

PARAMBIKULAM WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

This sanctuary was formed during the year 1973. Parambikulam wildlife sanctuary with its panoramic landscape, meandering streams, extensive water spread of the reservoir, cascading waterfalls, rolling hills and valleys and wealth of biodiversity is one of the captivating places in Kerala.

Location and Extent : It is located in the Chittoor taluk of Palakkad district. The sanctuary lies between the Anamalai hills and Nelliampathy hills. It covers an area of 285sq.km and extends 76° 35' and 76° 50' East Longitude and 10° 20' and 10° 26' North Latitude

Topography : Lying in the southern part of Western Ghat, immediately south of Palghat gap, Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary exhibits mountainous terrain. Altitude ranging from 300 to 1438m. Major peaks in the sanctuary are karimala (1438m), Pandaravarai(1290m), Vengoli (1120m) and Puliyarpadam (1010m)

Temperature : Temperature varies from 15°C to 32°C. Hottest period is March and coolest period is January. March is the hottest month with the mean monthly temperature of 25.740 C and January the coolest month with 21.20 C. Temperature condition prevailing in the sanctuary is influenced by normal lapse rate due to which every 100m of ascent from Mean Sea Level will experience a fall of 0.650 C in temperature.

Rainfall : Rainfall varies from 1400 to 2300 mm. Though the sanctuary is blessed with rain during both North West Monsoon and North east Monsoon, the former contributes maximum to the total precipitation recorded in the sanctuary. In addition, Pre monsoon showers are felt during April and May.

Drainage and rivers : The rivers passing through these are Karappara & Kuriarkutty. Several streams flowing through the sanctuary drain the area. The sanctuary also possesses three man-made reservoirs namely, Parambikulam, Thunakadavu, and Peruvareppallam whose cumulative waterspread is 20.66 sq. km. From the south western perspective, where, Parambikulam Ar and Sholai Ar meet at a point where the elevation is 473m (the second lowest point in the sanctuary),

to form Chalakkudy River, the Sanctuary appears as a completely tilted drainage basin that drains to this point, except for a little portion in the north, where the drainage is towards east.

Flora : Forest types include West Coast Tropical Ever green Forests, Moist Deciduous Forests, Dry deciduous forests, Teak plantations, Shola forests, Vayals. 1432 species of plants includes 653 Herbs, 268 Shurbs, 359 trees & 152 climbers. Out of the 1432 species of faunal species 109 plants species are included in rare and threatened species and 13 are among endemic species . 1408 species of flowering plants which includes 67 species of orchids, 80 sp . of grass family and about 285 species of endemic, rare and endangered species. *Haplothismia exannulata*, amonotypic genus of Burmanniaceae rediscovered from the sanctuary after 1951.

Fauna : There are 39 species of mammals, 268 sp. Of birds , 61 species of reptiles, 16 species of amphibians, 47 species of fishes and 1049 species of insects, 124 butterfly species in the sanctuary. Common birds are Drongos, Bee-eaters, Treepies, Mynas, Woodpeckers, Kingfishers and birds of prey. Common reptiles are pythons, cobras, pitvipers, tortoises etc. The rare species include Tiger, Lion-Tailed macaque, Mouse deer, Nilgiri Tahr, Nilgiri Marten, Gread Pied Hornbill, Penisnsular Bay Owl, King Cobra, Flying Snake, Cane turtle Out of 39 species of mammals found in the sanctuary 4 species are in endangered list and 8 are endemic to Western Ghats. Important mammals found in the sanctuary are Nilgiri Langur, Lion Tailed Macaque, Leopard, Tiger, The Guar, Indian Elephant, Nilgiri Thar, Nilgiri Marten, The Sloath Bear, Sambar, Small Travancore Flying Squirrel. The common animals found are Leopard, Elephant, Gaur, Spotted Deer, Sambar, Barkingdeer, Common Langur, Nilgiri Langur, Malabar giant squirrel, Sloth Bear and Wild dog. Out of 268 birds listed 134 are listed as rare and 12 are endemic to Western Ghats. 3endangered list and 21endemic Western Ghats species are listed out of total 61 reptiles identified.Out of 47 species of Fishes listed 7 are listed as endangered and 17 are endemic to Western Ghats.