



Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary, part of Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve, owes its name to the endemic species, *Gluta travancorica*, locally known as "Chenkurinji". The sanctuary was established in 1984 and lies on the western part of Agasthyamala - Ashambu hill range with an altitudinal span of 92m to 1550 m. Shendurney valley and the catchment of Kallada Irrigation Project fall within the boundaries of this protected area. The drainage comprises the major rivers - Shendurney, Kazhthurutty and Kulathupuzha which together join to form the Kallada river and the major tributaries are Parappar, Uruliyar, Pasmakandamthodu, Aruviar and Umayar.

LOCATION

The Sanctuary lies in Pathanapuram Taluk of Kollam District between the latitudes 8°44 to 9°14N and the longitudes 76°59'30"E and 77°16'30"E. It covers an area of 171 sq.km and is contiguous with the 791 sq.km Kalakkad - Mundanthura Tiger reserve in Tamil Nadu. The sanctuary Head quarters is at Thenmala which is 75 Km from Thiruvananthapuram, 70 Km from Kollam and 30 Km from Shencottah.

CLIMATE & FOREST TYPES

Climate is generally hot and humid. Hottest period is March to May and coldest period is December to January. Sanctuary receives both South west and North east monsoon.



The forest types identified are West Cost tropical Evergreen forests, West Cost tropical Semi evergreen forests, Southern hill top tropical evergreen forests, Southern Sub tropical hill forests, Southern Secondary moist mixed deciduous forests, Reed brakes, Myristica swamps and grass lands.

ADMINISTRATION

The main administrative centre of sanctuary is located near Thenmala Dam where the offices of the Wildlife Warden and Assistant Wildlife Warden are situated. Shendurney Wildlife Division consists of only one Range Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary and is divided into 3 Sections- (1) Ettappadappu Section with headquarters at Rosemala, (2) Kalamkunnu Section with headquarters at Thenmala and (3) Kalluvarambu Section with headquarters at Kattilappara.

BIO DIVERSITY

The Sanctuary is home to identified species of 951 flowering plants of which 100 belong to threatened category. Being the part of Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve in Western Ghat the area is abode of a number of medicinal plants and shrubs. eg:- Arogyapacha (*Trichopus Zeylanicus*).



MYRISTICA SWAMP

Shendurney is also home for this special type of eco system. Myristica swamps are dominated by members of Myristicaceae, a primitive family of flowering plants. Myristica swamps are known as centre of endemism in the Western Ghats.

FAUNA

Along with the other contiguous rainforests in the Agasthyamalai region, Shendurney forms one of the most important areas in the Western Ghats for the conservation of the endemic lion-tailed macaque (*Macaca silenus*). Other endemic mammals found here include Nilgiri langur (*Trachypithecus johnii*), slender loris (*Loris lydekkerianus*) and Malabar giant squirrel (*Ratufa indica*). Globally threatened landscape



species such as the tiger (*Panthera tigris*) and Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) are also found here.

The avifauna is rich with the recorded 266 species. The bird survey is conducted every year in February - March. Shendurney has been designated as an important Bird Area owing to the presence of three globally threatened species - the lesser kestrel (*Falco naumanni*), wood snipe (*Gallinago nemoricola*) and Nilgiri wood pigeon (*Columba elphinstonii*) and the presence of 10 of the 16 bird species that are endemic to the Western ghats.

It also holds eight of the 15 species whose distributions are largely or wholly confined to the Indian Peninsula Tropical moist Forest biome (Islam and Rahmani 2004). Records of nesting colonies of river tern (*Sterna aurantia*) and small Indian pratincole (*Glareola lactea*) have been made from this site.

The sanctuary is also an important wintering site for long distance migrants such as the Tickell's leaf warbler (*Phylloscopus affinis*), large-billed leaf warbler (*P. magnirostris*), blue-headed rock thrush (*Monticola cinclorhynchus*) and rufous-tailed flycatcher (*Muscicapa ruficauda*) (Islam and Rahmani 2004). First breeding record of Lesser fish eagle (*Ichthyophaga fumulis*) away from its normal range of lower Himalayas was observed at Umayar in the Sanctuary during March 2009.





A total number of 29 species of frogs under 21 genera belong to 7 families were recorded during a survey conducted in July 2009. Family Rhacophoridae dominated with 13 species followed by Dicroglossidae (4 species), Nyctibatrachidae (4 species), and one species each from the families Microhylidae and Micrixalidae. Of the 29 species 23 are endemic to Western Ghats.

ECOTOURISM

1. Eco Tourism Activities by Thenmala

Eco-tourism Promotion Society (TEPS)

Thenmala Eco-tourism Promotion Society offers excellent tourism opportunities and it is India's first planned eco-tourism destination. Adventure zone, Leisure Zone, Deer Rehabilitation Centre, Musical dancing fountain, Butterfly safari park, tented accommodation etc. are the major attractions apart from boating through the Kallada reservoir.

2. Eco Tourism Activities through

Eco-Development Committees (EDCs)

Trekking Programmes to different destination for different duration are operated by Eco Development Committees, constituted and registered with the Forest Department. 1 day, 2 days and 3 days guided trekking programmes are available at the convenience of the visitors. The package includes facilities such as trekking and camping inside the forest guided by experienced EDC members and forest officials.

For more details contact

WILDLIFE WARDEN

Shendurney Wildlife Division

Thenmala Dam. P.O., Kollam, Kerala.

Phone: 0475-2344600

E-mail: Shendurney1@gmail.com

Website: www.shendurney.org

TIPS TO VISITORS

- ▶ Do not expect to see animals as a matter of routine.
- ▶ Be patient.
- ▶ Silent and discipline pay.
- ▶ Small groups are ideal.
- ▶ Early mornings and late afternoons are ideal for visiting forests.
- ▶ Do not travel alone, especially in Elephant Reserves.
- ▶ Wear dull coloured clothes and avoid perfumes.
- ▶ Seek the assistance of a forest guard while going in to the forests.
- ▶ Do not buy trouble by purchasing wildlife articles.
- ▶ Do not disturb or tease animals.
- ▶ Trekkers must use jungle boots for safety.
- ▶ Carry medicines for common ailments.
- ▶ Non bio-degradable waste like plastic bags is highly injurious to animals.
- ▶ Avoid smoking.
- ▶ Radios and taperecorders are better not carried.
- ▶ Do not throw litter around including food.
- ▶ Respect animals and their customs.
- ▶ Take away nothing but memories.
- ▶ Carry a note book and record your experience.
- ▶ Do not swim in unfamiliar waters.
- ▶ Travel light, and do not carry any valuables. except cameras or binoculars.



Plant a tree, nurture her. She will
Bless you with a harmonious life



SHENDURNEY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY