park with a sanctioned outlay of Rs. 20 lakhs.

Ministry of Tourism Development, Government of India has released Rs.4 crores out of the sanctioned amount of Rs.5 crores towards the establishment of butterfly park at Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur. Works like construction of building in butterfly shape, formation of a stream, thermal and moisture stabilisation, formation of nectar and host nurseries have been undertaken in the butterfly park. These works will continue during 2014-15.

CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES

These schemes are 100% funded by Government of India except Project Tiger. 39 such schemes were implemented during the year 2013-14 with a sanctioned sum of Rs.27.85 crores. With this funding, various habitat improvement activities have been undertaken in National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Bird Sanctuaries and Conservation Reserve and other areas under the control of Forest Department.

Project Tiger

The Forest Department has taken various measures to conserve Tigers and their habitats in Tamil Nadu. There are four Tiger Reserves in Tamil Nadu viz., Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve in Tirunelveli district, Anamalai Tiger Reserve in Coimbatore and Tiruppur districts, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in Nilgiris district and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Erode district. Tiger being the top carnivore is an indicator of the healthy eco-system.

Government of India provides 100% financial assistance for works of non-recurring nature and 50% for works of recurring nature in this scheme. The remaining 50% of the recurring works are financed by the State Government. Activities like habitat conservation, eco-development, wildlife protection, fire protection, water source improvement, tourism development, controlling of man-animal conflict and improvement of infrastructure facilities have been carried out under this scheme with a sanctioned amount of Rs.17.20 crores during 2013-14. It is proposed to continue this scheme during 2014-15.

Project Elephant

Project Elephant scheme is implemented in four elephant reserves viz. Nilgiris Eastern Ghats Elephant Reserve, Coimbatore Elephant Reserve, Anamalai Elephant Reserve and Periyar Elephant Reserve. These reserves have no separate legal status. These four Elephant reserves, which include the existing Reserve Forests and sanctuaries, are grouped for management convenience. Tamil Nadu is one of the

leading States in elephant population and their habitat management. This scheme is being implemented to protect the elephants and improve their habitats.

It was implemented by undertaking fire protection measures, providing water facilities to elephants etc., compensation for the crop damages and loss of human lives caused by elephants and planting fodder species to improve the habitats of elephants with a sanctioned amount of Rs.3.17 crores during 2013-14. During 2014-15, it is proposed to implement this scheme with an outlay of Rs.4.12 crores.

Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve

The Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve is known for its rich bio-diversity and endemism. It includes 21 coral rich islands along the coast line from Rameswaram to Tuticorin. There are about 4,223 species of marine organisms found in this area, which includes 11 species of mangroves, 15 species of sea grass, 117 species of corals, 290 species of birds, 5 species of sea turtles, 6 species of whales, 5 species of dolphins, 1 species of sea cow, 1,145 species of fishes, 77 species of porifera, 79 species of crustaceans, 153 species of echinoderms, 857 species of molluscs and others.

The Government has sanctioned funds under three schemes viz. Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve, Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park and conservation and management of coral reefs in Gulf of Mannar to carry out the developmental activities. To reduce the biotic pressure on the marine eco-system, creation of alternate livelihood options for the local people who are directly dependent on the marine resources, eco-development works, protection and conservation of natural resources, education and awareness programme, etc. were undertaken from the sanctioned amount of Rs.1.13 crores during 2013-14. During 2014-2015, it is proposed to implement this scheme with an outlay of Rs.2.10 crores.

Wetland conservation and development

This scheme is implemented at Point Calimere, Kazhuvveli and Pallikaranai wetlands to check floods, prevent coastal erosion, mitigate the effects of natural disasters like cyclones and tidal waves, store rainwater, recharge ground water

aquifers, provide nesting ground for many wading birds and water fowls, provide food and shelter for mammals and to remove wide range of pollutants. Major activities like habitat improvement, wildlife protection, eco-development activities around wetlands, bio-upgradation, awareness creation, research and monitoring and nature education were undertaken from the sanctioned amount of Rs.1.01 crores during 2013-14. It is proposed to implement this scheme with an outlay of Rs.2.85 crores during 2014-15.

National Afforestation Programme

The National Afforestation Programme (NAP) is being implemented in Tamil Nadu from 2002-03 through Forest Development Agencies and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) with 100% central assistance. From 2002-03 to 2013-14, an area of 70,484 ha. has been afforested at a cost of Rs.112.34 crores. During 2013-14, sanction has been accorded for carrying out 1,800 ha. under "*creation component*" and 2,094 ha. under "*advance work*" and for maintenance works at a cost of Rs.5.68 crores. Works were undertaken from the first instalment release amount of Rs.2.84 crores by Government of India.

Green India Mission

The National Mission for Green India is one of the eight missions announced under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). It recognizes that climate change phenomenon will seriously affect the distribution, type and quality of natural biological resources of the country. During 2011-12, the Government of India had sanctioned the bridge plan under Green India Mission for implementation in Kolli hills landscape of Namakkal Forest Division at a cost of Rs. 72 lakhs and an amount of Rs. 70 lakhs has been incurred towards implementation of the scheme till date.

Conservation, development and sustainable management of medicinal plants

The scheme conservation, development and sustainable management of medicinal plants is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme. The National Medicinal Plants Board, New Delhi has approved the projects for 5 divisions at an outlay of Rs.3.37 Crore.

SCHEMES SHARED BETWEEN STATE AND CENTRE

Intensification of Forest Management Scheme

The erstwhile Integrated Forest Protection Scheme has been implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme. The components of the scheme are protection of forest resources by strengthening protection measures for controlling forest fires, survey and demarcation of the forest boundaries to prevent encroachments by constructing the cairns, improvement of roads, 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 broader based, Government of India renamed this scheme as "Intensification of Forest Management". In addition to the above components, four more new components viz., protection and conservation of sacred groves, conservation and restoration of unique vegetation and ecosystems, control and eradication of forest invasive species and preparedness for meeting challenges of bamboo flowering and improving management of bamboo forests have been added. During 2014-15, it is proposed to implement this scheme at an outlay of Rs.4.20 crores.