

FOREST TYPES

The areas of Anamudi Shola National Park are characterised by Tropical Montane vegetation and generally acknowledged as Shola forest. The Shola forests are of high ecological significance in protecting the headwaters of rivers. They also help in retaining soil moisture and very slow release of rainwater.

From the Park a total of 389 plant species belonging to Pteridophytes (16) and Angiosperms (373) were identified. The major forest type of the Park is Southern Subtropical Hill Forests, Southern Montane Wet Temperate Forest, Southern Montane Wet Temperate Grassland, Southern Montane Wet Scrub and black wattle and eucalyptus plantations.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Eco - restoration :-

The eco-restoration initiative in the Pazhathottam areas of ASNP is one of a kind in the Kerala Forest Department. The eco-restoration of the Park focuses mainly on the eradication of black wattle and eucalyptus plantations.



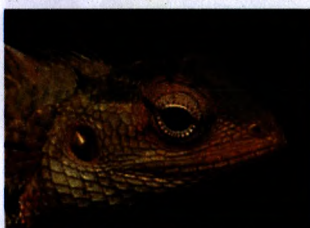
Eco-tourism :-

The largest Shola forest in South India, Mannavan Shola is located in the Park. The extensive view of the Anchunadu area, wildlife sightings and the cold, misty and windy climatic conditions are the key attractions of the Park. The eco-tourism programs include accommodation and guided trekking. Accommodation facilities are offered in Log House and Stone House at Methappu and Stone House at Perumala. There is a watch tower at Methappu which offers a panoramic view of the Shola forests and Anchunadu valley. There is an information center at Methappu, at the entrance to the Park from the Kundala side.



Research :-

The studies include the documentation and biodiversity assessment of floral and faunal species, the ecology and conservation of the Shola ecosystem, identification and mapping of Montane Shola grassland for conservation, ethnobotanical studies of various medicinal plants and the assessment of sustainable practices of eco-tourism etc.



HOW TO REACH

Road : Anamudi Shola is 56 km away from Munnar and 16 km from Marayoor.

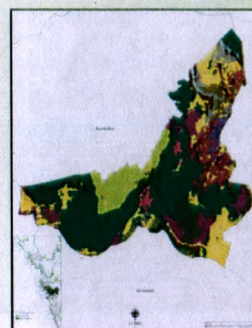
Rail : The nearest railway stations are Aluva (160 km) and Udumalpet (62 km).

Air : The nearest airports are Cochin International Air Port (159 km) and Coimbatore International Airport (142 km).

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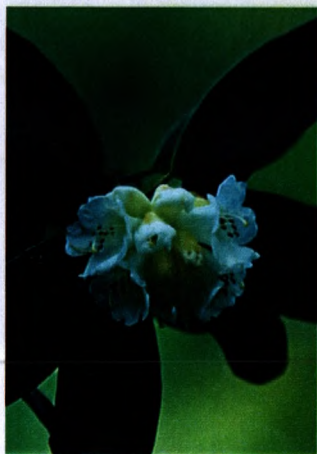


ANAMUDI SHOLA NATIONAL PARK MUNNAR WILD LIFE



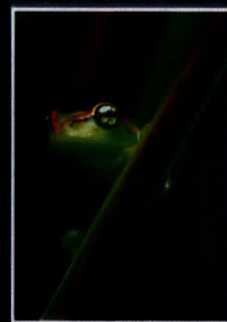
INTRODUCTION

Anamudi Shola National Park is an area with unique Shola vegetation. This unique ecosystem has distinct ecological characteristics and a unique microclimate. The elevation level of the Park ranges between 1700-2500 m and this high altitude influences the climate of the region. The Park is a natural habitat of a large number of plants and animals unique to the high-altitude Shola grassland vegetation. *Cyathea crinita* (Tree Fern) is a highly restricted endemic species present in Anamudi Shola National Park and is considered the "flagship species" of the Park. The habitat of this species is severely fragmented and therefore it is listed as Endangered as per the IUCN Red List.



HISTORY

The forest area of Anamudi Shola National Park consisting of Mannavan Shola Reserve Forests No.58, Pullaradi Shola Reserve Forest No.57 and Idivara Shola Reserve Forest No.56, were part of the erstwhile Travancore Kingdom before the advent of the British rule. Anamudi Shola area was notified as a Reserved Forest under Section 18 of Regulation II of 1068 on 22nd October 1901, and published in the Travancore Gazette. Being Shola forests, these areas were managed under the protection-working circle for the conservation of water sources. During the 80s and 90s, most of the lands in the valley were purchased or occupied by outsiders and large-scale planting of eucalyptus and other plantations started. Identifying the ecological importance of this area, it was declared as a National Park in 2003.



LANDSCAPE

Anamudi Shola National Park is located on the Northeastern part of the High Ranges of Southern Western Ghats between N 10° 09' to N 10° 14' and E 77° 09' to E 77° 14'. Administratively, ASNP comes under Devikulam Taluk of Idukki district, Kerala. The Park lies towards the North-Eastern side of the Kannan Devan Hills. The terrain is undulating with hillocks of varying heights. The altitude ranges from 1600 m to 2520 m. The forest is seen as a continuous patch from an altitude of 1600 m to 2200 m, above which are small Shola patches inter-spaced with the grasslands and wattle plantations. The area is traversed by small streams that drain into the Pambar River and Thalinji Aar to reach the Amaravathi River in Tamil Nadu. The Park has direct connectivity with Kurinjimala Sanctuary, Marayoor Sandal Division and Munnar Territorial Division. The Park has landscape connectivity with Anamalai Tiger Reserve, Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Eravikulam National Park and Pampadum Shola National Park. Since the Park is connected with other PAs and other territorial divisions it serves as a corridor for the movement of wild animals. The Park is a part of the 'High Range Circle Landscape Conservation Unit' which comprises several Protected Areas under the Anamudi Elephant Reserve.

