



ABSTRACT

Forests – Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board – Notification of Elathur Lake as Bio-Diversity Heritage Site in Erode district – Notification under section 37 (1) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002– Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOREST (FR.5) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms).No.165

Dated: 28.08.2025

விசுவாவசு வருடம், ஆவணி 12

திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு – 2056

Read:

1. From the District Forest Officer, Erode Letter C.No.P1/1035/18, dated.29.10.2024 & 22.11.2024.
2. Resolution dated 22.01.2025 passed by the Elathur Town Panchayat.
3. From the District Collector, Erode Letter ந.க.எண். 30247/ 2024/கே3, நாள்.28.01.2025.
4. From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board Letter No.TNBB/859/2024/B3, dated.24.02.2025.

ORDER:-

Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) are well-defined areas that are unique, ecologically fragile, and rich in biodiversity. They conserve rare, threatened, and keystone species, safeguard evolutionary significance, and highlight cultural linkages with nature. Such designations also bring pride and recognition to local communities, instilling conservation ethics and ensuring that traditional practices and livelihoods thrive in harmony with ecological security.

Importantly, the notification of a BHS does not impose restrictions on prevailing practices or customary usage by local communities. Instead, it enhances their quality of life by ensuring ecological sustainability.

2. The significance and aims of Biodiversity Heritage Sites are outlined in section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The National Biodiversity Authority in its guidelines has outlined the relevance and purposes of Biodiversity Heritage Sites, among which are the following:-

- a. Biodiversity is closely linked to ecological security and therefore, human welfare. To strengthen the biodiversity conservation in traditionally managed areas and to stem the rapid loss of biodiversity in intensively managed areas, such areas need special attention.
- b. Such areas also often represent a positive interface between nature, culture, society and technologies, such that both conservation and livelihood security are or can be achieved, and positive links between wild and domesticated biodiversity are enhanced.
- c. To have a Biodiversity Heritage Sites in or around a community should be a matter of pride and honour to such community and this virtuous act of community may work as an example to the entire nation apart from ensuring availability of the resources to their own future generation. The areas like existing sacred groves in general and those existing in Western Ghats in particular can straight away be declared and notified as Biodiversity Heritage Sites.
- d. It is necessary to instill and nurture conservation ethics in all sections of society. The creation of Biodiversity Heritage Sites will ensure bringing home these values in the society and thereby put an end to over-exploitation of natural resources and avoid environmental degradation.
- e. The notification as Biodiversity Heritage Sites will not put any restriction on the prevailing practices and usages of the local communities, other than those voluntarily decided by them. The purpose is to enhance the quality of life of the local communities through this conservation measure.

3. The District Collector, Erode in the communication dated 28.01.2025 has stated that the Elathur Town Panchayat Council has passed resolution agreeing to declare Elathur lake in SF.No.436 (37.42.50 ha) in Elathur Town Panchayat, Nambiyur Taluk in Erode District as a Biodiversity Heritage Site. He has therefore, recommended to declare the above land as a Biodiversity Heritage Site. In order to improve conservation and protect the region from a rapid loss of biodiversity, the Government have deemed it necessary to declare the said area as a Biodiversity Heritage Site.

4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board has sent a proposal to declare Elathur lake in SF.No.436 (37.42.50 ha) in Elathur Town Panchayat, Nambiyur taluk in Erode district as Bio-Diversity Heritage Site, in view of following reasons:

- (i). This site is recommended based on its traditional, cultural and heritage values coupled with critical habitat and ecosystem services to its rich diverse of flora and fauna and breeding centre for migratory species.

- (ii). Elathur lake is one of the important bird habitats for wintering grounds and breeding grounds for resident and migratory bird species, mammals and floras. The Elathur Lake is a unique ecosystem with diverse extend of deep waters, shallow waters, marshland, dry scrub land, mudflat and rocky terrain within it.
- (iii). **Biological importance of Elathur Lake:** It serves as an important hotspot as it holds significant number of flora and avifauna population reflecting its ecological significance to the mankind. Another unique habitat that forms an interface between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem called as wetland margins which overlaps with the adjacent margin known as wetland ecotones, which are considered as gene pools. The fauna species recorded in the Elathur lake has diverse population of fauna consisting of migratory and resident birds, vertebrates, invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians and fishes.
- (iv). **Aerial significance of Elathur Lake:** From the biodiversity point of view, during the peak migratory period, almost 5,000 birds roost in this lake, and it provides habitat to one endangered (Steppe Eagle), two Vulnerable (River Tern and Greater Spotted Eagle), five threatened species (Asian Wolly-necked Stork, Red-necked Falcon, Painted Stork, Oriental Darter and Black-headed Ibis).
- (v). **Flagship Species:** In Elathur lake, Northern Pintail, Garganey, Wagtails, Sandpipers, Warblers, Bar headed Goose, Green-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Wigeon, Shrike and migrating raptors with almost 2000 resident birds are observed.
- (vi). **Flora and Fauna:** There are almost 38 species of plants species has been identified in Elathur lake.

5. After considering all the above, the Government of Tamil Nadu have decided to notify the Elathur lake in SF.No.436 (37.42.50 ha) located in Elathur Town Panchayat, Nambiyur Taluk in Erode District as a Biodiversity Heritage Site under section 37(1) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (Central Act 18 of 2003), considering the rich biodiversity in the area and ordered accordingly. The notifications appended to this order will be published in English in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette and in Tamil in the District Gazette of Erode District.

6. The Works Manager, Government Central Press, Chennai is requested to send 25 copies of each of the Notifications to the Government, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board and to the District Collector, Erode district as soon as the Notifications are published.

7. The Tamil Development and Information Department is requested to send immediately a Tamil translation of the Notifications to the Works Manager,

Government Central Press, Chennai for publication in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette and in the District Gazette of Erode District.

(BY THE ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

SUPRIYA SAHU
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force),
Chennai- 600 032.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden,
Chennai- 600 032.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary,
Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board, Chennai –600 100.

The Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority,
5th Floor, TICEL Bio Park, CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai - 600 113

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan Jorbagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003.

The Field Director, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Erode.

The District Collector, Erode.

The District Forest Officer, Erode.

Copy to:-

The Tamil Development and Information Department, Chennai – 600 009.

The Personal Secretary to the Secretary - III to Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Chennai – 600 009.

The Special Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chennai-600 009.

The Special Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister (Forests & Khadi),
Chennai-600 009.

The Private Secretary to Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department, Chennai-600 009.

The Commissioner, Department of Archaeology, Egmore, Chennai – 600 008.
SF/SC.

/FORWARDED BY ORDER/

32.10.2024
28/8/2024
SECTION OFFICER

28/8/24

APPENDIX.

NOTIFICATION.

WHEREAS, section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (Central Act 18 of 2003) provides for the declaration of areas as Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS);

AND WHEREAS, guideline 4 (g) of the Guidelines for selection and management of the Biodiversity Heritage Sites issued by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) provides that areas that provide habitats, aquatic or terrestrial, for seasonal migrant species for feeding and breeding may be identified as Biodiversity Heritage Sites and guideline 2 (e) of the said guidelines provides that the creation of Biodiversity Heritage Sites may not put any restriction on the prevailing practices and usages of the local communities, other than those voluntarily decided by them;

AND WHEREAS, Elathur lake is observed as one of the important bird habitats and 'hotspot' for wintering grounds and breeding grounds for both resident and migratory birds and also has flagship species such as Northern Pintail, Bar-headed goose, Green-winged Teal. Elathur lake provides habitat to one Endangered (Steppe Eagle), two Vulnerable (River Tern and Greater Spotted Eagle), five near threatened (Asian Wolly-necked Stork, Red-necked Falcon, Painted Stork, Oriental Darter and Black-headed Ibis) bird species during the peak migratory period;

AND WHEREAS, the State Government with an aim of bolstering biodiversity conservation, upon recommendation of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board, have felt it necessary to declare the Elathur lake bounded in the Survey No. 436 measuring 37.42.50 Hectare located by the GPS Coordinates, as Elathur lake Biodiversity Heritage Site;

AND WHEREAS, the State Government considers that the Elathur lake in Erode district described in schedule below is of adequate biodiversity importance;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (Central Act 18 of 2003), the Governor of Tamil Nadu, based on the recommendation of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board, hereby notifies the area specified in the schedule below as a Biodiversity Heritage Site: -

SCHEDULE.

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of the Biodiversity Heritage Site | : Elathur Lake Biodiversity Heritage Site |
| Name of the district | : Erode |
| Name of the taluk | : Nambiyur |
| Name of the Town Panchayat | : Elathur Town Panchayat |
| Survey Number | : 436 |

Area in Hectare : 37.42.50

Boundary description North: Survey Number: 437, 439, 462, 463, 464 and 466
South: Survey Number: 434, 435, 809, 808 and 807
East: Survey Number: 424, 426, 427, 429, 430, 431 and 432
West: Survey Number: 467 and 806

GPS Coordinates 11.385139, 77.225314

SUPRIYA SAHU
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

/ TRUE COPY /

Supriya Sahu
28/8/2025
SECTION OFFICER

Sy
28/8/25