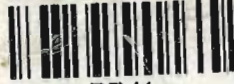


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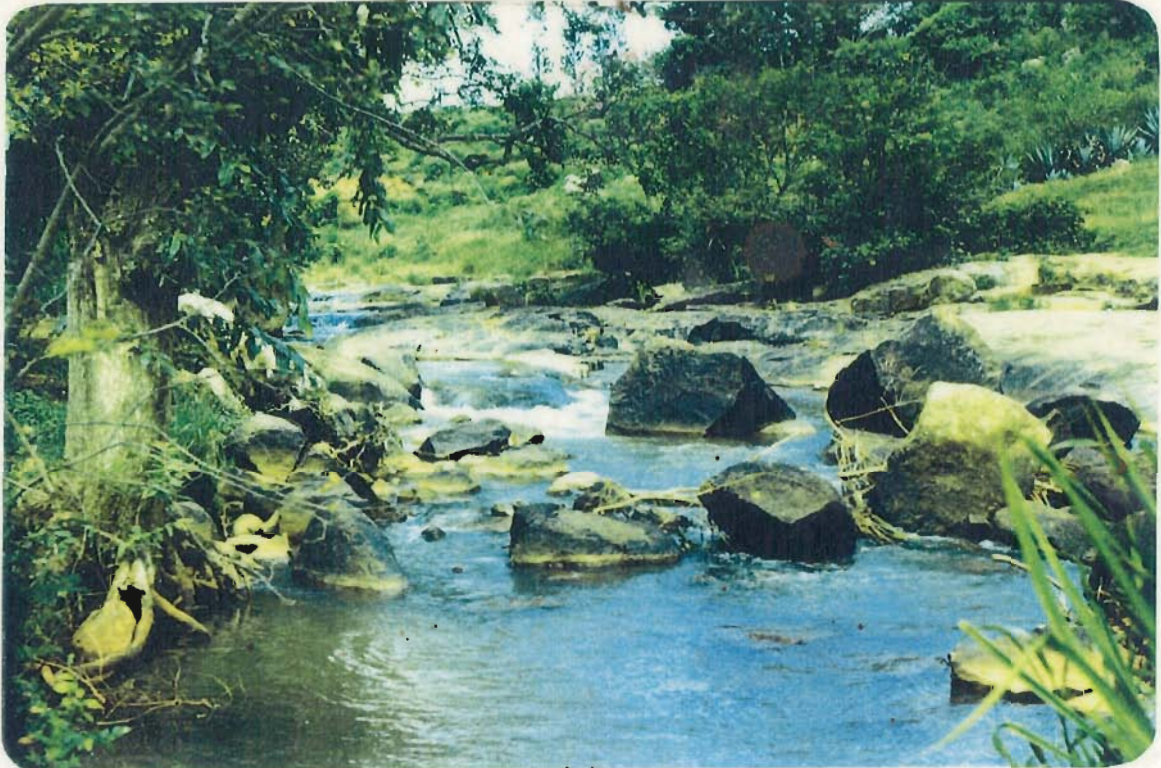
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**SECOND ENVIRONMENTAL OPINION ON THE KOLLI
HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT, TAMIL NADU**

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PA Azeez, S Bhupathy, A Rajasekaran and PR Arun



**Salim Ali Centre For Ornithology & Natural History
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
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6. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History undertook the present study as the High Power Committee on the River valley and Hydro electric Projects of Ministry of Environment and forests sought a second opinion on the Kolli Hydro Electric project's environmental impact.

The scope of the study were to examine i) whether the co- existence of the primitive angiosperm, *Michelia champaka* L. and advanced gymnosperm *Gnetum ula* Brongn is present in other project areas and ii) whether the construction of project components in other areas will affect such 'Hot spot'.

Our study shows that, the co- existence of the primitive angiosperm, *Michelia champaka* L. and an advanced gymnosperm *Gnetum ula* Brongn does not exist in any of the proposed project areas.

The unique association does exist only in the forest area through which the flume connecting the diversion weirs DW-2 and DW-3 was to pass through, as per the initial proposal (Plate 5).

Since the diversion weir (DW-2) and the flume has been dropped as per the revised proposal, the execution of the project in other localities is not likely to affect the co-existence of *Michelia champaka* L. and *Gnetum ula* Brongn.

However, necessary steps should be taken from the part of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board and Forest Department to consrerve the forest area with *Michelia*

champaka L. - *Gnetum ula* association, in order to protect it from any further degradation.

Since Kollimalai is an ecologically important locality in the Eastern Ghats, TNEB should take utmost care in minimising disturbances during the construction phase of the project. Contractors and labour force should be strictly instructed in this direction. Any further augmentation or new projects which may lead to destruction of existing forests or other natural vegetation in Kollimalai should not be pursued.