

F.No. 22-43/2018-IA.III  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(IA Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
JorBagh Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi – 110003

Dated: 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2019

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject: Procedure for consideration of developmental projects located within 10 km of National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary seeking environmental clearance under the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 - regarding.**

The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its Order dated 4.12.2006 in Writ Petition No. 460 of 2004 – Goa Foundation Vs. Union of India, has inter-alia directed that Ministry of Environment and Forests "(MoEF) would also refer to the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife, under section 5(b) & 5(c) (ii) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, the cases where environmental clearances has already been granted where activities are within 10km. zone" of the boundaries of the Sanctuaries and National Parks."

2. In this regard, the erstwhile MoEF vide Circular No. L-11011/7/2004-IAII (I)(Part) dated 27.02.2007 and Office Memorandum No. J-11013/41/2006-IA.II(I) dated 02.12.2009 delineated a procedure for consideration of developmental projects located within 10 km of National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary for grant of environmental clearance under EIA Notification, 2006. As per the stipulated procedure, prior clearance from Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SCNBWL) would be required for the developmental projects located within 10km of the National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary.

3. Over a period of time, Ministry has notified number of Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) around Protected Areas (PAs). Many of developmental activities are prohibited/regulated in these ESZs *inter-alia* including mining operations to be carried out in accordance with the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 4.08.2006 in the matter of T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad Vs. UOI in

W.P.(C) No. 202 of 1995 and dated 21.4.2014 in the matter of Goa Foundation Vs. UOI in W.P.(C) No. 435 of 2012 as per the notifications issued for their constitution.

4. In light of the aforesaid Orders passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the issues related to the prior clearance from SCNBWL for the notified ESZs and the remaining areas have been examined in detail. In this regard, it has been decided by the Competent Authority in the Ministry to adopt a following procedure for consideration of developmental projects located within 10 km of National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary seeking environmental clearance under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006, in supersession of the earlier O.M.s dated 27.2.2007 and 2.12.2009:

- i. Proposals involving developmental activity/project located within the notified Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ) shall be regulated and governed by the concerned ESZ notification. However, for the developmental project/activity located within the notified ESZ and covered under the schedule of the EIA Notification 2006, prior clearance from Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SCNBWL) is mandatory. In such cases, the project proponent shall submit the application simultaneously for grant of Terms of Reference as well as wildlife clearance.
- ii. Proposals involving developmental activity/project located outside the stipulated boundary limit of notified ESZ and located within 10 km of National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary, prior clearance from Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SCNBWL) may not be applicable. However, such proposals from environmental angle including impact of developmental activity/project on the wildlife habitat, if any, would be examined by the sector specific Expert Appraisal Committee and appropriate conservation measures in the form of recommendations shall be made. These recommendations shall be explicitly mentioned in the environmental clearance letter and shall be ensured by the member secretary concerned.
- iii. Proposals involving developmental activity/project located within 10 km of National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary wherein final ESZ notification is not notified (or) ESZ notification is in draft stage, prior clearance from Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SCNBWL) is mandatory. In such cases, the project proponent shall submit the application simultaneously for grant of Terms of Reference/environmental clearance as well as wildlife clearance.

- iv. Proposals involving mining of minerals within the ESZ (or) one kilometer from the boundaries of National Parks and Sanctuaries whichever is higher is prohibited in accordance with the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 4.08.2006 in the matter of T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad Vs. UOI in W.P.(C) No. 202 of 1995 and dated 21.4.2014 in the matter of Goa Foundation Vs. UOI in W.P.(C) No. 435 of 2012.
5. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

*Sharath Kumar Pallerla*  
8/8/19

**(Sharath Kumar Pallerla)**  
**Director**

To

1. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
2. Chairman of all the Expert Appraisal Committees
3. Chairperson/Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/SEACs
4. All the Officers of I.A. Division
5. Chairpersons/Member Secretaries of all SPCBs/UTPCCs

**Copy for information to:**

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. PS to Hon'ble MoS (EF&CC)
3. PPS to Secretary(EF&CC)
4. PPS to SS(AKJ)
5. PPS to AS (RSP)
6. PPS to JS (GM)/ JS(RS)/JS(AKN)
7. Website, MoEF&CC
8. Guard file.

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F. No. 6-60/2020WL Part (1)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Wildlife Division)

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Agni Wing,  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh Road,  
Aliganj,  
New Delhi — 1 10003

Dated: 16 July, 2020

To  
The Chief Secretary  
All States/ UTs

**Subject: Procedure for consideration of developmental projects located within 10 km of National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary by Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life seeking environmental clearance under the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 - regarding.**

The Ministry has received letters from States/UTs seeking clarifications regarding applicability of consideration by Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life for developmental projects/activities which do not require environmental clearance and are located outside the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

2. This Ministry vide O.M. F. No. 22-43/ 2018-IA. III dated 08.08.2019 lays out detailed procedure to be adopted for consideration of developmental projects located within 10 km of National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary seeking environmental clearance under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006.

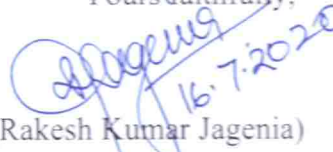
3. After careful consideration of the matter, it is clarified that prior clearance from the Standing Committee of the National Board of Wild Life will be required outside Protected Area in the following cases:

- i. Proposals involving project/ activity located within the notified ESZ (not being draft notification) and listed in the Schedule of the EIA Notification 2006 and requiring environment clearance, prior clearance from Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life will be required.
- ii. Proposals involving activity/project located within 10 km of National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary wherein ESZ has not been finally notified and listed in the Schedule of the EIA Notification 2006 and requiring environment clearance, prior clearance from Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life will be required.
- iii. Proposals involving activity/project, falling outside the protected areas linking one protected area or tiger reserve with another protected area or tiger reserve, prior clearance from the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild

Life as per the section 38 O(1)(g) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 will be required.

4. Para 4(ii) and para 4(iv) of the OM dated 08.08.2019 supra shall however continue to apply.
5. State Governments are requested not to insist upon wildlife clearance for such developmental projects outside Protected Areas that are not covered under para 3 above.
6. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Rakesh Kumar Jagenia)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Wildlife)

E-mail – digwl-mefcc@gov.in

**Copy to**

- (1) Addl. Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary / Secretary, Forest and Wildlife Department (All States/ UTs)
- (2) Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF (All States/ UTs)/ Chief Wild Life Wardens (All States/UTs)
- (3) Dy. Director General (Central), Regional Office, MoEFCC (All)
- (4) Sr. PPS to Secretary MoEFCC/Sr. PPS to DGF&SS/Sr.PPS to ADG (FC)/ Sr PPS to ADG(WL)/ Sr. PPS to MS (NTCA) / Sr PPS to AS (RA)/ Sr. PPS to IGF (FC)/ Sr. PPS to IGF(WL)/Sr. PPS to IGF (FC)/ Sr. PPS to Adv (SCG)/ Sr. PPS to DIG (WL)/ Guard File