



KERALA FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD

CII NATIONAL AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL BEST PRACTICES-2025

KFDC – Ecotourism Project

Our Guiding Philosophy :
KFDC's success is built on the three interconnected principles outlined below.

Vision	Mission	Promise
To establish Kerala as a global leader in ecotourism by preserving biodiversity and empowering local communities.	KFDC's ecotourism initiatives are centered on community-based model, ensuring that local tribal communities are the true guardians of the forest.	To provide immersive, transformative experiences that foster a harmonious coexistence between humans and nature.

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Kerala Forest Development Corporation Ltd
(A Government of Kerala Undertaking)
(90% Equity holding by Gov't of Kerala and 10% by Gov't of India)
Website: www.kfdc.kerala.gov.in

Legacy of 50 years :

- 26 locations since established in 1975
- 50 years in the field of conservation and Biodiversity management
- Over 10,000 hectares of forest land within the scope.
- Over 800 community families (local Tribal Communities including 186 Sri Lankan repatriate families) are involved to support conservation efforts
- Promoting scientific forestry, biodiversity conservation & ecotourism.
- Integrating conservation with livelihood generation.

To visit KFDC-Eco tourism destinations please login: kfdecotourism.com

Kerala Forest Development Corporation Ltd Location Map Of Plantations and Ecotourism Destination

Map locations include: Mananthavady, Vattiyil Estate, Mayannur, Thirissur Division, Chembamkandam, Nelliampathi, Marayoor Sandal Oil Factory, Kadalar, Mankulam, Meeshapulimala, Kootakuzhi, Kulamavu, Vagamon Hills Garden, KFDC Head Office, Gudappanakulam, Punalur Division, Achencovil, Karavoor, Anakulam Central Nursery, Anippa, Anippa IB, Palode, Kallar Ecotourism, Trivandrum Division.

Scale: 0 25 50 km

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Our Ecotourism Projects :

(Protecting nature, preserving life)

Destinations (12Nos):
(Located in the global biodiversity hotspots of the Western Ghats)

- Gavi, Kochu Pamba, Vagamon Hills Garden,
- Munnar Floriculture Centre, Meesappulimala, Rhodomansion, Rhodovally, Sooryanelli.
- Nelliampathy
- Mananthavady
- Arippa, Kallar

Highlights

- More than **12 Crores** revenue per annum
- Over **800,000** visitors per year
- 100,000 foreigners
- From 66 countries
- Capacity of 300 bed/day

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How our projects are unique ?



Biodiversity

Biodiversity Conservation: Protection and restoration of native flora & fauna; >260 bird species identified.

Preserved Myristica Swamps.

In-situ conservation and removal of invasive non-native monocultures.



Myristica Swamps



Human Development

Livelihood Generation: Employment of locals as guides, naturalists, hospitality staff, and artisans.

Skill Development & Capacity Building: Training in hospitality, guiding, and sustainable practices.

Giving Back to Community: Revenue sharing for education and healthcare in forest-fringe areas.



Preserving Natural Habitat

Habitat Preservation: Activities within carrying capacity to minimize disturbance to wildlife.

Sustainable Infrastructure: Eco-friendly construction (treehouses, jungle lodges, bamboo huts).

Renewable Energy & Water Conservation: Solar power, rainwater harvesting, waste treatment.

Waste Management & Resource Conservation: "Leave No Trace" policy.

Plastic-Free Zones: Prohibition of single-use plastics.



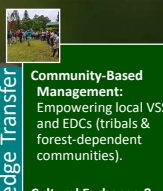
Knowledge Transfer

Community-Based Management: Empowering local VSS and EDCs (tribals & forest-dependent communities).

Cultural Exchange & Environmental Education & Trainings: Immersive visitor programs to build awareness.

Visitor Sensitization: Educating tourists on conservation and ecosystem balance.

Policy & Awareness Campaigns: Endangered species awareness, anti-poaching enforcement, school programs.



Enabling India

Eco-tourism Model that aligns with climate goals & sustainable development.

Green economy contribution through renewable energy, sustainable livelihoods, and conservation.

Strengthening India's reputation in global biodiversity conservation and responsible tourism.

Revenue Generation

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Replication Potential

KFDC ecotourism projects have significant replication potential due to their unique approach and success.

Key Factors: Intergroup

- ❖ **Community Involvement:** Our ecotourism projects actively involve local communities, providing them with livelihood opportunities and promoting conservation awareness. This approach ensures the projects' sustainability and benefits both the environment and local people.
- ❖ **Diverse Activities:** These projects offer a range of activities like trekking, wildlife watching, boating, and camping, catering to different interests and preferences.
- ❖ **Conservation Focus:** By promoting eco-tourism, we contribute to the conservation of Kerala's rich biodiversity and ecological hotspots.
- ❖ **Infrastructure and Services:** The corporation provides well-maintained infrastructure, including eco-lodges and guided tours, ensuring a comfortable and enriching experience for tourists.

Key Factors: Within the Sector

- ❖ **Adaptability:** Our ecotourism model can be adapted to other regions with similar natural and cultural attractions.
- ❖ **Scalability:** The project's success can be scaled up by expanding existing destinations or introducing new ones, while maintaining the core principles of community involvement and conservation.
- ❖ **Sustainability:** By focusing on sustainable tourism practices and community engagement, our ecotourism projects can serve as a model for other initiatives aiming to balance economic benefits with environmental conservation.
- ❖ **Other Biodiversity Hotspots:** Our ecotourism model can be applied to other biodiversity-rich areas in India, promoting conservation and sustainable livelihoods.
- ❖ **Community-Based Tourism:** The project's emphasis is on community involvement which can be replicated in other regions to empower local populations, foster a sense of ownership, and responsibility for preserving natural resources.

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Challenges and Solutions



Challenges

- Unpredictable weather conditions causing subsequent tourism ban
- Seasonal Nature: Ecotourism is often affected by fluctuations in income of local communities and geo-political influences.

How to overcome

- Diversify tourism products- Offer a range of tourism products and activities that can be enjoyed during different seasons.
- Eco-Lodges-Sustainable accommodations that minimize environmental impact and promote conservation.
- Favourable Government policies

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Why KFDC Deserves This Award ✨

- ✓ **Proven Model** : KFDC showcases how biodiversity can be conserved through a scalable global model along with revenue generation.
- ✓ **Community-First Approach**: It has uplifted local communities from poverty and made them active partners in conservation.
- ✓ **Setting a Precedent**: An inspiring model showcasing how tourism can be a powerful tool for environmental and social good.
- ✓ **Tangible Impact** of protection of critical habitats, reduction in human-wildlife conflict, improved environmental health, increase of state revenue.
- ✓ Expanding **eco-tourism circuits with zero-carbon footprint**.
- ✓ Wider adoption of **organic & sustainable forest products**.
- ✓ Strengthening climate resilience through **reforestation**.

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“Ecotourism is a powerful tool... But like any tool, its impact depends on the hands that wield it. We, as travelers have the power to make it a force for good ”

Conserving ecosystems, we can ensure a healthy, resilient, and biodiverse planet for future generations.

KFDC's work is a testament to the belief that conservation is not a cost, but an investment...!

Thank You... 🙏

Our Channel Partners :



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Habitat Preservation Hyperlinked slides for videos on in situ conservation.



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