

Proceedings

On

**THE CONFERENCE OF PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATORS OF FORESTS
AND CHIEF WILDLIFE WARDENS**

5-6th September 2006

**Ministry of Environment & Forests
NEW DELHI**

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Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
FP-Division

Sub: Proceedings of the Conference of the Principal Chief Conservators of Forests and Chief Wildlife Wardens of all States/UTs (New Delhi, 5-6 September, 2006)

1. The Conference of the Principal Chief Conservators of Forests and Chief Wildlife Wardens of all States/ UTs was held on 5-6 September 2006 in New Delhi. It was attended by the PCCFs, CWLWs of all the States/UTs, Special invitees and officers from MoEF. The Agenda and minute-to-minute details of the conference is placed at **F/A**. The Draft Proceedings of the Conference are as follows: -

5th September 2006

The Conference was inaugurated by Shri A.Raja, Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Forests. The Conference was chaired by Shri. Namo Narain Meena, Minister of State for Environment and Forests. Dr. Prodipto Ghosh, Secretary (E & F) and Shri J.C. Kala, Director General of Forests and Special Secretary also addressed the inaugural gathering.

3. In his augural address, Shri A. Raja, emphasized on the necessity of Policy reforms in the forestry sector to face the challenges of the new millennium. He called upon all concerned to put in earnest efforts to give a human touch to Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, especially in areas affected by naxal movement. He also requested the States to address the livelihood aspirations of the forest dependent communities in a more comprehensive and focused manner.

4. Shri. Namo Narain Meena, Minister of State for Environment and Forests, in his speech stressed on the need for making use of the National Employment Guarantee Scheme for the betterment of Forest Dwelling communities. He also called for taking up new avenues for afforestation, simplifying felling and transit regulations, mobilizing additional resources for forestry, and building public-private partnerships.

Session I

5. The deliberations of the Conference began with the presentation of the concept papers on the following topics.

Forest or Tree Cover in Mountainous States:

(By Shri. J.V.sharma, DIG(Forest Policy))

Revisiting Forest Policy:

(By Director, Forest Survey of India)

6. Based on the ensuing discussion, the following course of action was arrived at:

1. **Forest or Tree Cover in Mountainous State:** It was agreed to make minor amendments in the National Forest Policy, 1988 with regards to Forest and Tree cover in mountainous states as **“Two Third area under Forest or Tree**

Cover of culturable geographical area under tree line in the mountainous area". FP Division in MoEF will take action to propose such change in NFP for the approval of competent Authority and FSI will provide the logical justification as presented in the conference.

(Action DIG-FP ,MoEF and DG-FSI)

2. **State Forest Policy:** States/UTS are requested to frame State Forest Policy, highlighting their specificities, and also assessing the culturable area for tree planting.

(Action State Forest Department and DIG-FP, MoEF)

3. **Re-constitution of the Central Board of Forestry:** It was agreed that reconstitution and revival of Central Board of Forestry (CBF) under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister is urgently needed to guide the forestry sector. MoEF will keep the multidisciplinary nature of forests and past & present precedent into consideration, while proposing the re-constitution of CBF.

(Action DIG-FP)

7. The discussions also resulted in arriving at broad consensus regarding the complexion of the Central Board of Forestry, which is given as under:

Prime Minister of India	Chairman
Union Minister of Environment & Forests	Vice-Chairman
Union Minister of State, MOEF	Member
Union Minister of Tribal affair, Finance, S&T, Agriculture, Water Resources ,RD and PanchayatiRaj	Member
Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission	Member
Minister in charge of forests/Lt. Governors , States &UTs	Member
MP, LS (3)	Member
MP , RS(2)	Member
NGOs(5) nominated by GOI	Member
Eminent Persons from Forest, Wildlife and environment(5) nominated by GOI	Member
Member Planning Commission (Forestry)	Member
Secretary E&F	Member
DGF&SS	Member
ADGWL	Member
DG-ICFRE	Member
Director ,IGNFA	Member

Director ,FRI	Member
Director ,WII	Member
Director ,IIFM	Member
DG-FSI	Member
ADGFC	Member Secretary
PCCFS and Forest Secretaries of the States/UTs may participate along with their board members	

8. The duties and responsibilities of the CBF may be as under:

- The Board will advise the central and state/UT Governments on all matters concerning Forest conservation and Management as well as related matters.
- The Board will have special concern and focus on:
 - Forest Policy
 - Biodiversity
 - Legislation
 - Inter-State matters
 - Inter-Ministerial matters
 - Identification of broad areas of R&D , Training and Education
 - Indian Forest Service
 - Appointment of Committees and Sub-Committees/ working Groups
- CBF shall meet at least once a year.
- Standing Committees will monitor the implementation of recommendation of CBF
- The existing National Board for Wildlife chaired by Prime Minister shall continue as such, as it is a statutory Body and with focus on Wildlife matters.

9. Thereafter each state/UT was given an opportunity to present the policy issues pertaining to their area.

Session II

10. The session continued with the presentation from the representatives of the state. The states/UTs highlighted the issues pertaining to the states such as inadequate financial resources, increasing man-animal conflicts, issues related to relocation of villages, etc.

11. It was followed by a presentation on “Futuristic Market”. It highlighted the emerging trends in the marketing of forest produce and the necessity of forestry sector in making use of these opportunities provided by technology.

During the discussion, it was also brought out that the Government of India is trying to create enabling environment to motivate private sector to grow more trees on private land.

The wood based industries in forest deficient states such as Haryana and Punjab are affected by order of Apex Court. The MoEF and State Government should make joint efforts to solve this problem.

(Action-DIG SU)

12. The DIGF (RT) made a brief presentation on the draft proposal of the Ministry for incorporating certain new components in the Central Sector Forestry Training Schemes for the Eleventh Five Year Plan in the form of a composite scheme to be called as 'Capacity Building in the Forestry Sector'. It was endorsed by the PCCFs and CWLWs. One of the participants suggested that keeping in view the importance of training of the forest range officers, who are the main executive functionaries in the field, the Government of India may consider taking back the administration of ranger colleges from the concerned States.

It was also suggested that the MoEF may also consider reimbursing the travel expenses of the officers for participating in the courses being sponsored by the MoEF. The participants also requested the MoEF for having certain number of slots fixed for the courses being held at National Defence College and IIPA, Delhi.

(Action-DIG RT)

6th September 2006

Session III

13. The second days proceedings started with a presentation on "Approach Paper of 11th Plan by Shri S.K.Khanduri, Planning Commission. It highlighted the salient features of the forthcoming five year plan and its implication on the forestry sector. The following were suggested:

13.1. A separate scheme for capacity building of JFMCs/EDCs/frontline staff is essential for achieving Sustainable Forest Management objectives.

(Action-DIG-RT)

13.2. A separate scheme to reduce man-animal conflict is needed to seek cooperation of the people in conservation of biodiversity.

(Action:IGF-WL)

14. This was followed by a presentation by Shri. A. Ramachandran on the Carbon related issues in forest management and the necessity of giving focus to this aspect. New dimensions of sequestration specially soil organic carbon were appreciated by the audience.

15. The presentation by IG NAEB and followed with discussion on "Modification of NAP Guidelines" by IGF (NAEB) highlighted the necessity of having more flexibility in the guidelines of National Afforestation Scheme to ensure its smooth implementation. During the deliberations, the following was also agreed upon:

16. NAEB should give more thrust to the monitoring and Evaluation of NAP rather than doing the procedural scrutiny of the proposals that should be delegated to State/UT Government.

(Action-NAEB)

17. NAEB should avoid issuing any guideline on JFM institution related issue. The Division in charge of JFM in the ministry should initiate the process to resolve the issues related to institution of JFM..

(Action-NAEB and DIG-FPD)

18. There is considerable delay in release of funds to FDAs. Forestry activity is time bound activity. NAEB has to resolve it in consultation with IFD.

(Action-NAEB and DIR-IFD)

19. NAEB should have separate component for the capacity building of local communities for SFM. It was also suggested that the poverty issue should get priority in FDA proposals.

(Action: NAEB)

This was followed by a presentation on National Employment Guarantee Scheme by DIG (NAEB) which was mainly for information.

Session IV

20. During this session which was devoted to the issues of wildlife sector, Director (Project Tiger) introduced the salient features of the recently passed Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act. This was followed by a brief presentation by AIG (FP) on the new scheme formulated in the Ministry on "Protection of Wildlife Outside Protected Areas". During the discussion, it was decided that the Ministry shall also prepare schemes for addressing issues related to relocation and mitigation of man-animal conflicts.

(Action: IG (WL)/DIG-WL)

21. The DGF&SS reviewed the progress of implementation of Action Plan for tackling the gregarious flowering of bamboo in North-Eastern States with the PCCFs. The PCCFs have been requested to ensure that material available is utilized properly and forward details of extraction paths/roads for smooth transportation of bamboo material, within next 15 days.

22. The two day conference came to an end with the concluding remarks from the DGF& SS who stressed on the need for time bound implementation of the outcomes of the deliberations.

This issues with the approval of DGF&SS
