

Ethnic Terminologies for Terrain Features of Kadar Community Endemic to Anamalai Part of Western Ghats

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“Indigenous communities are distinct ethnic group who are usually confined to definite geographical areas, speak a common dialect, and are culturally homogenous and unifying social organization”. India holds nearly 28% of the world indigenous people. Kerala has 36 indigenous communities (1.45% of the total population of Kerala) of which five (Kattunaikar, Cholanai, Kurumbar, Kadar and Koragars) are Particularly Vulnerable Tribes (PVTGs). Kadar, the king of the Anamalai, are Negroid tribe, food gathering, seasonally nomadic, and forest dwelling communities and are one of the PVTGs in Kerala. They have deep knowledge about the evergreen forests, trees, animals, every simple indication of the forest and also common dialect and terminologies for each element in their surroundings. Such as mountains, rocks, valleys, rivers, rivulets etc., all these above said features are further associated with an

adjective that refers to a sub-feature indicating their lives, some incidents or persons or nature of the terrain such as open forest, degraded area, sacred area etc., like the Kadar land mark name “*Orukombankooty*” located in the boundary of Parambikulam actually indicates the name of the place “*Orukomban*” with an adjective “*Kooty*” generally referring to the point of the confluence of tributaries of the three major tributaries of the Chalakkudy River through this method documented 18 ethnic terminologies of terrain features related to hill was 11, Related to water bodies 3, Related to terrestrial areas 4, terminologies used by Kadar tribes.

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