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Sustainable Development of Village Panchayath Coming under ESZ

Conservation of Western Ghats of India which is rich in biodiversity is a globally recognized issue. Government of India has taken several measures to achieve this goal through its five-year plans and appointed various committees to study and make reports on sustainable development focusing on ecological preservation in Western Ghats (WG). WGEEP and HLWG reports provided certain guidelines to attain sustainability and ensure ecological conservation by involving local governing bodies and community participation. These reports highlighted the need for a local development plan. The study titled "Sustainable Development of Village Panchayat Coming under ESZ" aims at formulating a development model which is sustainable and nature centred for a village panchayat categorized under ESZ in Western Ghats region. Udumbanoor panchayat is chosen for the study as the panchayat was mentioned in two reports WGEEP and HLWG and in the path of development at the cost of forest cover.