

TAMIL NADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From
Dr. Shekhar Kumar Niraj, I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
and Chief Wildlife Warden
Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet,
Chennai - 15.

To
The Principal Secretary to Government,
Environment Climate Change & Forests
Department,
Secretariat, Chennai - 9.

Ref. No. WL5/38261/2012 dated 15-12-2021

Madam,

Sub: Forests - Wildlife - Birds Sanctuary - Rationalization of the existing boundary of Vedanthangal Birds Sanctuary - Withdrawal request - Revised proposal - Regarding.

Ref: 1) This office Ref. No. WL5/38261/2012 dated 10-01-2020.

2) Government letter No. 7610/FR.5/2020-2 dated 28-07-2020.

3) This office Ref. No. WL5/38261/2012 dated 15-12-2020.

I wish to inform that in the reference 1st cited a proposal for rationalization of the existing boundary of Vedanthangal Birds Sanctuary under section 26-A(3) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been submitted during the year 2020.

In the reference 2nd cited, the Government requested to furnish information on the land use status of the proposed area for rationalization of Vedanthangal Birds Sanctuary to be obtained from the District Collector, Chengalpattu.

In this regard, I wish to inform that Vedanthangal is the oldest water bird sanctuary declared in the year 1936 in the State of Tamil Nadu. Vedanthangal Birds Sanctuary known as the oldest Birds Sanctuary in India. Vedanthangal was notified as RF in 1963 under Madras Act 1882. The sanctuary was finally notified under section 26 (1) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 in the year 1998. Bird

census conducted year after year indicated presence of about 28,000 land and water birds visiting this prestigious wetland sanctuary. Hence, it is felt that if the existing boundary of Vedanthangal Birds Sanctuary is reduced, biodiversity and integrity of the sanctuary as signified by water bird habitat will be adversely affected, which may also result in reduction of water birds and the water regime itself, in the long one. Hence, such a proposal may be of bad consequences.

I, therefore, wish to inform that keeping ecological security and habitat ecology in view, the proposal submitted in this office vide reference 1st cited may please be considered as withdrawn forever.

Yours faithfully,

Srinivas. 15.12.21
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
and Chief Wildlife Warden

15/12/2021.