

10498

13/10/14



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Forest & Wildlife Department – Projects under “Mission 676” – Kuruvikku Oru Koodu –
Sanction accorded – Orders issued.

Forest & Wildlife (D) Department

G.O.(Rt) No.453/2014/F&WLD

Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 01.10.2014.

- Read :
1. Letter No.P6-20937/2014 dated 21.07.2014 from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (D&PFM).
 2. Minutes of the Special meeting held on 20.09.2014.
 3. Lr. No.SW2-2137/2014 dated 20.09.2014 from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (SF).

ORDER

As per the letter read as 1st paper above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (D&PFM) has furnished a proposal from Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (SF) for the project “Kuruvikku Oru Koodu (A house for a Sparrow)” under Mission 676. The estimated cost of the project was Rs. 20 lakhs under the Head of account '2406-02-110-68-Conservation of Biodiversity-34-OC(Plan)'. It is a Bird conservation initiative to house sparrows in urban areas by providing them with wooden bird houses in selected areas to increase their number of declining population and to involve the community in conservation and to create awareness about conservation.

2) The Special meeting which held on 20.09.2014 discussed the project with the representatives of Finance Department and State Planning Board in which the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (SF) was directed to furnish a revised proposal, limiting the number of Koodus to 20 or 30 in each district with minimum of 5 towns, including the places like Railway Stations, Bus Stations etc. monitored by Assistant Conservator of Forests (SF) and each Koodu will be labelled as “Kuruvikku Oru Koodu an initiative of Kerala Forest Department”.

3) The proposal thus furnished by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (SF) vide the letter read as 3rd paper above has been examined by Government in detail and are pleased to accord sanction for implementation of the project “Kuruvikku Oru Koodu”

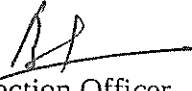
under "mission 676", by meeting the expenditure under the Head of account '2406-02-110-68-Conservation of Biodiversity-34-OC(Plan)'. Component wise and other details of the scheme is enclosed as annexure.

By Order of the Governor,
P.K.Mohanty,
Additional Chief Secretary to Government.

To

The Head of Forest Forces, Thiruvananthapuram.
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (D&PFM), Thiruvananthapuram.
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (SF), Thiruvananthapuram.
The Finance Department.
State Planning Board, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram.
The Accountant General (Audit/A&E), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.
Information & Public Relations Department (for publishing in Government Website).
Stock file/Office Copy.

Forwarded/By Order,


Section Officer.

MISSION 676 - "KURUVIKKU ORU KOODU"

"A HOUSE FOR A SPARROW"**I. Background**

The House Sparrow - *Passer domesticus* has declined in urban areas in recent years and is now red listed as a species of conservation concern. In urban environments populations are influenced by a number of factors which include food availability, pollution levels, insect abundance, nest site availability and presence of predators. The major factor for decline in population is found to be the non availability of nest sites and suitable feeding habitat within close proximity.

Adult sparrows forage predominantly within a distance of just 60-70 meters from their nest site in the breeding season according to various researches conducted in this subject.

The coming up of departmental stores and the disappearance of the neighborhood store has resulted in a decline in the availability of food as the departmental stores deal with well packaged grain and no loose grain is available for feeding. Also at the time of breeding, little insects are required for feeding and its non-availability in the clean departmental store environment make it an unsuitable site for breeding. Also, there is absence of insects for feeding the young ones in the clean surroundings of a departmental store. As a result the only habitats where sparrows now found are local markets where grain and insects are easily available.

In Thiruvananthapuram city a programme of placing bird houses in the Palayam market had been successful. It is proposed to extend the same to all other cities. Currently there is a Bird Conservation initiative undertaken by Social Forestry wing. The Assistant Conservator of Forests of each district will partner with the partner NGO of the district to take things forward.

II. Objectives

- (i) To provide suitable nesting for sparrows
- (ii) To increase the number of declining population
- (iii) To involve community in conservation
- (iv) To create awareness about conservation

III. Strategies

The following strategies will be adopted

- i. Identify areas where nesting is of critical concern
- ii. Gain support of local conservation groups
- iii. Facilitate conservation support
- iv. Motivate citizens to support conservation

IV. Action Plan

1. The ACF's will identify the locations in the district where the population of sparrows are observed and the response of the NGO/participating organization is positive and encouraging. An order of priority will be prepared based on population size and response obtained.
2. The Koodu will be put up in various towns in a district and at several locations. In each location the number of nesting boxes to be placed may be 20-30, the exact number will be decided by the Implementation Committee chaired by the Range Officer. In addition to markets location like railway station, bus stand etc. having population of Sparrows will be selected.
3. The number of locations to be selected will be limited to the fund availability.
4. In each location an implementation committee will be formed which shall put up the bird houses and monitor the same. The implementation committee shall be chaired by the Range Officer and shall consist of the Forester of the locality and a representative each of NGO, media, headload workers and shop owners.
5. The bird houses intended for this purpose may be made of marine plywood with dimension approximately 40 cm x 20 cm x 30 cm (l, b, h) with a small opening of around 3-4 cm diameter in the lateral position. Sufficient air holes will be provided on both sides for fresh air circulation. The bird house will be placed at sufficient height say around 4-6 metres above ground level which is found to be the optimum height. The option for design etc. may be decided at the local level.
6. Each bird house will be labeled as "Kuruvikku oru Koodu, an initiative of Kerala Forest Department".
7. The monitoring committee shall document the details of occupancy in each week in a register to be maintained for the purpose. The duty for maintaining the Register rests with the Forester. The following details shall be entered.

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Bird house No.</i>	<i>Observation</i>	<i>Name & Signature</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)

8. Local publicity and awareness to be given.
9. The Assistant Conservator of Forests will monitor the performance through a selected NGO/Monitoring Committee set up for this purpose.

PROJECTS UNDER 'MISSION 676'

1. Project details : **Kuruvikku Oru Koodu (A house for a sparrow)**
Conservation initiatives to "House Sparrows" in urban areas by providing them wooden bird houses
2. Components :
1. Cost of bird houses : 14.00 lakhs
2. Monitoring and other expenses : 3.00 lakhs
3. Award to best 3 districts : 1.40 lakhs
TOTAL : 20.00 lakhs
3. Period of completion of the project : 2014-15
4. Implementing Agency : Social Forestry wing, Kerala Forest Department
5. Beneficiary selection process if any : No beneficiary - It is a bird conservation initiative
Selection of sites will be based on availability of sparrows and enthusiasm by local support groups
6. Cost : Rs. 20.00 lakhs
7. Source of fund : Conservation of Biodiversity
8. Head of Account : 2406-02-110-68-CBD-34-OC (PLAN)
9. Important Milestones with time line :
Identifying 'House Sparrow' areas - Nov-Dec. 2014
Making 'nests' and housing the birds - Jan-Feb. 2015
Distribution of awards - Feb-March 2015
Monitoring activities - March 2015.