

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE 30TH EXPERT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SHRI A. K. MEHTA, ADDITIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE DECLARATION OF ECO-SENSITIVE ZONE (ESZ) AROUND THE WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES/NATIONAL PARKS DURING 25-26TH JUNE 2018 IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE

The 30th Meeting of Expert Committee for Eco Sensitive Zones was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Arun Kumar Mehta, Additional Secretary during 25th-26th, June, 2018 in the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi. List of participants is annexed.

Day 1: (25th June, 2018)

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members and the participants from Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Uttarakhand, Telangana and the expert members. After brief introduction by participants Chairman invited states to present their proposals as per Agenda.

3. Following 23 proposals as listed in the Agenda were considered for discussion on Day 1. The representatives of respective state governments presented their proposals for consideration of the Expert Committee:

Sl. No.	Protected Area	State	Status
1.	Sri Penusila Sanctuary	Andhra Pradesh	Draft Proposal
2.	Eagle Nest WLS	Arunachal Pradesh	Draft Proposal
3.	Mehao WLS	Arunachal Pradesh	Re-notified Draft Proposal
4.	Hazaribagh WLS	Jharkhand	Re-notified Draft Proposal
5.	Udhwa Lake Bird Sanctuary	Jharkhand	Draft Proposal
6.	Palamau Tiger Reserve	Jharkhand	Re-notified Draft Proposal
7.	Kederma Sanctuary	Jharkhand	Draft Proposal

Sl. No.	Protected Area	State	Status
8.	Palkot Sanctuary	Jharkhand	Draft Proposal
9.	Gautam Buddha Sanctuary	Jharkhand	Draft Proposal
10.	Parasnath And Topchanachi Sanctuary	Jharkhand	Draft Proposal
11.	Lawalong Sanctuary	Jharkhand	Draft Proposal
12.	Kunopalpur WLS	Madhya Pradesh	Draft Proposal
13.	Khawanglung Sanctuary	Mizoram	Draft Proposal
14.	Tawi Sanctuary	Mizoram	Draft Proposal
15.	Pualreng Sanctuary	Mizoram	Draft Proposal
16.	Thorangtlang Sanctuary	Mizoram	Draft Proposal
17.	Lengteng Sanctuary	Mizoram	Draft Proposal
18.	Murlen National Park	Mizoram	Draft Proposal
19.	Dampa Tiger Reserve	Mizoram	Draft Proposal
20.	Nanda Devi NP	Uttarakhand	Draft Proposal
21.	Nandhar WLS	Uttarakhand	Re-notified Draft Proposal
22.	Kedarnath Musk Deer Sanctuary	Uttarakhand	Draft Proposal
23.	KBR National Park	Telangana	To re-publish as Draft

4. Discussion on the ESZ Proposals

ANDHRA PRADESH

4.1 Sri Penusila Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh

Shri P. Ram Mohan Rao, State of Andhra Pradesh apprised the Committee about the proposal. It has informed that the draft notification was published on 03.01.2018. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are as follows:

Area of PA : 1030.85 sq. km
Proposed ESZ area : 775.59 sq. km
Proposed Extent : 2 to 5 Km

The Sanctuary is having Veligonda hill range of lush green luxuriant forests interrupted with hillocks of igneous rocks having one of the endemic

plant species of red sanders and also with unique floral and faunal characteristics.

No comments were received from the stakeholders/public. The state representative mentioned that actual area of the Eco-Sensitive Zone is increased to 909.6147 Sq. Kms with same number of villages. After detailed discussions, the committee recommended the finalization of draft notification.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

4.2 Eagle Nest Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh

4.3 Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh

Shri Kenjum Rina, State of Arunachal Pradesh informed the committee that the stakeholder consultation is going on and revised proposal for Eagle Nest Wildlife Sanctuary and Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary would be submitted to this Ministry afresh within the three months after completing public consultation and requested to withdraw these proposals. The committee agreed to the request of State Government.

JHARKHAND

4.4 Hazaribagh Wildlife Sanctuary, Jharkhand

4.5 Udhwa Lake Bird Sanctuary, Jharkhand

4.6 Palamau Tiger Reserve, Jharkhand

4.7 Kederma Sanctuary, Jharkhand

4.8 Palkot Sanctuary, Jharkhand

4.9 Gautam Buddha Sanctuary, Jharkhand

4.10 Parasnath and Topchanachi Sanctuary, Jharkhand

4.11 Lawalong Sanctuary, Jharkhand

Shri M. P. Singh, APCCF, State of Jharkhand mentioned that with the direction of CM, State is revisiting all the ESZ proposals in the state and sought deferment of all eight proposals of Jharkhand as listed above. In this regard, this Ministry has also received a letter from the State for not considering these proposals in the 30th ESZ Meeting. Based on deliberation, Chair emphasized to consider that these eight proposals again in the next ESZ meeting.

MADHYA PRADESH

4.12 Kunopalpur Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh

Shri A. S. Mohanta, State of Madhya Pradesh apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was published on 09.11.2017. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are as follows:

Area of PA : 344.686 sq km.
Proposed ESZ area : 207.451 sq km
Proposed Extent : 2 Km.

Kunopalpur Wildlife Sanctuary is rich in bio-diversity. It has been identified as 2nd Home for **Asiatic Lion** by WII, Dehradun. The rich habitat diversity of Kuno wildlife Division and the adjoining forest area supports various species of mammals, birds, reptiles. No comments were received from the stakeholders/public.

During deliberation, it was revealed that State Government is considering for a National Park adjacent to the PA. Accordingly, the Committee suggested that a composite proposal be prepared along with the National Park and ESZ area may consider the entire buffer zone. Accordingly, Committee recommended that the state will submit a composite proposal including the proposed National Park with one Monitoring Committee.

UTTARAKHAND

4.13 Nanda Devi NP, Uttarakhand

Shri Chandra Shekhar Joshi, from Uttarakhand apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was published on 22.11.2017. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are as follows:

Area of PA : 624.62 sq km.
Proposed ESZ area : 782.55 sq km
Proposed Extent : 0.11 to 11.2 km

The Sanctuary is rich in biodiversity. The terrain is richly endowed with natural resources like water, minerals, soil, flora and fauna etc. It has 315 species flora, 18 known species of mammals 114 species of birds in the Park. The natural resources along with suitable climatic conditions have provided a set of amicable geological environment for wildlife habitat. No comments were received from the stakeholders/public.

The state Government has requested to shift “Establishment of major hydroelectric project” and Setting of saw mills from prohibited activity to regulated activity. Regarding establishment of hydropower project committee mentioned that it is under the purview of the Ministry of Water Resources, River

Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWRD& GR). The committee did not agree on the establishment of saw mills in the Eco-Sensitive zones. Based on further deliberation, the committee recommended for finalization of draft notification incorporating a foot note “Establishment of major hydroelectric projects in ESZ area of Nada Devi National Park would be as per recommendation of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and due consideration”.

4.14 Nandhar Wildlife Sanctuary, Uttarakhand

Shri Chandra Shekhar Sanwal of Uttarakhand State apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was published on 13.12.2017. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are:

Area of PA	:	269.95 sq km.
Proposed ESZ area	:	586.27518 sq km
Proposed Extent	:	0.205 to 14.99 km

The Nandhaur landscape houses a very healthy population of Asian elephants, leopards and sloth bears. It is also home to tigers but the population is low with a great potential of rebound. No comments were received from the stakeholders/public. The state Govt. has sought deferment of the proposal due to changes in the ESZ area. The Committee recommended for a revised proposal from state Govt.

4.15 Kedarnath Musk Deer Sanctuary, Uttarakhand

Shri Amit Kauwan of Uttarakhand State Govt apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was published on 13.12.2017. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are:

Area of PA	:	975.2 sq km.
Proposed ESZ area	:	451.15 sq km
Proposed Extent	:	Zero (northern side adjourns to Gangotri National Park) to 11.60 Km

The sanctuary comprises of 9 sub-tropical pine forests, 12 himalayan moist temperate forests, 15 moist alpine scrub forest types as per champion and seth forest types of India. Its supports rich floral and faunal diversity and is a contributory catchment of important rivers like Alaknanda, Mandakini, Kali, Madhuganga, Biera, Balasuti and Maina rivers- all tributaries of Ganga river. The famous temples – Kedarnath shrine, Madmaheshwar, Tungnath, Rudranath, Kalimath, Anusuya Devi, etc are also located in the site. No comments were received from the stakeholders/public.

The State Government proposed two ESZ areas (ESZ1 and ESZ2) for demarcating the Kedarnath Temple Area. Based on detailed deliberation, it was elaborated that a set of rules from State Government is already in place for the protection of the temple area. Accordingly, the committee recommended excluding Kedarnath temple area from ESZ.

In addition, on the request of State government to shift “Establishment of major hydroelectric project” and Setting of saw mills from prohibited activity to regulated activity, the committee took the same view as in the case of Nanda Devi NP, Uttarakhand (para 4.13). The committee recommended for finalization of draft notification subject to submission of revised map of ESA area and boundary description and co-ordinates.

TELANGANA

4.16 KBR National Park, Telangana

Shri P. K. Jha, PCCF State of Telangana apprised the Committee that the draft notification for declaring ESZ around KBR National Park was published in the Gazette of India extraordinary and 18.12.2015, calling for suggestions/ objections from the public.

After the expiry of the earlier Draft Notification the fresh proposal for KBR National Park has been prepared and submitted for republication. The salient features of the proposal are as follows:

Area of PA	:	1.42 sq. km.
Proposed ESZ area	:	0.0582 sq. km
Proposed Extent	:	3 to 29.80 m

It was mentioned that KBR National Park is located in densely populated area of Hyderabad city surrounded with commercial and residential establishments and it is fully protected all around with a 3 Mt ornamental grill wall eliminating biotic pressures on the Park. Based on detailed discussion, the committee recommended the republication of draft Notification for the KBR National Park with the above details.

MIZORAM

4.17 Khawanglung Sanctuary Mizoram

Shri Liandawla, State of Mizoram apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was published on 13.12.2017. The salient features of the draft are as follows:

Area of PA : 35 sq km.
Proposed ESZ area : 16.19 sq km
Proposed Extent : 0.1 to 0.6 km

Khwnglung WLS has high value Bio-diversity area and its area has a Biological and historical Significance on its own. The Existing Eco-System plays an important role in the ecological service especially supply of drinking water to the fringe villages. The presence of Malayan sun bear which once is dubbed as extinct from Indian subcontinent and sizable population of Phayre's leaf monkey which is highly endemic to Mizoram is the significance of this sanctuary and its Eco-sensitive Zone. No comments were received on this proposal.

Based on deliberation, the Chair emphasized that BSI & ZSI visit and verify the ESZ area along with flora and fauna of the Khwnglung WLS before considering it further. Accordingly, the proposal was deferred. It would be considered again in the ESZ committee along with the report of BSI and ZSI.

4.18 Tawi Sanctuary Mizoram

Shri Liandawla State, of Mizoram apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was published on 28.12.2017. The salient features of the draft are as follows:

Area of PA : 35.75 sq km.
Proposed ESZ area : 16.05 sq km
Proposed Extent : 0.1 to 0.8 km

Tawi Wildlife Sanctuary is rich in biodiversity, and provides shelter and protection to many rare, endangered and threatened (RET) and endemic species. It also plays an important role as a catchment area for many rivers and streams that act as a main source of a drinking water for the villages around the sanctuary. No comments were received from the stakeholders/public. After detailed discussion, the committee recommended the finalisation of draft notification.

4.19 Pualreng Sanctuary, Mizoram

Shri Liandawla, State of Mizoram apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was published on 28.12.2017. The salient features of the draft are as follows:

Area of PA	:	50 sq km.
Proposed ESZ area	:	46.58 sq km
Proposed Extent	:	0.8 to 2 km

Pualreng Wildlife Sanctuary is rich in bio-diversity and forms an important catchment area for the Tuirial river. More over as the Eastern side of the sanctuary is bounded by Tuirial river in which a big dam has been constructed for Hydel Project rendering easy access through water ways to the sanctuary and there is a high potential for visitors making the sanctuary a place of interest and attraction. No comments were received from the stakeholders/public. After detailed discussion, the committee recommended for finalisation of draft notification.

4.20 Thorangtlang Sanctuary, Mizoram

Shri Liandawla, State of Mizoram apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was published on 15.01.2018. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are:

Area of PA	:	180 sq km.
Proposed ESZ area	:	53.07 sq km
Proposed Extent	:	0.5 to 0.8 km

The Sanctuary falls within the sub-tropical region and enjoy sub-tropical climate with annual rainfall ranging from 1700 mm to 3900 mm. Most of the area is hilly terrain, except the valleys and foothills. The Sanctuary is home to a variety of confined flora, fauna and avifauna, and provides protection and shelter to rare and endangered species of wildlife endemic to Mizoram and the North East region. No comments were received from the stakeholders/public. After detailed discussion, the committee recommended the finalisation of draft notification.

4.21 Lengteng Wildlife Sanctuary, Mizoram

Shri Liandawla, State of Mizoram apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was published on 15.01.2018. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are:

Area of PA	:	60 sq km.
Proposed ESZ area	:	21 sq km

Proposed Extent : 0.1 to 0.8 km

Lengteng Wildlife Sanctuary is rich in biodiversity and provides shelter and protection to rare and endangered species viz. clouded leopard, Hoolock gibbon, Leopard, Sambar, Serow, etc. one of the important Bird Areas (IBA) in India, species like Mrs. Hume's Bar-tailed pheasant found here is declared as State Bird of Mizoram. The last home of Himalayan Black Bear in the Eastern corner of the country and Home to the variety of floral and faunal species that are endemic to Mizoram and the North-Eastern Region. No comments were received from the stakeholders/public. After detailed discussion, the committee recommended the finalisation of draft notification.

4.22 Murlen National Park, Mizoram

Shri Liandawla State of Mizoram apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was published on 15.01.2018. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are:

Area of PA : 100 sq km.
Proposed ESZ area : 19.05 sq km
Proposed Extent : 0.1 to 0.8 km

The sanctuary is rich in biodiversity, shelter and protect rare, endangered & threatened species viz. Leopard, Sambar, Serow, Hoolock gibbon, etc. Important Bird Areas, species like Grey Sibia, White-napped yuhina, Mrs. Hume's Bar-tailed pheasant are endemic to the area. One of the National Parks under Category II of United Nations list of PA. It is the last home of Himalayan Black Bear in the Eastern corner of the country. Home to a variety of floral and faunal species that are endemic to Mizoram and the North-Eastern Region, Forest type - Sub-Tropical Semi Evergreen and Semi-Montane Forests. No comments were received from the stakeholders/public. After detailed discussion, the committee recommended the finalisation of draft notification.

4.23 Dampa Tiger Reserve, Mizoram

Shri Liandawla State of Mizoram apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was published on 02.02.2018. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are:

Area of PA : 500 sq km.
Proposed ESZ area : 488 sq km
Proposed Extent : 0 to 11.44 Km.

The Dampa Tiger Reserve is spread over an area of 500 sq km and consists of Dampa hills, Pathlawi Lunglen hill, Chhawrpial Hills and many others. The area falls within the sub-tropical region with an annual rainfall ranges between 1700 mm to 3900 mm. It is the largest protected area in the State and is home for a single and probably an isolated population of tiger in the State. Further, it supports an astonishing diversity of flora and fauna. It is part of the North Eastern Hill region landscape and located at a unique junction of Indian, Indo-Malayan and Indo-Chinese Bio-geographical Realms. This landscape is also a part of Global Biodiversity Hotspot, Endemic Bird Area and one of the Terrestrial Eco-regions of the world. Dampa Tiger reserve is under Mamit District of Western Mizoram. The Tropic of Cancer passes through the centre of Dampa Tiger Reserve.

No comments were received from the stakeholders/public. After detailed discussion, the committee recommended the finalisation of draft notification.

5. Based on the draft notifications, comments received from stakeholder/public, presentations made on the proposals and detailed discussions on each proposal the Expert Committee took the following decisions:

Sl. No.	Protected Area	State	Recommendation of Expert Committee
1.	Sri Penusila Sanctuary	Andhra Pradesh	Recommended for final Notification.
2.	Eagle Nest WLS	Arunachal Pradesh	Deferred. Revised proposal to be submitted by the state Govt.
3.	Mehao WLS	Arunachal Pradesh	
4.	Nanda Devi NP	Uttarakhand	Recommended for final Notification with foot note w.r.t Hydro electric Projects
5.	Nandhar WLS	Uttarakhand	Deferred. Revised proposal to be submitted by the state Govt
6.	Kedarnath Musk Deer Sanctuary	Uttarakhand	Recommended for final Notification subject to submission of revised map, ESZ boundary description, co-ordinates and foot note on Hydro electric Project
7.	KBR National Park	Telangana	Recommended for republication of the draft

Sl. No.	Protected Area	State	Recommendation of Expert Committee
			Notification
8.	Hazaribagh WLS	Jharkhand	Deferred for consideration on the request of state Govt.
9.	Udhwa Lake Bird Sanctuary	Jharkhand	
10.	Palamau Tiger Reserve	Jharkhand	
11.	Kederma Sanctuary	Jharkhand	
12.	Palkot Sanctuary	Jharkhand	
13.	Gautam Buddha Sanctuary	Jharkhand	
14.	Parasnath and Topchanachi Sanctuary	Jharkhand	
15.	Lawalong Sanctuary	Jharkhand	
16.	Kunopalpur WLS	Madhya Pradesh	
17.	Khawanglung Sanctuary	Mizoram	Deferred
18.	Tawi Sanctuary	Mizoram	Recommended for final Notification
19.	Pualreng Sanctuary	Mizoram	Recommended for final Notification
20.	Thorangtlang Sanctuary	Mizoram	Recommended for final Notification
21.	Lengteng Sanctuary	Mizoram	Recommended for final Notification
22.	Murlen National Park	Mizoram	Recommended for final Notification
23.	Dampa Tiger Reserve	Mizoram	Recommended for final Notification

6. Meeting on 25th June, 2018 ended with vote of thanks to Chairman.

Day 2 (26th June, 2018)

Chairman welcomed the participants from the States of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and the Experts Members.

7. The following 22 proposals as listed in the Agenda were considered for the declaration of ESZ. The representatives of respective state governments presented their proposals for consideration of the Expert Committee:

Sl. No.	Protected Area	State	Status
1.	Mount Harriet National Park	Andaman-Nicobar	Draft Proposal
2.	Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve	Chhattisgarh	Draft Proposal
3.	Rattan Mahal Wildlife Sanctuary	Gujarat	Draft Proposal
4.	Jambugodha Wildlife Sanctuary	Gujarat	Draft Proposal
5.	Kachchh Bustard Wildlife Sanctuary	Gujarat	Draft Proposal
6.	Wild Ass Sanctuary	Gujarat	Draft Proposal
7.	Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary	Haryana	Draft Proposal
8.	Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary	Jammu and Kashmir	Draft Proposal
9.	Tipeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary	Maharashtra	Re-notified proposal
10.	Anerdam Wildlife Sanctuary	Maharashtra	Re-notified proposal
11.	Nandur Madhmeshwar WLS	Maharashtra	Pre-Draft Stage
12.	Jamwaramgarh Wildlife Sanctuary	Rajasthan	Draft Proposal
13.	Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh	Draft Proposal
14.	Patna Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh	Draft Proposal
15.	Jai Prakash Narayan (Surahatal) Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh	Draft Proposal
16.	Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh	Re-notified Proposal
17.	Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh	Draft Proposal
18.	Senchal Wildlife Sanctuary	West Bengal	Draft Proposal
19.	Chintamani Kar Bird Sanctuary	West Bengal	Draft Proposal
20.	Raiganj Wildlife Sanctuary	West Bengal	Draft Proposal
21.	Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary	West Bengal	Draft Proposal
22.	Bethudahari Wildlife Sanctuary	West Bengal	Draft yet to publish

8. Discussion of the ESZ Proposals

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

8.1. Mount Harriet National Park Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Shri. Ashok K Panl, ACF (WL), Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration apprised the Committee about the proposal. It was informed that the draft notification was published on 21st February, 2018. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are as follows:

Area of PA : 46.62 sq. km
Proposed ESZ area : 21.82 sq. km
Proposed Extent : 0-1.0 km (zero is proposed towards Eastern side adjoining Andaman Sea)

It was mentioned that the Mount Harriet National Park is situated in the Eastern part of South Andaman District at about 40 km from Port Blair. The sanctuary is a part of highest peak of Andaman at an altitude of 459 metres above MSL. The Mount Harriet National Park exhibits rich biodiversity of terrestrial, mountain and coastal ecosystems with high degree of endemism. The sea shore, creeks as well as sand bar on the beaches serves as an excellent habitat for the endangered species like Salt water crocodile, turtles and Water monitor lizard. The eastern periphery of the protected Area is already protected under CRZ. No comments were received from the stakeholders/public.

To address the queries of the Expert Committee members, State Government mentioned that (i) no villages are inhabited within the ESZ area (ii) few rearrangements are required in the prohibited/regulated activities that appeared in the draft Notification (iii) few changes are to be incorporated in the boundary description and composition of Monitoring committee.

After detailed deliberation, the Committee recommended the draft notification for finalisation subject to the submission of above information.

CHHATTISGARH

8.2. Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve, Chhattisgarh

Shri O. P. Yadav, CCF (WL), Government of Chhattisgarh, Govt. of Chhattisgarh apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was published on 22nd November, 2017. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are as follows:

Area of PA : 1842.54 sq. km
Proposed ESZ area: 472.14 sq. km
Proposed Extent : 0 to 4.2 km (Zero extent towards Northeast, Eastern and Southern sides due to interstate boundary of Odisha)

It was mentioned that the Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve is located in Gariaband and Dhamtari Districts of Chhattisgarh with two core zones. The drainage system of the Tiger Reserve consists of River Mahanadi. The Tiger Reserve the Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve shares its boundary with Sunabeda wildlife sanctuary of Odisha state in the east and towards west it has connectivity with Bastar region which extends further up to Indravati Tiger Reserve. This reserve is an important tiger landscape connecting proposed Sunabeda Tiger reserve of Odisha with Indravati Tiger Reserve of Chhattisgarh and has "Corridor" value in maintaining the gene pool of the spillover population of tiger and other wildlife. Also the Core-1 Udanti Sanctuary is home to the last surviving central Indian Asiatic wild buffalo which is listed as "endangered" as per IUCN red data book.

The important mammals of the area are -Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Panther (*Panthera pardus*), Asiatic Buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*), Nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), Barking Deer (*Muntiacus muntajak*), etc. The endemic flora of the area is Salparni (*Desmodium gangeticum*) while endemic fauna in the sanctuary is Rusty spotted cat (*Prionailurus rubiginosus*). There are 40 villages located in the in the ESZ. No public comments were received from the stakeholders/public.

Responding to Expert Members State Govt. representative informed that local people have no objection to this notification and expressed the difficulties for extending the ESZ between the two core zones of the sanctuaries. Based on deliberations, the experts appreciated the State Govt. for inclusion of ESZ beyond the buffer zone of the Tiger Reserve, but noted that the entire buffer zone is not included in the ESZ. The Committee recommended the draft notification for finalisation subject to NTCA's clarification of ESZ area.

GUJARAT

8.3. Rattan Mahal Sanctuary, Gujarat

Shri Akshay K. Sayer, PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Government of Gujarat apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was published on 9th November, 2017. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are as follows:

Area of PA	:	55.65 sq. km
Proposed ESZ area	:	24.15041 sq. km
Proposed Extent	:	2.23- 19.67 km

The state representative informed Committee that there was some mistake in the calculation of ESZ area and requested for rectification of the ESZ area as 241.50 sq. km. instead of 24.150 sq. km.

It was mentioned that the Rattan Mahal Sanctuary is located in the eastern part of Gujarat along Gujarat-Madhya Pradesh border. It forms a contiguous track with the forests of Alirajpur district Madhya Pradesh. The South east and Northern side of the sanctuary is forest area of Baria Forest Division. It is home for Sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*) one of the four species found in India. No comments were received from the stakeholders/public.

On the endangered species and census of sloth bear in the sanctuary, the state informed Committee that it has prepared the inventory of species and no threatened or rare species are found in the sanctuary. There were 119 sloth bear in Rattan Mahal Sanctuary as per 2016 census.

After detailed deliberation, the Committee recommended the draft notification for finalisation after receiving formal communication from State Government on correction of ESZ area.

8.4. Jambugodha Sanctuary, Gujarat

Shri Akshay K. Sayer, PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Government of Gujarat apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was published on 28th December, 2017. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are as follows:

Area of PA : 130.38 sq. km
Proposed ESZ area : 26.976 sq. km
Proposed Extent : 1.10- 4.98 km

The state representative informed Committee that there was some mistake in the calculation of ESZ area and requested for rectification of the ESZ area as 269.76 sq. km instead of 26.976 sq. km.

It was mentioned that the Jambugodha Sanctuary is located in Panchmahal and Chhotaudepur district in the state of Gujarat. The important fauna of the sanctuary are *Panther pardus*, *Doselaphus tragocamelus*, *Tetracerus quadricornis*, *Hyaena hyaena*. The sanctuary becomes the permanent habitat of Sloth Bear owing to rich and similar type of adjoining corridor of Reserve Forest of Chhotaudepur. Flying squirrel (*Petaurista petaurista phillippensis*), the endangered species is also found in the area. No comments were received from the stakeholders/public.

After detailed deliberation, the Committee recommended the draft notification for finalisation after receiving formal communication from State Government on correction of ESZ area.

8.5. Eco-sensitive Zone around Kachchh Bustard Sanctuary, Gujarat

Shri Akshay K. Sayer, PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Government of Gujarat apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was published on 15th January, 2018. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are as follows:

Area of PA	:	2.028 sq. km
Proposed ESZ area	:	219.78 sq. km
Proposed Extent	:	0- 36.70 km (Zero extent towards North, West and North-West is toward seaside)

It was mentioned that the Kachchh Bustard Sanctuary is located in Abdasa Taluka/Tehsil of Kachchh district in the state of Gujarat. The sanctuary is the habitat of Indian Bustard which is categorized by IUCN (Red Data Book) as a critically endangered species because of its very small and declining population.

The committee appreciated the State for proposing an ESZ area of 100 times that of sanctuary area. Responding to expert Committee, the state Govt elaborated that there are 28 Bustards in the sanctuary and it has a species recovery plan for the Bustards. The Govt. of India has sanctioned funds to Wildlife Institute of India as a part of artificial breeding program. Also, the Government of Gujarat is going to collaborate with Govt. of Rajasthan which has maximum number of Bustards in India. On the installation of Wind Energy Turbine in the ESZ Area, the state informed that this area has restriction on such installations.

No comments were received from the stakeholders/public. After detailed deliberation, the Committee recommended the draft notification for finalisation.

8.6. Wild Ass Sanctuary, Gujarat

Shri Shyamal Tikadar, APCCF (WL) Govt. of Gujarat apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was published on 16th January, 2018. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are as follows:

Area of PA	:	4953.712 sq. km
Proposed ESZ area	:	638. 83 sq. km
Proposed Extent	:	0-1.2 km

It was mentioned that the Wild Ass Sanctuary is located in Kachchh, Morbi, Surendranagar and Patan district in the state of Gujarat. Indian Wild Ass (*Equus hemionus khur*), Kutchi prawn (*Metapenaeus kutchensis*) are the endemic species in the Wild Ass Sanctuary and it is proposed as World Heritage site and comes under Kutch Biosphere Reserve. There are about 4051 Wild Ass as per 2016 census.

The ESZ is mainly proposed towards East and South. The state justified that zero ESZ is because of another adjoining sanctuary and run of Kachchh. Dolri (*Aeluropus lagopoides*), Morad (*Sueda fruticosa*), Parasi (*Tamarix troupii*), Indian Wild Ass (*Equus hemionus khur*), Sarus crane (*Grus antigone*) are the important Endangered flora and fauna. No comments were received from the stakeholders/public. After detailed deliberations, the Committee recommended the draft notification for finalisation.

HARYANA

8.7. Asola Bhatti WLS, Haryana

Shri. Anil Hooda, Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Haryana appraised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was published on 28th December, 2017. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are as follows:

Area of PA	:	32.71 sq. km
Proposed ESZ area	:	12.17 sq. km
Proposed Extent	:	100m – 1km

It was mentioned that the Asola Bhatti WLS is located in Faridabad District and in Gurugram District of Haryana State and the South-eastern part of the southern ridge of Delhi, NCT, the south-east boundary spreading up to Delhi-Haryana border. The sanctuary consists of a mixture of indigenous and exotic species. The faunal diversity is represented by 17 species of mammals, around 201 species of birds, 12 species of reptiles, 5 species of amphibians, 63 species of butterflies and 05 species of dragonflies.

Responding to the Members of the Expert Committee, the state informed that the sanctuary has a long habitat range of leopard along Delhi-Haryana landscape but recently there was no leopard seen in the area. The State has proposed two monitoring committees' one each for Faridabad and Gurugram Districts. The members asked the State to keep only one Monitoring Committee as per the provisions of the Notification instead of two. No comments were received from the stakeholders/public.

After detailed deliberation, the Committee recommended the draft notification for finalisation subject to re-submission of composition of Monitoring committee as suggested above.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

8.8. Jasrota WLS, J&K

Shri. Ravi Kesar, DCCF (HoFF) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was published on 3rd November, 2017. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are as follows:

Area of PA	: 10.04 sq. km
Proposed ESZ area	: Not mentioned in the published draft
Proposed Extent	: zero to 2.022 km.

It was mentioned that Jasrota WLS is located on the Northern side of Kathua District, 75 km from Jammu. It is located between river Ujh in the East and Lodowali khad in the West. The vegetation of the sanctuary comes under the major group "Sub tropical Northern Mixed Dry Deciduous Forests." Important fauna/avifauna reported from the Jasrota Wildlife Sanctaury are Nilgai (*Boselaphus trangocamelus*), Spotted deer (*Axis axis*), Barking deer (*Muntiacus muntejak*), Rhesus monkey (*Mocaca Mulatta*), Jackal (*Canis aureus*), Hare (*Lepus nigricollis*) etc. and rich diversity of avifauna including two species of galliforms viz. jungle fowl and peafowl and Leopard is the top predator.

The state informed that there are some mistakes in the number of villages in the published draft notification. The number of villages located in the ESZ is four (4) instead of five. Members of the Expert Committee also suggested to include list of additional plant species found in the PA. No comments were received from the stakeholders/public. After detailed deliberation, the Committee recommended the draft notification for finalisation subject to submission of above information.

MAHARASHTRA

8.9. Tipeswar WLS, Maharashtra

Dr. Sivabala S, DCF, East Nashik, Govt. of Maharashtra apprised the Committee about the proposal. The re-notification was published on 05th Feb. 2018. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are as follows:

Area of PA : 148.632 sq. km
Proposed ESZ area : 404.57 sq. km
Proposed Extent : 150m - 11 kilometres

It was mentioned that the Tipeshwar WLS is located in Yavatmal district of Maharashtra. It is a good wildlife corridor. The minimum ESZ extent is 150 m which is bordering with Telangana. Animals such as Black Buck (*Antelope cervicapra*), Jackal (*Canis aureus*), Porcupine (*Hystrix indica*), etc. including Schedule-I species such as Sloth Bear (*Melursus ursinus*), four horned antelopes (*Tetracerus quadricornis*) are found. There are only 5 adult tigers and 9 cubs protected in the sanctuary; thus it very important from conversation point of view.

The state informed that there were some rectifications in the GPS coordinates of villages listed in the proposal. Members of the Expert Committee appreciated the area and extend of the ESZ proposal as the ESZ area is almost thrice that of PA. The experts suggested addition of flora list to further improve the quality of proposal.

Objections received from the stakeholders/public on the Draft Notification were discussed in the meeting. On the ongoing case filed by four stone crushers- (i) Santosh N Godegoniwar-Gut no. 54/1 Seven Hills Stone Crusher (ii) Kisanbhai B Patel-Gut no 54/2 Shakti Stone crusher (iii) Anil V Bhaganagarkar-Gut no. 61/3 Ganesh Stone Crusher and (iv) Ramesh Patel-67/2 Balaji Stone Crusher, Wasari to exclude stone quarry area from the ESZ in Bombay High Court, case no are 7216/2017, 7217/2017 & 7218/2017, the State Government mentioned that all these four stone quarries are less than 1 km from the boundary of the WLS. Though it is in private area, blasting and other mining related work have detrimental effect on wildlife.

After detailed deliberations, the Committee recommended the draft notification for finalisation subject to submission of above information by the State.

8.10. Anerdam WLS, Maharashtra

Shri. K. P. Singh, APCCF (P&M), Govt. of Maharashtra apprised the Committee about the proposal. The re-notification was published on 08.03.2018. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are as follows:

Area of PA : 82.95 sq. km
Proposed ESZ area : 69.42 sq. km

Proposed Extent : 0.1- 3.0 km

It was mentioned that the Anerdam WLS is situated about 60 Kms from Dhule in Dhule & Jalgaon Districts of Maharashtra. Important Wild Animals reported from the Anerdam Wildlife Sanctuary are Hyena (*Hyanena,hyanena*), Jackal (*Canis aureaus*), Gray Fox (*Vulpus bengalensis*), Indian Gazelle (*Bazella gazelle*), Barking deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*), Common mongoose (*Herpestes adwardsi*), and Five striped Palm Squirrel (*Funambulus pennanti*) etc.

The Members of the Expert Committee enquired whether there are any deviations in re-draft from the earlier published draft notification. The state informed that earlier ESZ area was 474.87 square kilometer with an extent varying between 2.25 km and 12 km. The proposal has been rationalised with consent of local people. Also list of schedule animals was added in the re-draft notification. No comments were received from the stakeholders/public. After detailed deliberation, the Committee recommended the draft notification for finalisation.

8.11. Nandur Madhmeshwar WLS, Maharashtra

Shri. K. P. Singh, APCCF (P&M), Govt. of Maharashtra apprised the Committee about the proposal. The proposal is for issuing draft notification. The salient features of the proposed draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are as follows:

Area of PA : 100.127 sq. km
Proposed ESZ area : 0.470 sq. km
Proposed Extent : 0 to 240 meters (Zero ESZ is because of village settlement in most boundaries of the sanctuary which are largely agricultural areas).

It was mentioned that the Nandur Madhmeshwar is an important wetland ecosystem located about 40 km from Nashik town. The sanctuary is an abode of aquatic avifauna. More than 240 species of Migratory bird have been reported from this sanctuary. The important bird species that visit this sanctuary are- Flamingoes, Brahmany duck, cranes, storks, waders etc.

As State has proposed ESZ extent only at two small patches, the Members of the Expert Committee enquired about the possibility of extending the ESZ area. The state informed the committee that the process of revision of the proposal is going on and State Govt would re-submit the revised proposal to MoEF&CC. After detailed deliberations, the Committee deferred the proposal for consideration.

RAJASTHAN

8.12. Jamwaramgarh Sanctuary, Rajasthan

Smt Shailaja Deval, CF (WL-HQ) Jaipur, Forest Department, Govt. of Rajasthan apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was published on 2nd Feb. 2018. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are as follows:

Area of PA	:	300 sq. km
Proposed ESZ area	:	77.56 sq. km
Proposed Extent	:	100m – 1.00 km

It was mentioned that the Jamwaramgarh Sanctuary is situated in Aravalli hills near Jaipur city of Rajasthan. It is surrounded on Northern side by Manoharpur Dausa Mega Highway and by the forest area of Range Bassi on south eastern side. There are 51 villages inside the sanctuary. Leopard, Hyaena, Porcupine, Bijju, Nevla, Chital, Sambhar, Bluebull, Crocodile and many species of birds comprise the main fauna of the sanctuary. The proposed ESZ of Jamwaramgarh Sanctuary will be contiguous with buffer zone of Sariska Tiger Reserve.

The Members of the Expert Committee enquired about the mining activities. Mrs, Deval responded that Soft stone is very important resource in the area and mining activity will be prohibited till one (1) Km from the boundary of PA in line with the Guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court. The experts suggested to review and verify the list of flora and fauna found in the Sanctuary. State Govt also mentioned that there is a Court case pending for decision before the Hon'ble Supreme Court w.r.t the above PA. No comments were received from the stakeholders/public.

After detailed deliberations, the Committee recommended the draft notification for finalisation subject to compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Court w.r.t ESZ if any and incorporation of revision of list of flora and fauna.

UTTAR PRADESH

8.13. Chandraprabha Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh

Shri. S. K. Awasthi, CCF (WL), Govt. of Uttar Pradesh apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was published on 15th January, 2018. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are as follows:

Area of PA : 96.066 sq. km
Proposed ESZ area : 45.551 sq. Km
Proposed Extent : 1.0 km uniform

It was mentioned that it was the 1st Wildlife Sanctuary of Uttar Pradesh. It is located about 65 Km from the district headquarter Chandauli and about 75 Km from the Varanasi. The Landscape is home to one of the ancient civilizations and the entire basin is rich in ancient rock paintings and Paleolithic to Neolithic artifacts. It is important corridor for wild animals in entire Vindhyan landscape across states. The Asiatic lion was introduced on 1958 in the sanctuary for artificial breeding programme though the project was closed in the year 1969.

The Sanctuary is also comprised of wetland eco-system having good number of medicinal plants. Leopard is the major predatory animal in the sanctuary. It is a ground for migratory waterfowls from Palearctic region and serves as an important wintering and breeding ground for many species of wetland birds.

There are seven villages in Eco-sensitive zone. On the query of the Expert Committee about the frequency of visitors and status of eco-tourism, State mentioned that many tourists are visiting on a seasonal basis and the State Govt. also creates awareness for the promotion of tourism in the area. No comments were received from the stakeholders/public. After detailed deliberation, the Committee recommended the draft notification for finalisation.

8.14. Patna Bird Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh

Shri. S. K. Awasthi, CCF (WL), Govt. of Uttar Pradesh apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was published on 30th January 2018. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are as follows:

Area of PA : 1.08 sq. km
Proposed ESZ area : 7.34 sq. km
Proposed Extent : 1.0 km uniform

It was mentioned that the Patna Bird Sanctuary is located about 45 Km from the district Head Quarter Etah in U.P. It is the smallest sanctuary of Uttar Pradesh. It comprises of a natural fresh water rain fed lake serving as host to almost one lakh water birds (Migratory and resident). This wetland based bird sanctuary also qualified for being declared a Ramsar site. Some rare and threatened species in the area are Oriental White-backed Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*), Long-billed vulture (*Gyps indicus*), Greater Spotted Eagle (*Aquila*

clanga), Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone*), Oriental White Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*), Lesser flamingo (*Phoenicopterus minor*), Black-bellied tern (*Sterna acuticauda*) etc.

On the query of the Chairman, on major steps being taken up by the state for sensitising people about ESZ notifications, the state replied that it has created awareness by putting signboards and demarcating the ESZ boundaries. No comments were received from the stakeholders/public. After detailed deliberation, the Committee recommended the draft notification for finalisation.

8.15. Jai Prakash Narayan (Surahatal BS), Uttar Pradesh

Shri. S. K. Awasthi, CCF (WL), Govt. of Uttar Pradesh apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was published on 31st January 2018. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are as follows:

Area of PA	:	34.329 sq. km
Proposed ESZ area	:	27 sq. km
Proposed Extent	:	1.0 km uniform

It was mentioned that the Jai Prakash Narayan (Surahatal BS) is located about 10 kilometres from the district head quarter Ballia, eastern most part of the State of Uttar Pradesh. It is a natural rain fed lake onnected with the backwater of river Ganga and serving as host to almost one (1) lakh water birds (Migratory and resident). There are 180 species of birds reported (as per Rahmani & Daniel 1997, Ahmad & Javed 2000). The area gets about 60-70000 waterfowl in peak winter. Major birds are - Sarus Crane, Brahminy Duck, Spot bill, Rosy pelican, Glossy Ibis, Mallard, Bar-headed goose) etc. It is also a habitat of *Boselaphus tragocamelus*, Nilgai or Blue Bull; *Canis aureus*, Asiatic Jackal; *Lepus nigricollis*, Indian Hare; *Mellivora capensis*, Honey Badger; *Prionailurus viverrinus*, Fishing Cat; *Herpestes edwardsii* etc. Turtle are also found in the sanctuary.

Responding to the Expert Committee, state informed that no large scale fishing was observed in the sanctuary and biotic pressures were mainly from local people and cattle. Based on discussion, the experts asked the State Govt. to include endemic species available in the sanctuary. No comments were received from the stakeholders/public. After detailed deliberation, the Committee recommended the draft notification for finalisation subject to submission of above information.

8.16. Bakhira WLS, Uttar Pradesh

Shri Ram Kumar, CCF (WL), Department of Forest, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh apprised the Committee about the proposal. The re-notification was published on 30th January, 2018. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are as follows:

Area of PA : 2.894 sq. km
Proposed ESZ area : 33.46 sq. km
Proposed Extent : 1.0 km uniform

It was mentioned that the Bakhira WLS is situated in district Sant Kabir Nagar in the State of Uttar Pradesh. It is home of diverse avifauna and large no of local and migratory birds visit Bakhira every year. It is also home of mammals like Nilgai, Wild Boar, Jackal, Fox etc and it augments ground water recharging and it source for drinking water for domesticated animals in the summer season and an important recreational site for locals.

About 40000 birds belonging to about 30 species have been listed during winters and the important birds visiting this sanctuary. There are also many endemic species in the area and there are 37 villages in the Eco-sensitive zone that exert biotic pressure in the area.

No comments were received from the stakeholders/public. After detailed deliberation, the Committee recommended the draft notification for finalisation.

8.17. Hastinapur Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh

Shri L. K. Verma, CCF Meerut, Department of Forest, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was published on 12th February 18. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are as follows:

Area of PA : 2073 sq. km
Proposed ESZ area : 239.41 sq. km
Proposed Extent : 1.0 km uniform

It was mentioned that the Hastinapur Sanctuary is located in five districts - Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Hapur, Bijnor and Amroha of Uttar Pradesh. It is the old bed of River Ganga which is now parallel to both i.e. Ganga River and Khola forest. It is an ideal habitat for the State Animal - Swamp Deer and the wetlands support large number of migratory birds. The occurrence of State Animal -Swamp Deer, State Bird - Sarus Crane, State Fish - Cheetal and National Aquatic Animal - Ganga River Dolphin in one place makes this sanctuary unique.

In addition, this sanctuary also holds good the populations of Smooth coated Otter, Sambar, Leopard, Python (2 Species), Fishes (79 Species) and Turtles (13 Species) and Mugger. In addition to national and state animals, this Wildlife Sanctuary holds good diversity of key stone wildlife fauna - 41 species of Mammals, 373 species of Birds, 36 species of Reptiles, 10 species of Amphibians and 79 species of Fishes have been reported from the sanctuary. There are 280 plant species are reported from the Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary out of which 81 are the species of medicinal plants.

The Members of the Expert Committee commented on uniform 1 kilometre ESZ extent and urged to increase the area toward north for a suitable wildlife corridor. It was also suggested to include forest area outside the ESZ area. However, State informed the difficulties of further extension as the lands are mostly private agricultural lands. No comments were received from the stakeholders/public. After detailed deliberation, the Committee recommended the draft notification for finalisation.

WEST BENGAL

8.18. Senchal WLS, West Bengal

Shri S Sundriyal, APCCF, Wildlife, Department of Forest, West Bengal apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was published on 09.11.2017. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are as follows:

Area of PA	:	38.88 sq km.
Proposed ESZ area	:	40.08 sq km
Proposed Extent	:	1 km

It was informed that the area is important not only for ecological and scientific reason of research and preservation of the last remnants of gene pool of indigenous flora and fauna but its importance also lies in respect of the role it plays in the life of local inhabitants.

The main characteristics of the sanctuary apart from its being entirely hilly is the region lies very closed to Darjeeling town and its suburbs. It is an ecological oasis and water bank for Darjeeling for Darjeeling town. Because of its close proximity to a densely populated area coupled with its easy accessibility via a number of good roads, human interference with the biotope of the sanctuary is high.

Variety of important flora and fauna exists amidst the forest of Senchal Wildlife Sanctuary. The main forest types in the sanctuary are Fir- Hemlock-Oak mixed forest, Oak forest and broad leaved evergreen forest. There are approximately 380-400 flowering plants, various species of rhododendron. The important wildlife in the Sanctuary are Serrow, Goral, Leopard, Himalayan Black Bear, Lesser Cats, Yellow throated Marten, Squirrels (Giant & Flying), Barking Deer, Wild Boar, Black backed Khaleej Pheasant etc.

No comments were received from the stakeholders/public. After detailed discussions, the committee recommended for finalization of draft notification.

8.19. Chintamoni Kar Bird Sanctuary, West Bengal

Shri S Sundriyal, APCCF, Wildlife, Department of Forest, West Bengal apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was published on 12.10.2017. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are as follows:

Area of PA	:	0.07 sq km.
Proposed ESZ area	:	0.105 sq km
Proposed Extent	:	100 m (Uniform)

It was informed that the Chintamony Kar Bird Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the bio-geographic zone 7B (Lower Gangetic Plain) as recognized by Rodgers and Panwar, 1988 (W.I.I. Dehradun). This Wildlife Sanctuary is visited by number of scheduled animals of the (Wildlife Protection) Act, 1972, which include Civet Cat (Viverridae spp.), Fishing Cat (Felis viverrina), Mongoose (Herpestes spp.), Water Monitor Lizard (Varanus salvator), Jackal (Canis aureus), Squirrel (Funambulus pennanti), Common Fox (Vulpes bengalensis). It has its significance in the international context for providing shelter and protection to various species of wildlife particularly birds included in the Red Data Book (R.D.B) of the IUCN and the appendices of CITES.

This Sanctuary is a paradise for birds such as Red throated fly catcher, Oriole, Paradise fly catcher, Drongo, Jungle Babbler, Asian Koel, spotted Dove, Common Kingfisher, Indian cuckoo, Rufous Woodpecker, Little Cormorant, Lineated Barbet etc. In addition, various types of smaller animal e.g. Fishing Cat, Jackal, Hare, Water Monitor Lizard and snakes are found in the adjoining villages of the sanctuary.

No comments were received from the stakeholders/public. After detailed discussions, the committee recommended for finalization of draft notification.

8.20. Raiganj Sanctuary, West Bengal

Shri S Sundriyal, APCCF, Wildlife, Department of Forest, West Bengal apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was published on 12.10.2017. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are as follows:

Area of PA : 1.30 sq km.
Proposed ESZ area : 0.12 sq km
Proposed Extent : 100 m (Uniform)

It was informed that the Raiganj Wildlife Sanctuary boasts of different species of mammals, birds, reptiles, turtles, fishes which have immense biodiversity value. The sanctuary harbours good numbers of Aquatic and terrestrial avian fauna also congregation of small mammals, Reptiles & Amphibians. It holds one of the largest breeding ground of Asian Openbill Stork in Asia. It also provides good habitat for the aquatic birds like herons, Cormorants, Egrets.

Migratory birds mainly Asian Openbill usually comes in groups during the month of end of May-June for breeding and leaves by December-January. In recent trends, winter visitors like Teals & Ducks, even birds practicing altitudinal migration is also visiting this sanctuary.

The PA harbours other local birds, insects, butterflies, moths & Fishes. The yellow monitor lizard, Common fox, Bats, Giant Squirrels, Jackal, Jungle cats, Rodents etc, are also found. The Asian Openbill species is known to breed in a colony, called heronry, but there are very few heronries in India, particularly those that are well protected against human greed. Ornithologically, Raiganj Wildlife Sanctuary is a very important heronry.

The Kulik River which flows along the eastern side of the Sanctuary is important part of the Habitat. During rainy season it overflow and flushes the main oxbow lake & canal within the Sanctuary. This oxbow lake is the perennial source of water. Besides Kulik river, there are no of canals in the Sanctuary which provide the conducive environment of birds.

No comments were received from the stakeholders/public. After detailed discussions, the committee recommended for finalization of draft notification.

8.21. Chapramari Sanctuary, West Bengal

Shri S Sundriyal, APCCF, Wildlife, Department of Forest, West Bengal apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification was

published on 21.02.2018. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are as follows:

Area of PA : 9.60 sq km.
Proposed ESZ area : 51.53 sq km
Proposed Extent : 2 km

State Govt mentioned that the ESZ area is 37.60 sq.km and informed that though the area of the Sanctuary is small, it has a great significance in the forested landscape of Jalpaiguri district along with its Forest, riverine ecosystem and adjoining tea gardens and villages including their diverse ethnicities. The location of the Sanctuary is just under the hills of Neora Valley NP and Kalimpong Division and it serves as meeting point of many animals and birds of the plains of Jalpaiguri district and hills of Darjeeling & Kalimpong district. The Sanctuary serves as a vital link between the forest of Sipchu and Khumani in the North and Panjhora Forest Block in the South. This form a corridor which is widely utilized by migrating elephants both North-South and East-West and *vice versa*.

No comments were received from the stakeholders/public. After detailed deliberation, the committee recommended for finalization of draft notification.

8.22 Bethudahari Sanctuary, West Bengal

Shri S Sundriyal, APCCF, Wildlife, Department of Forest, West Bengal apprised the Committee about the proposal. The draft notification is yet to be published. The salient features of the draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are as follows:

Area of PA : 0.6686 sq km.
Proposed ESZ area : 0.20 sq km
Proposed Extent : 5 m (uniform)

It was mentioned that the major species found in the Sanctuary are Spotted Deer, Black Naked hare, Common Langur, Mongoose, Palm Civet, Jackal, Jungle Cat, about 50 species of birds & gharial, star tortoise, pythons etc in and around the sanctuary. There is no endemic species in the area.

The local people i.e. people residing in fringe areas and around the sanctuary run their livelihood by agriculture mainly. A good number also works as daily laborers in neighboring towns like Krishnagar. Very few of them have small businesses. There is good pressure for collection of firewood.

The committee did not agree for 5-meter extent for ESZ and recommended the State Govt to submit a revised proposal extending the ESZ.

9. Based on the draft notifications, comments received from stakeholder/public, presentations made on the proposals and detailed discussions on each proposal the Expert Committee took the following decisions:

Sl. No.	Protected Area	State	Recommendation of Expert Committee
1.	Mount Harriet National Park	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Recommended for finalization subject to submission of additional information by State
2.	Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve	Chhattisgarh	Recommended for finalization subject to NTCA Comments
3.	Rattan Mahal Sanctuary	Gujarat	Recommended for finalization subject to submission of additional information by State
4.	Jambugodha Sanctuary	Gujarat	Recommended for finalization subject to submission of additional information by State
5.	Kachchh Bustard Sanctuary	Gujarat	Recommended for finalization
6.	Wild Ass Sanctuary	Gujarat	Recommended for finalization
7.	Asola Bhatti WLS	Haryana	Recommended for finalization subject to submission of additional information by State
8.	Jasrota WLS	Jammu and Kashmir	Recommended for finalization subject to submission of additional information by State
9.	Tipeshwar WLS	Maharashtra	Recommended for finalization
10.	Anerdam WLS	Maharashtra	Recommended for finalization
11.	Nandur Madhameshwar	Maharashtra	Differed. State Govt to resubmit fresh proposal
12.	Jamwaramgarh Sanctuary	Rajasthan	Recommended for finalization subject to submission of additional information by State and directions of Hon'ble Court.
13.	Chandraprabha Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh	Recommended for finalization
14.	Patna Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh	Recommended for finalization
15.	Jai Prakash Narayan (Surahatal) BS	Uttar Pradesh	Recommended for finalization subject to submission of additional information by State

Sl. No.	Protected Area	State	Recommendation of Expert Committee
16.	Bakhira WLS	Uttar Pradesh	Recommended for finalization
17.	Hastinapur Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh	Recommended for finalization
18.	Senchal WLS	West Bengal	Recommended for Final Notification
19.	Chintamani Kar Bird Sanctuary	West Bengal	Recommended for Final Notification
20.	Raiganj Sanctuary	West Bengal	Recommended for Final Notification
21.	Chapramari Sanctuary	West Bengal	Recommended for Final Notification
22.	Bethudhari Wildlife Sanctuary	West Bengal	Revised proposal to be submitted by state Govt.

10. Based on two days discussion in the meetings for better management of ESZ in the country, Chairman elaborately discussed the following for implementation:

- I. Chair emphasized the need for the Time Series data on Flora and Fauna of all the Protected Areas. In this regard, he mentioned to issue letters to BSI, ZSI and WII for developing the data set.
- II. The Chairman inquired about the problems and complications faced by the State in implementation of ESZ provisions. State replied that though they face minor problems, state can implement the provisions of ESZ notification in collaboration with the local people.
- III. He urged the States to make compliance of rules and regulations stipulated in the ESZ notification and emphasised the need for preparation of future management plans for each ESZ and suggested forming a small sub-group to identify and resolve the issues faced by the States on ESZ and to address related issues.
- IV. Chairman also advised the ESZ division to explore the feasibility of funding sources for conducting follow up studies of ESZ and compliance of Notification.
- V. He further suggested exploring the feasibility of funding from probable sources (internal and external) for the conservation of Biodiversity in the ESZ areas.

11. Meeting on 26th June, 2018 ended with vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

30th Expert Committee Meeting on ESZ held on 25th and 26th June, 2018

List of Participants

Day1 (25/06/2018)

Members of Expert Committee

1. Shri A. K. Mehta, Additional Secretary, Chairperson.
2. Shri. Lalit Kapur, Adviser, MoEF&CC.
3. Shri. S. A. Hussain, Scientist 'G', WII, Dehradun.
4. Dr. Kailash Chandra, Director, Z.S.I.
5. Dr. B. K. Sinha, Scientist 'F', B. S. I.
6. Dr. K. Ambrish, Scientist 'E', B. S. I.
7. Dr. Sejal Worah, Program Director, WWF.
8. Dr. J. C. Kuniyal, Scientist 'F', GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development, Almora.
9. Dr. H. Padaoh, Scientist, IIRS.
10. Shri Sanjay Singh, Scientist, ICFRE, Dehradun.
11. Shri. Arun Kumar, Deputy Director, Forest Survey of India, Dehradun.
12. Dr. Goldin Quadres, Principal Scientist 'E', Sálím Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History.
13. Shri. Ajay Aggarawal, AD, Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi.
14. Shri. Raja Ram Singh, AIGF, National Tiger Conservation Authority.
15. Shri B. B. Saikia, Director, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD &GR).
16. Shri Guru Prasad, Deputy Director, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD &GR).

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GOI

17. Shri Subrata Bose, Director (SC- 'F'), MoEF & CC.
18. Shri Pankaj Verma, Joint Director (SC- 'D'), MoEF & CC.

Officials of Government of Andhra Pradesh

19. Shri. P. Ram Mohan Rao, DFO, Nellure, Andhra Pradesh.
20. Shri. G. Divya Prasad, Technical Officer, Andhra Pradesh.

Officials of Government of Arunachal Pradesh

21. Shri. Kenjum Rina, DFO (W/L), Mehao, Arunachal Pradesh.
22. Shri. Millo Tasser, DCF, Department of Environment & Forest, Arunachal Pradesh.

Officials of Government of Jharkhand

23. Shri. M. P. Singh, APCCF, Govt. of Jharkhand.

Officials of Government of Madhya Pradesh

24. Shri. A S Mohanta, CCF, MP Forest.

25. Shri. Faizan Rasheed, Project Manager, EPCO Dept. of Environment, Madhya Pradesh.

Officials of Government of Mizoram

26. Shri. Liandawla, APCCF, Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Mizoram.

Officials of Government of Uttarakhand

27. Shri. Amit Kauwan, DFO, Kedarnath, Govt. of Uttarakhand.

28. Shri. Chandra Shekhar Joshi, DFO, Nanda Devi NP, Govt. of Uttarakhand.

29. Shri. Chandra Shekhar Sanwal, DFO, Nandhaur WLS, Govt. of Uttarakhand.

30. Shri. Dhanajai Moha, APCCF (W/L), Uttarakhand Forest Dept.

Officials of Government of Telangana

31. Shri. P. K. Jha, PCCF (H&EF), Forest Dept. Telangana.

Day2 (26/06/2018)

Members of Expert Committee

1. Shri A. K. Mehta, Additional Secretary, Chairperson.
2. Shri. Lalit Kapur, Adviser, MoEF&CC.
3. Shri. S. A. Hussain, Scientist 'G', WII, Dehradun.
4. Dr. Kailash Chandra, Director, Z.S.I.
5. Dr. B. K. Sinha, Scientist 'F', B. S. I.
6. Dr. K. Ambrish, Scientist 'E', B. S. I.
7. Dr. Sejal Worah, Program Director, WWF.
8. Dr. J. C. Kuniyal, Scientist 'F', GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development, Almora.
9. Dr. H. Padaoh, Scientist, IIRS.
10. Shri Sanjay Singh, Scientist, ICFRE, Dehradun.
11. Shri. Arun Kumar, Deputy Director, Forest Survey of India, Dehradun.
12. Dr. Goldin Quadros, Principal Scientist 'E', Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History.

13. Shri Guru Prasad, Deputy Director, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD &GR).
14. Shri. Sandeep Kumar Rant, Associate T&CP, Town & Country Planning Organisation, New Delhi.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GOI

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21. Shri L. K. Verma, CCF Meerut, Department of Forest, Uttar Pradesh.
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23. Shri. K. P. Singh, APCCF (P&M), Wildlife, Department of Forest, Maharashtra.
24. Shri K. M. Abharna, DCF, Pandharawada, Yavatmal Circle, Department of Forest, Maharashtra.
25. Dr. Sivabala S, DCF, East Nashik, Department of Forest, Maharashtra.
26. Shri. Amitraj R. Jadhav, ACF, Dhule, Department of Forest, Maharashtra.

Officials of Government of West Bengal

27. Shri. S Sundriyal, APCCF, Wildlife, Department of Forest, West Bengal.

Officials of Government of Jammu & Kashmir

28. Shri. Ravi Kesar, DCCF (HoFF) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Wildlife Protection Dept. Jammu & Kashmir.
29. Shri. Tahir Shawl, Regional Wildlife Warden, Wildlife Protection Dept. Jammu & Kashmir.
30. Shri M. S. Sultan, CF (WL), Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

Officials of Government of Haryana

31. Shri. Anil Hoodak, WLW, Forest and Wildlife Department, Govt. of Haryana.

Officials of Government of Andaman & Nicobar Islands

32. Shri. D. M. Shukna, PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration.
33. Shri. Ashok K Panl, ACF (WL), Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration.

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34. Shri. G. K. Sinha, PCCF (HoFF), Government of Gujarat.
35. Shri Akshay k Sayer, PCCF(WL) & CWLW, Forest & Environment Department, Government of Gujarat.
36. Shri Shyamal Tikadar, APCCF(WL), Forest Department, Government of Gujarat.

Officials of Government of Rajasthan

37. Shri Y. K. Dak, Secretary (Forest), Government of Rajasthan.
38. Shri. G. V. Reddy, APCCF (WL), Forest Department, Government of Rajasthan.
39. Shri Shailaja Deval, CF (WL-HQ) Jaipur, Forest Department, Government of Rajasthan.
40. Shri S. K. Gupta, ACF, Jamwaramgarh, Forest Department, Government of Rajasthan.

Officials of Government of Chhattisgarh

41. Shri O. P. Yadav, CCF (WL), Udanti-Sitandi Tiger Reserve, Forest Department, Government of Chhattisgarh.
