

Title	:	Assessment of Visitor Carrying Capacity of Soojippara Wayanad, Kerala
Principal Investigator	:	Dr. A. Rajasekaran
Co-Investigators	:	Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Scientist - G Mr. P. Kathirvel, IFS
Duration	:	2019-2020
Objectives	:	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 Soojippara, Wayanad, Kerala” is based on primary data collected through field inspection, discussions and interactions with officials of Forest Department and various stakeholders of Soojippara site in South Wayanad Division, Kerala. Already published documents and available reports have been also consulted. In addition, information based on observations of the relevant stakeholders from the area was taken into consideration. The visitor arrival statistics in Soojippara site and other available data was collected from the DFO, South Wayanad Division. The possible impact of visitors in the Soojippara site has been assessed through field survey in the area and discussion with local people and field staff.

Correction factors such as heavy floods, reduced water flow, landslide, soil erosion, disturbance to wildlife breeding etc. were considered as limiting factors for this study to ensure minimum ecological impact, biodiversity conservation and safety of the visitors. Based on the outcome of the study, it may be concluded that the number of visitors entering the area was high for the years 2010-11 to 2012-13 and 2015-16 & 2016-2017 and it was highest in the year 2012-2013 but it has been well within the limits of carrying capacity. The study found that the present management capacity of the area is optimum.