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Conservation Plan for Gaur and Endemic Flora of  
Shevaroy Bauxite Mines, Yercaud,

M/s The Madras Aluminium Company Limited, Mettur Dam  
Salem District, Tamilnadu

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PA Azeez, S Bhupathy, A Rajasekaran and PR Arun

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Salim Ali Centre For Ornithology & Natural History  
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu  
2003

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## 5 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

M/s Madras Aluminium Company limited, based in Mettur were excavating bauxite for aluminium production from Yercaud hills for the last few decades. The mines are located in area under their lease. They propose to increase production of aluminium and envisage this by expanding mining activity in their captive mines. For the clearance from Ministry of Environment and forests MALCO has conducted and EIA. The Ministry's expert committee wanted MALCO to look into the wildlife and floral conservation in view of expansion project. SACON was requested to undertake the study.

SACON's rapid field study supplements the baseline data available in the EIA report submitted by MALCO. Our study hints that Gaur is the only large wild herbivore species present in the mine environs. Their number in the immediate vicinity of the mines is very low. However, it is felt that immediate steps are necessary for conserving the species. The hills, known to be rich in floral biodiversity a number of measures to conserve the natural vegetation and its animal components are proposed. Proper implementation of the suggestions may help in conserving the environment in Yercaud hill ranges.