

I/37463/2023

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.

Dated: 16th January, 2023

To

The Addl. Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries (Forests),
All States/ Union Territory Administrations.

Sub: Charging of a lump sum amount of the project cost towards the cost of implementation of the Wildlife Management Plan and lump sum amount of the project cost towards the cost of implementation of Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan for consideration of tree felling permission – reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's guidelines dated 8.06.2022 allowing deposition of 2% of total project cost towards the cost of implementation of the Wildlife Management Plan and/or 0.5% of the project cost towards the cost of implementation of Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan, as the case may be, for the purpose of obtaining Stage-II approval under the FC Act, 1980. Adverting to said guidelines, representation has been received in the Ministry informing that given the involvement of huge cost in road projects, the 2% and 0.5% cost of Wildlife Management Plan and SMC Plan is too large in comparison to meagre forest area involved in the project and accordingly, the Ministry was requested to revisit the said guidelines guideline.

2. The matter related to charging of a lump sum amount of the project cost towards the cost of implementation of the Wildlife Management Plan and lump sum amount of the project cost towards the cost of implementation of Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan for consideration of tree felling permission, was considered by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 09.12.2022. The detailed minutes of the FAC meeting held on 09.12.2022 is placed on the website of this Ministry: www.parivesh.nic.in.

3. Based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, and approval of the same by the competent authority of the MoEF&CC, New Delhi, the following is clarified:

- i. In respect of linear projects, the stipulated norms of 2% and 0.5% towards the cost of Wildlife Management Plan and Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan, as provided in the Ministry's guidelines dated 8.06.2022, will be proportionate to the extent of forest land involved instead of total project cost or actual cost of implementation of such Plans, whichever is more, should be charged from the user agency
- ii. The provisions of Wildlife Management Plan or Soil Moisture Conservation Plan shall be approved by the competent authority in the State and accordingly, the deficit amount, if any, from the money already realized from to the tune of 2% and/or 0.5% of project cost proportionate to the extent of

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forest land involved, shall be paid by the user agency, and the same shall be deposited in to the CAMPA account.

- iii. The State Government shall ensure that details of the finalized WLMP, SMC Plan and disposition of monies, payment of deficit amount, etc. shall be approved by the competent authority and concurred by the concerned IRO of the Ministry within a period of one year from the date of deposit of the said amount.
- iv. The Guidelines dated 8.06.2022 stands modified to the extent as indicated above in respect of linear projects.

This issue with the approval of Competent Authority of the Ministry.

Yours faithfully

Sd/-

(Charan Jeet Singh)

Scientist 'D'

Copy to:

1. The PCCF, All States/ Union Territories Administration.
2. The Regional Officer, All Integrated Regional Office of MoEF&CC
3. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, All States/ Union Territories Administration.
4. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi
5. Guard file.