

PECHI - VAZHANI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

The Peechi Vazhani wild life sanctuary was constituted during 1958.

Location and extent: The sanctuary is situated about 20kms east of Thrissur. It includes the forests of Palappilli-Nelliampathi, that cover a large area of Chimmyny Wildlife Sanctuary. It extends to an area of 125 sq. km .ie 76° 18' and 76° 28' East Longitude and 10° 28' and 10° 38' North Latitude.

Topography : Altitude range from 45 to 900m. Highest Peak is Ponmudi (923m)

Temperature : Temperature varies from 15° to 38°C. Hottest period is March – April and coolest period is December - January.

Rainfall : Annual average rainfall is 3000mm.

Drainage and rivers : There are numerous streams, flowing over the entire protected area, which join the three main rivers Kurumali, Manali, and Wadakkanchery. There are three vayals in the sanctuary viz, Paingottupadam (10ha), Pathrakkandam (1ha) and Pothiyadukky (5ha). There are two reservoirs, Peechi and Vazhani formed by construction of two dams across the Manalippuzha and Vadakkancheripuzha. The total area of the two reservoirs is 14.793 sq. km.

Flora : Forest Types include Tropical Ever green Forests, Tropical Semi-evergreen forests, Moist Deciduous forests etc. As in evergreen forests, trees like Kalpine, Kambakam, Karakil, Whiteakil and Ambani are found. While in moist leaves shedding forests, trees like Irul, Rosewood, Teak, Venteak and Thenmavu are seen. Common tree species are Erythrina indica, Eugenia hemispheria, Dalbergia latifolia, palanquium ellipticum, Mesua ferrea, Cullenia excelsa, Dipterocarpus indicus, Hopea parviflora, Dysoxylum malabaricum, Cedrella toona, Bombax ceiba, Syzygium cumini, Lagerstroemia lanceolata, Adina cordifolia, Albizzia procera, alstonia scholaris Dalbergia latifolia, Xylia xylocarpa etc. Newly described flora in the sanctuary are Aglalia malabarica, Phaeanthus malabaricus, Tarenna trichurensis, Cotton pedunculata, amomum microstephanum, and Orophea uniflora.

Fauna: There are 39 species of mammals, 176 sp. of birds, 30 species of reptiles, 17 species of amphibians and 40 species of fishes are reported from the sanctuary. The commonly found mammals are Tiger, Leopard, sloth bear, Fox, Elks, Bison, spotted Deer, Elephant, sambar, barking deer, bonnet macaque, Nilgiri langur, slender loris, porcupine etc. Several new species of birds like Fish Eagle, Large Hawk Cuckoo, Broad-billed Roller, House Martin and Ashy Minivet etc. are found here.