

## **PROJECT NILGIRI TAHR**

### **Second Synchronized Survey of Nilgiri Tahr in Tamil Nadu Concludes**

The Project Nilgiri Tahr was launched by the Government of Tamil Nadu to conserve the state animal “The Nilgiri Tahr”. Under the Project the Second Synchronized Survey of Nilgiri Tahr in Tamil Nadu was conducted in 176 survey blocks of 14 forest divisions. The survey concluded on 27.04.2025 successfully. About 800 field staffs were deployed covering around 2000 Km distance. During the survey, Nilgiri Tahr were sighted by field staffs in most of the survey blocks. Herds were sighted with kids and young. The field staff collected Nilgiri Tahr pellets for parasitic analysis and carnivores’ scat for understanding the parasitic species presence and its life cycle in association with Nilgiri Tahr. Periyattumalai area in Coimbatore division where Nilgiri Tahr was sighted after a decade last year again revealed tahrs in that habitat.

In new colonized area of Pasumalai block in Chinnamanur range of Megamalai division, Nilgiri Tahr was again sighted which indicates a healthy habitat recovery and using of this habitat by Nilgiri Tahr.

Even in the lowest elevation survey block (240m MSL) in Peyanar varaiyattu mottai, field staffs sighted 7 individuals. This is one of the finest cliff and escapement terrain blocks where Tahr is using dry thorny landscape. In Mangaladevi survey block, Megamalai division pellets have been recorded where it was assured that Nilgiri Tahr had moved out. Survey was conducted in three blocks in Kerala.

The collected pellets and carnivore scat samples in ethanol vials are packed and labelled to be sent for laboratory analysis especially parasitic analysis in Wildlife Division at TANUVAS.

Good population was sighted at Grass Hills National Park and Mukuruthi National Park. These two meta populations are vital for maintaining this fragile grasslands and photo documentation of these populations are the proof.

The Data sheet collection is going on, digitization of data will be done after receiving the datasheets to project unit. After digitization, processing of data and interpretation of data will be done with research personnel and experts.

The second synchronized survey was led by Mr.M.G.Ganesan, Project Director, Mr.Ganeshram, Assistant Director, Mr.Chendura Sundaresan, Forest Range Officer with research personnel Dr.Ashokkumar, Project Scientist, Dr.Subbaiyan-SRF, Mr.Manikandan-SRF, Mr.Nesan-SRF, Mr. Ragavendran-SRF. Also, an expert Dr.Valarmathi from TANUVAS, Mr.Predit-WWF India and Mr.Vinoth, WWF-India participated and supported the survey. All 14 divisions DFOs/Deputy Directors/Wildlife Wardens supported the survey.

The IUCN country representative Dr.Yash Veer Bhatnagar and Additional Chief Secretary Tmt.Supriya Sahu monitored the entire survey operation and met the field team at Coimbatore before they were flagged off. Mr.Rakesh Kumar Dogra and other senior officers too monitored the survey.

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