

PEPPARA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

It was commissioned during 1983 to augment the drinking water supply to Thiruvananthapuram city and suburban areas.

Location and extent : The Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary is situated on Thiruvanthapuram-Ponmudi Road, about 50 km northeast of Thiruvananthapuram. It covers an area of 53 sq km which extends 77° 6' 50" and 77° 14' 5" East Longitude and 8° 34' 30" and 8° 41' 25" North Latitude

Topography : Altitude ranging from 100 to 1717 m. The major peaks in the sanctuary are Chemmunjimottai (1717 m), Athirumalai 1594 m, Arumukhamkunnu (1457 m), Koviltherimalai (1313 m) and Nachiyadikunnu (957 m).

Temperature: Temperature varies from 16° to 35°C

Rainfall: Annual average rainfall is 2500 mm

Drainage and rivers : The major rivers are Karamana river and its tributaries. The sanctuary constitutes the catchments of peppara dam constructed across the Karamana river . The peppara reservoir is of an area of 5.82 sq .km.

Flora: Forest types include West coast tropical evergreen, Southern hilltop tropical evergreen, West coast semi-evergreen, Southern moist mixed deciduous forest, Myristica swamp forest, sub-montane hill valley swamp forest etc. Common tree species are Terminalia paniculata, T. bellerica, Pterocarpus Marpium, Palaquium ellipticum, Mesua ferrea, Hopea parviflora, Bombax ceiba, Syzygium cumini, Lagerstroemia lanceolata, Albizzia procera, Alstonia scholaris, etc.

Fauna : 43 species of mammals, 233 sp. of birds, 46 species of reptiles, 13 species of amphibians and 27 species of fishes are reported from the sanctuary. The common mammals found are Tiger, Leopard, Sloth bear, Elephant, Sambar barking Deer, bonnet Macaque, Nilgiri langur, Nilgiri tahr etc.