



## ABSTRACT

Forests – Wildlife – Announcement - for establishment of two new Research centers viz., Centre for Conservation and Evolutionary Genetics and Centre for Species Survival at the Advanced Institute of Wildlife Conservation (AIWC) at Vandalur Chennai –Sanctioned – Orders Issued.

### Environment, Climate Change and Forests (FR.5) Department

G.O.(D)No.163

Dated: 08.07.2025

விசுவாவசு வருடம், ஆனி 24

திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு - 2056

### Read:

1. Announcement made by the Hon'ble Minister (Forests and Khadi) on 28.03.2025.
2. From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden Letter Ref. No. WL6/8513/2025, dated. 22.05.2025.

\*\*\*\*\*

### ORDER:-

The Hon'ble Minister (Forests and Khadi) has made the following announcement among others on the floor of Assembly on 28.03.2025:-

"பாதுகாப்பு மற்றும் பரிணாம மரபியல் மையம் ஒன்றும், உயிர்வகை வாழ்வு மையம் ஒன்றும் சென்னை வண்டலூரில் உள்ள உயர்நிலை வனஉயிரினப் பாதுகாப்பு நிறுவனத்தில் (AIWC) புதியதாக 1.50 கோடி ரூபாய் செலவில் அமைக்கப்படும்".

2. In his letter second read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden has sent a proposal for a amount of Rs. 1.50 crore for establishment of two new Research centers viz., Centre for Conservation and Evolutionary Genetics and Centre for Species Survival at the Advanced Institute of Wildlife Conservation (AIWC) at Vandalur Chennai. The details are as follows:-

The Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation (AIWC) is a research institute of the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, established in October 2017. The primary goals of AIWC are to provide scientific solutions to wildlife conservation challenges and aid in the scientific management of wildlife in the State through research, training and education. Presently, there are four functional centres in AIWC. They are: i) Centre for Wildlife Forensic Sciences (CWFS), ii) Centre for Animal Care Sciences (CACS), iii) Centre for Conservation Education (CCE) and iv) Centre for Conservation Ecology (CCEC).



The four centres that are already functioning are involved in wildlife conservation through different research and education activities, such as forensic investigation, disease diagnosis, wildlife habitat and biodiversity conservation and wildlife education and training. The justification for the two new centres is as follows:

**Centre for Conservation and Evolutionary Genetics:** Many natural and man-made factors threaten wildlife diversity. Inbreeding, loss of genetic diversity and loss of adaptive potential are some of the major evolutionary genetics-based threats. Studying the genetic structure is a prerequisite to understanding the evolutionary history of species. A thorough understanding of genetics and evolution is needed to strengthen efforts to conserve wildlife. Research on the evolutionary history of species can identify the genetically distinct varieties/populations that need to be conserved. Genetic and evolutionary research can also identify endangered species' genetic status. The outcome of such studies helps to prevent inbreeding and species extinction. Studies on gene flow and genetic drift in fragmented landscapes help to develop strategies to maintain connectivity between populations. Genetic studies are also useful in understanding the genetic makeup of invasive species and aid in developing effective control methods. Hence, a separate Centre for conservation and evolutionary genetics is essential.

**Centre for Species Survival:** Habitat management, captive breeding and reintroduction/repopulation/translocation of endangered wildlife species in Tamil Nadu needs in-depth research. The IUCN-World Conservation Union has listed more than 23% of mammals, 12% of birds, 4% of reptiles, and 32% of amphibians as threatened. The state is taking concerted efforts to protect endangered species through drawing species survival plans and conservation projects for various endangered species. Research in collaboration with leading wildlife research institutes can ensure the reproductive success of rare species. So, it is essential to establish a new centre for species survival at AIWC.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSAL**

1. To ascertain the factors that endanger the genetic diversity of wildlife through research.
2. To provide scientific solutions for species conservation.
3. To reduce the risk of population and species extinction by applying genetic principles.
4. To develop a strategy to manage the genetic diversity of wildlife species.
5. To develop potential researchers to support wildlife conservation efforts.

## **RESEARCH FOCUS AREAS OF THE CENTRE FOR CONSERVATION AND EVOLUTIONARY GENETICS**

- Genetic diversity within and among wildlife populations.
- Genetic relationships and evolutionary history of populations.
- Effects of inbreeding on population fitness.
- Genetic diversity of Alien Invasive Species.
- Developing strategies to mitigate the negative impacts of inbreeding.



## RESEARCH FOCUS AREAS OF THE CENTRE FOR SPECIES SURVIVAL

- Studying the reproductive behaviour of endangered species.
- Habitat preference of endangered species.
- Migratory behaviour of endangered species.
- Physical and biological factors that impact the migration and reproduction of endangered species.
- Developing species survival plans, undertaking captive breeding and interventions to reintroduce/ repopulate/ translocate individuals.

3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden has requested to sanction an amount of Rs.1.50 crore for establishment of two new Research centers viz., Centre for Conservation and Evolutionary Genetics and Centre for Species Survival at the Advanced Institute of Wildlife Conservation (AIWC) at Vandalur Chennai. The details are as follows:-

Sl. No.	Description of the item	Required unit	Cost per unit (Rs.)	Cost (Rs.)
<b>Recurring Cost</b>				
1	<b>Salary</b>			
	i. Scientist to be filled on a tenurial basis through deputation from another scientific organization or on contract basis.	4	75,000/ month	36,00,000
	ii. Project Associate II (DST Norms)	4	31,100/ month	14,92,800
	<b>Sub-total(A)</b>			<b>50,92,800</b>
				<b>(or)</b>
				<b>51,00,000</b>

<b>Non-recurring cost</b>				
Sl. No.	Description of the item	Required quantity	Cost per unit (Rs.)	Cost (Rs.)
1	Partition of Laboratory and Purchase of work bench and island table, seating chairs, cupboards, hand wash water facility, electrical line extensions, etc.	Master setup – 1 No.	15,00,000	15,00,000
2	20KVA UPS	1	2,00,000	2,00,000
3	Desktop computers (latest generation processor)	4	60,000	2,40,000
4	Air Conditioner for labs	6	50,000	3,00,000



5	Laboratory Instruments such as -80°C ultra-low deep freezer, -20°C ultra-low deep freezer, Thermal Cycler (PCR), Gel Documentation system, Nano-drop spectrophotometer, Micropipette sets, horizontal gel electrophoresis and other minor instruments	Master setup	76,60,000	76,60,000
			<b>Sub-total (B)</b>	<b>99,00,000</b>
			<b>Grand Total (A+B)</b>	<b>1,50,00,000</b>

4. The Government after careful examination of the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden have decided to accord administrative and financial sanction for the recurring cost for Rs.51,00,000/- and Non-recurring cost for Rs.99,00,000/- totally Rs.1,50,00,000/- (Rupees one crore and fifty lakhs only) towards establishment of two new Research centers viz., Centre for Conservation and Evolutionary Genetics and Centre for Species Survival at the Advanced Institute of Wildlife Conservation (AIWC) at Vandalur Chennai.

5. The expenditure sanctioned in para 4 above shall be debited into the following Head of Account:-

(Rs.in thousands)		
S.No	HOA	AMOUNT
1.	2406 FORESTRY AND WILD LIFE - 02 Environmental Forestry and Wild Life - 111 Zoological Park State's Expenditure - AB Establishment of Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation At Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur	
2.	333 - Payments for Professional and Special Services - 04 Contract Payment. (DPC 2406 02 111 AB 333 04)	5100
3.	305 Office Expenses - 05 - Furniture (DPC 2406 02 111 AB 305 05)	1500
4.	319 Machinery and Equipments 01 - Purchase (DPC 2406 02 111 AB 319 01)	8160
5.	376 Computer and Accessories 01 - Purchase (DPC 2406 02 111 AB 376 01)	240
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15000</b>

6. The expenditure sanctioned in para 4 above shall constitute an item of "New Instrument Service" and the approval of the Legislature shall be obtained in due course of time by an inclusion in the Supplementary Estimates for the year 2025-2026. Pending approval of the Legislature, the expenditure may be initially met by drawl of an advance from the Contingency Fund. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden (Head of Forest Force) is directed to calculate the actual amount required for the period upto next Supplementary Estimates and apply for sanction of the same as advance from the contingency Fund to Finance (BG-I) Department directly in Form "A" appended to the Contingency Fund rules, 1963 along with a copy of this order. Orders for sanction of an advance from the Contingency Fund will be issued from Finance (BG-I) Department. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) shall also send necessary draft explanatory notes for inclusion of this expenditure in the Supplementary



Estimates for the year 2025-2026 to the Government in Finance (AHDF&FW/BG-I) Department at an appropriate time without fail.

7. This order issues with the concurrence of Finance Department vide e.file No.699/Finance(AHDF&FW)/2025, dated.08.07.2025 and ASL No.0722 (Seven Hundred and Twenty Two) (IFHRMS ASL No.2025070722)

**(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)**

**SUPRIYA SAHU**  
**ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (Head of Forest Force), Chennai-32.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, Chennai-32.

The Accountant General, Chennai-18.

The Pay and Accounts Officer, Chennai-35.

The Treasury Officer concerned.

Copy to:-

The Special Personal Assistant to

Hon'ble Minister (Finance and Environment & Climate Change), Chennai-9.

The Special Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister (Forests and Khadi), Chennai-9.

The Finance (E.CC&F/BG.I/BG.II/W & M-1) Department, Chennai-9.

The Private Secretary to Additional Secretary to Government,

Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department, Chennai-9.

Environment, Climate Change and Forests (FR.7) Department, Chennai-9.

SF/SC.

//FORWARDED BY ORDER//

*62/2025*  
*08/07/2025*  
**SECTION OFFICER**  
*8/7/25*