

പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ ചീഫ് ഷോറസ്സ് കൺസർവേറ്റർ  
(വൈൽഡ്ലൈഫ്) &  
ചീഫ് വൈൽഡ്ലൈഫ് ഓഫീസർ



വനം-വന്യജീവി വകുപ്പ്  
ഷോറസ്സ് ഹെഡ്ക്വാർട്ടേഴ്സ്  
കോട്ടയം ജില്ല  
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ഷോറസ്സ് കൺസർവേറ്റർ  
(എച്ച്.ആർ.ഡി) തിരുവനന്തപുരം.

ഡയറക്ടർ  
ഷോറസ്സ് ട്രെയിനിംഗ് ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട്  
അരിപ്പാലം/വാളയാർ.

സർ,

വിഷയം:- കേരള വനം വന്യജീവി വകുപ്പ്- ജനറാസ മേഖലയിലെ പാമ്പ് പിടി  
പിടിക്കൽ പദ്ധതിയുടെ ഭാഗമായി പാമ്പു പിടിക്കൽ പദ്ധതിയുടെ ഭാഗമായി  
കാർക്കുളള മാർഗ്ഗ നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ പാലിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് പരിശീലനം  
നൽകുന്നത് -സംബന്ധിച്ച്.

സൂചന:- ഈ ഓഫീസിലെ 25.06.2020 ലെ ഇതേ നം. കത്ത്.

മേൽ വിഷയത്തിലേയ്ക്ക് ശ്രദ്ധ ക്ഷണിക്കുന്നു. മനുഷ്യവാസ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ  
നിന്ന് പാമ്പുകളെ പിടികൂടി അവയുടെ സ്വാഭാവിക ആവാസ വ്യവസ്ഥയിൽ  
വിട്ടയക്കുന്ന പ്രക്രിയ കൃത്യവും ഉത്തരവാദിത്വപരമായ ഒന്നാക്കി മാറ്റുക എന്ന ലക്ഷ്യ  
ത്തോടുകൂടി വനം വകുപ്പ് തയ്യാറാക്കിയ മാർഗ്ഗ നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ മലയാളം, ഇംഗ്ലീഷ്  
പതിപ്പുകൾ അംഗീകാരത്തിനായി സർക്കാരിന് സമർപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ആയത് ഇതോ  
ടൊപ്പം ഉള്ളടക്കം ചെയ്യുന്നു.

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സർക്കാർ അംഗീകാരം ലഭിക്കുന്ന മുറയ്ക്ക് ഭാവിയിലെ എല്ലാ പാമ്പ് പിടുത്ത  
ങ്ങളും മേൽപ്പറഞ്ഞ നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ പ്രകാരം നടത്താനും, അതിനായുള്ള പരിശീലനം  
എല്ലാ പാമ്പു പിടുത്തക്കാർക്കും നൽകാനുമാണ് തീരുമാനിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത്. ഇതിന്റെ  
ആദ്യഘട്ടമായി വനം വകുപ്പിലെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്ത ജീവനക്കാർക്ക് പാമ്പു പിടുത്ത  
ത്തിൽ പരിശീലനം നൽകാൻ തീരുമാനിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.


ആയതിനാൽ മേൽ നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ പാലിച്ചുകൊണ്ടും കോവിഡ് 19 നിർവ്യാ  
പന മാർഗ്ഗ നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ പാലിച്ചുകൊണ്ടും താഴെ സൂചിപ്പിച്ച വിവിധ സർക്കിളുക  
ളിലെ പാമ്പു പിടുത്തുവും വിട്ടയയ്ക്കലും സംബന്ധിച്ച കാര്യങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യുന്ന സ്ഥിരം  
ജീവനക്കാർക്കും താത്ക്കാലിക ജീവനക്കാർക്കും 2 ദിവസത്തെ പരിശീലനം നൽകാൻ  
നിർദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നു. പരിചയ സമ്പന്നരായ പരിശീലകരെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കുന്നതിനും  
ബന്ധപ്പെടുന്നതിനും ശ്രീ. മുഹമ്മദ് അൻവർ, അസിസ്റ്റന്റ് ഷോറസ്സ് കൺസർവേറ്റർ &

ടെക്നിക്കൽ അസിസ്റ്റന്റ് (സതേൺ സർക്കിൾ, കൊല്ലം) നെ ബന്ധപ്പെടാവുന്നതാണ്. ഭേദപ്പെട്ട പരിശീലനത്തിന്റെ സംഘാടനത്തിലും മറ്റും സാമൂഹ്യ വനവൽക്കരണ വിഭാഗത്തിലെ അസിസ്റ്റന്റ് ഷോറസ്റ്റ് കൺസർവേറ്റർമാരെയും കൂടി ബന്ധപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ടതാണ്. പരിശീലനത്തിന്റെ വിവിധ ഘട്ടങ്ങളിലും അതിന്റെ വിവിധ ഘട്ടങ്ങളിലും മാർഗ്ഗ നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ പ്രകാരം സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് നൽകേണ്ടതുമാണ്.

പരിചയ സമ്പന്നരായ പരിശീലനകരുടെ പേരു വിവരങ്ങളും, പാമ്പുകളെ രക്ഷപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനും മോചിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനുമുള്ള പരിശീലനത്തിനുമായി വിവിധ സർക്കിളുകളിൽനിന്നും ലഭിച്ച ജീവനക്കാരുടെ ലിസ്റ്റും രണ്ട് ദിവസത്തെ പരിശീലന ഷെഡ്യൂൾ മാതൃകയും, പാമ്പു പിടുത്തവുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട ടൂൾ കിറ്റിന്റെ ലിസ്റ്റും ഇതോടൊപ്പം ഉള്ളടക്കം ചെയ്യുന്നു.

സർക്കിൾ	പരിശീലനം ഏർപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ട സ്ഥാപനം
സതേൺ സർക്കിൾ, അഗസ്ത്യവനം ബയോളജിക്കൽ പാർക്ക് ഹൈറൈഞ്ച് സർക്കിൾ, ഷീൽഡ് ഡയറക്ടർ, പ്രൊജക്ട് ടൈഗർ.	ഷോറസ്റ്റ് ട്രെയിനിംഗ് ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട്, അരിഷ
സെൻട്രൽ സർക്കിൾ, ഈസ്റ്റേൺ സർക്കിൾ, വൈൽഡ്ലൈഫ് & ഷീൽഡ് ഡയറക്ടർ, പാലക്കാട് (ആറളം / വയനാട് വൈൽഡ്ലൈഫ് ഡിവിഷനുകൾ ഒഴികെ)	ഷോറസ്റ്റ് ട്രെയിനിംഗ് ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട്, വാളയാർ

വിശ്വസ്തതയോടെ,

  
 പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ ചീഫ് ഷോറസ്റ്റ് കൺസർവേറ്റർ (വൈൽഡ്ലൈഫ്) &  
 ചീഫ് വൈൽഡ്ലൈഫ് വാർഡൻ

പകർപ്പ്: ശ്രീ. മൂഹമ്മദ് അൻവർ, അസിസ്റ്റന്റ് ഷോറസ്റ്റ് കൺസർവേറ്റർ & ടെക്നിക്കൽ അസിസ്റ്റന്റ് (സതേൺ സർക്കിൾ, കൊല്ലം) ന് അറിവിനായി നൽകുന്നു.

കൺസർവേറ്റർ ഓഫ് ഷോറസ്റ്റ് (സോഷ്യൽ ഷോറസ്റ്റി) & എല്ലാ അസി. ഷോറസ്റ്റ് കൺസർവേറ്റർമാർക്കും (സോഷ്യൽ ഷോറസ്റ്റി)



ഭരണഭാഷ-മാതൃഭാഷ

(പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ ചീഫ് ഷോറസ്റ്റ് കൺസർവേറ്റർ  
(വൈൽഡ്‌ലൈഫ്) &

ചീഫ് വൈൽഡ്‌ലൈഫ് വാർഡൻ.

പരിസ്ഥിതി

ഡബ്ല്യു.എൽ: 5344/19



വനം-വന്യജീവി വകുപ്പ്  
ഷോറസ്റ്റ് ഹെഡ്ക്വാർട്ടേഴ്സ്  
മലപ്പുറം ജില്ലാ വനംവകുപ്പ്  
കോട്ടയം ജില്ലാ വനംവകുപ്പ്

തീയതി : 03-07-2020

ശ്രീ.മുഹമ്മദ് അൻവർ,  
ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി ഡയറക്ടർ,  
സ്റ്റേറ്റ് ഫോറസ്റ്റ് ട്രെയിനിംഗ് ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട്,  
അരിപ്പു,  
സർ,

വിഷയം : കേരള വനം-വന്യജീവി വകുപ്പ് - ജനവാസമേഖലയിലെ പാമ്പ്  
പിടിത്തവും വിട്ടയയ്ക്കലും സംബന്ധിച്ച് അംഗീകൃത  
പാമ്പുപിടിത്തക്കാർക്ക് ട്രെയിനിംഗ് നൽകുന്നതുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട്  
നോഡൽ ഓഫീസറെ നിയോഗിക്കുന്നത് - സംബന്ധിച്ച്

സൂചന :

മേൽ വിഷയത്തിലേക്ക് ശ്രദ്ധ ക്ഷണിക്കുന്നു. മനുഷ്യവാസ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ നിന്ന്  
പാമ്പുകളെ പിടികൂടി അവയുടെ സ്വാഭാവിക ആവാസ വ്യവസ്ഥയിൽ വിട്ടയയ്ക്കുന്ന പ്രക്രിയ  
കൃത്യവും ഉത്തരവാദിത്വപരമായ ഒന്നാക്കി മാറ്റുക എന്ന ലക്ഷ്യത്തോടുകൂടി വനംവകുപ്പ്  
തയ്യാറാക്കിയ മാർഗ്ഗനിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ മലയാളം, ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് പതിപ്പുകൾ അംഗീകാരത്തിനായി  
നാൽക്കോലിൻ പ്രൈവറ്റ് ലിമിറ്റഡ്, അനന്തപുരം റിസർവ്വേഷൻ, പാലക്കാട് പ്രദേശം പാലക്കാട്

മേൽ മാർഗ്ഗനിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ പാലിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് വനം വകുപ്പിന്റെ വിവിധ സർക്കിളുകളിലെ  
പാമ്പുപിടിത്തവും വിട്ടയയ്ക്കലും സംബന്ധിച്ച കാര്യങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യുന്ന സ്ഥിരം ജീവനക്കാർക്കും  
താൽക്കാലിക ജീവനക്കാർക്കും 2 ദിവസത്തെ പരിശീലനം അരിപ്പു/വാളയാർ ഫോറസ്റ്റ്  
ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ടുകളിലും കൂടാതെ കോഴിക്കോടും വച്ച് നടത്താൻ നിർദ്ദേശം നൽകിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. മേൽ  
പരിശീലനവുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട് താങ്കളെ നോഡൽ ഓഫീസറായി നിയമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. കൂടാതെ  
താഴെപ്പറയുന്ന ചുമതലകൾകൂടി താങ്കൾ നിർവ്വഹിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

1. പാമ്പുപിടിത്തവുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട സാമൂഹിക ബോധവൽക്കരണത്തിനായിട്ടുള്ള  
വീഡിയോ നിർമ്മാണം.
2. ട്രെയിനിംഗ് ഡോക്യുമെന്റേഷൻ.
3. പാമ്പുപിടിത്തവുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട് വാങ്ങാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്ന ടൂൾ കിറ്റിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച്  
ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥർക്ക് ആവശ്യം വേണ്ടുന്ന നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങളും ഉപദേശങ്ങളും  
നൽകുക.

പരിചയ സമ്പന്നരായ പരിശീലകരുടെ പേരുവിവരങ്ങളും, പാമ്പുകളെ രക്ഷപ്പെടു  
ത്തുന്നതിനും മോചിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനുമുള്ള പരിശീലനത്തിനുമായി വിവിധ സർക്കിളുകളിൽ നിന്നും  
ലഭിച്ച ജീവനക്കാരുടെ ലിസ്റ്റും, രണ്ട് ദിവസത്തെ പരിശീലന ഷെഡ്യൂൾ മാതൃകയും,  
പാമ്പുപിടിത്തവുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട ടൂൾ കിറ്റിന്റെ ലിസ്റ്റും ഇതോടൊപ്പം ഉള്ളടക്കം ചെയ്യുന്നു.

വിശ്വസ്തതയോടെ,

(പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ ചീഫ് ഫോറസ്റ്റ് കൺസർവേറ്റർ  
(വന്യജീവി വിഭാഗം) &  
ചീഫ് വൈൽഡ്‌ലൈഫ് വാർഡൻ

പകർപ്പ്: ഫോറസ്റ്റ് കൺസർവേറ്റർ, എച്ച്.ആർ.ഡി

**SURENDRA KUMAR, IFS**

PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (WILDLIFE) &  
CHIEF WILDLIFE WARDEN  
KERALA



FOREST HEADQUARTERS

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Vazhuthacaud

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Fax 0471 - 2320554

Mobile 9447979009

E mail cww for@kerala.gov.in

No.WL1. 5344/19

Dated 09.06.2020

To

Sri.B.N Nagaraj, DCF & Estate Officer, Forest HQ, Tvp  
Sri.Mohammed Anwar, TA to the CCF (SC), Kollam  
Dr.Arun Zachariah, CFVO (i/c)  
Sri.Sandeep Das, Researcher, KFRI  
Sri.Sabu, Section Forest Officer, Malayattoor Division  
Sri.Mavish Kumar, Mahindra Wildlife Foundation

Sir,

Sub : **Kerala Forest Department-Guidelines for rescue and release of  
snakes-scrutiny of the draft -Reg**

Ref : Guidelines for the rescue and release of snakes from the human  
dominated areas in Kerala by certified snake handlers

Attention is invited to the reference cited above (copy enclosed). A  
meeting of selected experts in the field of snake rescue/herpetology  
from within and outside the Department is scheduled to be held on  
12.06.2020, at 10.30 AM in the Conference Hall of the Forest  
Headquarters, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram. You are requested  
to make it convenient to attend the said meeting and offer valuable  
inputs to aid in improvement and finalization of the document.

Yours faithfully,

  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) &  
Chief Wildlife Warden

*Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests (SC), Kollam/Divisional Forest Officer,  
Malayattoor for information & necessary action*

## GUIDELINES FOR THE RESCUE AND RELEASE OF SNAKES FROM THE HUMAN DOMINATED AREAS IN KERALA BY CERTIFIED SNAKE HANDLERS

### 1. Background

In Kerala, snakes can be found in almost all kinds of habitats and they are the integral part of the ecosystems, where they are found. Snakes often use human dominated areas also as part of their habitat, in such cases; their mere presence in human dominated areas will create panic among the people. This may be because of the wrong notion among the people that all the snakes are poisonous. The situation becomes complicated when snakebite is reported and the snake suspected to be associated with it is caught along. Such a situation calls for quick action from the side of administrative machinery to rescue the snake or else it may get killed by the angry mob. All the venomous snakes and almost all non venomous snake species found in India are listed in various Schedules of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and hunting or attempt to hunt any such species is an offence. As per Sec. 2 (16) (a) – (c), *hunting includes capturing, killing, poisoning, snaring, or trapping of any wild animal and every attempt to do so, driving any wild animal, injuring or destroying or taking any part of the body of any such animal, or in the case of wild birds or reptiles, damaging the eggs of such birds or reptiles, or disturbing the eggs of such birds or reptiles.*

Forest Department is the agency to implement the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The field functionaries in the Department receive a number of calls/complaints from the public regarding presence of snakes in their homestead or surrounding areas. All these calls/complaints cannot be effectively redressed by the staff alone owing to their shortage and limitations in quickly accessing all such areas where the incidents are reported. Thus most of the snake rescue operations are mediated through snake catchers, who volunteer for the same. Though most of the snake catchers are skilled and are known to act in a responsible manner by understanding the ecology and behaviour of the snakes but actions of some of them have raised allegations like not taking necessary protective precautions, causing unwanted stress to the animal, posing risk to own and others lives etc. Of late, the allegation of supplying snakes to kill people is also reported in the state.

Section .12 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 states that, *notwithstanding anything contained elsewhere in this Act, it shall be lawful for the Chief Wildlife Warden, to grant a permit, by an order in writing stating the reasons therefor, to any person, on payment of such fee as may be prescribed, which shall entitle the holder of such permit to hunt, subject to such conditions as may be specified*

therein, any wild animal specified in such permit, for the purpose of, (a) education; (b) scientific research; (bb) scientific management; "scientific management" means (i) translocation of any wild animal to an alternative suitable habitat; or (ii) population management of wildlife, without killing or poisoning or destroying any wild animals.

It is under these circumstances that the Kerala Forest Department issues the present guidelines.

## **2. Scope**

The present guidelines are intended to streamline and bring in more accountability in the process of rescue of snakes in human dominated areas and release them in their natural habitat. **All snake rescues and release henceforth in the state shall be done only by the certified Snake handlers who shall adhere to these guidelines failing of which will invite penal actions as per the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.** Any one causing hindrance to completion of such a task by a certified snake handler, as per these guidelines is liable to penal action. The actions such as creating mob panics, to show off the rescued snake/s publicly and any other publicity stunts with the snakes, even by the snake catcher himself are also liable to penal action. *Moreover, the certified snake handlers are volunteers and Kerala Forest Department will not have any obligation for effecting any payment towards their services.*

## **3. Objectives**

- i. To create a network of trained and certified snake handlers throughout the State so as to bring in more responsibility and accountability
- ii. To ensure rescue and release of snakes in a safe and scientific manner, taking in to consideration the ecological and behavioural factors of snakes and wellbeing of humans
- iii. To keep track of the incidents of rescue and release of snakes in the State and to maintain and update the database for the same.
- iv. To prevent any illegalities or malpractices that may occur due to misuse of rescued snakes

## **4. Application to be a certified Snake Handler**

- i. Every year in the month of January, application shall be called from the willing individuals through an advertisement in local newspapers and also

through the official website of the Department, for certification of snake handlers.

- ii. The application in the format, given as **Annexure I**, shall be submitted by skilled and experienced snake handlers, to the respective Assistant Conservators of Forests (Social Forestry) of each District, or to the Deputy Conservators of Forests/ Divisional Forest Officers/ Wildlife Wardens. Department staff with such skill and acumen may also apply in the same format to the concerned officers, through proper channel.
- iii. The concerned Assistant Conservators of Forest (Social Forestry)/ Deputy Conservators of Forests/ Divisional Forest Officers/ Wildlife Wardens shall objectively screen the applications received, based on their merit and make a select list of snake handlers. Following parameters shall be considered and given due credit accordingly for the selection process:
  - a) No. of rescue operations already conducted by the applicant (to be verified through appropriate and authentic past records)
  - b) Issues or allegations raised against the applicant in connection with snake rescue and relief operations
  - c) Age, health and conduct of the applicant: Healthy individuals, without known alcoholism or such behavioural traits shall be chosen against others.
- iv. After conducting thorough screening of the received applications and other related documents, a short list of skilled snake handlers shall be prepared by the concerned officers and intimated to the Assistant Conservators of Forest (Social Forestry) of the concerned District. The selected applicants may be called for a mandatory training on safe and scientific handling of snakes.

## **5. Training to the selected handlers and Certification as Snake Handlers**

- i. The skilled snake handlers included in the shortlist shall be given a mandatory training on safe and scientific handling of snakes by the experts in the field.
- ii. Training module for District wise training of Snake handlers is given as **Annexure II**.
- iii. The Assistant Conservators of Forests (Social Forestry) of each district shall be the authorised officer to organise training and issue certificate.

- iv. Those individuals who have attended and have successfully completed the training only shall be given certification as snake handlers. The format for certification is given as **Annexure IV**.
- v. Once the validity of the certificate expires, it will be renewed through the same process as followed for issue of new certificate
- vi. The Assistant Conservators of Forest (Social Forestry) should communicate the list of certified snake handlers for each District, to the Deputy Conservators of Forests/ Divisional Forest Officers/ Wildlife Wardens of the District.
- vii. Kerala Forest Department through its authorised officers reserves the right to withdraw or cancel the certification issued to any of the snake handler, if it is found after a detailed enquiry that the certified snake handler is involved in any Illegal or unethical practices amounting to violation of the guidelines
- viii. Any such cancellation of certification shall be done only by the authorised officer, Assistant Conservators of Forest (Social Forestry) of respective districts and the fact may be communicated immediately to all the Deputy Conservators of Forests/ Divisional Forest Officers/ Wildlife Wardens concerned.

#### **6. Publicising the details of Certified Snake Handlers**

Details of the certified snake handlers of each District, along with contact details shall be published through local media and informed to various Local Self Government institutions, law enforcement and civic bodies enabling immediate contact and access to the nearest and most suitable snake handlers in response to an incident. The list shall also be uploaded in the official website of the Forest Department. A mobile app will also be developed for the same.

#### **7. Duties and Responsibilities of Certified Snake handlers**

- i. To verify the authenticity of each request they receive over phone for rescue of snakes.
- ii. To inform the concerned ACF (Social Forestry)/ Deputy Conservator of Forests/ Divisional Forest Officer/ Wildlife Warden regarding the incident and on the request they received.
- iii. To inform the caller the immediate precautions to be taken to avoid injury/fatality to humans as well as to the snake and to provide the



following instructions to the caller, before reaching the place of incidence.

- a. Not to disturb the snake if it is resting.
  - b. Tracking the movement of the animal from a safe distance if it is moving.
  - c. Not to capture the snake on their own, injure or kill the snake out of panic.
  - d. If the presence of snake is in the natural environment, where it doesn't pose any direct threat to human life, if it is feasible, to leave the snake to escape on its own.
- IV. To obtain photograph of the snake from the caller, where ever it is feasible, for quick identification.
  - V. To inform the caller, the approximate time to reach the site and also to share the contact details of the next nearest snake handler if in case the certified snake handler is unable to reach the place of incident.
  - VI. To ensure the safety of people by asking the onlookers and other people to move away, once he reaches the place of incident.
  - VII. To create basic awareness among the people on the role of snakes in an ecosystem and also that all the snakes are not venomous and need not be captured. **Awareness creation should not be done by exhibiting the snake in public.**
  - VIII. To protect themselves with required protective gear and safety equipments.
  - IX. To use appropriate light source like head torch or handheld troches during the rescue operation, in places where there is no sufficient light.
  - X. To handle the snakes in a professional way by using proper tools and equipments and also by adapting the handling method most suited for the snake to be rescued.
  - XI. To handle the snakes safely and transfer it in to the snake bags in a way as to cause minimum trauma to the snake and without causing injury or death of snakes.
  - XII. To focus at their task and not get distract themselves by talking over phone, taking videos, addressing the crowd etc.

- XIII. To take special care and adapt safe bagging methods like use of dark towels, pipe or tubing method, while rescue of snakes that are injured, that are gravid and those that might have recently fed, with a conspicuous stomach bulge.
- XIV. Snakes in male-combat/mating/feeding must be monitored closely without disturbing and rescue attempted later, only if unavoidable.
- XV. Handling the eggs and the snake during the time of incubation????
- XVI. Not to open the rescued snake for public display or entertainment.
- XVII. To avail immediate first aid for self and also to provide the same for the affected individual, followed by urgent professional medical care, if any incidents of snake bite occurs during the rescue operation.
- XVIII. To perform the entire rescue operation with full responsibility and on the basis of scientific learning and understanding
- XIX. Not to recommend to the public any unproven substance to keep away the snakes nor recommend any unscientific treatment protocols
- XX. To share any information related to any suspicious cases related to rescue on public demands with Forest Department and/or other Law enforcement agencies.
- XXI. To fill in and submit the proforma in the format given as **Annexure III**, to the respective Assistant Conservators of Forests (Social Forestry)/ Deputy Conservator of Forests/ Divisional Forest Officer/ Wildlife Warden. Once the specified App for tracking snake rescue is in place, details shall be entered through the same.

#### **8. Considerations while release of rescued snakes**

- i. The rescued snake should be released only after ascertaining the fitness and health condition of the snake, in consultation with the officials of Kerala Forest Department.
- ii. If the snake appears to be a non-native species, it shall not be released, but shall be handed over to the Forest Department.
- iii. No snake shall be kept by the rescuers beyond 24 hours, without releasing or handing over to the Department. The rescuer shall not keep any of its body parts too without prior approval from authorised officer of the Forest Department.

- iv. Location for the release of the rescued snake shall be finalised based on the species, its ecology and behaviour and the accessibility to the natural habitat most suitable for the species.
- v. Locations of maximum proximity to the place of rescue shall be chosen for the non poisonous snakes.
- vi. Utmost care shall be taken to avoid repeated release of snakes to the same area because it may disturb the local ecological balance.
- vii. Simultaneous release of snakes of same or different species at the same release point also should not be done.
- viii. Inviting or taking private persons to the release point and sharing the exact location of the release are strictly prohibited.
- ix. Habitat suitable for the snake and time of release shall be chosen accordingly. Water snakes may be released near water bodies, nocturnal and diurnal snakes may be released at their active time, etc.

#### **9. Duties and Responsibilities of Forest Department Staff/LSGD officials present**

- i. All rescue operations are to be done in the presence of staff of Kerala Forest Department as far as possible, who shall authenticate the format as in ***Annexure III***, filled in and submitted by the snake handler to ACF (SF) or other concerned officers.
- ii. Assistant Conservators of Forests (Social Forestry) of each District shall compile data of snake rescue and release done in the District on monthly basis from other Deputy Conservators of Forests/ Divisional Forest Officers/ Wildlife Wardens in the District.
- iii. Assistant Conservators of Forests (Social Forestry)/ Deputy Conservator of Forests/ Divisional Forest Officer/ Wildlife Warden concerned may arrange for necessary logistics for the rescuer as and when sought.
- iv. The RRT Units/ Striking Force/ SIP Units/ Special Task forces dealing with snake rescues may arrange necessary facilities for observing and providing treatment to the injured ones whenever found necessary, till they are fit to be released to the wild.

**10. Maintenance of Rescue and Release Data base**

Concerned Assistant Conservators of Forests (Social Forestry) shall maintain and update the database on the snake rescue and release operations in their areas of jurisdiction based on the formats submitted by the certified snake handlers/ collected from other officers of the District. The proforma for maintaining District wise database is given in **Annexure V**.

**11. Insurance to the Certified Snake Handlers**

The certified Snake Handlers shall be provided protection under Group insurance coverage, considering the risks involved in the task. This amount shall be subject to periodic revision based on availability of funds and dialogues with bidding insurers.

**12. Essential tool kit for Snake Rescue and Release**

The snake handlers shall be provided with essential tool kit as given in **Annexure VI**, by the respective Assistant Conservators of Forests (Social Forestry)/ Deputy Conservator of Forests/ Divisional Forest Officer/ Wildlife Warden.

**Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) &  
Chief Wildlife Warden (Kerala)**

## Annexures

<b><i>Annexure I</i></b>	Application Form for listing as Certified Rescue Handler
<b><i>Annexure II</i></b>	Training module for District wise Training of certified Handlers
<b><i>Annexure III</i></b>	Proforma to be submitted by the Certified Rescue Handler to the ACF (SF) after each rescue and release operation
<b><i>Annexure IV</i></b>	Format of certificate to be issued by ACF (SF), as approved Snake handler
<b><i>Annexure V</i></b>	Format of District wise Rescue and Release database
<b><i>Annexure VI</i></b>	Tool kit
<b><i>Annexure VII</i></b>	List of expert trainers for imparting training to the applicants

## Annexure I

### Application Form for listing as Certified Rescue Handler

Name of the applicant	:	
Permanent address	:	
Present address	:	
ID proof (Type & No)	:	
Educational Qualification	:	(Self attested copy to be submitted along with)
Whether for fresh certificate or renewal	:	
Details of past rescue and release operations	:	
Whether involved in any forest offence, police case etc?	:	
If so, details and present status	:	
Blood Group	:	
Any recurring disease/health condition for which continuous medication is adopted	:	
Any other remarks	:	

I declare that the above given details are true to the best of my knowledge and also submit that if I am selected as a certified Snake Handler by the Kerala Forest Department, I shall abide by all the related laws and guidelines and directions of concerned officers and that I shall never attend any snake rescue or release operation in an inebriated state. I also declare that I am volunteering my service without expectation of any remuneration and also well understanding the risk involved in the process.

Place :.....

Date:.....

Name .....

Signature.....

## Annexure II

### Training module for District wise Training of certified Handlers

The training to shortlisted snake handlers shall include the following topics:

Sl. No	Topic	Resource Persons
<b>Session I: 9.30 am – 10.00 am</b>		
1	Registration of the participants, Self introduction, Inauguration, Objective of the training	ACF, Social Forestry
<b>Session II: 10.00 am – 11.30 am</b>		
1	Snakes of Kerala (Pattern, Scalation) Basic Biology, Morphology and Ecology of Snakes and behaviour <b>(1 Hour)</b>	Dr. Muhammed Jafar Palot Shri. Sandeep Das Shri. Rajkumar K P Shri. Surya Narayanan
2	Scientific Classification of snakes and Basic Taxonomy, Identification of Snakes, Distribution, Types (Venomous- Mildly Venomous– Non-Venomous) <b>(30 minutes)</b>	
<b>Tea Break: 11.30 am – 11.40 am</b>		
<b>Session III: 11.40 am – 01.00 pm</b>		
3	Snake bites-identifying species from bites, Impact on health, mode of action of different toxins <b>(30 minutes)</b>	Shri. Jose Louise Shri. Ajay Karthik Shri. Ajay Giri
4	Overview of human - snake conflict in the State & Role of Certified Snake Handlers <b>(30 minutes)</b>	
5	Emergency First Aid <b>(30 minutes)</b>	
<b>Lunch Break: 01.00 pm – 02.00 pm</b>		
<b>Session IV: 02.00 pm – 03.30 pm</b>		
6	Snake Rescue- Science, principles and common methods –Field Session (Various aspects of rescuing snakes, Good and bad rescue practices) <b>(30 minutes)</b>	Shri. Ajay Giri Shri. Joju C T Shri. K T Santhosh Shri. Mavish Kumar M V Shri. Abdul Nazar A T
7	Personal safety –preparedness <b>(30 minutes)</b>	
8	Use of tools and equipments <b>(30 minutes)</b>	
<b>Tea Break: 03.30 pm – 03.40 pm</b>		

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<b>Session V: 03.40 pm – 04.30 pm</b>		
9	Important legal aspects and guidelines with respect to snake catching and release	Shri. A O Sunny
<b>Session VI: 04.30 pm – 05.00 pm</b>		
10	Assessment of the learnings during the workshop	ACF, Social Forestry
11	Effectiveness of this training and comments Group Discussion	
12	Announcement of results	



**Annexure III**

**Proforma to be submitted by the Certified Rescue Handler to the ACF (SF) after each rescue and release operation**

1.	Species of snake	
2.	Quantity	
3.	Male/Female/Gravid/with laid eggs	
4.	Location of incident	
5.	Division/ District	
6.	Reference no (who informed the incident)	
7.	Date and time of rescue call	
8.	Date and time of rescue	
9.	Reasons for delay, if any to effect the rescue	
10.	Any trouble while rescuing/releasing	
11.	Forest officer contacted to inform the incident	
12.	Any casualty occurred prior to/while/after rescue/release	
13.	Condition of rescued snake?	
14.	Whether released/not?	
15.	If not, the reasons	
16.	If released, details of location of release	
17.	Condition of snake at the time of release	
18.	Name & Certification code of the Certified Snake Handler	
19.	Signature of Snake Handler	

**Annexure IV**

**Format of certificate to be issued by ACF (SF), as Certified Snake handler**

**CERTIFICATE**

Passport size  
photograph  
attested by  
officer issuing  
certification

It is hereby placed on record that Shri/ Ms .....  
..... (name), of  
.....(address)  
is a trained snake handler approved by Kerala Forest Department. Validity of this  
certification is for one year, from the date of issue. The certified handler shall  
abide by all the relevant acts and guidelines and public can utilise the individual's  
service as per the guidelines.

His/ her Certification code is .....

Place :.....

Date:.....

Signature.....

Name:.....

Designation:.....

District:.....

SEAL

## Annexure V

### Format of District wise Snake Rescue and Release database

[illegible]

## Annexure VI

### Tool Kit

1. Clean Pipe & Bag
2. First Aid Kit (Soap, Crepe Bandage, Anti septic cream/lotion etc)
3. Torch/Headlamp
4. Anti-bite Scratch Gloves
5. Snake bite Bandage
6. Snake Grabbers
7. Snake hooks
8. Funnel Trap
9. Snake Bags – for smaller and medium size should be at least 1mX 0.5 m; For larger snakes, it should be at least 2m X 0.8 m, with dark colour preferably dark green, dark blue or black.
10. Snake repel
11. Personal Protective Equipments including but not limited to Protective Foot wear

## Annexure VII

**List of expert trainers for impart training to the short listed applicants**

[illegible]

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List of expert trainers for impart training to the short listed applicants

Sl No.	Name	Organization/ NGO	District
1.	Dr. Muhammed Jafar Palot	Scientist, ZSI Pune	Kozhikode
2.	Shri. Ajay Karthik	Researcher, MCBT, Chennai	Chennai
3.	Shri. Ajay Giri	Researcher, ARRS, Agumbe	Agumbe
4.	Shri. Sandeep Das	Researcher, KFRI Peechi	Thrissur
5.	Shri. Rajkumar K P	Researcher, KFRI Peechi	Palakkad
6.	Shri. Jose Louise	WTI Delhi	Kottayam
7.	Shri. Joju C T	Rescuer, SIP Thrissur	Thrissur
8.	Shri. Surya Narayanan	Independent Researcher	Wayanad
9.	Shri. K T Santhosh	Rescuer	Kasargode
10.	Shri. Abdul Nazar A T	Rescuer, RRT Kozhikode	Kozhikode
11.	Shri. Mavish Kumar M V	Rescuer	Kasargode
12.	Shri. Sabu	SFO, Malayattoor	Thrissur
13.	Shri. A O Sunny	DCF (Retired)	Thrissur
14.	Shri. Dileep Kumar	Researcher	Thiruvananthapuram
15.	Dr. Kalesh Kumar	Medical practitioner (on first aid)	Thiruvananthapuram

**KHYATI MATHUR, IFS  
CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (HRD)  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**



Forestry Training Complex,  
Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, Vattiyoorkavu  
Thiruvananthapuram -695013  
Email: [apccf-ihrd.for@kerala.gov.in](mailto:apccf-ihrd.for@kerala.gov.in)  
[apccfihrd@gmail.com](mailto:apccfihrd@gmail.com)  
Phone: 0471-2362291, 9447979019

Trg1- 1033/20

Date: 04.08.2020

To

Chief Conservator of Forests, CC/SC/HRC/EC/NC,  
Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) & FDPT Kottayam  
Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) Palakkad,  
Conservator of Forests Social Forestry Kollam/Ernakulam/Kozhikode,  
Conservator of Forests ABP Circle.

Sir,

Sub: **Snake Rescue & Release Techniques Training - regarding.**

Ref: (i) Letter No WL1-5344/2019 dated 13.07.2020 of PCCF (WL) & Chief Wildlife warden.  
(ii) Letter No WL1-5344/2019 dated 03.07.2020 of PCCF (WL) & Chief Wildlife warden.

Kind attention is invited to the above subject. As directed in the letter referred (i) above, I am directed to inform that the field training for the Snake Rescue & Release Techniques shall begin from 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020 in different divisions as per plan attached below.

You are kindly requested to issue directions to the concerned divisions to make suitable arrangements for organizing the above training and deploy the nominated staff to the training as scheduled. Vide letter referred in (ii), Sh. Mohammed Anwar, Deputy Director Aripa has been nominated as the nodal officer for the above training and he shall liaison with the divisional officers for logistics and other support needed for the successful implementation of the training.

Encl.: Schedule and letters.

Yours faithfully,

  
**Conservator of Forests (HRD),  
Thiruvananthapuram.**

**Copy to: For information and follow up:-**

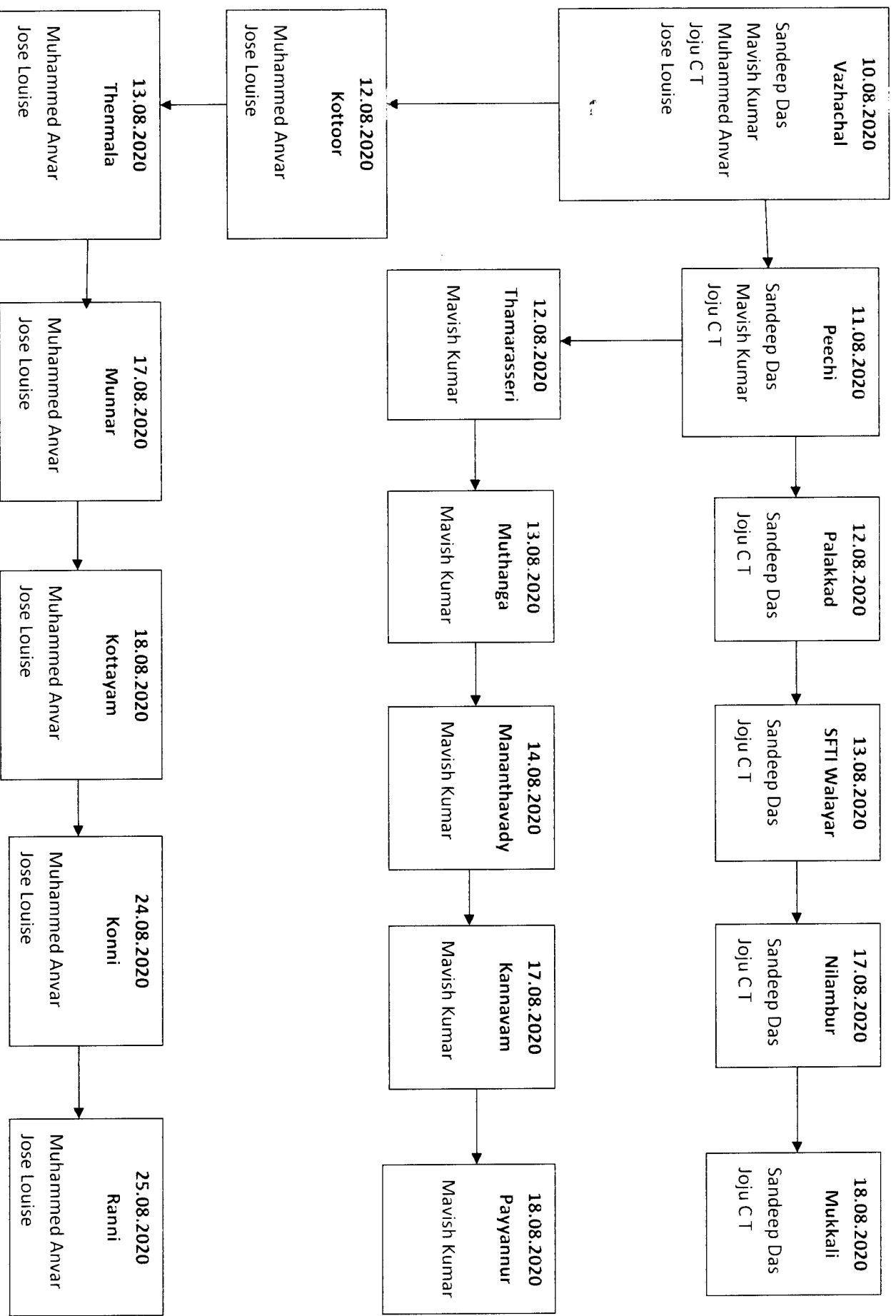
- (i) Smt. Kirti IFS, Director SFTI Walayar.
- (ii) Sh. Mohammed Anwar, Deputy Director Aripa.
- (iii) All DFOs/WLWs/ACF SFs
- (iv) Guard file.

## **GENERAL GUIDELINES TO BE FOLLOWED FOR THE SNAKE RESCUE AND RELEASE TRAINING**

- 1. Coordinator for training:** Each division shall nominate a suitable officer for the overall coordination of the training.
- 2. Timing and Registration:** Each training shall begin at 9.30 am in the morning and followed by registration of participants. The training shall be completed by the same evening.
- 3. COVID 19 Protocol:** The nodal officer shall ensure that standard practices as per government guidelines with respect to COVID-19 are strictly followed.
- 4. Emergency Health Issues:** The nodal officer for each division shall ensure in advance to liaison with nearby suitable government health establishments to address any untoward incident that might happen during the snake handling exercise. An emergency vehicle and a first aid kit has to be kept at all sites.
- 5. Arranging snakes:** The RRTs shall coordinate with Deputy Director Arippa , who has been appointed as the overall nodal officer by the Chief Wildlife Warden, for arranging snakes for the training purposes with suitable safeguards and ensuring compliance as per Wildlife Protection Act,1972.
- 6. Certification:** The resource persons/trainers shall endeavor to screen the participants who can be awarded a snake-handler certificate. Base on their recommendations, the ACF Social Forestry in each district shall issue certificate to the eligible participants.
- 7. Logistics :** The nodal officer shall arrange for logistics for the resource persons in consultation with the Deputy Director Arippa.
- 8. Honorarium:** The honorarium for the resource persons shall be borne by the respective SFTIs.
- 9. Other facilities to be arranged:** The nodal officer shall arrange other facilities in consultation with the Deputy Director Arippa regarding seating arrangements, Projector, laptop, audio system, food and refreshment etc.
- 10. Media:** The nodal officer shall ensure that the training is conducted without any unwanted interference and media hype in a professional manner.

**Conservator of Forests HRD  
Thiruvananthapuram**





SNAKE RESCUE AND RELEASE TECHNIQUES TRAINING TO FIELD STAFF											
S.No	CIRCLE	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	DIVISION /RANGE	BATCH-WISE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	PROPOSED LOCATION	PROPOSED DATE	RESOURCE PERSONS				
1	Central Circle	34	Thrissur	II Batch (16)	Peechi	11 Aug 2020	Sandeep Das				
			SIP Thrissur				Mavish Kumar				
			Vazhachal				C T Joju				
			Malayattoor				Sandeep Das				
			Chalakkudy				Muhammed Anvar				
			Parambikulam	I Batch (12)	SFTI Walayar	13 Aug 2020	Sandeep Das				
			Silent Valley				II Batch (10)	Mukkali	18 Aug 2020	Sandeep Das	
			Wayanad				III Batch (8)	Mananthavady	14 Aug 2020	Mavish Kumar	
			Peechi				IV Batch (10)	Chimmoney	11 Aug 2020	Sandeep Das	
			Aralam				V Batch (4)	Range Office Kannavam	17 Aug 2020	Mavish Kumar	
2	WL Palakkad	44	Mannarkad	I Batch (11)	Mukkali	18 Aug 2020	Sandeep Das				
			Palakkad				II Batch (24)	Palakkad	12 Aug 2020	Sandeep Das	
			Nenmara								C T Joju
			Nilambur North								III Batch (26)
			Nilambur South							C T Joju	
3	Eastern Circle	61	Kozhikode	I Batch (11)	Range Office Thamarassery	12 Aug 2020	Mavish Kumar				
			South Wayanad				II Batch (12)	Muthanga	13 Aug 2020	Mavish Kumar	
			North Wayanad				III Batch (13)	Gibbs Hall, Mananthavady	14 Aug 2020	Mavish Kumar	
			Kannur				IV Batch (15)	Range Office Kannavam	17 Aug 2020	Mavish Kumar	
			Kasargod				V Batch (14)	Edat Payannur	18 Aug 2020	Mavish Kumar	
4	Northern Circle	65									

5	ABP Circle	23	Shendurney Div	I Batch (8)	Thenmala	13 Aug 2020	Muhammed Anvar Jose Louise
			Tvm WL	II Batch ( 15)	Kottoor	12 Aug 2020	Muhammed Anvar Jose Louise
6	Southern Circle	51	Thiruvananthapuram	I Batch (4)	Kottoor	12 Aug 2020	Muhammed Anvar Jose Louise
			Thenmala	II Batch (10)	Thenmala	13 Aug 2020	Muhammed Anvar Jose Louise
			Punalur				
			Achencovil				
			Konni	III Batch (17)	Konni	24 Aug 2020	Muhammed Anvar Jose Louise
			Ranni	IV Batch (20)	Ranni	25 Aug 2020	Muhammed Anvar Jose Louise
7	FDPT Kottayam	15	Munnar WL	I Batch (9)	Dormitory Munnar	17 Aug 2020	Muhammed Anvar Jose Louise
			Idduki WL				
			Periyar East & West	II Batch (6)	HRC Hall Kottayam	18 Aug 2020	Muhammed Anvar
8	HRC Circle	32	Munnar	I Batch (18)	Dormitory Munnar	17 Aug 2020	Muhammed Anvar Jose Louise
			Marayoor				
			Kothamangalam				
			Kottayam	II Batch (14)	HRC Hall Kottayam	18 Aug 2020	Muhammed Anvar Jose Louise
			SIP Kottayam				
9	SF Region, Kollam	1	SF Alappuzha		1 Ranni	25 Aug 2020	Muhammed Anvar Jose Louise
10	SF Region, Ernakulam	6	Idduki		Nominated persons should attend the training in their concerned districts		
			Ernakulam				
			Thrissur				
			Palakkad				
11	SF Region Kozhikode	6	Malappuram		Nominated persons should attend the training in their concerned districts		
			Kozhikode				
			Wayanad				
			Kannur				
			Kasargod				