



**Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden, Jharkhand.**
Van Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi-834002
Email: pccf-wildlife@gov.in, Phone No. 0651-2481744



Office Order No. 54.....

Dated. 23/08/2024

The Guidelines for preparation of Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plans in compliance of the condition laid by MoEF&CC towards grant of Forest Clearance/Environmental Clearance, have been issued by this office vide this office letter no. 302 dated 26.03.2015. In continuation of the extant guidelines, following clarifications are being issued to streamline the process further:

1. **Necessity of Site Specific Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan:** On receipt of forest land diversion proposals under the Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, the concerned Forest Division Officer visits the area as per Form 1 and assesses the condition of the forest area, the condition of soil erosion vulnerability, the condition of rare, endangered and unique flora and fauna in that area and submits a detailed report in Form 2 with his recommendation on the basis of the field visit. The recommendation should specifically mention his views about the need of Site Specific Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan keeping in mind the history of presence and movement of wildlife in and around the project area also.
2. **Objective of Site Specific Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan:** The broad objectives the Site Specific Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan attempts to address are:
 - To provide a relatively stress-free habitat to wildlife in the Impact Area that would be capable of meeting the basic needs of resident/migrant wildlife.
 - To provide suitable habitat for spillover population of wild animals from Project Area to the Impact Area.
 - To provide safe spillover corridors for wildlife from Impact Area to relatively rich neighbouring forest areas or to provide safe animal passage in case of linear projects.
 - To provide for suitable measures towards protection of wildlife from unsavoury elements.
 - To provide site specific, need based, and participatory eco-development inputs to local stakeholders for reducing their resource dependency on forests and for eliciting their support towards conservation needs of the area.

- Capacity Building of local people, particularly Joint Forest Management Committee members.
- Capacity Building of frontline forest staff with the objective of implementation of conservation programmes.
- Monitoring and Evaluation of the Plan.
- To provide the local Forest Department officials / staff with required resources to help implement this plan.
- While increasing man-animal conflict is an outcome of shrinkage, fragmentation and deterioration of habitats, it has caused destruction of wildlife and generated animosity against wild animals and protected areas. This is a crucial management issue, which needs to be addressed through innovative approaches under the plan.

3. **Impact Area:** The Project Impact Area shall be an area of 10 km radius around the project boundary/mining lease boundary (polygon). However, in case of overlap of the impact area of a new project with the impact area of an existing project, the impact area for the new project under consideration shall be extended beyond the impact area of the existing project to take up nearly same area in extent in terms of sq. km. Further, the impact area for such projects shall be decided by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer (s) in consultation with the concerned Conservator of Forests/Chief Conservator of Forests. In so far as linear infrastructural projects are concerned, the Impact Area shall be taken as the area covering 5 km distance on both sides of the project.

In case of the impact area falling in more than one forest division, DFO of the division having maximum area shall be the nodal DFO for the purpose of formulating the plan. However, the proposed mitigation activities along with budgetary provision will be clearly delineated division wise.

4. **Preparation, Submission and Approval of the Plan:** The site specific wildlife conservation and management plan (SSWCMP) must be prepared by the project proponent with the assistance of qualified wildlife experts in consultation with the concerned DFOs. The plan is submitted to the concerned DFOs for comprehensive review and comments. The review shall be based on the adherence to the extant guidelines for the preparation of the plan and the present clarification. The DFO upon reviewing the plan will provide specific recommendations/comments including request for revisions if necessary before forwarding it to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests through the Conservator of Forests if any. The RCCF shall provide his comments while forwarding it to the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) who may call for a meeting with the stakeholders, including the project proponent to discuss and finalize the plan. The CWLW shall issue the approval for the SSWCMP, ensuring that it complies with all legal

and regulatory requirements. However, the plan may also be returned to the project proponent for necessary modification in case of major changes required in the plan or modified as part of adaptive management based on periodic review.

5. **Writing the Plan:**

Title: The title of the plan shall be Site Specific Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan for particular project. However, for the sake of brevity, it may be referred to as Wildlife Conservation Plan.

Executive Summary: The plan should start with a self-contained Executive Summary which outlines the nature and scope of the proposed project, including its specific location. The summary also addresses the potential impacts on local wildlife, highlighting both the risks and challenges that may arise as a result of the project's implementation. Additionally, it outlines the strategies and measures necessary to mitigate any adverse effects on wildlife. Furthermore, the summary includes a concise financial breakdown, offering an overview of the costs associated with implementing these mitigation measures.

Chapter 1 should begin with project overview and background about the requirement of the current study before going into the description of the project area and its impact area. It is further clarified that all the variables which are directly linked to wildlife and their habitat that are going to be impacted by the proposed project are studied, analysed and detailed in Chapter 1. Details about methodology used for collection of primary and secondary data for vegetation, wild animals, disturbance etc. and use of GIS in preparing various maps of study area also needs to be discussed.

Chapter 2 should include discussion on study findings of each variable and its impact on wildlife and/or their habitat. Chapter 3 should firstly outline the broad objectives of the wildlife conservation and management plan against the project Implementation together with strategies to mitigate and minimize the adverse impacts as discussed in Chapter 2. Chapter 4 deals with specific objectives of the plan within the project site (Core Area) and mitigations activities while Chapter 5 deals with specific objectives and mitigation activities within the project impact area (buffer area) along with financial outlay and annual work programme for each year of the plan period separately, *with site-specific details (viz. latitude/longitude/name of the village etc.) with respect to the prescriptions under the Plan.* Chapter 6 contains to maps, annexures and supporting documents. Maps should be scaled at 1:50,000 in general. However this should be adjusted appropriately to facilitate detailed planning.

6. **Duration:** Duration of the Plan shall normally 10 years.



7. **Indicative minimum cost:** indicative minimum cost of the plan excluding the cost of animal passage structures shall be as follows:

Sl. No.	Project Cost	Minimum Cost to the Plan
1.	≥ 1000 crore	2% of the Project Cost or 30 crore, whichever is more
2.	500 crore – 999 crore	3% of the Project Cost or 20 crore, whichever is more
3.	100 crore – 499 crore	4% of the Project Cost or 10 crore, whichever is more
4.	<100 crore	5% of the Project Cost

It is to be noted that the above table prescribes minimum estimated cost to the Plan. The actual cost shall be wholly dependent on the requirements of the Impact Area with the objective of mitigating the adverse impact of the project on wildlife. Further, cost escalation of 20% per year must be provisioned to account for increase in wages and cost of material etc.

8. **Animal Passage Plan:** In case of linear projects, animal passage plan shall constitute a part of the plan to be borne by the project proponent separately. Crossing of various faunal species should be assessed properly and locations and types of interventions shall be decided by the concerned DFO and the User Agency in accordance with the advisory issued by the Wildlife Institute of India in the publication entitled “Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife” (WII, 2016). The animal passage related structures with their exact locations and dimensions shall be mentioned in the plan and the User Agency shall be required to construct such structures. However, no financial cost needs to be indicated in the plan nor should it be realized from the User Agency for the purpose of construction of such animal passage structures.
9. **Business Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility:** In case of projects falling in Elephant bearing area or elephant corridor, the project proponent shall utilize funds available under Corporate Social responsibility head to support Human Elephant Conflict Management activities especially mentioned in Divisional/Regional/State Human Elephant Conflict Management Plan in consultation with the DFO to support the efforts of the forest department separately.
10. **Environmental Clearance or Forest Clearance:** The method/process of formulation and approval of Wildlife Conservation Plan in compliance of conditions imposed under Environmental Clearance or Forest Clearance shall remain the same except the procedure of deposit of plan funds by the User Agency, as explained in the following para.
11. **Deposit of Plan Cost:** Cost of the plan, as approved by PCCF, Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden, Jharkhand, shall be borne by the User Agency in the following manner:

- (a) For plans formulated in compliance of the condition under Forest Clearance, the User Agency shall deposit funds in the CAMPA account as per rules.
- (b) For plans formulated in compliance of the condition under Environmental Clearance, the User Agency shall deposit funds into the Government Treasury of the concerned district under the head "Van Preshan Lok Lekha (Praptiyan) – Head 8782" in favour of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer. The DFO shall withdraw money from the Treasury for implementation of the works from "8782 Remittance Head" and maintain accounts under "Lok Lekha Head 8443". Further, the DFO shall submit monthly account to the Accountant General, Jharkhand as per prevailing norms of the Forest Department.

In both the cases, cost towards infrastructural items and items to be provided by the User Agency in kind shall not be added to the cost of the plan. However, details of these items or activities should be explicitly mentioned in the plan.

Enc:-As above.

Sd/-

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden,
Jharkhand, Ranchi.

Memo No.

Dated

Copy forwarded to Secretary, Deptt. of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Jharkhand, Ranchi/ Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Jharkhand, Ranchi/ PCCF-cum-Executive Director, Wasteland Development Board, Jharkhand, Ranchi/ Addl. PCCF, CAMPA, Jharkhand, Ranchi for information.

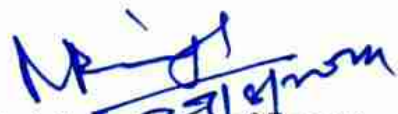
Sd/-

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden,
Jharkhand, Ranchi.

Memo No. 951

Dated 27/08/2024

Copy forwarded to All RCCF/ CCF, Wildlife, Jharkhand / CCF&FD, PTR/ All DFO, Territorial and Wildlife for information & necessary action.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden,
Jharkhand, Ranchi.

**PRINCIPAL CCF (WILDLIFE) & CHIEF WILDLIFE WARDEN,
JHARKHAND**

Van Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi-834002

Letter no- 302

Dated 26.03.2015

**Guidelines for preparation of Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan as per stipulation
in Environmental Clearance/Forest Clearance for different projects**

1. Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, have been stipulating conditions for preparation and implementation of Site Specific wildlife Conservation Plan by the project authorities in consultation with State Forest and Wildlife Department, while according approval for Environmental Clearance and/or Forest Diversion Proposals.
2. The objective of such plans is to have an assessment of present status of flora/fauna and habitat of major wildlife species in the project area as well as in its impact area, probable impacts of project on the flora, fauna in the study area and to formulate appropriate mitigative measures to prevent the degradation of habitat in and around the project area as consequence of the project. Such Conservation plans are to be formulated by the Project Authorities and submitted before the Divisional Forest officer concerned, for its appraisal and scrutiny. The DFO has to study the plan and forward the same with specific comments through the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests concerned for approval of the Chief Wildlife Warden after scrutiny at their level. The proposal may also be returned to the project proponent for necessary modification/alteration in case of major changes are required in the plan. The project proponent may get the plan prepared by engaging suitable consultants, professional working in this field. While preparing the plan, the project proponent should take care of the following points.
 - (i) The comprehensive site-specific plan should address the wildlife conservation issues in respect of project area as well as the 10 Kms. buffer zone around the project area (This can be more if there are other projects present in the immediate vicinity of the project for which plan is being prepared). There must be detailed survey of the above area for the major floral and faunal status, water regime, drainage pattern, wildlife usage and interface conflict in order to develop an appropriate management strategy in conserving the ecology while effectively utilising the natural resources.
 - (ii) The buffer zone as above should be properly surveyed for the existing mining/ other projects in this area and probable projects coming up in this zone. Convergence of the interventions should be chalked out for avoiding any overlapping of field-based activities.

- (iii) The experts and consultants (whose names and dates of visit are to be mentioned in the manuscript) should assess the area for probable degradation of the forests and habitats due to project implementation and chalk out mitigative strategies through discussion with the local villagers, other stakeholders in the locality and forest staff. The existing lands patterns and rural economic structure should be analysed against the probable changes during the project implementation.
- (iv) The field-based activities proposed in the plan should be shown with geo-coordinates as far as practical and suitable maps should be annexed to show the location. The cost schedule and phasing of works should be worked out and shown appropriately. The cost norms approved by the Government will be benchmark. For the future cost escalation, in consequence to hike in minimum wage rate or material cost, the project proponent will undertake to replenish the funds within three months at the demand raised by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) or the DFO authorised in this regard. In case of default, the Government will be moved to stop the work.
- (v) Provisions of all relevant Acts and regulations including important Court orders in respect of Wildlife Conservation and Environmental Protection should be strictly adhered to while preparing the plan. The project proponent should be in touch with the DFO concerned and the office of Chief Wildlife Warden in getting the relevant orders as above.

The plan should contain six chapters as detailed below. Initially the plan will describe the location of the project, area and existing flora and fauna. It will also bring out the impact of the project on the forests, wildlife ecology and general environment. The report should also specify the experts visit in the area and the methodology adopted in arriving at the facts and findings. The list of management interventions proposed and the budget estimations should be enlisted for both the project site and the project impact zone to be implemented by the Project proponent and the Divisional Forest Officer respectively. The plan should also explain the annual scheme of operations and the mechanism for monitoring & evaluation; miscellaneous regulations and should enlist the maps, appendices etc.

Chapter-I: It should describe introduction to the area and background information and methodology adopted for the study. It should illustrate following points:

- a) Location of the project and its impact area around with reference to forest block, beat, forest range etc. Extent of project area and land schedule, proposed land use pattern of the project area Location of the project area should be shown with reference to latitude and longitude. Status of Forest Diversion Proposal (if any) and Environmental Clearance should also be mentioned.

- b) Villages and habitations within the project area and project impact area of 10 kms radius. Demographic and occupational profile of these villages along with the existing cropping pattern adopted by the villagers. The extent of biotic pressure by these villages on the study area and especially on the forest growth. Number of families depending upon the NTFP collection the method of collection and its impact on the wildlife of the area. Information about the cattle population and dependency on the forest for grazing.
- c) Descriptions of Topography, natural drainage lines, whether the particular landscape is the source or origin of any stream/river. Presence of water bodies, if any, in the study/plan area.
- d) The details of linear infrastructures such as roads, rail lines, water ways and canals and other developmental structures developed in the project impact zone and adversely affecting the movement of mega fauna in the area and possible ameliorative measures. Details of the water reservoirs vertical mining pits and unguarded dug wells in the area should also be mentioned with possible safeguards available and proposed.
- e) Descriptions of flora and fauna of the project area as well as project impact area of 10 kms or more radius showing the details of endemic, threatened and scheduled species. Old records including the working plans must be referred to.
- f) Description of forests and habitat condition, wildlife scenario of the study area (census result if any).
- g) Movements of mega wildlife in the impact area for the last 3 completed financial years and for the current year should be depicted on a map and data be submitted. Recorded data and the village level survey may be relied upon in this regard.
- h) Man-animal conflict and depredations caused by the wild animal in the study area. Data on human kill/injury, cattle kill and crop damage in the area and also the data on animal kill due to various reasons will also be analysed and mentioned. The data may be depicted on the map approximately. Also the extent of human-wild animal conflict and the trend of change due to the project implementation should be assessed and recorded.
- i) Survey of Working Plan prescriptions for management of forests and wildlife of the study area, if in vogue, and its status of implementation in consultation with the DFO concerned.

- j) Indicative Plan showing location of other projects utilising forestlands or otherwise in the zone of impact (10 km radius or more as the case may be) of the present project. The mitigative measures proposed in the Conservation Plans of such projects (within project impact area), prepared if any, are to be summarized and compared with the proposals in the present plan. Consultant may furnish these details in consultation with Divisional Forest Officer and Range Forest Officers concerned.
- k) The list of experts involved in the study and their visit in the area and the methodology and sampling procedure adopted in arriving at the facts and findings.

Chapter-2: It should address :

- a) Study report on impact of the project on the environment in general and on the soil, vegetation, water regime of the landscape and air over the area in specific.
- b) Quantum of pollutants that may be produced by the project and effect on soil, water, air, vegetation and animals.
- c) Degradation anticipated on account of the project implementation in quantified terms on appropriate models to be explained. Qualitative changes in the Wildlife habitat pattern in the study area due to project implementation should also be detailed in the plan.
- d) Nature of threats to the flora and fauna on account of the project implementation and increased human presence.
- e) Probable increase in the vehicular traffic and its impact.
- f) Noise pollution, Water, Air and underground pollutions etc. and its probable impact on flora and fauna.
- g) Study techniques adopted and observations of the experts in the field giving details of visits, areas visited, observations, records referred to, sampling methods adopted and justification in extrapolation.

Chapter-3: It should cover the following aspect in general about the entire plan and to address the issue over project area as well as the buffer area.

- a) Objectives of management to address the issues of wildlife conservation against the project implementation.
- b) Strategies to mitigate and minimise adverse impacts so observed in the field.

Chapter-4: It should describe proposed management strategies within the project site to be implemented by the project proponent and state on following points:

- a) Interventions to be implemented by the project authorities inside the project area with suitable justifications.
- b) Locations (preferably with GPS coordinates) of the proposed interventions and maps overlaid in the proposed land use plan map.
- c) Relevant provisions of Environment Management Plan for the project and the interventions overlapping in nature are to be specified.
- d) Plan period preferably for initial 10 years with suitable provisions for interim reviews and suitable modifications.

The financial forecast statement should detail the financial outlay for the interventions to be implemented by the project authorities within the project area. The annual work programme and annual out lay for each component should be clearly given in a table. The cost norms should be as approved by the State Government in each case.

Chapter-5: It should describe proposed management strategies within the project impact zone identified around the project area and state the following points:

- a) Interventions to be adopted by the Divisional Forest Officer in the project impact area (Buffer zone of about 10 Kms. or beyond around the project boundary). This will include the habitat improvements, measures to reduce the human-animal interface conflicts and the measures to facilitate the movement of mega fauna across the man made linear infrastructures causing hindrance in their movement.
- b) Locations (preferably with GPS coordinates) and maps of areas of the proposed interventions. Such maps should also show the locations of above man made infrastructures and the ameliorative measures such as under/over passes, ramps etc.
- c) Monitoring and Evaluation arrangement for the activities undertaken.
- d) Plan period preferable for initial 10 years with suitable provision for interim review and suitable modifications.

The financial forecast should state the financial outlay for the interventions to be implemented by the DFO in the project impact area along with suitable provisions against cost escalation. The total plan should be summarized into annual work plans and annual outlay in tabular form for each component. The cost norms should be as approved by the State Government in each case. The project proponent should also undertake to prepare subsequent plans in continuation to this plan at least 2 years in advance and submitted not less than 1 year before expire of the subsisting plan in case the lease period exceeds the period of this plan.

This chapter should also have separate single table at the end showing cumulative total of interventions proposed for both the project area and project impact area.

Chapter-6 : It should state the maps/appendices/plans and cost schedules/relevant orders enclosed to the plan. On the request of the project proponent, DFO may supply the authenticated maps of the area for the purpose of integrating the details about the project and other details by them.

Maps (in 1:500,000 scale) to be appended are :

- a) Land use plan maps of the project (existing and proposed during present diversion)
- b) Locations map showing other leases and forest diversions in the project impact area giving details of the projects.
- c) Location map with respect to protected areas, elephant corridors and elephant reserves. This map should also show other infrastructures developed in the study area including roads, rail lines, canals, water reservoirs etc. causing obstructions in the movement of wildlife.
- d) Map showing location of animal depredation including Human Kill/Injury, Cattle Kill and Crop Damage and also the Wild Animal Kills due to various reason occurred within the study area.

Besides above, one Executive Summary touching all the points (in brief) of the plan should be given at the beginning of the Plan.

While preparing the plan instructions issued by the PCCF and Govt. of Jharkhand from time to time regarding approved cost norms in formulating the schemes should be followed.

Sd/-

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden,
Jharkhand, Ranchi

Guidelines to the DFOs while forwarding the Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plans

While forwarding the plan, the DFO concerned should incorporate the details of total number of site-specific wildlife conservation plans approved and amount deposited by different project authorities towards implementation of Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan and Regional Wildlife Management Plan within his division (Proforma-I & II below) and the progress of implementation of these approved plans so far. DFO should also categorically state the number of months required for execution of this Site Specific Wildlife Conservation/ Regional Wildlife Management plan after the deposit of money by the Project Proponent (Proforma-III below) and requirement of release of funds under respective APS's of State CAMPA.

Such information should be furnished in following proforma.

PROFORMA-I			
Details of Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plans for which Stage-II clearance have been granted for as on date			
Total no. of Projects for which funds are deposited by project proponents	Funds deposited for implementation of Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (Rs. In lakh)	Funds utilized by end of Previous Financial Year	Action taken by the DFO for implementation of the plan (in 20 words)
1	2	3	4

PROFORMA-II			
Details of funds deposited in respect of Regional wildlife management plans for which Stage-II clearance have been granted as on date			
Total no. of Projects for which funds are deposited by project proponents	Funds deposited for implementation of Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (Rs. In lakh)	Funds utilised by end of Previous Financial Year	Action taken by the DFO for implementation of the plan (in 20 words)
1	2	3	4

PROFORMA-III				
Information about present project				
Name of the Project	Time required (in months) for start of implementation of the present Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan/Regional Wildlife Management Plan by the DFO after Stage-II clearance.	Time required (in months) for giving proposal for including in CAMPA Action Plan	Time required (in months) for start of Implementation after receipt of funds under CAMPA Action Plan	Remarks
1	2	3	4	