

Kalakad Division, Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve

1. Title of the scheme

Special Area Development of Programme

2. Objectives of the Scheme

Special Area Development of Programme intends focus on the buffer zone adjoining the protected forests areas, which often suffer from lack of investment as they fall neither in the forests nor one close to habitations but are critical to soil and water conservation. Hence, scope of SADP would cover the interaction between water and production landscapes and human livelihood; water and eco system services and water biodiversity. There would be focus on enhancing livelihood opportunities in-situ or micro watershed-based planning. SADP, addresses the common problems faced in the hill ranges delineated above which are treated as a single biogeographical entity. Premised on Tamil Nadu's vision of fostering sustainable development and preserving its natural heritage, the SADP would be a pioneer in demonstrating the reconciliation of conserving natural resources and biodiversity for fulfilling human needs and aspirations.

3. Implementing Authority

Tamil Nadu Forest Department – Kalakad Sanctuary, Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve

4. Project Outlay

Sl. No	Year	No. of works	Amount Rs. in Lakhs
1.	2017/18	9	23.292
2.	2018/19	3	28

5. Project implemented area

Nanguneri and Radhapuram blocks of Tirunelveli District.

6. Current Status and situation prior to the Implementation of the scheme.

Due to lack of funding support to this Division, We have not able to develop much infrastructure facilities, Protection management, Habitat improvement, Afforestation works and Soil Moisture Conservation works. SADP helped achieving some amount of works. Providing alternate employment generation and other community development works to the forest dependents.

7. Impact of the scheme.

(1). Construction of Dry stone Packing:

Construction of dry stone packaging is one of the soil and water conservation measures used to reduce speed of runoff water and reduce the soil erosion by arresting the silt, increase the ground water level it will be benefit the more than thousand farmers in the fringe villages of Nanguneri and Radhapuram blocks. Local community people involved in the construction of dry stone packing on daily wages so it will provide employment opportunities to the fringe villages and also it will improve socio economic status and livelihood of local communities.

(2). Maintenance of repair/desilting of existing check dam.

Kalakad sanctuary is the major water source for the catchment area of vadaku pachiyar and kodumudiyar reservoir more than ten thousand hectare of agricultural land gets irrigated from this water source. Maintenance, Repairing and Desilting the check dams to increase their water storage and water holding capacity would benefit the wild animals in catering their drinking water needs even during summer season. There would be less straying incidents of wild life for water. This would ensure the reduction of Man animal conflicts. Water facility during the pinch, period helps reduction of animal movement out of protected areas. That helps reduce the poaching incidences. It

will provide employment opportunities to the fringe villages of local communities.

(3). Protection wall around the trees of the river bank.

Constructing tree guards around the trees Eco tourism sites and Pilgrim sites of buffer area have dual benefits such as it acts as resting place for Tourists and pilgrims and the same time, it act as protecting structure to trees. It prevent the shallow rooted trees from falling or sliding. It retain the existing tree and enhance the anchorage.

(4). Invasive alien species management.

Invasive alien species management helps reducing Non palatable fast spreading weeds in forest ecosystem. Uprooting the non native weeds improves the palatable native species in forest ecosystem. Exotic weeds which are not palatable and suppressing the natural palatable species. If these weeds are not removed the food for the herbivores will become scarce and their population may go down. Hence its removed all these weeds manually and assist natural regeneration of palatable grass and other species in order to improve the food supply to the herbivores on which carnivores depend for their food needs. This is one of the major interventions in the forest management. Invasive alien species removed manually by engaging local community people as daily wages, in this management activity more than hundred local people get employment opportunity by removing 15 ha of invasive species.

(5). Creation and maintenance of fire lines.

local community people are engaged as daily wages for creation and maintenance of fire lines. Creating fire lines with the general goals are to maximize the effectiveness of the fireline at slowing the spread of wildfire, and by using firelines of sufficient size and density to hopefully reduce the ultimate size of wildfires. Additional goals are to maintain the ecology of the forest and to reduce the impact of wildfires on air pollution and the global climate, and to balance the costs and benefits of the various projects. This scheme helps local people to

improve socio economic status and livelihood improvement and also conserve the sanctuary ecosystem.

(6). Engaging fire watchers and fire brigades

Fifteen numbers of fire watchers and fire brigades being engaged from the fringe villages of kalakad division. During fire season this fire watchers have to be engaged to put of fires and they will also assist the anti poaching watchers during this period. These fire watchers will roam daily and inform when any fire is noticed. They will be also a reserve force for fire fighting as they are mobilized during fire fighting operations. So these fire watchers from local village will get employed every year.

(7). Anti poaching camp.

Buffer zones are the more prone area for poachers and intruders. Conducting Anti-poaching camps in the buffer area is a must for protecting wildlife. Temporary camps conducted in buffer areas in regular basis reduced the poaching incident. Local community youth will be engaged for mobilization of anti poaching camp along with the forest department field staffs to get employment opportunities.

8. Beneficiaries of SADP

Tree guards construction around the trees facilitated the tourist peoples and pilgrims. Desilting the existing water storage structures such as check dams improved the ground water and improved the vegetation cover. Desilting in buffer areas and forest fringes will improve the ground water to fringe villages. Local village people are appointed as Anti poaching watchers that creates the employment opportunity to local peoples. Engaging fire fighting brigades creates the employment opportunity to local peoples under this scheme as daily wages labourer. Human animal conflict is reduced by creating water facility in buffer areas.

9. Performance of the indicators.

Facilities of the department has been improved. Protection and habitat improvement. Local people get alternate income generation source by the employment in Forest department.

10. Outcome of the Project

Aesthetic value of the division has been improved by construction of tree guards. Under this scheme, Protection of forest areas and wildlife has been improved by conducting Anti poaching activities in the buffer areas. Habitat management, like fire breaks have been made to control fire occurrence in the fire seasons. Measures have been taken to address the human wildlife conflict by carry out the water augmentation works like deepening & desilting of existing Percolation ponds and Check dams. to provide water facilities to the wildlife inside the Reserved Forests. This would reduce Wildlife straying and also improvement in agriculture economy by way of enhanced water recharge in the periphery of the forest area. Stone walls packings reduced the soil erosion and prevented the silt deposition in smaller dams and check dams. Check dams also helped during the pinch period. Removal of invasive species improved the native vegetation and palatable grasses. That kind of habitat improvement has increased the prey base. Engaging fire fighting brigades created local employment. That improved the support to forest department in early case deduction. The SADP project work improved the division in little extend. High level of funding in future will show the remarkable changes in the kalakad division.

