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Master plan for tourism development prepared

A Correspondent

KALPETTA: A comprehensive master plan aimed at the rapid development of different sectors in the district, including tourism, has been set and handed over to M.I. Shanavas, MP, by the Wayanad Tourism Organisation (WTO), an organisation of property owners in the district, recently.

The plan envisages different projects for the development of the district based on geographical, population ratio and social and cultural characteristics. It focussed on tapping the tourism potential of the district and utilising it as an alternative solution for the development of the agrarian sector.

The plan suggested the authorities to adopt anticipatory measures against the commercialising trend in the ecologically significant tourism destinations in the district. It proposes to implement a cable car project for Edakkal cave and set up an international-standard interpretation centre at Sulthan Bathery to provide ample information on the cultural importance of the district with the help of the modern digital technology.

The plan also suggests implementation of 'Pookode for ever' — a project to protect the eco-diversity and natural environment of Pookode Lake, one of the biggest natural freshwater lakes in the State. This project highlights the protection of indigenous fish habitats and the natural vegetation on the lakebed.

To tap the adventure tourism possibilities of the district, the plan proposes to set up an adventure sports academy at Mananthavadi. Apart from the construction of an airstrip for small aircraft, the plan also proposes to start paragliding facilities to attract adventure tourists.

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Written by Administrator

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K. Vancheeswaran, secretary of WTO; C.P. Shylesh, Joint secretary; and O.M. Rakesh, general convener, Splash 2009; handed over the master plan to Mr. Shanavas