



### **ABSTRACT**

Forests – Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board – Notification of Nagamalai hillock 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.195**

**Dated: 15.09.2025**

விசுவாவசு வருடம், ஆவணி 30  
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 areas of exceptional ecological value rich in species, often fragile, and deeply interwoven with cultural traditions. They help protect rare and threatened flora and fauna, safeguard keystone species, and preserve evolutionary significance. At the same time, these sites bring pride and recognition to local communities, nurturing conservation values and ensuring that traditional livelihoods continue to flourish in balance with nature declaring an area as a Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) does not restrict the customary practices of local people. Instead, it strengthens ecological sustainability, allowing communities to enhance their quality of life while living in harmony with their environment.

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 Nagamalai hillock in SF.No.725/1(31.66.00 ha) and 725/2 (00.56.50 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, 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 Nagamalai hillock in SF.No.725/1(31.66.00 ha) and 725/2 (00.56.50 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). Nagamalai is a hillock covered by native mosaic vegetation with dry deciduous, thorny and scrub forest type with sporadic grassland ecosystem and rich avian biodiversity. The hillock renders service to the local community as a form of local tradition worshipping deity (Sacred Grove).
- (iii). **Biological importance of Nagamalai Hillock:** The Nagamalai hillock holds flora and avifauna diversity which has been thoroughly documented by various surveys including the Tamil Nadu synchronized Bird Census (2024) which reveals that 138 plant species, 118 bird species {migratory (30) and resident (88)}, faunal diversity species listing mammals (7), reptiles (11), spiders (5) and insects (71).
- (iv). **Flora and Fauna:** A total of 138 plant species with 125 dicots and 13 monocots have been recorded at the site comprising 48 families of 114 genera. Several insect populations comprising butterflies, bees and moths, reptiles, mammals showcase the significance of conservation of this Nagamalai Hillock.
- (v). **Cultural and Natural diversity:** Nagamalai hillock has a pre-historic evidences depicting the nature of the site as cairn circle of iron age and proves to be the place of ancient history with its findings such as rock shelters, equipment's of ancient significance and natural springs/ water aquifers. A large stone carving of the sculptured deity (Anjaneya) dating back to 400 years reflects a strong cultural significance of the Nagamalai Hillock as per the record of the Archaeology Department.
- (vi). **Flagship Species:** Greater Spotted Eagle, Pallid Harrier and Benelli's Eagle are observed in Nagamalai Hillock.

5. The Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) once notified do not in any way impose any restriction on ongoing or future development in the surrounding areas of Biodiversity Heritage Sites. There is no concept of buffer zone / eco sensitive zone for Biodiversity Heritage Sites. No rights are impacted by such notification.

6. After considering all the above, the Government of Tamil Nadu have decided to notify the Nagamalai hillock in SF.No.725/1(31.66.00 ha) and 725/2 (00.56.50 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 Act18 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.

7. 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.

8. 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,

5<sup>th</sup>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/

*Supriya Sahu*  
15/09/2024  
**SECTION OFFICER**

*SF*  
15/9/24

**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**, Nagamalai hillock is covered by native mosaic vegetation with dry deciduous, thorny and scrub forest type with sporadic grassland ecosystem with rich flora and avian biodiversity and flagship species such as Bonellis Eagle, Greater Spotted Eagle and Pallid Harrier. Nagamalai Hillock has pre-historic evidence depicting the nature of the site as cairn circle of iron age, rock shelters equipment of ancient significance and natural springs/water aquifers. A large stone carving of the sculptured deity (Anjaneya) dating back to 700 years reflects a strong cultural significance of the Nagamalai Hillock as per the record of the Archaeology Department;

**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 Nagamalai hillock bounded in the Survey Number 725/1 measuring 31.66.00 Hectare and in Survey Number 725/2 measuring 00.56.50 Hectare located by the GPS Coordinates, as Nagamalai hillock Biodiversity Heritage Site;

**AND WHEREAS**, the State Government considers that the Nagamalai hillock 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** : Nagamalai hillock Biodiversity Heritage Site

**Name of the district** : Erode

**Name of the taluk** : Nambiyur

**Name of the Town Panchayat** : Elathur Town Panchayat

<b>Survey Numbers and extent</b>	<b>Survey Number</b>	<b>Extent in Hectare</b>
	725/1	31.66.00
	725/2	00.56.50

**Boundary description**  
North: Survey Number: 709, 710, 713, 714, 716, 717 and 719  
South: Survey Number: 724, 726, 728, 731 and 732  
East: Survey Number: 690, 688 and 687  
West: Survey Number: 720, 723 and 722

**GPS Coordinates** 11.382867, 77.291538

**SUPRIYA SAHU**  
**ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

/ TRUE COPY /

*Supriya Sahu*  
*15/09/2025*  
**SECTION OFFICER**

*Supriya Sahu*  
*15/9/25*