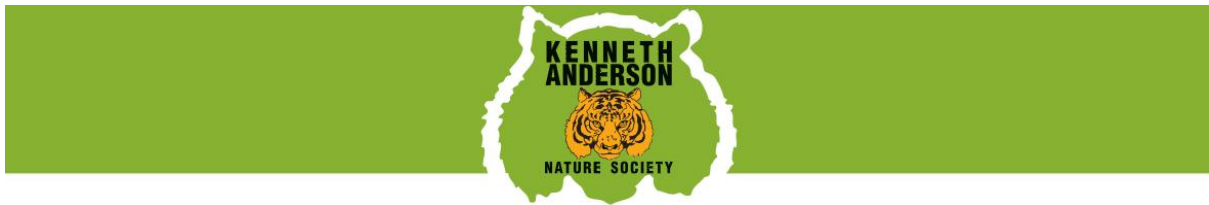




KENNETH ANDERSON NATURE SOCIETY CAMERA TRAPPING PROJECT – FUND RAISER



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The Melagiri hills, nestled between the Cauvery and Chinar rivers, are a part of the Hosur Forest Division of Tamil Nadu. Melagiri stretches over 1300 sq. kms of dry deciduous and semi-evergreen forests. Bordered by Bannerghatta National Park in the north east and Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary in the south, these forests form a part of the Nilgiri Biosphere, maintaining a continuous stretch across Kollegal, MMHills, BR Hills, Sathyamangalam, Mudumalai, Bandipur and Nagarhole forests.

Melagiri figures extensively in the stories of Kenneth Anderson, a hunter turned conservationist who travelled widely in this region. These beautiful forests, victim of unplanned development, have seen an unprecedented loss of wildlife. Kenneth Anderson Nature Society (KANS) registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act 1975 was formed in 2009 to serve the cause of conservation of wildlife in the Melagiri region. Please visit <http://kans.org.in> for information on our projects since 2009.

KANS has been gathering photographic evidences of various mammal species in Melagiri. As most wild animals are wary of humans, the best way to get photographs is to deploy camera traps at different locations. Camera traps are silent and effective as they detect motion and body heat to take photographs automatically. A camera trap also discretely keeps tab on human activity in the areas of interest. This has helped us bring problems to the attention of the authorities. The project which began in May 2011 is undertaken to support the vision of KANS, that is, conservation of Melagiri and its wild denizens. Conservation cannot work if we don't know what we are trying to conserve. This project is aimed at understanding and filling that gap.

So far with the help of three camera traps, KANS has been successful in getting photographs of leopard, small indian civet, palm civet, sambar deer, elephant, sloth bear, wild boar, spotted deer, jungle cat, porcupine and a few birds. Nearly all these animals have been caught on camera traps within a small stretch of a couple of kilometres in one of the ranges. Needless to say, there still remain hundreds of unexplored spots across the 1300 sq kms.

Of late, a spill over of Tigers to the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary from BR hills is being reported. A tiger was reportedly sighted across the Cauvery a couple of months ago. It is quite likely that a tiger might just decide to cross over and make Melagiri its home once again! Should this happen, it is absolutely essential to get it on film as evidence, to push the conservation efforts from concerned authorities.

KANS is currently raising funds to purchase at least 20 more camera traps that will help expand this effort to document fauna in all of the 1300sq kms of the region gradually. After many experiments on field and expert suggestions, we have narrowed down to Bushnell camera traps costing approximately \$200 per piece in U.S. We request you to help us raise the funds required to purchase these. You can contribute to our conservation effort by donating any amount towards the purchase of these camera traps. Please contact us at the below mentioned number/e-mail if you wish to help us with the purchase of the camera traps.

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Maps showing Melagiri and the camera trapped area:

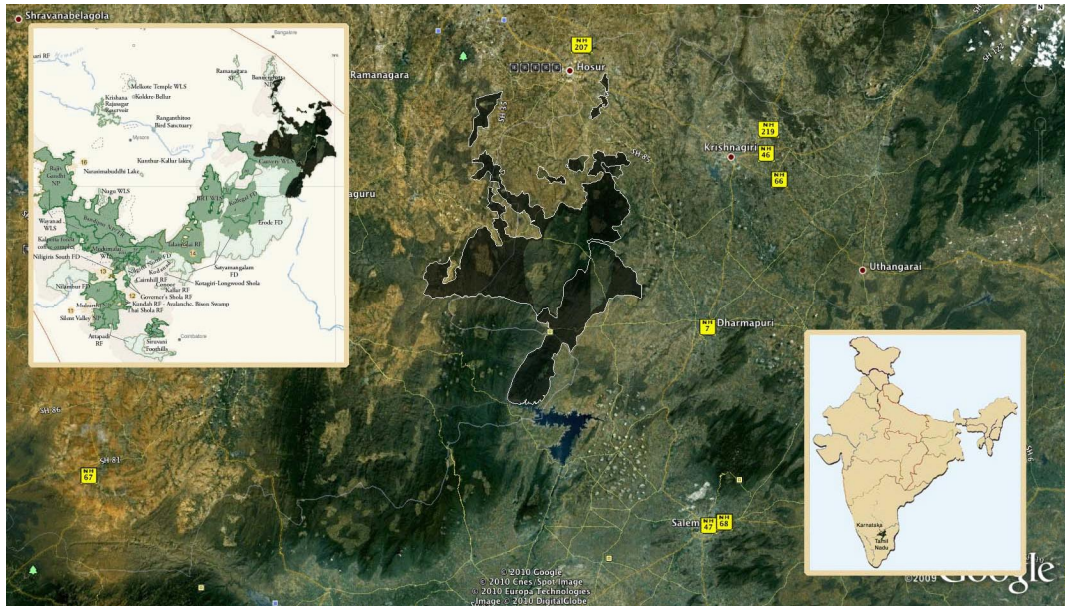


Figure 1: The sprawling 1300 sq.km expanse of Melagiri is spread across 2 districts in Tamil Nadu.



Figure 2: KANS's 3 existing camera traps are like needles in a haystack, covering hardly more than a few acres of the larger expanse.