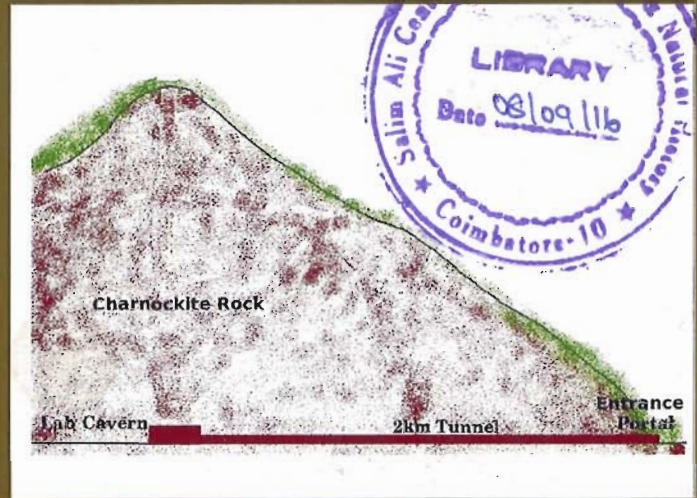


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**RAPID EIA OF THE  
INDIA-BASED NEUTRINO OBSERVATORY PROJECT,  
BODI WEST HILLS, THENI, TAMIL NADU**



**Report submitted to  
Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai  
by**

**PA Azeez, PP Nikhil Raj and M Murugesan**



**Sàlim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History**

**Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu  
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## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Institute of Mathematical Sciences (IMSc), Chennai requested M/s Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) to conduct an Ecological Impact Assessment study of the proposed India-based Neutrinos Observatory (INO) project site at Pottipuram Village, Uthamapalayam Taluk, and Theni district of Tamil Nadu district.
- The present study explored the biological diversity of the project area and its surrounding environment. The study focused on a circular area falling within 5 km radial distance from the site of the portal to the underground laboratories.
- In all, 517 species of plants and 232 species of vertebrates (14 species of amphibians, 27 reptiles, 137 birds and 54 mammals) and 59 species of butterflies were recorded from the study area, a circle of 5 km radius. Several endemic (endemic to the Peninsular India and Western Ghats) and endangered flora and fauna are found in the study area. Nevertheless, none of these species are limited to the study area and are widely distributed elsewhere.
- Most of the construction work of the proposed project will be carried out deep underneath the earth surface. The activities such as blasting, muck dumping and clearing the vegetation will have impacts on the local environment. However, noting that wildlife is rarely reported in the Portal area, the impacts of the activities on them will be effectively negligible. Proper work plan, plans for debris and waste disposal, restricting blasting activities to the optimum, controlled vehicular activities and limiting the number of workers residing in the project site may help to reduce the impacts.
- Infrastructure development for science and technology is vital for a country like India. In this direction, the proposed project, the single most expensive and comprehensive project towards cutting edge science and one of global importance would be a milestone. Nevertheless, during the construction phase, the project is likely to have certain impacts on the environment. However, these impacts are low considering the ecological setup of the area where the project is going to be located. By adopting proper planning and management measures these impacts could be reduced to a considerable extend. During the operation phase, the impact of the project on environment is negligible, except in situations such as certain untoward incident or disasters.