

**MINUTES OF THE 1ST INTRODUCTORY MEETING OF THE
GOVERNING BODY OF PERIYAR FOUNDATION HELD AT FOREST
HEADQUARTERS ON 28-09-2004 AT 4.00 P.M**

Members Present:

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|-----|---|---------------------|
| 1. | S/Sri.K.P.Viswanathan, Hon'ble Minister for Forests | Chairman |
| 2. | P.K.Surendranathan Asari, Principal Chief
Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden | Member
Secretary |
| 3. | P.N.Unnikrishnan, Chief Conservator of Forests (E
&TW) | Member |
| 4. | Dr.B.S.Corrie, Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) | Member |
| 5. | Sri.A.K.Bhardwaj, Field Director (Project Tiger) | Member |
| 6. | Sri.Pramod G Krishnan, DD, PTR East | Member |
| 7. | Sri.B.Joseph, DD, PTR West | Member |
| 8. | Sri.K.Simon Francis, Asst. Field Director, PTR | Member |
| 9. | S.Rajendran, President, Idukki District Panchayat | Member |
| 10. | Smt.Susy Jose, Addl. Secretary (Finance) | Member |
| 11. | Dr.K.K.Ramachandran, Scientist, KFRI
(Representing Director, KFRI) | Member |

The meeting started with Hon'be Minister in the Chair. In the welcome address, the Member Secretary emphasized the scope and role of Periyar Foundation in continuing the initiatives undertaken through the implementation of India Ecodevelopment Project. This was followed by self introduction of members. The Field Director (Project Tiger), Kottayam elaborated the present status of Ecodevelopment activities in PTR and the expected follow-up action from the Foundation. He also informed the members that as directed by the Government, the "Periyar Foundation, Kerala" has been registered at the Sub-Registrar Office, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram on 22-09-2004. Supplementing to the discussion, Deputy Director (Periyar East) described that the objectives of the Foundation are in tune with the global thinking that biodiversity conservation and community welfare should go hand in hand. The powers and functions of the Governing Body were also explained in detail. In the

presidential address, the Chairman pointed out his own experience while interacting with the local people at Thekkady on how the ecocodevelopment initiations have benefited the local community. He wanted the programme to be extended to other parts of Kerala, as well. After the formal inauguration, the following points, for which urgent actions was required, were discussed and decisions were taken.

1. Till a full time Executive Secretary is appointed, Deputy Director (Project Tiger) Periyar East Division, Thekkady will act as Executive Secretary.
2. Sri.C.N.Hari, UDC, Office of the Deputy Director (Project Tiger), Periyar East Division, Thekkady was nominated to the Executive Body as the representative of the frontline of Periyar Tiger Reserve.
3. All the 16 contracted professionals engaged under India Ecodevelopment Project shall be continued in the Foundation for one year on contract basis in the existing remuneration with retrospective effect from 01-07-2004.
4. The Executive Director shall make a proposal regarding the creation of posts for the Foundation and put up before the Governing Body for further action.
5. The Executive Director will prepare an Operational Manual within 3 months and put up before the Governing Body. Till the manual is approved, the Executive Body is empowered to take appropriate decisions to carry out the day-to-day affairs of the Foundation.

In the general discussion, the following points were also discussed.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, Kerala informed that Kerala Forest Department has already

decided to establish a “Wildlife Research and Training Centre” at Munnar. This year small funding has also being provided for establishment of this Centre. He was of the opinion that Periyar Foundation should closely collaborate and provide necessary support for setting up and strengthening of this centre. The District Panchayat President also supported this suggestion and wanted that ITDP Project Officer and DTPC should be included in the Foundation. This suggestion was discussed by the members and it was agreed that the Periyar Foundation will provide all necessary technical and financial support for strengthening of the “Wildlife Research and Training Centre” in Munnar. It was also decided that while formulating specific projects relevant sub committees shall be formed and appropriate members as suggested by Idukki District Panchayat President shall be included in this sub committees. It was also decided that the Foundation will later also support programmes such as training of tribal youths as local wildlife guides.

The meeting concluded at 5.15 p.m with vote of thanks from the Deputy Director (Project Tiger), Periyar East Division, Thekkady.

Executive Director
Periyar Foundation.

**MINUTES OF THE 2nd MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF
PERIYAR FOUNDATION HELD ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2005**

Members Present:

1. Sri.K.P.Viswanathan, Hon'ble Minister for Forests	President
2. Sri.R.P.Sharma, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests	Member
3. Sri.E.M.Augusthy, MLA, Peerumede	Member
4. Sri.S.Rajendran, President, District Panchayat, Idukki.	Member
5. Smt.Ajitha Sabu, President, District Panchayat, Kottayam.	Member
6. Dr.B.S.Corrie, Chief Conservator of Forests (WL)	Member Secretary
7. Sri.P.N.Unnikrishnan, Chief Conservator of Forests (E & TW)	Member
8. Sri.A.K.Bhardwaj, Field Director (Project Tiger)	Member
9. Sri.Pramod G Krishnan, DD, PTR East	Member
10. Sri.M.L.Thomas, DD, PTR West	Member
11. Sri.K.Simon Francis, Asst. Field Director, PTR	Member
12. Dr.Rajan Gurukkal, Director, School of Social Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University	Member

In attendance

1. The meeting commenced at 4.00 p.m as scheduled, in the chamber of the Hon'ble Minister for Forests, Government Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram, with the Hon'ble Minister in Chair.
2. Dr.B.S.Corrie, Member Secretary, welcomed the gathering.
3. Review of the decisions of the 1st meeting of the Governing Body was taken up and the Member Secretary of the Executive Committee, Sri.Pramod G Krishnan, explained the follow up action taken on the decisions of the 1st meeting, which was circulated to the members.
4. The accounts of the Foundation was also presented in detail by the Member Secretary of the Executive Committee and the Governing

- Body approved the accounts, in relation to the activities undertaken by the foundation as detailed in the note circulated.
5. Discussion on the draft Operational Manual was taken up and it was decided to get the remarks from all the members after detailed perusal of the draft supplied. The draft manual, in the light of the comments from members, will be discussed in the next meeting of the Governing Body.
 6. The matter of creation of post was discussed and it was decided to the next meeting.
 7. The policy decision as regards the quantum of income to be spent in other PAs to Western Ghats in view of the objectives of the foundation to promote ecological, economic, social and cultural development in PTRAL and western ghats was deferred for the next meeting. It was suggested to explore the possibility of establishing the similar foundations in other PAs of the State.
 8. The matter of improving the professional functioning of sanctuary through support from the foundation was deferred to the next meeting.
 9. The matter of meeting the public image of the department as per the proposals submitted by M/s.Chrysalis Communications was deferred to the next meeting.
 10. Contribution to Tsunami Fund was discussed and approved.
 11. The termination of appointment of two contracted professions, viz. Kum. Preetha Sathyan and Kum.B.Suchintha, who had left the foundation on getting job elsewhere, were approved. It was decided that the next meeting of the Governing body held on 14th March,

2005.

12.The President released the news letter of the Foundation “Sahajeevanam” by giving copies to all the members.

13.Sri.A.K.Bhardwaj, Executive Director, Periyar Foundation proposed vote of thanks and the meeting concluded at 5.00 p.m.

Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) &
Chief Wildlife Warden, Kerala and
Member Secretary of Governing Body
Periyar Foundation.

**MINUTES OF THE 3RD GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF
PERIYAR FOUNDATION HELD ON 7TH SEPTEMBER 2005 IN THE
CHAMBER OF HON'BLE MINISTER FOR FORESTS & WATER
RESOURCES**

Present:

1. Sri.Thiruvanchiyoor Radhakrishnan, Hon'ble Minister for Forests & Water Resources.
2. Sri.L.Radhakrishnan, Secretary, Forests & Wildlife Department.
3. Sri.R.P.Sharma, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
4. Sri.K.B.Thampi, Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Special Invitee).
5. Sri.K.K.Sreevastava, Chief Conservator of Forests (E & TW).
6. Sri.V.Gopinathan, Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden.
7. Sri.A.K.Bhardwaj, Field Director (Project Tiger), Kottayam.
8. Sri.Pramod G Krishnan, Deputy Director, Periyar East.
9. Sri.M.L.Thomas, Deputy Director, Periyar West.
10. Dr.K.K.Ramachandran, Scientist, KFRI.
11. Sri.K.Simon Francis, Asst. Field Director, PTR.

The meeting commenced at 12.30 p.m with the Hon'ble Minister for Forests and Water Resources in the chair. Chairman in his opening remarks stressed on the need for properly projecting the activities of Periyar Tiger Reserve and Periyar Foundation. The agenda items were discussed in detail and the following decisions were taken.

1. Action taken report on the decisions of the 2nd Governing Body Meeting held on 8th February, 2005.

a) Discussion on the draft Operations Manual .

It has been decided to once again examine the legal implications of the various provisions of the draft Operations Manual and place it before the next Governing Body for final approval.

b). Contribution to Tsunami Fund

Decision taken: It has been decided to hand over Cheque for Rs.1.00 lakh towards the Chief Ministers Distress Relief Fund.

NEW ITEMS:

1. Accounts:

The accounts of the foundation for the year 2004-05 (ie 22-09-2004 to 31-03-2005) audited by M/s.C.R.Gopakumar & Company, Chartered Accountants, Thiruvananthapuram were discussed in detail.

Decision Taken: The audited accounts were approved.

2. Continuation of the contracted professionals:

The Committee discussed the matter of continuing the services of the contract professionals in detail and opined that the structure, functioning and work culture in the Foundation need to be different from that of the Governmental institutions. Performance and delivery will be mandatory conditions for renewing the contracts in future. Every year under-performers shall be replaced with the infusion new talent.

Decision Taken:

- i. The period of the contract appointment of the persons mentioned below is extended for another one year from 01-07-2005 to 30-06-2006 with an enhancement in remuneration as indicated against them.

Sl No.	Name	Designation	Remunerations	Remarks
1.	Dr.A.Veeramani	Ecologist	Rs 12,500/-	Doctorate holder
2.	Dr.Gigi.K.Joseph	Nature Education Officer	Rs 12,500/-	Doctorate holder
3.	Sri.K.Rajasekharan Pillai	Economist	Rs 12,500/-	Hike relating to performance
4.	Sri.C.G.Sunil	Asst. Nature Education Officer	Rs.7,500/-	Hike relating to performance
5.	Sri.K.Sisupalan	Accountant	Rs.7,000/-	
6.	Smt.K.Shailat	Computer Operation	Rs. 6,500/-	
7.	Sri.Maneesh Chandran	Computer Operation	Rs. 6,000/-	
8.	Sri.K.A.Pravy	Accounts Assistant	Rs. 7,500/-	MBA holder and quality of performance
9.	Sri.Sreejith.P.R.	Information Assistant	Rs. 6,000/-	

- ii. The services of Sri.N.Gangadhara Panicker, Accounts Officer and Smt.P.B.Kanakamma, Accounts Assistant, is extended till 30th September 2005 with the existing terms and conditions.
- iii. Smt.Pinky.S.Kumar, Reference Assistant had left the appointment in the Foundation in August 2005 to take up regular appointment in Government service. Hence, her period of contract appointment is extended from 01-07-2005 to 19-08-2005 with the existing terms and conditions.

3. Appointment of Dr.Balasubramaniam as Conservation Biologist:

The Committee discussed the matter of engaging Dr.M.Balasubramaniam as Conservation Biologist in the Foundation on contract basis in detail. It has been agreed that the services of Dr.Balasubramaniam shall further enhance the capacity of the Foundation especially in areas like ecological monitoring, tiger census, field training etc.

Decision Taken: The appointment of Dr.Balasubramaniam as conservation biologist for a period of one year from the date of joining with a remuneration of Rs 12,500/- per month is approved.

4. Continuation of the services of Sri.C.A.Abdul Bashir, Ecotourism Officer:

Sri.C.A.Abdul Bashir is working as Ecotourism Officer in periyar foundation on deputation from KFDC. His current deputation period expires on 18th November 2005.

Decision Taken: The services of Sri.Abdul Bashir, Ecotourism Officer on deputation from KFDC is extended till 18-11-2006.

5. Budget :

A draft budget with an anticipated receipt of Rs 70 Lakhs and expenditure of Rs 69.20 Lakhs is presented to the committee. An amount to the tune of 10% of the total annual receipts is proposed to be kept in the form of fixed deposit as Trust Fund . This is proposed to be done with a view to enhance the financial credibility of the institution.

Decision Taken: The Budget for 2005-06 discussed and approved.

Operations Manual:

The second draft of the Operations Manual for the Foundation is presented before the meeting. The 1st draft was presented to the 2nd meeting and circulated among the members of the Committee for comments.

Decision Taken: Decided as per Item No.1 (a) of the old items above.

6. Other items as permitted by the chair:

The Hon'ble Minister for Forests & Water Resources suggested to form a Committee to prepare an Action Plan for the activities of the Foundation. It was also suggested that Committee shall look into the feasibility for producing documentary film, organizing national seminar on Tiger Conservation, production of publicity materials etc. Accordingly, the following Committee was constituted for the purpose.

1. Secretary, Forests & Wildlife Department – Chairman.
2. Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests – Member
3. Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) – Convenor
4. Field Director (Project Tiger), Kottayam.
5. Deputy Director, Periyar East Division – Member.

The meeting come to an end at 1.00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE 4TH GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF THE PERIYAR FOUNDATION HELD ON
24-08-2006 IN THE CHAMBER OF THE HON'BLE MINISTER FOR FORESTS AND HOUSING.

Present:

1. Sri.Binoy Viswam, Hon'ble Minister for Forests and Housing.
2. Smt.E.S.Bijimol, MLA, Peerumedu
3. Sri.Thomas Kunnampalli, District Panchayat President, Kottayam.
4. Sri.L.Radhakrishnan, Secretary, Forests & Wildlife Department.
5. Sri.R.P.Sharma, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
6. Sri.V.K.Sinha, Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Special Invitee)
7. Sri.V.Gopinathan, Chief Wildlife Warden, Kerala
8. Sri.Bennichan Thomas, Field Director (Project Tiger), Kottayam.
9. Smt.Padma Mahanti, Deputy Director, Periyar Tiger Reserve
(East)
- 10.Sri.M.L.Thomas, Deputy Director, Periyar Tiger Reserve (West)
- 11.Sri.Simon Francis.K, Asst. Field Director, Periyar Tiger Reserve.
- 12.Dr.K.C.Chacko, Scientist and Programme Co-ordinator, Extension
& Training Division, KFRI representing the Director, KFRI.

The meeting commenced at 11.00 a.m with the Hon'ble Minister for Forests and Housing in the Chair. In his opening remarks, the Hon'ble Chairman stressed on the need for strictly following the objectives of the Foundation. He asked the officers to involve the local people more and more in the programmes and activities of the Foundation and also to ensure transparency and financial prudence in all the activities. Subsequently, the agenda items were discussed in detail and the following decisions were taken.

1. Review of the decisions of the 3rd meeting dated 07.09.2005:

The action taken in each of the items were reviewed and the fact that the contribution towards Tsunami Fund could not be made on account of closure of the fund was noted by the Governing Body.

5. The Operations Manual:

In view of the fact that the Trust Deed and the Rules of the Foundation are elaborate and also based on the experiences of the last two years, it was decided not to formulate a separate Operations Manual for the use of the Foundation.

6. Major Activities of the Foundation During 2005-06.

While reviewing the activities of the Foundation during 2005-06, the Hon'ble Chairman suggested the following items to be included in the plan of activities for the current year.

- (i). Organize a seminar on Tiger Conservation involving delegates from India and abroad. The seminar shall be organized by availing funds from the Directorate of Project Tiger for which separate proposals shall be submitted to the Government of India.
- (ii). As a measure to enhance the revenue resources of the Foundation, it was decided to develop various types of Souvenirs for marketing among the large number of tourists visiting the Periyar Tiger Reserve.

7. Audited Accounts for 2005-06:

Accounts for 2005-06 was reviewed and accepted with the following directions for adherence in future.

- (i). Advances from the Foundation over and above Rs.1.00 lakh for a period more than 3 months shall be made only with the permission of the Governing Body.

- (ii). The auditors for the current financial year shall be selected by the Governing Body from a panel of auditors made after following the normal procedures for such selection.
- (iii). Hon'ble Chairman directed to discontinue the practice of giving financial contributions like the one made for celebrating the World Forestry Day in Kannur District, as the area is not having any physical continuity with the Periyar Landscape.

8. Budget for 2006-07:

The Secretary, Forests and Wildlife opined that the budget proposals are lacking innovation and creativity. He suggested to include more programmes and projects for increasing the revenue sources of the Periyar Foundation. In this respect, the Hon'ble Chairman directed to immediately take action for developing appropriate Souvenir items for marketing among the tourists and also for formulating projects for mobilizing funds from other agencies. After discussion, the budget was approved by the Governing Body.

9. Continuation of the services of the contracted professionals:

The Governing Body approved the proposal for the termination of services of Sri.K.Sisupalan, Accountant after posting of a suitable substitute from H.A or J.S on deputation basis.

The proposal to renew the contract of the following Contracted Professionals from 01-07-2006 to 30-06-2007 was accepted without any increment in their emoluments.

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Remuneration (Monthly)
1.	Dr.A.Veeramani	Ecologist	Rs.12500/-
2.	Dr.Gigi K. Joseph	Nature Education Officer	Rs.12500/-
3.	Shri.K.Rajasekharan Pillai	Economist	Rs.12500/-
4.	Shri.C.G. Sunil	Asst. Nature Education Officer	Rs.7500/-
5.	Shri.Maneesh Chandran	Computer Operator	Rs.6000/-

It was decided to renew the contracts of the following Contracted Professionals with the emoluments and the period noted against their names.

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Period of contract	Present emolument	Enhanced emolument
1.	Dr.M.Balasubramaniam	Conservation Biologist	Nov. 2006 to Oct. 2007	Rs.12500/-	Rs.15000/-
2.	Smt.K.Shailat	Computer Operator	01-07-06 to 30-06-2007	Rs.6500/-	Rs.7000/-
3.	Sri.Sreejith P.R	Information Assistant	01-07-06 to 30-06-2007	Rs.6000/-	Rs.7000/-

The Governing Body expressed its concern about the large proportion of the resources being spent on establishment charges. The contract staff should formulate projects and bring funding support to the Foundation from other agencies so as to meet their remuneration expenses. In the absence of such resource mobilization, the Foundation will not be in a position to support in perpetuity the scientists and the research staff on its pay roll.

10.Nomination of a new representative of the frontline staff of Periyar Tiger Reserve to the Executive Committee:

The nomination of Sri.K.K.Basheer, Forester to the Executive Committee in place of Shri. C.N. Hari for a period of 2 years was accepted.

During the course of deliberations, the following observations were also made.

- (i). The Hon'ble MLA, Peerumedu expressed concerns about some of the reported irregularities committed by the staff of the Department. Hon'ble Chairman promised to get the allegations enquired by the Chief Conservator of Forests (Vigilance).

- (ii). The Chairman expressed his displeasure about the late communication of the Agenda Notes to the members and directed to communicate the same in future atleast one week in advance.
- (iii). Kumili Panchayat being the most important local body within the vicinity of the Periyar Tiger Reserve, it was decided to include the President, Kumili Panchyat as special invitee to the meetings of the Executive Committee, till the Rules of the Foundation are amended to this extent.
- (iv). It was decided that during the current year the Foundation will organize an inter-state study tour for a team of 30-40 persons comprising of EDC Members and Staff.
- (v). It was decided to move the State Government for permission to entrust to the Foundation the responsibility of operating the Departmental boats for tourists.

The Honbl'e Chairman reiterated the need for strengthening the relationship of the Foundation with the Forest Department and local communities and work with effective coordination to make Periyar Foundation, an outstanding institution of merit, quality and vision.

The meeting came to an end at 2.00 p.m.

Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) &
Member Secretary of Governing Body

MINUTES OF THE 5TH GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF THE PERIYAR FOUNDATION (ANNUAL
GOVERNING BODY MEETING)
HELD ON 07-08-2007 AT 11.00 A.M IN THE NORTH COMMITTEE ROOM AT GOVERNMENT
SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.

Present:

- 13.Sri.Binoy Viswam, Hon'ble Minister for Forests and Housing.
- 14.Smt.E.S.Bijimol, MLA, Peerumedu
- 15.Sri.L.Radhakrishnan, Secretary, Forests & Wildlife Department.
- 16.Sri.R.P.Sharma, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
- 17.Sri.J.K.Tiwari, Chief Conservator of Forests (ED & TW)
- 18.Sri.V.S.Varughese, Chief Wildlife Warden, Kerala
- 19.Sri.Bennichan Thomas, Field Director (Project Tiger), Kottayam.
- 20.Smt.Padma Mahanti, Deputy Director, Periyar Tiger Reserve (East)
- 21.Sri.Rajendran, Deputy Director, Periyar Tiger Reserve (West)
- 22.Dr.K.K.Ramachandran, Scientist – Representing Director, KFRI.
- 23.Shri.D.Solomon, Addl. Secretary, Finance Dept, Government of Kerala.

The meeting commenced at 11.00 a.m with the Hon'ble Minister for Forests and Housing in the Chair. In his opening remarks, the Hon'ble Chairman stressed that Periyar Foundation has been recognized as a 'Model' at National level. He asked the officers to strictly follow the objectives of the Foundation and also to involve the local people more and more in the programmes and activities of the Foundation and also to ensure transparency and financial prudence in all the activities. He also suggested that we have to

activate and accelerate ourselves with the changing times. Periyar Foundation invites a lot of controversies it should run intact and should go forward irrespective of personal likes and dislikes. Subsequently, the agenda items were discussed in detail and the following decisions were taken.

1. The review of the Decisions of the 4th Meeting dated 24-08-2006.

The actions taken in each of the decisions were reviewed by the Committee.

2. The Operations Manual

In view of the latest guidelines from Government of India on the formation of Tiger Conservation Foundation and the regulations prescribed therein, it was decided to formulate an updated Operations Manual accordingly for the Periyar Foundation.

3. Major Activities of the Foundation during 2006-07.

While reviewing the activities of the Foundation during 2006-07, the Hon'ble Chairman suggested the following items to be included in the plan of activities for the current year.

- (i). **Periyar Brand Mineral Water:** It was decided to prepare a project proposal of Periyar brand of mineral water to cater the needs of tourists of Thekkady and the pilgrims of Sabarimala.
- (ii). **Ecotourism Programmes:** The Forest Department should get the due credit for the promotion of community based ecotourism activities. The role of the community involvement should be appropriately highlighted by the Foundation.

- (iii). **Plastic disposal and education & interpretation at Sabarimala:** It was decided to inform the Devaswom Board authorities to pay the wages of EDC Members involved in the plastic removal of Sabarimala Route during the pilgrimage season. The education and interpretation activities at Sabarimala have to be strengthened through setting up of an Interpretation Centre.
- (iv). **Proposal for running KFD boats by the Periyar Foundation:** The Committee reviewed the progress of procurement of new boats and it was decided to procure 3 boats with the funds allotted by the Tourism Department for 2 boats. The process of procurement should be expedited promptly so that the two boats already tendered should be ready for operation during the Christmas season 2007.
- (v). **Trainings:** The role of Periyar Foundation in conducting trainings in various aspects of forest and wildlife management to the front line staff has been highlighted. The Committee opined that the available funds of the Kerala Forest Department earmarked for such trainings should be given to Periyar Foundation.
- (vi). **Seminar on Tiger Conservation:** It was decided to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of the declaration of "Nellikampetty Sanctuary" in 1934 which was subsequently notified as Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary. The Hon'ble Chairman suggested that a year long programme starting from January 2008 should be planned. It should be a joint programme of Periyar Foundation and the Kerala Forest Department and the National Tiger Conservation Foundation. The reputed NGOs such

as Zoo Outreach Organization, hoteliers etc. can be the co-sponsors for the programme. Care should be taken to ensure the track record of the supporting organizations in the field of conservation.

- (vii). **Souvenirs:** The Committee decided that the Periyar Foundation should explore the full potential of developing various types of Souvenirs. The models are to be displayed during the next meeting. The Periyar Foundation should mobilize maximum funds by way of sale of these Souvenirs. The Tiger pug mark souvenir should be light, easy to carry and aesthetically appealing.
- (viii). **Panel of Auditors:** The Committee discussed about the panel of Auditors and decided to entrust Shri. It was discussed and decided Reji John & Co Chartered Accountants, Chirayil, Near Childrens Library, Kottayam District to audit the accounts of Periyar Foundation for the current year as per the prevailing norms. The remuneration to the auditing firm should be restricted to the permissible limits.
- (ix). **Continuation of the Contracted Professionals:** Members of the Governing Body discussed in detail the continuation of the contract professionals of the Periyar Foundation. In the case of Shri.K.Sisupalan, though termination has been proposed in the 4th Governing Body, he is still continuing for want of a suitable substitute. His continuance has been ratified by the Committee. It was decided to notify and prepare a list of at least five persons from JS/SS/AA level with sufficient experience in the Department of Forests and Wildlife. A Selection Committee with the Secretary, Forests & Wildlife, Chief Wildlife Warden, Field Director (Project Tiger), Kottayam, Deputy Director (Periyar

Tiger Reserve East Division) and local MLA will complete the selection process within a period of two months. Re-employment of newly retired hands can be preferred considering the advantage in the remuneration.

The Governing Body discussed and decided on the continuation of the following contracted professionals and deputation staff (Shri.C.A.Abdul Basheer, Ecotourism Officer) for a period of two years. The enhancement of the remuneration as proposed @Rs.15000/- per month for three Scientists with PhD Degrees and @Rs.8500/- for the others has also been approved.

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Remuneration (Monthly)
1	Dr.A.Veeramani	Ecologist	Rs.15000/--
2	Dr.Gigi K.Joseph	Nature Education Officer	Rs.15000/-
3	Dr.M.Balasubramaniam	Conservation Biologist	Rs.15,000/-
5	Shri.C.G.Sunil	Asst. Nature Education Officer	Rs.8500/-
6	Shri.K.Sisupalan (till the service of a substitute is made available)	Accountant	Rs.8500/
7	Smt.K.Shailat	Computer Operator	Rs.8500/
9	Shri.Sreejith P.R.	Information Assistant	Rs.8500/

- (x). **Ensuring More Transparency in the Functioning of Periyar Foundation:** The Chairman suggested to organize a Seminar to ensure more transparency in the functioning of the Periyar Foundation. In this regard, he also proposed to convene an 'open forum' including local people, local media of Kumily

and Thekkady, FDA Chairmen, Foundation personnel and Forest Officials along with the programmes of Wildlife Week Celebrations. It was also proposed to hold the next meeting of the Governing Body simultaneously.

The Chairman also suggested that the Chair Persons of the Confederations should be special invitees to the meeting of the Governing Body.

- (xi). **Toilet Complex:** It was decided to construct a pay and use toilet complex for the tourists with international standards at the boat landing.
- (xii). **Tsunami Relief Fund:** The amount previously earmarked for the Tsunami fund was decided to be contributed to the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund, as a token of the goodwill of the Foundation at an early date.

4. **Audited Accounts for 2006-07**

The Governing Body discussed the Audited Accounts for the year 2006-07 and the following observations were made.

1. Advances should be settled within a specified time frame say 3 months.
2. The balance amount should be converted into term deposits to avail more bank interest earmarking only a small sum for the day-to-day management in the cash balance.
3. The sale of souvenirs should be promoted to increase the income from other sources.

4. Publications like 'Birds of Periyar' should be marketed aggressively by publishing in the website, etc.

The Committee approved the audited accounts for 2006-07.

11. Budget for 2007-08

The draft budget for 2007-08 was discussed by the Governing Body. The following suggestions were made on the budget:

1. Enhancement of income from other sources to the tune of 30-40 lakhs in place of 10 lakhs as proposed in the draft budget.
2. The Committee approved the proposal for the purchase of two-wheelers and suggested hiring the four-wheeler instead of going for the procurement as an initial step. The Committee also suggested re-examining the feasibility of hiring the 4-wheeler to sort out problems, if any, in the next meeting.
3. The Committee proposed that the Periyar Foundation should strengthen the Ecodevelopment activities by increasing the number of EDCs from 73 to 100 taking into consideration the participatory involvement of all unattended stakeholders. The Honb'le Chairman offered the whole-hearted support and goodwill of the Government for all such activities and programmes of Periyar Foundation. It was also suggested that the Governing Body Meeting should be convened at least once in 3 months.

With the above suggestions, the budget for 2007-08 was approved by the Governing Body.

12. The proposal for appointment of full-time Executive Secretary:

The proposal for appointing a full-time Executive Secretary with sufficient background, aptitude and experience in matters related to

wildlife and environment was discussed in detail. The Committee opined that the present arrangement may be continued for the time-being.

13. Financial assistance to PHC, Kumily through Kumily Grama

Panchayat: The request from the President of Kumily Grama Panchayat for an additional support of Rs. 5,94,600/- for the completion of the PHC building was discussed by the Committee and decided to sanction the amount specifying that the role of Periyar Foundation and Kerala Forest Department should be appropriately highlighted.

14. Periyar Foundation to act as Tiger Conservation Foundation under National Tiger Conservation Authority:

The Governing Body noted the significance of the Notification and Guidelines and decided to register the formal endorsement accordingly.

The Honbl'e Chairman reiterated the need for strengthening the relationship of the Foundation with the Forest Department and local communities and work with effective coordination to make Periyar Foundation, an outstanding institution of merit, quality and vision.

The meeting came to an end at 2.00 p.m.

Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) &
Chief Wildlife Warden, Kerala and
Member Secretary, Governing Body, Periyar Foundation.