

Title	:	Assessment of Visitor Carrying Capacity of Kuruva Island, Wayanad, Kerala
Principal Investigator	:	Dr. A. Rajasekaran
Co-Investigators	:	Dr. C. Kunhikannan Dr. K. R. Sasidharan
Duration	:	2018-2019
Objectives	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate the present level of ecotourism activities 2. Assess the visitor carrying capacity of the ecotourism site
Funding Agency	:	Forest Development Agency Kerala

Summary

The study on “Assessment of the Visitor Carrying Capacity of Kuruva Island, Wayanad, Kerala” is based on primary data collected through field inspection, discussions and interactions with officials of Forest Department and various stakeholders of Pakkom - Kuruva Ecotourism site in South Wayanad Division, Kerala. The draft guidelines provided by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India on 2nd June, 2011 for Ecotourism in and around protected areas have been followed for assessing the visitor carrying capacity of Pakkom – Kuruva ecotourism site. Visitor carrying capacity has been divided into the following three levels namely a) Physical Carrying Capacity (PCC), b) Real Carrying Capacity (RCC) and c) Effective Carrying Capacity (ECC).

Correction factors such as soil erosion, Elephant movement and human - elephant conflict, Muggler crocodile breeding time and Smooth coated Otter were considered as limiting factors for this study to ensure minimum ecological impact, biodiversity conservation and safety of the visitors. The study found that the present management capacity of area is optimum. Based on the outcome of the study, it may be concluded that the number of visitors entering the area was high for the years 2014-15 to 2016-17 and it was well within the limits of carrying capacity for the last year, i.e. 2017-18.