

Preface

Chinnar, located in the rain shadow region of Kerala, has unique value due to its rich biodiversity, climatic peculiarities and anthropological importance. Considering these values, the area, which was declared as a reserved forest in 1942, was notified as Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary in 1984.

The strategic location along the interstate boundary, the presence of a number of tribal settlements and presence of valuable sandal forest along the western fringes poses challenges for the successful management of this unique protected area in Kerala.

The introduction of eco development and ecotourism programmes, directly benefiting the local dependents in gaining sustainable livelihood, is of great help in managing the challenges in the conservation of the unique biodiversity and its rich cultural heritage. The plan aims to attain these objectives by incorporating the principles of eco development with conservation strategy.

Various workshops involving forest officials, scientists, professionals and local people were conducted for the preparation of this Plan. It is prepared as per the guidelines of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State. All the future management activities would be carried out only as per the prescriptions of this approved Management Plan.

**Munnar
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