

**Ministry of Environment & Forests
(RE Division)**

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOURTH (4th) MEETING OF EXPERT COMMITTEE ON ECO-SENSITIVE ZONES.

The fourth meeting of the Expert Committee on Eco-sensitive Zones (ESZs) was held on 24th May, 2013 in the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The meeting was represented by all the members except Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun, Department of Land Resources and Central Pollution Control Board. The list of participants is annexed.

2. At the outset, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests and Chairman of the Expert Committee welcomed the members of the Committee, representatives of the Government of Goa and special invitees from the Ministry. He informed the Committee that Ministry of Environment and Forests would make a presentation on draft Notification prepared by the Ministry based on the information submitted by the State Government of Goa for declaration of eco-sensitive zones around six protected areas in Goa and it would be followed by a presentation by the State Government .

3. The Chairman, thereafter, asked Member Secretary of the Expert Committee to make a presentation. The Member Secretary, Expert Committee made a presentation. The presentation was divided into four parts namely, (i) Brief on protected areas, (ii) proposed Eco-sensitive Zone (iii) Zonal Master plan, activities to be prohibited, regulated and promoted and (iv) State level Eco Sensitive Zone Monitoring Committee for the State of Goa. The format of the draft ESZ notifications for each protected area was also presented.

4. The State Government representative also made a presentation by informing upfront that the Eco Sensitive Zone for all the six protected areas is based on the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) recommendation, as the State Government agrees with the CEC recommendations with certain modifications. Thereafter, protected area wise presentation was made as following.

- i. **Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary:** This sanctuary is located in Village Chorao in Tiswadi Taluka having an area of 1.78sq kilometre. The Sanctuary was notified in 1998. The Sanctuary is bounded on three sides i.e, North, West and South by river and the village Chorao is located towards the east side. The area proposed for

ESZ including water body (rivers) is 0.59km² and the extent of the ESZ from the boundary of the Sanctuary is 100meters (0.1km) on Eastern side where the Chorao Village is located. No mining is proposed in the ESZ area.

- ii. **Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park:** This sanctuary is located in Eastern Part of the Goa and having an area of 240km². The Sanctuary was notified as Molem Wildlife Sanctuary in 1967. An area of 107km² of Wildlife Sanctuary was notified as Molem National Park in 1978. Subsequently the name was changed to Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park (133km² of Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary +107km² of Bhagwan Mahaveer National Park). The total area of the proposed ESZ is 42.98km² comprising of twelve villages and the extent of ESZ from the boundary of the sanctuary and national park ranges from 0 to 1.0km². The ESZ is bounded by Madei Wildlife Sanctuary on North, Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary on South, Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park on East and nearest water body or 1km from the boundary of the protected area, whichever is nearer towards West. Most of the areas in ESZ are private holdings with some government areas.
- iii. **Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary:** This sanctuary is located in Cotigao and Poinguinim villages of Canacona Taluka. The sanctuary was notified in 1968. The total area of the sanctuary is 85.65km². The proposed ESZ area is 21.60km² and the extent of ESZ from the boundary of the sanctuary ranges from 0 to 1km (zero kilometre where there is natural water body serving as a barrier). The ESZ is bounded towards North by the ESZ of Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary, in South by border of the Karnataka State, in West remaining part of Cotigao, Poinguinim and Gdongrem Villages and in the East by the Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary.
- iv. **Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary:** This sanctuary is located in three villages of Sattari, Darvondara and Ponda Talukas. The sanctuary was notified in 1969 and the total area of the sanctuary is 7.98km². The proposed area of ESZ is 15.02km² and the extent of ESZ from the boundary of the sanctuary varies from 0.8 to 1km (water body or one kilometre whichever is closer is taken as

boundary). The most of the area in the ESZ is forest and is under the forest department.

- v. **Madei Wildlife Sanctuary:** This sanctuary is located in 29 villages of Sattari Taluka and was notified in 1999. The total area of the sanctuary is 208.48km². The proposed ESZ of the area is 47.14 km² comprising of 36 villages and the extent of ESZ from the boundary of the sanctuary ranges from 0 to 1.0km². The ESZ is bounded by Maharashtra State towards North, ESZ of Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park towards South, Madei Wildlife Sanctuary towards East and nearest water body or one kilometre from the boundary of Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park, whichever is nearer towards West.
- vi. **Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary:** This sanctuary is located in 16 villages of Sanguem and Quepem Talukas. The Sanctuary was notified in 1999 and comprises a total area of 211.05km². The proposed ESZ comprises of twelve villages and has an area of 75.05km². The extent of ESZ from the boundary of the sanctuary ranges from 0 to 1km. The ESZ is bounded by the ESZ of Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary towards North, ESZ of Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary towards South, Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary towards East and nearest water body or one kilometre from boundary of Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park, whichever is nearer towards West.

The activities in ESZ categorized into three categories namely, (i) prohibited, (ii) regulated and (iii) permitted.

(i) **Prohibited Activities :**

- No new Mining leases. Existing working mines to close down in 5-10years.
- Saw Mills.
- Polluting Industries .
- Commercial use of firewood.
- Major hydro electric projects.
- Production of hazardous/toxic material.
- Overflying aircraft/hot air balloons.
- Discharge of Effluents/solid waste into water bodies.

(ii) **Regulated Activities:**

- Felling of Trees.

- Establishment of hotels/Resorts.
- Drastic change in Agricultural Systems.
- Ground water harvesting.
- Electrical lines.
- Fencing of hotel premises.
- Use of Polybags.
- Widening of roads/movement of traffic.
- Introduction of exotic species.
- Protection of hill slopes.
- Air & vehicular pollution.
- Signages.
- Small scale industries.

(iii) **Permitted Activities:**

- Agriculture/Animal Husbandry/Horticulture.
- Rain water harvesting.
- Organic farming.
- Renewable source of energy.
- Green technology.
- Cottage Industry.

5. After detailed discussions, decision taken are as following:

(i)

- (a) No new construction of any kind should be allowed within the proposed ESZ.
- (b) All new tourism activities or expansion of existing tourism activities within the ESZ should be in line with the central guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (NTCA) and the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.
- (c) In the presentation of the Ministry under the headings 'natural heritage' and 'manmade heritage', the paragraph, "Guidelines and regulation shall be drawn by the State Governmentmaintained" should be deleted.
- (d) The disposal of hazardous waste and biomedical waste should be prohibited in the in the ESZ.
- (e) With regard to mining activities it was suggested that no fresh mining lease shall be granted in the ESZ and the existing mining leases, if any, should be phased out in five years or with the term of current lease renewal, whichever is earlier.
- (f) The following formulation with regard to regulation of activities in the Notification was

suggested:

'In case of activities that are covered in the Schedule of notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Environment and Forests number S.O. 1533, dated the 14th September, 2006 as amended from time to time, and are falling in the Eco-sensitive Zone, all such activities except the prohibited activities as provided under para 3 to this Notification shall be scrutinized by the State Level Eco-sensitive Zone Monitoring Committee (SESZMC) based on the actual site-specific conditions and shall be referred to the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment and Forests for prior environmental clearance under the provisions of the said notification.'

- (ii) The State Government raised objection on the para 8 under Zonal Master Plan pertaining to change of land use as provided in the presentation of the Ministry. The representative of the State Government opined that if the change of land use is not permitted in the ESZ, it would virtually lead to not allowing of any activities in the ESZ and the para on activities would therefore, do not require mention in the Notification. It was therefore, suggested to delete this para. After discussions the Committee reformulated the para as under:

'Conversion of agricultural lands within the ESZ shall be permitted only to meet the residential needs of the local residents due to the natural growth of existing local population with the prior approval of the State Level Eco-sensitive Zone Monitoring Committee. *Similarly, no change in use of land from tribal uses to non-tribal usages shall be permitted without the prior approval of the State Level Eco-sensitive Zone Monitoring Committee strictly following the Forest Rights Act, 2006.* However, change of land use such as forest, horticulture areas, agriculture, parks and others like places for the commercial development activities shall not be permitted in the Zonal Master Plan.'

- (iii) The representative of the Forest Survey of India has also emphasized for providing all polygonal coordinates for the proposed ESZ in the map.
- (iv) The constitution of State Level Eco sensitive Zone Monitoring Committee for the State of Goa should be

constituted under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Government of Goa and Director, Environment Department may be kept as Member Secretary.

- (v) The Committee desired to know the objective criteria/scientific basis of delineation of the extent of ESZ from the boundary of the respective protected area as proposed by the Government of Goa in each proposal. The State Government representative stated that the delineation of the ESZ is based on the recommendation of the CEC with certain modifications and is submitted with the approval of the Competent Authority in the State Government.

6. After detailed deliberations, the Committee desired to know the objective criteria and scientific basis for delineating the extent of ESZ from the boundary of the protected area in respect of each proposal submitted by the Government of Goa. Further, the State Government was also requested to provide the coordinates for the points indicated on the boundary of the proposed ESZ around the protected areas.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to & from the Chair.

Annexure

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1.	Shri Hem Pande, Addl. Secretary, MoEF	Chairman
2.	Dr. G.V. Subrahmaniam, Advisor, MoEF	Member
3.	Shri Ajay Tyagi, Joint Secretary, MoEF	Special Invitee
4.	Dr. G. Maheshwaran, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata	Member Representative
5.	Dr. G. C. S. Negi, G.B. Pant Institute of Himachal Environment & Development, Almora Uttrakhand	Member Representative
6.	Dr. N.S. Bisht, Director, International Co-operation I.C.F.R.E, Dehradun.	Member Representative
7.	Dr. Gautam Talukdar, Scientist, Wild Life Institute of India, Dehradun	Member Representative
8.	Ms. Anjali Pancholy, AP, TCPO	Member Representative
9.	Shri Abhay Kumar Saxena, Assistant Director, Forest Survey of India, Dehradun	Member Representative
10.	Dr. D. K. Singh, Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata	Member Representative
11.	Shri Vivek Saxena, DIG(WL), MoEF	Special Invitee
12.	Dr. S.C. Garkoti, Director, MoEF	Member Secretary
13.	Dr. Rajkumar, AIGF(Wildlife), MoEF	MoEF
14.	Dr. H. Kharkwal, Deputy Director, MoEF	MoEF
Representatives of the Government of Goa		
15.	Shri S.K. Aggarwal, Chief Conservator of Forest Goa.	
16.	Cedric D'Souja, Dy. CF (M&E) Goa.	