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Title : Need to formulate and implement an action plan for the protection of the bio-diversity of Pampa and other river basins in Kerala.

SHRI K. P. DHANAPALAN (CHALAKUDY): It is a welcome step that five ecosystems have been identified in the State of Kerala to be designated as Bio-diversity heritage sites. The ecosystems identified are Kalasamala at Kunnamkulam, Trissur, Connoly's teak plantation in Nilambur, Malarpuram and Iringole kavu in Perumbavoor, Ernakulam, Paliyeri Mookambika kavu at Karivallur, Kannur and Pathiramanal island in Allappuzha. Equally important is the long-standing demands and expert opinions to protect bio-diversity of Pampa river.

Experts have urged the State Government to demarcate Pampa River as a biological hot-spot in accordance with the provisions of the Bio-Diversity Act 2002 and formulate an action plan to protect the bio-diversity in the river basin and declaring the river a Bio-diversity Protected Zone. Sabarimala, Periyar Tiger Reserve, Achankovil Forest Zone, and a part of Western Ghat are bio-diverse sites on the bank of Pampa River. An eco-friendly action plan is the immediate need for biodiversity conservation of the Pampa. The Board on Bio-Diversity heritage sites should submit a proposal on biodiversity conservation of the Pampa to the Government and do the needful here. In this way, the protection of river banks growing indigenous flora could be encouraged. Earlier, the Bio-Diversity Board had initiated a programme to monitor fish in all 44 rivers in the state with public participation. There should be concerted efforts from the sides of the Government and Board to formulate and implement the action plan for the protection of the bio-diversity of Pampa and other river basins in the State.