



D.O.No.24011/9/2016-GC (Vol.II)

November 10, 2016

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 **October, 2016**:

1. Rules/Notifications/Policy Decisions

1.1 One Guideline on diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 during the month of October, 2016 has been issued.

2. Conferences/Workshops/Seminars and other activities

2.1 **Montreal Protocol**- Indian delegation participated in the Open Ended Working Group and Meeting of Parties on the amendment in Montreal Protocol for phase down of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) during 6th to 14th October, 2016 at Kigali, Rwanda. The MEFCC led the delegation in the Meeting of Parties. The negotiations were held successfully putting forth the important concerns of India and other developing countries. As a result, for the first time under Montreal Protocol a policy of differentiations has been adopted based on the stage of development and two set of baselines have been for within developing countries.

2.2 **23rd BASIC Ministerial Meeting** was held during 16-17 October, 2016 in Marrakesh, Morocco. It was agreed that cooperation among the BASIC countries would be strengthened at the level of experts and institutions to ensure common understanding of issues and positions on climate change.

2.3 Indian Delegation participated in **CoP 17, CITES** (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) at Johannesburg, South Africa. A side event **Tiger Conservation in India- Defying All Odds** was convened on 2nd October, 2016 to showcase India's path breaking efforts leading to the increase of its wild tiger population.

2.4 A monitoring committee for overseeing outbreak of H5 avian influenza was constituted as per the instructions of Hon'ble MoEF&CC. This committee has to oversee the daily incidences of H5 avian influenza in the National Zoological Park and other zoos of the country and make daily report to Hon'ble Minister, EF&CC.



- 2.5 Workshop on Landscape Ecology and Wildlife Conservation on 4th -5th October, 2016 and Training Course on Landscape Ecology in Wildlife Research and Conservation from 7-11th October, 2016 was organized by Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun.
- 2.6 Training Expedition on 'Integrated Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas' was organized for field level staff of the Maharashtra Forest Department from 4-7th October, 2016 at the Indian Institute of Scuba Diving and Aquatic Sports (IISDA), Maharashtra by WII, Dehradun.
- 2.7 On the occasion of **Wildlife Week** in first week of October, National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) and other regional offices organized various activities like poem and essay writing competitions, Lecture on 'Save Wildlife for Future', Painting Competition, Wildlife Photography Exhibition cum contest.
- 2.8 To inculcate the practice of observation and enhancing their knowledge base, a research oriented School Bio-Diversity Programme has been initiated by NMNH for school children of Delhi-NCR Region.
- 2.9 International Conference and Exhibition on "Empire and Environment Heritage of India" was organized by RMNH, Mysore in collaboration with British Library and Centre for World Environmental History (University of Sussex) UK.
- 2.10 A two days Conference of Additional Chief Secretaries (Forests)/ PCCFs (HoFFS) / Principal Secretaries (Forests) and CWLWS of all States/UTs was organized on 21-22 October, 2016 on various issues like CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, Bamboo utilization etc.
- 2.11 Ambient Air Quality monitoring and Noise monitoring was conducted to assess the impact of crackers in Delhi during Deepavali. A press release on the same was published by CPCB and was placed at its website.
- 2.12 On the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas and Vigilance Week, a pledge taking ceremony was organized in Indira Parayavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh, New Delhi.
- 2.13 **Eco Sensitive Zones**

Of a total of **648 Protected Areas (PAs)** in the country, **ESZ proposals for 499 PAs** have been received in **WL Division**, of which 437 PAs have been forwarded to ESZ Division. Of the 435 proposals, **Draft notifications** have been published for **242 PAs** and **Final Notifications** have been published for **152 PAs**. ESZ proposals of 21 PAs are under various stages of notification.

WL Division has informed that in addition, about 60 proposals received from States are under examination at their end and those found to be complete in all aspects would be sent to ESZ Division for notification.

2.14 **Environmental Clearances**

During the month, a total of 134 projects pertaining to different sectors were appraised, out of which 47 projects were accorded environmental clearance and 31 projects were prescribed TORs in various meetings of Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC). So, a total of 78 proposals were cleared during the month. The status of adequate environmental safeguards of various projects is at **Annexure-I**.

2.15 **Forest Clearances**

During the month, **1329.91** ha of forest land in **51** cases were approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. **714.9099** ha of non-forest land and **1294.953** ha of degraded forest land were earmarked for Compensatory Afforestation (C.A.).

2.16 **Plan Expenditure**

The Plan Expenditure against the 9Umbrella Schemes being administered by the Ministry incurred till **31th October, 2016** was **Rs.1098.09crore** against the budget estimates for 2016-17 of **Rs.2000.00 crore**.

3. Important policy matters held up on account of prolonged inter-ministerial consultations: **NIL**

4. Compliance of CoS decisions: **NIL**

No. of CoS decisions pending for compliance	Proposed action plan/time lines for compliance of CoS decisions	Remarks
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5. Number of cases of 'sanction for prosecution' pending for more than three months: **NIL**

6. Particulars of cases in which there has been a departure from the Transaction of Business Rules or established policy of the Government:
NIL

7. Status of implementation of e-Governance:

Total No. of Files	Total No. E-files
50,000 approx	1160

8. Status of Public Grievances:

No. of Public Grievances redressed during the month	No. of Public Grievances pending at the end of the month
360	921

9. Information on the specific steps taken by the Ministry/Department for utilization of the Space Technology based tools and applications in Governance and Development:

Ministry has its own Decision Support System developed by FSI based on combining GIS platform and remotely sensed imagery obtained by Indian Satellite IRS P-6 Liss-III. This system is used for Wildlife, Biodiversity and Forest Management and decision making related with these issues.

Yours sincerely,

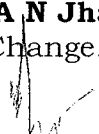
Encl: as above

sd/-
(A N Jha)

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Copy to: The Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, PMO, South Block, New Delhi.

Copy also to: PS to Hon'ble Minister, Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

sd/-
(A N Jha)

(Anil Sant)
Joint Secretary