



ABSTRACT

Environment and Climate Change – Announcement for the year 2025-2026 - Establishment of Tamil Nadu Marine Resource Foundation with an initial seed fund of Rs. 50.00 crores from Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board – Sanction accorded - Orders issued.

Environment, Climate Change and Forest (EC-1) Department

G.O.(2D) No.110

Dated: 09.06.2025

விசுவாவச, கைகாசி- 26

திருவாளூவர் ஆண்டு- 2056

Read:

From the Director, Department of Environment and Climate Change letter No. DOECC-01/73/2025-PA-TNCCM, dated: 07.05.2025.

ORDER:

While presenting Budget Estimate for the year 2025-2026, the Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Environment and Climate Change in his Budget Speech among others, has made the following announcement:-

"The Government will establish a 'Marine Resource Foundation,' with an initial funding of Rs. 50 crores, to focus on key initiatives such as mangrove forest conservation and the adoption of modern fishing practices to ensure sustainable marine resource management."

2. Based on the above announcement, in the letter read above, the Director, Department of Environment and Climate Change has sent a proposal to the Government wherein he has stated as follows:-

- (i) Tamil Nadu, with its extensive 1,068.69 km coastline, is home to diverse and ecologically significant marine ecosystems, including mangrove forests, coral reefs, and sea grass beds. These ecosystems play a crucial role in coastal protection, carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, and the livelihoods of coastal communities. However, increasing threats such as climate change, habitat degradation, pollution, and unsustainable fishing practices pose significant risks to these valuable resources.
- (ii) Recognizing the urgent need to conserve and sustainably manage marine and coastal biodiversity, the Government of Tamil Nadu proposes the establishment of the **Tamil Nadu Marine Resource Foundation (TN-MRF)**. This initiative will provide a structured, research-driven, and community-inclusive approach to marine conservation and resource management.

(iii) Mission and Vision

Mission

To protect, restore and sustainably manage Tamil Nadu's marine and coastal ecosystems through conservation initiatives, scientific research, sustainable livelihood promotion and awareness.

Vision

To ensure long-term ecological health of marine ecosystems and enhance climate resilience and well-being of Tamil Nadu's coastal communities.

(iii) The proposed Tamil Nadu Marine Resource Foundation will work towards the following key objectives:

- a. To conserve the ecology and biodiversity of marine ecosystems in Tamil Nadu through activities such as protection, upkeep, restoration, regeneration, breeding, sustainable use and preservation, in alignment with relevant statutory provisions for wildlife habitats and coastal landscapes, including marine zones, coral reefs, beaches, sand dunes and mudflats.
- b. To enhance sustainable livelihood opportunities, safeguard cultural heritage and strengthen community resilience especially among coastal fisher folk through awareness campaigns and capacity-building initiatives, addressing vulnerabilities, including those posed by climate change.
- c. To develop eco-tourism and support the creation of infrastructure facilities that promotes nature education and recreational opportunities for the public and visitors in coastal, island and marine areas.
- d. To safeguard and nurture the ecological balance and biodiversity of Tamil Nadu's marine ecosystems by undertaking initiatives such as protection, upkeep, habitat restoration, species regeneration, sustainable resource use, and long-term conservation, in line with statutory frameworks governing coastal landscapes including coral reefs, marine zones, beaches, sand dunes, and mudflats.
- e. To foster environmental literacy and public consciousness regarding the importance of preserving mangrove forests and marine ecosystems.
- f. To channelize financial, technical and voluntary support from Universities, Civil Society Organisations, Research bodies, industries, donor organizations and other stakeholders, towards initiatives focused on conserving, restoring and sustainably utilizing mangrove habitats and marine resources in Tamil Nadu.
- g. To establish collaborative platforms that bring together experts, practitioners, research institutions, universities, consultants and organizations working towards the rehabilitation, protection and advancement of mangrove and marine ecosystem.
- h. To facilitate the systematic gathering, analysis and dissemination of knowledge and data related to marine biodiversity and associated ecosystems to support evidence-based conservation strategies.

- i. To undertake any ancillary or supportive activities that warrant fulfilment of the Foundation's mission and objectives.
- (iv) The proposed Foundation will be registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860 and governed by a Board of Governors, consisting of key stakeholders from Government, academia and civil society which will convene annually to review progress and decide on activities and strategies for Tamil Nadu Marine Resource Foundation. The Director, Department of Environment and Climate Change will be the Member Secretary who will oversee the Foundation's operations and ensure alignment with State priorities.

Board of Governors of the proposed Foundation will be as follows:-

1.	Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department	Chairperson
2.	Secretary to Government, Finance Department / Nominee	Member
3.	Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Fishermen welfare Department /Nominee	Member
4.	Secretary to Government, Housing and Urban Development Department / Nominee	Member
5.	Chairperson, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) /Nominee	Member
6.	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forests Force) / Nominee	Member
7.	Chief Mission Director, Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission/ Nominee	Member
8.	Director, National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) / Nominee	Member
9.	Director, Department of Environment and Climate Change	Member Secretary / Convenor

3. The Director, Department of Environment and Climate Change has also stated that the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) will provide an initial seed fund of Rs. 50 Crores for the establishment of Tamil Nadu Marine Resource Foundation and this will serve as the foundation for launching conservation programmes, research initiatives and community engagement efforts. Additional funding will be mobilized from:-

- **State and Central Government Schemes:** Collaboration with Government agencies to access financial resources for marine conservation projects.
- **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Contributions:** Engaging private sector entities to support conservation initiatives.
- **International Grants and Funding Agencies:** Seeking support from global environmental and climate change funding bodies.

4. The Director, Department of Environment and Climate Change has requested the orders of the Government to establish Tamil Nadu Marine Resource Foundation with an initial seed fund of Rs.50.00 crore from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board through, Department of Environment and Climate Change.

5. The Government, after careful examination, accept the proposal of the Director, Department of Environment and Climate Change and direct that Tamil Nadu Marine Resource Foundation (TN-MRF) be established with an initial seed fund of Rs.50.00 crore (Rupees Fifty Crore only) from Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board through, Department of Environment and Climate Change.

6. The Government further direct the Department of Environment and Climate Change shall get necessary exemptions from Income Tax Department for accepting donations as well as income, before transfer of funds by Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.

7. This order issues with the concurrence of Finance Department, vide its U.O No. (efile)10439387/ Fin(AHDF&FW)Dept/2025, dated: 23.05.2025.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

**SUPRIYA SAHU
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

To

The Director, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Chennai-35.

The Chairperson, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai-32.

The Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai-32

Copy to:

The Senior Personal Assistant to the Hon'ble Minister (Finance and Environment, Climate Change), Chennai-9.

The Private Secretary to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department, Chennai-9.

The Private Secretary to the Special Secretary (Environment, Climate Change), Chennai-9.

The Finance (E,CC&F) Department, Chennai-9.

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//FORWARDED BY ORDER//

G. V. M. A. P.
SECTION OFFICER
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