

SUGGESTIVE GUIDELINES FOR FELLING AND TRANSIT REGULATIONS FOR TREE SPECIES GROWN ON NON FOREST PRIVATE LANDS

OBJECTIVE

The objective is to increase forest and tree cover of the country from present 23.03 per cent to 33 per cent of the geographical area as envisaged in the National Forest Policy, 1988 through the promotion of plantation of tree species on non- forest private lands.

STRATEGY

To request the State Governments to prepare an enabling environment for private plantation by simplifying the procedures for obtaining the permission for felling/transit of tree species/produce thereof grown on private non-forest land so that people are encouraged to adopt Farm/Agro /Homestead Forestry in a big way.

APPLICABILITY

These suggestive guidelines are not meant for North Eastern States where guidelines have already been issued earlier in compliance of the orders of the Supreme Court. Other State Governments also shall take note of directions of various courts in this context.

TERMINOLOGY

Following are the meanings of the some of the important terms used in these suggestive guidelines

“Highly Restricted Tree Species” means such valuable tree species which are mainly found/planted in forest areas. Some examples are Sandalwood, Red Sanders, Rose wood, Khair, Sal, Deodar.

“Restricted Tree Species” means such species which are found/planted both in forest areas and non forest private lands. Two examples are Teak and Sissoo.

“Other Tree Species” means all tree species which do not come under the categories of “Highly Restricted Tree Species” and “Restricted Tree Species”

“Very Sensitive Areas” means Mangrove, CRZ, Eco-sensitive and Urban areas.

“Sensitive Areas” means areas above 1000 above MSL.

“Other Areas” means areas which do not come under the categories of “Very Sensitive Areas” and “Sensitive Areas”.

“Category A Tree Species” means “Highly Restricted Tree Species” and all tree species found/planted on “Very Sensitive Areas”.

“Category B Tree Species” means “Restricted Tree Species” and all tree species found/planted on “Sensitive Areas”.

“Category C Tree Species” means all Tree Species which do not come under the Category A and Category B Tree species.

“Prescribed Authority” means the authority designated by the State/UT Governments to carry out identified functions under rules and regulations for felling/transit of trees grown on non forest private lands.

PRESCRIBED AUTHORITY (PA)

Prescribed Authorities for authorizing various activities are suggested in the following table.

Category of Tree Species	PA for issuing felling permission	PA for issuing transit permission	PA for issuing transit pass	PA for issuing exchange /in lieu transit passes
A	Not below DCF/DFO	RFO	Forester/Dy.Ranger	Trader registered with Forest Department
B	Not above RFO	RFO	-do-	-do-
C	Permission not required	Permission not required	Pass not required	Pass not required

OTHER CONDITIONS

Following are the other suggestions while framing new or modifying existing felling and transit rules and regulations.

- 1- A time limit may be fixed within which a decision shall be taken by the PA on an application for felling/transit
- 2- No permission should be required for felling of tree for bona-fide domestic use of the owner of the tree in the rural areas within the boundary limit of the Gram Sabha
- 3- Individuals may be motivated to plant more trees than permitted for felling but this may not be the conditionality.

- 4- For inter state movement of farm/agro forestry produce the State Governments of concerned states can develop suitable simplified mechanism of inter – state transit passes.

GENERAL

- (i) Above are suggestions for the State/UT Governments. They are free to have more simplified procedures than suggested above.
- (ii) If any State/UT already have simpler procedures they may continue with them and further simplify the same
- (iii) State/UT Governments are requested to send a copy of rules and regulations applicable in their jurisdiction particularly after the simplification done, if any.
- (iv) States/UTs must develop an efficient extension mechanism for the publicity of simplified procedures for felling of trees and transit of forest produce thereof
- (v) State/UT Governments may consider to limit the number of category A and category B species to five in each category.

MISSION AND VISION:

Keeping in view the objective and strategy stated above and without compromising the interest of the forest and tree conservation the mission and vision of the suggestive guidelines are envisaged as under:

MISSION (SHORT TERM GOAL)

To create a conducive environment, which encourages the individuals to adopt farm/agro/homestead forestry. (The ideal would be a list of not more than 3-5 category A species and no category B species at all.)

VISION (LONG TERM GOAL)

Felling and transit restrictions w.r.t trees planted on non forest private lands are completely removed.
