

3. **Loss of aquatic ecosystem and depletion of ground water resources.** The programmes include fish conservation and protection of riverine eco-system, valuation of watershed services and establishment of rain centre.
4. **Economic instability and impacts on livelihood.** The programmes include planned promotion of eco-tourism, livestock studies, development of bamboos and its industry, sustainable utilization of non-timber forest produce.
5. **Creating environmental awareness.** The programmes include publishing of relevant books and guides, establishment of Kodagu heritage interpretation centre at Madikeri and environmental education programmes with development of proper publicity material.
6. **Addressing man animal conflicts.** The programme includes capacity building for Eco-development committees and study on eastern belt forests of Kodagu.
7. **Marginalisation of indigenous communities.** The programmes include rehabilitation of tribals, and capacity building for local communities and tribal.
8. **Degradation of community lands.** The programmes include capacity building for EDC to manage sacred groves and biodiversity conservation.

**Funding :** the initial seed money for the trust was through the individual contributions of the trustees. Later individuals and organization came forwarded to contribute promoting various activities concerning environment. Coorg Foundation supported several activities including Tapovan project in Talakavery and publishing many important books. Four trustees have attended workshops and visited MF sites in Chia and Indonesia, of which one was supported by IMFN Secretariat and the other have spent their own money. One trustee has visited few sites in Canada on his own. Consultancy work would generate some income to the trust. However it is the people 's support that is more important to implement various activities listed under the 8 key issues. KMFT looks forward for financial support from all , and as our environment has no geographical boundaries, we have to think globally but act locally to keep our Plant Earth habitable for our future generations. Appreciate our vision, support our mission Thank you.

**Trustees of KMFT :**

1. Agricultural Scientists Forum of Kodagu ( ASFK), Ponnampet, represented by President. ( Dr. M.A. Kuttanna )

2. Center for Environment Education, Amdabad, represented by Director CEE, New Delhi ( Dr. Shyamala Mani )
3. Coffee Board, Bangalore represented by Deputy Director, Coffee research station, Chettalli ( Dr. ....)
4. College of Forestry, Ponnampet, represented by the Director of Instructions ( Forestry ) ( Dr. C .S.P. Patil )
5. Coorg Wildlife Society, Madikeri represented by the President . ( Col. C.P. Muthanna )
6. Kodagu Zilla Devakad T. Mahamandali, Madikeri represented by its coordination secretary (Prof. C. G.Kushalappa).
7. Skanda Coffee Company, Bangalore represented by its regional manager, Thithimathi. ( Dr. C. Sherry Subbaiah)
8. Tata Coffee Ltd, Pollibetta represented by its Manager.( Dr. M. B. Ganapathy).
9. Coorg Foundation, Pollibetta represented by its Director, Pollibetta. (Dr. K. N. Changappa )
10. Kodira A. Kushalapa IFS (Retd ) as an individual
11. Shri K. G. Uthappa, Advocate as an individual.

**Permanent advisors :**

1. Dr. M Taurney Mahendrappa, Canada.
2. Dr. C.C Chinnappa, Canada.
3. Dr. A. C. Kushalappa, Canada.
4. Dr. B. W. Chinnappa, USA
5. Dr. C. M. Medappa, USA
6. Dr. P.G. Chengappa, UAS, Bangalore.
7. Dr. B.B. Subbaiah

Dr. Shonil Bhagawat of UK is the Scientific collaborator for KMF Programmes..

**Special invitees :**

1. The Conservator of Forests, Kodagu Circle, Madikeri.
2. The Deputy Commissioner, Kodagu District, Madikeri.
3. The Superintendent of Police, Kodagu District, Madikeri.
4. The Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Madikeri.

# KODAGU MODEL FOREST



**Vision :** Sustainable management of forests and other ecosystems in Kodagu as a model for other areas of Western Ghats, with the aim of maintaining ecological, environmental and socio-economical equilibrium and conservation of catchment areas of the rivers of the region.

- Mission**
- Protection of forests, trees and their sensitive ecosystems.
  - Growing native trees and encouraging agro- forestry models.
  - Creating awareness about forests and environmental sciences.
  - Research and training connected to forest values.
  - Consultancy services in allied and relevant matters.
  - Addressing the problems of demographic changes that effect environment.

**Appreciate our vision  
support our mission**



## Kodagu Model Forest Secretariat

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**What is a model forest ?** : Model Forests are built on the principle that people should have a say in the management and use of forest resources. It is only through this process that sustainable development and sustainable forest management (SFM) can be achieved. Model Forest (MF) provide a process that helps the various stakeholders to recognize the impact of their activities on the land base, develop a shared understanding of SFM, and learn what it means in real, operational terms. After this, the partners can commit to take concrete steps, on their own and as a group, to move toward a SFM regime.

**Why Kodagu Model Forest (KMF) ?** The model forest concept was developed in Canada in 1990 to pursue the goals of sustainable development. It aims to promote co-operation and collaboration to advance management, conservation and sustainable development of forest resources. People and forests cannot be separated and people are the heart of the concept. They are the key factor in the search to define sustainability at the field level where MF is rooted.

Kodagu District with an area of 4106 sq.km, straddled over the eastern and western slopes of the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats, with primeval forests and grassy glades is rich in terms of forest wealth and bio diversity. The present rich cultural heritage and forest ecosystems of Kodagu may be relegated to history due to the current increasing ecological destruction and the distancing of culture along with modernization and economic crisis. Large scale deforestation and indiscriminate change in land use pattern would contribute to irregular rains, drying up of streams, loss of native flora and fauna, etc and if unchecked would result in the destruction of Kodagu's unique ecosystems and related life forms. It has a third of its area under Reserved forests and Protected areas controlled by the forest department and almost an equal area under private coffee and other plantation crops. Nearly 80% of the area is covered by trees and is a micro hotspot of bio-diversity, within the larger area Western Ghats, which is one of the 25 hotspots of biodiversity in the World. Kodagu is one of the most densely forested districts in the country, besides being the largest coffee growing (under shade) district. Kodagu forests are ecologically fragile and the tree cover is under threat due to the increasing pressure on its natural resources leading to the degradation of eco-systems. Forest wealth of Kodagu plays a major role, having helped to maintain the quality of land, air, water, flora and fauna for the benefit of all living beings. Therefore, Kodagu district is

an ideal area and best suited to serve as a model site for conservation protection and sustainable management of forests.

**Promoters of KMF :** There are several government departments and non-governmental organizations with several diverse objective and action plans but not directly focussed on SFM for which Kodagu district is ideal. Therefore it was taken up purely as a private initiative of like minded persons, to protect and conserve the fragile environment of Kodagu by forming a trust called Kodagu Model Forest Trust (KMFT) with support of various organizations, institutions and individuals as trustees. The trust has eleven permanent trustees, five permanent advisors from Canada and USA, one from University of agricultural sciences and scientific collaborator from UK. The Deputy commissioner, Chief Executive officer of Zilla Parishad, the Superintendent of Police and the Conservator of Forests are the special invitees. (See the details at the end) The State (FD) and the Central government (MoEF) have appreciated our action and expressed their support. The Trust was registered on Oct 1, 2003 and formally joined the International Model Forest Network (IMFN) on Sept, 30, 2005 whose headquarters is at Ottawa in Canada. Networking will help in the exchange of thoughts and financial support. The Regional office of the MF has also come up in Bangkok and a regional strategic plan is also under preparation. Government of India (MoEF) has been requested to nominate an officer as National Focal Point and The Secretary of KMFT has been nominated as National Facilitator for India.

This idea of MF was first mooted by Dr. Muckkattira Taurney Mahendrappa, the renowned soil scientist of Canada by writing to prominent persons of Kodagu, his native place, as he had first hand knowledge of MF in Canada, where it was originally initiated in 1990. Now Canada has 11 MF sites and several other countries have followed under the banner of IMFN. The total MF sites all over the World are now about 41 in 22 countries of which KMF site is the only one in India. All should appreciate the pioneering efforts of KMFT in creating the first site in India. The motto of the Trust is "Sustainable management - better environment" and believes that "Earth belongs to all species". All the living beings including people, wild animals, trees etc are the stake holders of this concept.

**Aims and Objectives of KMFT :** 1. To protect and conserve the integrity of Forest ecosystems in Kodagu while promoting sustainable management of forests in sacred

groves, parks, private holdings and public lands. This includes maintaining the quality of land, air and water, floral and faunal diversity, while promoting socio-economic development, public awareness and education about the importance of community participation in accomplishing the objectives. 2. Cooperate in implementing various schemes of the government pertaining to planning, protection, conservation, development and management of the forest resources in Kodagu. 3. Implementing various schemes of the trust and others pertaining to planning, protection, conservation, regeneration, development and management of the forest resources, including sacred groves, parks, private holdings, and public lands in Kodagu. 4. To establish such institutions including educational institutions to impart knowledge, conduct research, provide assistance to persons and organisations involving in forest conservation and for similar other objects. 5. Eventually the long term objective is to have Kodagu declared as one of the many United Nations World Heritage sites.

**Strategic Plan :** In order to plan the future course of action, activities and projects, a series of discussions were held involving various stakeholders and identified key issues under the four following areas of focus. They are (i) Reserved forests and Protected areas including sacred groves; which are under the custody of Forest department and managed by approved working / management plans. (ii) Coffee and cardamom plantations ; which are under the custody and managed by private ;and holders without any sustainable management plans for tree cover. (iii) Wetland forming about 12 % of the total geographical area of Kodagu district, which are under the custody of private landholders without any crop planning and under going a sea change in land use patterns. (iv) Rivers and streams forming riverine ecosystems coming under the management of government agencies but without any proper planning and control. Based on the strategic analysis, the following 8 key issues were identified for the KMF programmes.

1. **Degradation of natural forests.** The programmes include fire protection in natural forests, afforestation and enrichment of degraded forests, formation of eco-battalions for forest conservation, eco-restoration of grassy blanks and quantitative assessment of plant resources.
2. **Loss of tree cover and diversity in private plantations.** The programmes include studies on land tenure and tree diversity, integrated landscape management, shade tree management and conservation and management of pollinators.