

BRIEF DOCUMENT ON **VEMBANNUR TANK**

(PROPOSED AS RAMSAR SITE)



KANNIYAKUMARI FOREST DIVISION

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BRIEF DOCUMENT ON VEMBANNUR WETLAND COMPLEX

1 Introduction

Vembannur Tank is located in Survey number: 510/1 of Vembannur West revenue village of Agastheeswaram Taluk of Kanniyakumari District. It is comprised of an area of 23 ha 86.5 are. The Geocoordinates of the vembannur tank is Latitude 8.17969° and Longitude 77.37421°.

The Boundaries of the Vembannur Tank are given below.

North: Survey Number 290, 292, 326, 327 of Alur 'A' village, Pannaivakkal (Pantivakkal)

East: Survey number 510/11 of Vembannur village, Pannaivaikal (Pantivakal)

South: Alur to Aasaripallam road.

West: Alur to Aasaripallam road.

2 GIS Shape file Image of Vembannur Tank



This tank is a Man-made, inland, perennial wetland. The average depth of Vembanuur tank is 7m. It harbours more than 20 aquatic bird species and amphibians such as tortoise, frog and pond snail and reptiles such as water snakes.

3 Management Interventions

The site is proposed to be declared as Ramsar site and an Integrated Management Plan will be prepared in details comprising inputs from all stakeholders, however a brief description of management interventions to be proposed is given below.

3.1 Invasive Species Management

Major plant invasive alien species such as Indian Lotus and Water hyacinth are noticed and extent of such invasive alien species is around 60 %. This leads to increase in biological oxygen demand and eutrophication. This has significant impact on fish productivity and aquatic bird species depended on this tank. Hence these species shall be removed. Pilot studies are to be experimented where water hyacinths and lotus are removed from the tanks and dried and processed to make organic manure and handicrafts with participation of village forest committee members. Participation of Civil society such as School and college students, NGOs, villagers are to be mobilized to conduct periodical cleaning of this tank.

Major animal invasive alien species and extent of invasion - Tilapia, Common carps is a very common invasive species that was recorded. The extent of invasive alien species needs a detailed study.

3.2 Desilting and bunds strengthening

Periodical desilting of the tank and inlets and outlets are highly needed to ensure sufficient water availability. The silts and sands shall be used for formation of artificial mounds and strengthening of bunds. The mounds shall be planted with tree species supports roosting of aquatic birds.

3.3 Encroachment removal

At present the wetland has less encroachments only. However, there are lot of pressure for expansion of agricultural activities into this wetland complex. Hence clear cut demarcation of this tank boundary is very much essential and any encroachments if found need to be evicted.

3.4 Waste Management

Untreated Sewage waste, fertilizer contaminated water from the nearby agricultural fields and plastic and other waste disposal at the bands and in the wetlands are the major category of wastes need to be managed. Scientific interventions at the inlet area to treat the waste is needed. Participation of Civil society such as school and college students, NGOs, villagers are to be mobilized to conduct periodical cleaning of this banks.

3.5 Ecotourism

Ecotourism activities such as Boating, Bird watching, Cycling, Nature walk, Nature camps, Interpretation center etc., shall be created to promote

ecotourism in this tank and it shall be done with the participation of local communities living nearby.

3.6 Management of rights of stakeholders

The following activities of local communities shall be permitted in order to protect the livelihood rights of them.

- Fishing using fishing rod shall be permitted for their bonafide needs. However commercial fishing using any type of nets shall not be permitted.
- Bathing, Cleaning, washing needs of the people living nearby shall be continued as existing.
- Extraction of water for drinking water purposes shall be permitted.
- As the tank is sustaining the irrigation needs of the agricultural lands nearby it shall be permitted.
- Periodical Maintenance works such as Desilting, Bund strengthening, Access Road maintenance, Maintenance of pump houses and other water extraction structures, Maintenance of tourism infrastructures created etc shall be permitted.

3.7 Prohibited Activities

Activities prohibited under Wetland conservation rules 2017 shall be prohibited in this tank also.
