

We Chenchu people are appealing to you.

The forest department is planning to evict us from this place. We do not want to go anywhere. We protect our forest. If we go outside it is like taking a fish out of the water, it will die. In the same way we will die in the plains areas.

They are not allowing any development in our villages, the forest department is stopping all the developments. They are not allowing us to dig wells, to build check-dams and ponds. They are refusing us permission to do these things.

In the name of the tiger reserve the forest department is not allowing the Chenchu to live in the forest and they're not allowing us to build our huts. During the summer season, because of forest fires, our houses are getting burnt and sometimes people die and we lose many valuable things.

We have been living with wildlife for generations and we have never faced any problem with them. They are our relatives.

The tiger is our big son, and god.

The panther is our father in law.

The bear is our brother in law.

We worship the snake as a goddess.

These are the relationships we have with these animals.

People who come from outside for their own business are cutting all the trees, but we Chenchu only take what we need, we protect the trees.

To protect our forest you must give the forest jobs only to the Chenchus who live in the forest. The Chenchu are the only hope to protect the forest.

But now the government, for their own benefit, are separating the Chenchu from the forest, this is like separating children from their

mothers.

Mainly the government is selling the forest to mining companies.

If we go to the plains areas we will become addicted to alcohol and we will drink and die.

In the future the Chenchu would only be seen in photographs and videos.

Please protect the Chenchu from the forest department.

We live in the forest and we will die in the forest.

The forest is our mother and our life. Wildlife is our life, without wildlife we cannot live.