

Grantee Name: Wildlife Information Liaison Development (WILD) Society

Grant Title: Establishing Community Conservation Reserves in the Anamalai Corridor

Summary: The proposed project involves setting up protected areas at Theni Forest Division and Palni Hills, two CEPF priority sites in the Anamalai Corridor of the Western Ghats Hotspot, India. Establishing protected areas has usually resulted in the loss of access to resources that local communities in and around these areas originally depended on, resulting in further poverty and resettlement.

The project was hence found to trigger the following CEPF socio-economic safeguard - **Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12)** as all the four proposed project are inhabited by local communities (Table 1)

The above sites are areas of rich biodiversity outside existing protected areas, three of which are under the ownership of the Tamil Nadu Forest Department and one under a private tea/coffee estate (Table 1). The protected area type that is planned for these areas would be Conservation Reserve (IUCN Protected Area VI) and Community Reserve (Protected Area V). The reserves, if successfully declared, would be co-managed by the local communities along with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department and private organisations, as per the stipulations of the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2002, Section 36 A-D. The declaration, setting up and management of the Conservation/Community Reserve therefore will not lead the loss or restriction of access to resources that are legally available to the local communities. One of the project sites is inhabited by an indigenous community (Table 1) who are entitled to land for livelihood sustenance, rearing livestock, availing ponies for transport, collection and use of non-timber forest products (NTFP), education facilities and food rations and various other subsidies for food and livelihood security. The other three communities are non-indigenous and live on the boundaries of the forested areas. While food rations and few other subsidies are available to these communities for food and livelihood security, grazing livestock and collecting NTFPs are subject to the will of the managing authority.

During a prioritisation study that involved questionnaire surveys and a focus-group discussion with community members from June –August 2010, all the local communities surveyed depended on forested areas for NTFP collection (primarily firewood), grazing livestock and faced conflicts with numerous wild species while farming.

Table 1. *Details of local communities inhabiting the Project Sites*

Sl. No.	Project Site	Ownership	Geographical Co-ordinates	Indigenous	Livelihood
1	Sothuparai	TNFD ^a	N10°07'34" E77°25'52.7"	Yes (Pailyan)	Farming, Labourer
2	Vellimalai	Private ^b	N09°33'26.9" E77°23'40.3"	No	Farming, Labourer, Tea/Coffee Plantation worker
3	Perumal Malai	TNFD ^a	N10°15'50.4" E77°32'46.8"	No	Farming, Labourer
4	Gundupatti	TNFD ^a	N10°17'31.9" E77°23'41.3"	No	Farming, Labourer

^a Tamil Nadu Forest Department; ^b Tea/Coffee plantation

Conclusion

Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12)

Not applicable since there will be no restriction or negative impacts