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Dear

Following are the highlights of the achievements and activities of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) for the month of **August, 2016**:

1. Rules/Notifications/Policy Decisions

- 1.1 Indo-US Dialogue was held on issues of mutual interest and urgent global matters under negotiation in multilateral fora. The outcome of Joint Working Group (JWG) on Climate Change held on 31st August 2016 was appreciated by MoEF&CC on long term cooperation in areas such as Air Quality, Climate Resilience, Climate Fellowships, Forestry and Energy co-operation.

The need for continued dialogue on sustainable lifestyles, phase down of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under Montreal Protocol, Research and Development, cooperation on Global Market Based Measures (GMBM) under International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and implementation of Paris Agreement was emphasised.

- 1.2 Guideline issued for extending last date upto 31.08.2016 for accepting proposals for prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for use of broken up forest land for mining and allied activities.

2. Conferences/Workshops/Seminars and other activities

- 2.1 National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) conducted "Orientation Workshop for Trainee Teachers" of Diploma in Elementary Education and District Institute of Education and Training, R. K. Puram, New Delhi on 23 - 24 August, 2016 at New Delhi on 'Environment Education - Non-formal approaches', 'Nature - the open school of education' and 'Importance of Eco-clubs in schools'.
- 2.2 Regional Museum of Natural History (RMNH), Mysuru continued the Van Mahotsav programme in three schools during the month of August-2016, which started on July 19 in RMNH campus. During the programme, about 10 species of flowering, fruit bearing and medicinal and shady plants were planted in the identified school campus.

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- 2.3 RMNH, Bhopal organized a workshop on “Urban Biodiversity Watch” for the school teachers in August 20, 2016, in collaboration with M.P. State Biodiversity Board, Bhopal and Bhopal Birds, NGO.
- 2.4 RMNH, Sawai Madhopur conducted a declamation contest on 29th July, 2016, with about 60 college students on the theme “*Tiger- A Flagship Species*” to commemorate “International Tiger Day-2016”.
- 2.5 A stuffed specimen of Common Eland (*Taurotragus oryx*), also known as the southern eland or eland antelope, from the reserve collection of RMNH, Mysuru was exhibited in August, 2016. This is a savannah and plains antelope found in East and Southern Africa, and belongs to the family Bovidae and genus Taurotragus.
- 2.6 A multi-coloured brochure on the Exhibition of Intangible Natural heritage of Odisha was released by RMNH, Bhubaneswar on the Foundation Day Function on 10th August, 2016.
- 2.7 Chemical treatment of zoological specimens was carried out at RMNH, Sawai Madhopur after these were shifted from NMNH, New Delhi to RMNH, Sawai Madhopur. Initial Chemical treatment has been given to the Zoological Specimens i.e. Tibetan Yak, White Tiger, Spotted deer, Sloth bear, Cup sponge, Black Buck, Cheetah, Golden Langur, Clouded Leopard, Snow Leopard and few Birds, for better preservation.
- 2.8 Country’s first Tiger Cell has been set up at Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun which was inaugurated on 6th August, 2016. A Memorandum of Association of Understanding (MoU) has been executed between WII and National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for establishment of the Tiger Cell at WII which will house a database of tigers and help in conservation efforts by keeping an update on tiger numbers as well as tracking poaching incidents throughout the country.
- 2.9 For developing and strengthening the forensic capacity of a neighbouring country, the WII organized a course on ‘DNA Based Wildlife Forensic Techniques’ for the Officers from Nepal on 1-6 August, 2016 at Dehradun.
- 2.10 130th Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) meeting was held on 11th August, 2016 in which 7 pharmaceutical applications and 4 agricultural applications were approved. 6 applications seeking additional location or extension of validity period has also been cleared. GEAC secretariat has cleared all the applications till date.



2.11 A report prepared by sub-committee incorporating the evaluation of biosafety data generated by the applicant along with inputs of Risk Assessment unit of Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) on the subject was submitted to GEAC which suggested that the report may be placed in MoEF&CC website for a period of 30 days from the date of placing in the website for inviting comments from Stakeholders and other public till 5th October, 2016. The comments received will be reviewed by the sub-committee and GEAC prior to taking appropriate decision.

2.12 Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

MoEF&CC organized the Swachh Bharat Pakhwara from 1st to 15th August, 2016 in line with the International Youth Day which fell on 12th August, 2016. The Eco-clubs established under the National Green Corps Programme of the Ministry carried out various activities relating to Swachhta such as Safai Abhiyan at nearby commercial areas and markets, roads, etc., meetings/lectures conducted on related themes, cleaning of public wells, ponds and rivers of the locality, tree plantation drive/greening neighbourhood, Nukkad nataks played in prayer time to imbibe the sense of cleanliness among the students so that they can convey this message to their family and neighbourhood, volunteers took pledges on related themes, organized rallies and poster and slogan competitions on related themes, etc. Nearly 20 lakh youth participated in various activities.

Rear gate area of the museum has been made clean under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan on August 24, 2016 by the Officers and officials of RMNH, Bhopal. RMNH, Sawai Madhopur continued cleaning programme in the museum campus during the month of August, 2016.

2.13 Eco Sensitive Zones

294 complete proposals have been received so far for notifying 429 Protected Areas (PAs) of a total 646 PAs in the country. Of these, 278 ESZ proposals have been notified/approved consisting of a total of 410 Protected Areas.

2.14 Forest Clearances

During the month, **476.90** ha of forest land in **71** cases were approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. **55.19** ha of non-forest land and **872.63** ha of degraded forest land were earmarked for Compensatory Afforestation (C.A.).

