

<b>Title</b>	:	Assessment of Visitor Carrying Capacity of Chembra Peak, Wayanad, Kerala
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	:	Dr. A. Rajasekaran
<b>Co-Investigators</b>	:	Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Scientist - G Mr. P. Kathirvel, IFS
<b>Duration</b>	:	2019-2020
<b>Objectives</b>	:	1. Evaluate the present level of ecotourism activities  2. Assess the visitor carrying capacity of the ecotourism site
<b>Funding Agency</b>	:	Forest Development Agency Kerala

#### **Summary**

The study on “Assessment of the Visitor Carrying Capacity of Chembra peak, Wayanad, Kerala” is based on primary data collected through field inspection, discussions and interactions with officials of Forest Department and various stakeholders of Chembra Ecotourism site in South Wayanad Division, Kerala. 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 Landslides, fire, Elephant movement, breeding time of Banasura Laughing Thrush, Dhole, Sambar Deer, Nilgiri Langur and Leopard 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 highest for the year 2016-17 and it was above the present estimated level of carrying capacity.