

TREK TO NILGIRIS

**FOR OFFICER TRAINEES OF
SFC OF MCRHRDIT**

From 15th to 22nd Mar 2020



The Beginning!



MCRHRD



Hyderabad Airport



Coimbatore Airport



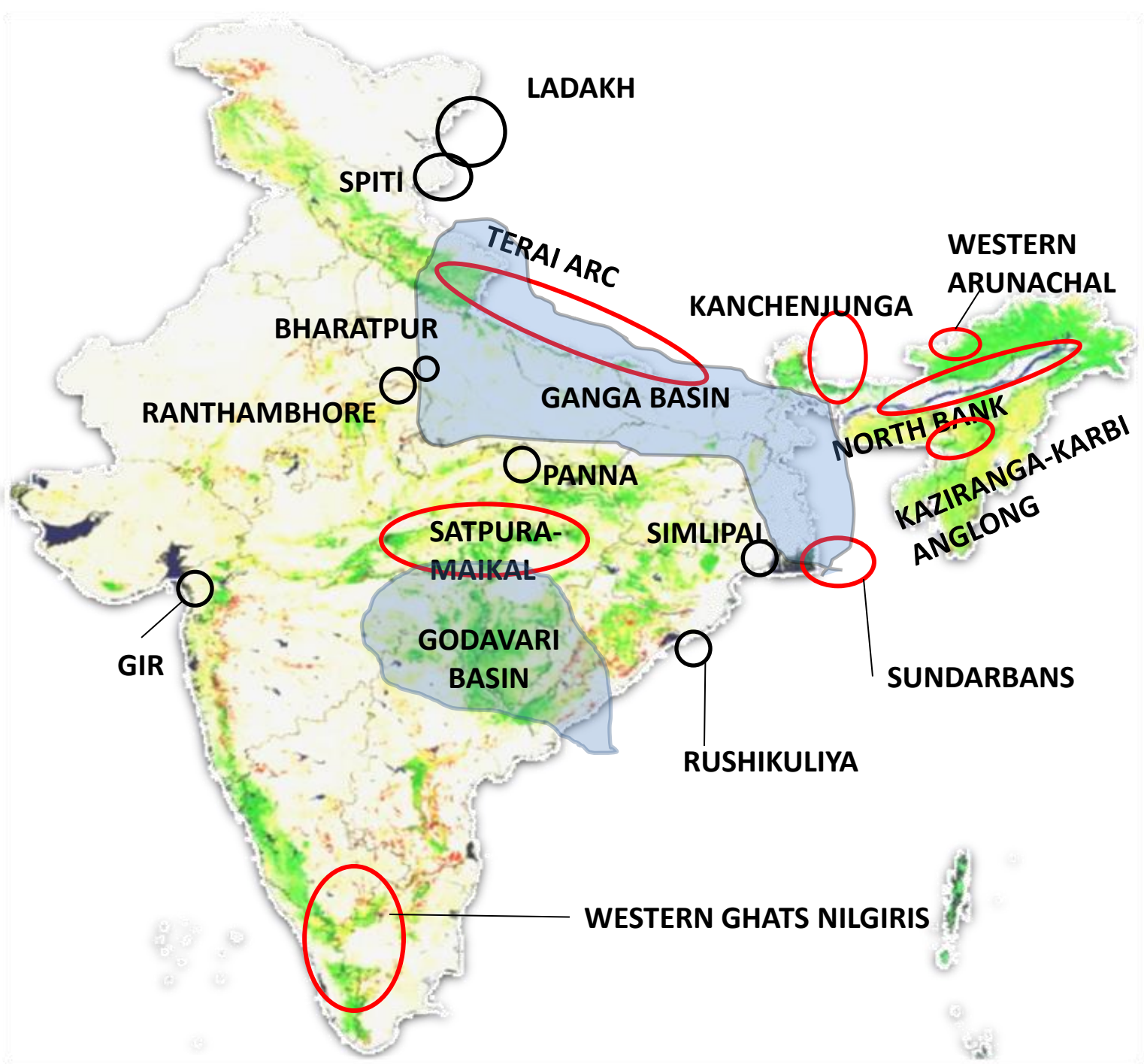
Ooty

6 different campsites





Critical Landscapes



WESTERN GHATS NILGIRIS LANDSCAPE

NORTHERN COMPLEX
Worlds single largest Asian
Elephant Population
Tigers strong hold

SOUTHERN COMPLEX

WAYANAD
WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

BANDIPUR
TIGER RESERVE

MUDUMALAI
TIGER RESERVE

NILGIRI SOUTH
FOREST DIVISION

COIMBATORE
FOREST DIVISION

BILGIRIRANGANSWAMY
TEMPLE
TIGER RESERVE

SATHYAMANGALAM TIGER RESERVE

NILGIRI NORTH FOREST DIVISION

NILGIRI SOUTH
FOREST DIVISION

COIMBATORE
FOREST DIVISION

FOREST DIVISIONS

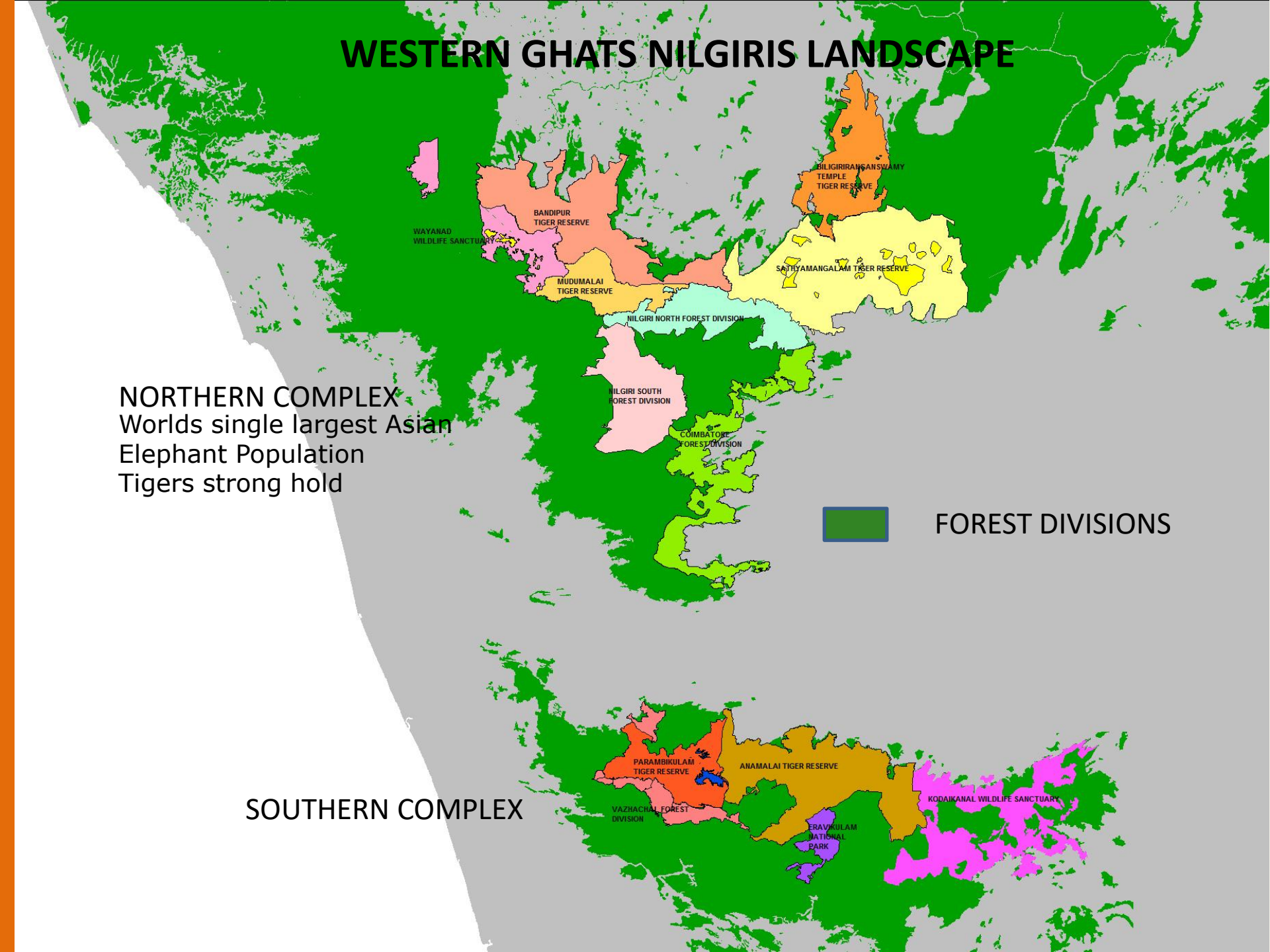
PARAMBICULAM
TIGER RESERVE

ANAMALAI TIGER RESERVE

VAZHACHAL FOREST
DIVISION

ERAVIKULAM
NATIONAL
PARK

KODAIKANAL WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



NILGIRIS LANDSCAPE



WESTERN GHATS NILGIRIS LANDSCAPE

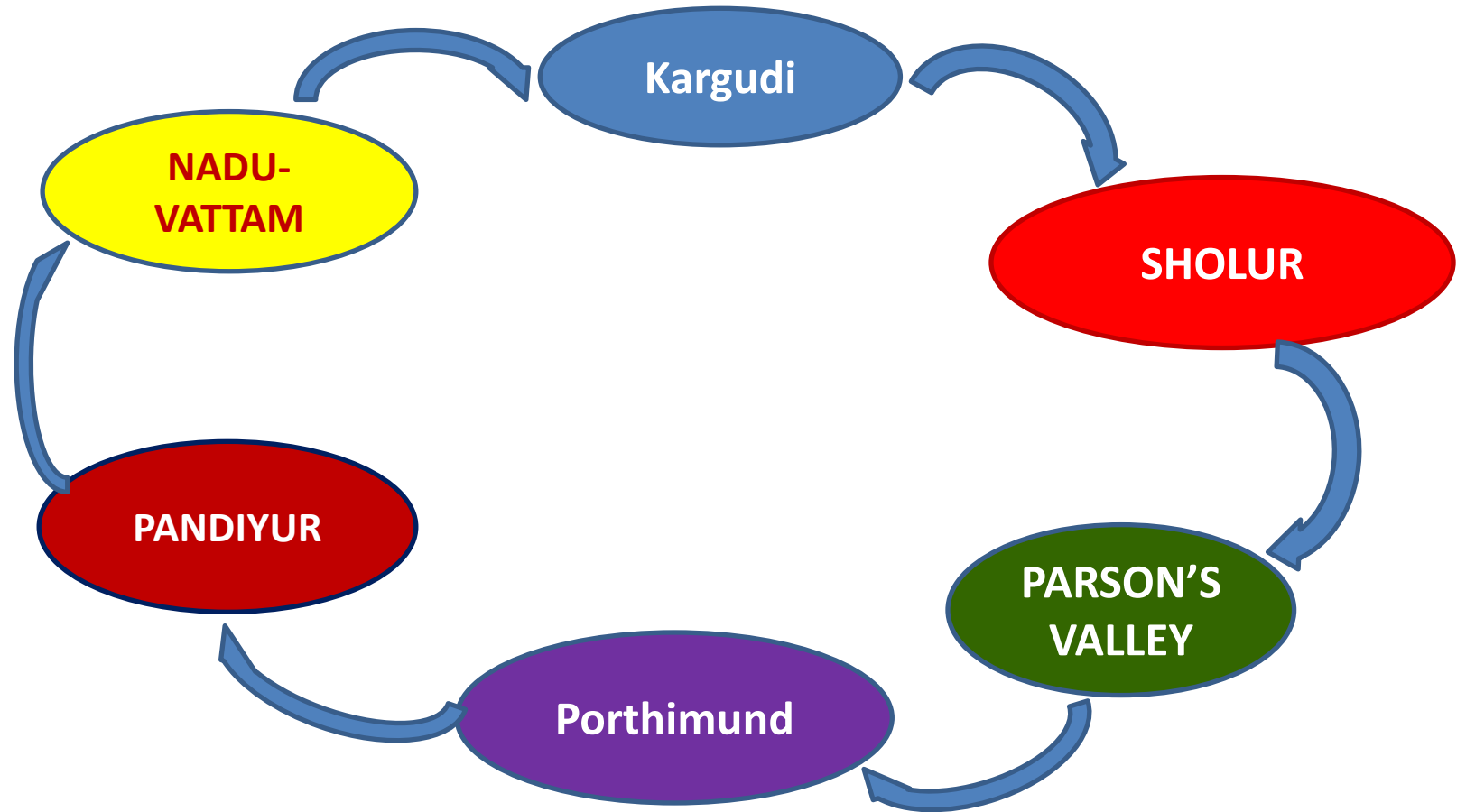
NORTHERN COMPLEX

- It has the single largest contiguous population of Asiatic elephants in its range and holds the key to the long term survival of the species.
- Over 6,000 elephants live in the Nilgiri and Eastern Ghats Landscape which spreads over an area of about 12,000km².
- Other large mammals found in the area are the **gaur, sambar and tiger**. The terrain of the landscape is mostly undulating with low hills.
- The area extends from the south of the **Brahmagiri hills in Karnataka through the Wayanad plateau into the northern Nilgiri hill slopes and the Mysore plateau which links up to the Sigur plateau and the Moyar river valley.**
- The Moyar valley rises up the slopes of the Eastern Ghats leading into the Thalamalai plateau going up to the east of the Biligirirangan range into Bargur, Sathyamangalam and Madeshwaramalai up to the Cauvery River.

SOUTHERN COMPLEX

- **The Southern Western Ghats (SWG) cover an area of 7000km² through the states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu and harbour a very rich floral and faunal biodiversity.**
- **It forms one of the largest contiguous blocks of 'good' forest cover in the Southern Western Ghats.**
- **This region harbours high levels of endemism and over 15 per cent is under the Protected Area network.**
- **Some of the important and unique habitat types found here include wet evergreen forests and sholas in the higher elevations.**
- **The Southern Western Ghats is also a priority terrestrial and freshwater ecoregion of the WWF global programme with the entire Western Ghats complex identified as a Global Ecoregion 200.**

TREK ROUTES



I. Naduvattam to Kargudi

- It is downhill. **Kargudi is located in Mudumalai TR.** This is an **Elephant Habitat.**
- **Deciduous forest** type with **thickets of Lantana.**
- Other wildlife in this area **Chital, Sambar, Gaur, Tiger, Leopard, Sloth bear, Common Langur, Malabar Giant Squirrel.**
- **Mainly need professional trackers or forest personnel accompanying** and walking in front in the **Elephant field.**
- Avoiding **bright colour clothes**, maintain silence, avoiding **fragrances/ perfumes** is very important.



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II. Kargudi to Sholur

- The vegetation in **Kargudi to Masinagudi** is **dry deciduous** and **Masinagudi to Vazhaithottam** is **dry thorn forests**
- **Elephant rich area. Visibility will be poor**
- **Theppakadu** of Mudumalai TR is nearer to Kargudi. **There is an elephant camp and Interpretation center at Theppakadu.**
- River Moyar flows along the Kargudi to Theppakadu area. You can see **Kurumba tribes** around Kargudi region.
- **Sholur** is on the top of the blue mountain.
- In **Kalhatty slopes**, presently **Neelakurinji flowering** can be seen. **It is in the last stage now.**

- The **vegetation is dry thorn forest.**
- One should **have full sleeve dress so that he/she can avoid scratches from thorny plants especially Lantana.** The habitat is **full of Lantana and Eupatorium (invasive alien species) as under-storey.**
- Wildlife in this area are **Chital, Sambar, Black buck, Gaur, Elephant, Tiger, Leopard, Sloth bear, Common Langur, Malabar Giant Squirrel. Vulture and Great pied hornbill** can be seen.







NILGIRI TAHR





III. Sholur to Parson's Valley

- The route lies completely in the **upper plateau of Nilgiris**
- **Shola patches, grasslands and large tracts of Wattle and Eucalyptus Plantations** in this region.
- Wildlife such as **Sambar, Indian Gaur, Nilgiri Langur, Common Langur, Feral buffalo, Wild dog** can be seen. **Tiger, leopard and sloth bear** is also present here.
- **No Elephants here.**



IV. Parson's Valley to Porthimund

- It is complete shola / evergreen patches and patch of grasslands.
- **Wattle and Eucalyptus plantations** which were planted during British period are seen
- There are **dams and reservoirs** like **Avalanche and Emerald**
- Chilling weather, full of **Leeches.**
- **Nilgiri Tahr, Indian Gaur, Sambar deer, Barking deer, Tiger, Leopard, Sloth bear, Nilgiri Marten, Nilgiri Langur, Feral buffalo and Jackal** present in this area

- **Nilgiri Langur, Sambar and Feral buffalo can be sighted**
- **A good place for birding - Nilgiri Flycatcher, Nilgiri Laughing thrush, Nilgiri wood Pigeon, Emerald Dove, Grey headed canary Flycatcher, Rufous bellied short wing, Verditor Flycatcher, black and orange Flycatcher, great Tit, black Bulbul, Nilgiri Pipit among other birds**

The misty view



Unpredictable rains





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V. Porthimund to Pandiyar

- The route starts from upper plateau and runs down to **Gudalur Forest Division through Mukurti peak.**
- **Shola patches, grasslands and wattles** are present in upper plateau and while going down tall grass , coffee, cardamom, Tea plantation and Lantana are seen in the region.
- Wildlife in this area include **Nilgiri Tahr, Elephant, Tiger, leopard and sloth bear, Malabar Giant Squirrel, Sambar, Nilgiri Langur, Lion tailed macaque and great pied hornbill** can be seen in **O valley slopes.**

VI. Pandiyar to Naduvattam

- It is surrounded with **tea gardens, evergreen / Shola forest** patches. **The walk will be slippery and Leech's area. One has to have Leech proof socks and salt / Dettol to apply for leeches. Tobacco ash or salt sprinkled on the leeches also works.**
- It is an area of landscape view situated in the upper plateau of Nilgiris. Sometimes it rains. Wildlife in this area are- **Nilgiri Langur, Common Langur, Barking Deer, Wild dog, Wild Boar, Gaur, Sambar and Nilgiri Tahr.**
- This area comes under part of **Mukurthi – Mudumalai corridor mainly for large carnivores.**



ENDEMIC FROGS



Fejervarya neilcoxi
Burrowing frog



Fejervarya manoharani
Burrowing frog



Fejervarya cepfi
Burrowing frog



Nasikabatrachus sahyadrensis
Purple or Indian purple frog, pignose frog



ENDEMIC BIRDS



Black and orange flycatcher



Blue Winged Parakeet



Broad tailed grass bird



Crimson backed sunbird



White bellied flycatcher



Malabar Grey Hornbill



Rufous Babbler



Wyaad laughing thrush



ENDEMIC MAMMALS and FISH



Nilgiri Tahr



Lion-tailed Macaque



Nilgiri Langur



Malabar spotted Civet



Brown Palm Civet



Nilgiri Marten



Denison barb-Miss Kerala



Rainbow Trout



PLANTS



Kurinji Flower



Lantana



Myristica swamp



Myristica malabarica



If you want to go fast,
go alone
If you want to go far,
go together”

Thank You!!