

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Subject: Delineation of Ecologically sensitive Areas (ESA) in Western Ghat Region of Karnataka State.

- Read: 1) Draft Gazetted Notification, S.O.733(E) dated 10/03/2014 of Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India for declaring Ecologically Sensitive Area(ESA) in Western Ghats States.
- 2) D.O letter dated 09/06/2014, from Dr V.Rajagopalan, Secretary to Govt., of India, MoEF addressed to Sri Kaushik Mukherjee, Chief Secretary to Govt., of Karnataka.

Preamble:

In vide Draft Gazetted Notification dated: 10/03/2014 of Ministry of Environment of India referred (1) above, Kasturirangan Committee (Highlevel Working Committee-HLWG) has made recommendations regarding delineation of Ecologically sensitive Areas (ESA) in Western Ghat region of the Country and various activities to be prohibited and regulated in the Eco-sensitive Areas in the region. A Draft Gazette Notification, S.O.733(E) dated 10/03/2014 was issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India in the matter and the objections and suggestions were called for with in 60 days from the date on which copies of the Gazette of this notification are made available to the public. The Government of Karnataka has communicated its stand/opinion regarding HLWG's recommendations and the subsequent notification issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, referred above, based on the recommendations of the Cabinet Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Forest Minister for the purpose.

Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India vide the ref (2) above has communicated that an opportunity is given to the States of Western Ghat Region (except Kerala) for undertaking the exercise of demarcating ESA within their jurisdiction by physical verification as was done in Kerala State.

In Karnataka state too, many representations and complaints were received regarding inclusion of cultivated areas, plantation areas and human habitations in ESAs, apprehending that restrictions so imposed in ESAs may affect the livelihoods of farmers and common people in the region adversely.

On perusal of the recommendations of the Expert Committee constituted by the Kerala Government in the matter, it is observed that field teams have been constituted for physical verification of the ESAs recommended by HLWG, so that human habitations, farmlands and plantations are excluded from ESAs,

KARNATAKA UNIVERSITY BOARD
BANGALORE.
INWARD No. 902
DATE 16/09/14
A.O. 16/9/14
D.C.F.
M.S.

Receiver Signature

so that only natural landscapes are included in ESAs. Physical verification of maps and field data by field committees, has facilitated the State Committee to finalise its recommendations on the HLWG report.

Government has examined the issue in detail and hence orders as hereunder.

GOVERNMENT ORDER NO. FEE 33 FLL 2014,
BANGALORE, DATED:18/08/2014.

The following State level Expert Committee is constituted to examine closely the Ecologically Sensitive Areas as recommended by High level Working Group on Western Ghats (herein after HLWG), keeping in view the natural landscapes, farmlands, plantations and human habitations and to suggest the appropriate areas to be included in Ecologically Sensitive areas, with balanced approach for conservation of ecology of Western Ghats in the state and the livelihood issues in the area coupled with genuine development/essential infrastructure needs in the area.

Constitution of the State level Expert Committee:

1) Chairman, Karnataka State Biodiversity Board	Chairman
2) Additinal PCCF (Working Plans)	Member
3) Chief Executive Officer, Karnataka Evaluation Authority.	Member
4) Member Secretary, Karnataka State Biodiversity Board.	Member Secretary

Terms of reference to the State Level Expert Committee (SLEC):

- 1) SLEC will work-out methodologies for physical verification Ecologically Sensitive Areas(ESA) delineated by HLWG and communicate them to the District Level Committees. SLEC may consider the approach adopted by the Kerala state, but it has also to dovetail the methodology to be followed in the state, as number ESA villages is around 1576 in Karnataka as against 123 in Kerala state.

- 2) SLEC will have District-level interactive sessions to have feedback from people's representatives, farmers organisations, Voluntary organisations and officials regarding ESAs proposed by HLWG and notified by MoEF, Gol on 10th March, 2014.
- 3) The Committee will examine critically the ESAs from the point of conservation of bio-diversity rich Western Ghat areas and also the likely impacts of various proposed restrictions on the lives of common people/genuine developmental needs of the region.
- 4) SLEC will finalise its Report with recommendations, in TWO MONTHS time from the issue of this order.

The following District Level Committees are constituted for Belgaum, Uttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Chikmagalore, Shimoga, Hassan, Madikeri, Mysore and Chamarja Nagara Districts to organise the physical verification of Eco-sensitive areas.

Deputy Commissioner of the District	Chairman
Chief Executive Officer, Zilla panchayat	Member
Deputy Conservators of Forests, Territorial Division(s) in the District	Members
Joint Director, Agriculture	Member
Deputy Director, Horticulture	Member
Deputy Director, Land Records	Member
Deputy Conservator of Forests, Territorial, in District Headquarters	Member Secretary.

Terms of reference to the District Level Committees (DLC):

- 1) DLC will organise physical verification of the ESAs by Field teams as per the guidelines of SLEC. Field teams will verify and mark, Natural

Landscape in the village (notified forests, thickly wooded areas), agricultural lands, Plantation crops (Areca nut, Coffee, Rubber, Cashew-nut etc), Human habitations on Village maps for ESA villages as recommended by HLWG.

- 2) DLC will give take up necessary steps to create public awareness about the ESAs and various recommendations of HLWG in the respective Districts.
- 3) DLC will receive representations from peoples representatives, farmer organisations, voluntary organisations etc, analyse them and keep district-level summary for consideration SLEC.
- 4) DLC will facilitate conduct of District-level interactive sessions of SLEC with people representatives, Farmer representatives, Voluntary organisations etc.,
- 5) DLC will provide necessary logistic support to the SLEC during its visit to the district.
- 6) DLC will finalise and provide ESA village-wise maps and district wise tabulation to SLEC, based on physical verification by field teams.

SLEC will have the GIS based spatial analysis support from Karnataka State Remote Sensing Application Centre (KSRSAC), ICT cell and Working plan wing of the Karnataka Forest Department. District level Committee will organise required village maps and taluk maps for physical verification of ESAs.

By Order and in the name of the
Governor of Karnataka,

L. Sharada, 18/8/14
(L.SHARADA),

Under Secretary to Government,
Forest, Ecology and Environment Department.

To:

The Compiler, Karnataka Gazette, Bangalore for publication in the next issue of the Gazette with a request to supply 50 copies to State Government and 50 copies to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Deptt)

Copy to:

1. Accountant General (Audit I and II)/Accounts, Karnataka, Bangalore.
2. Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003.
3. Director General of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003.
4. Addl. Chief Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, M.S. Building, Bangalore.
5. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Aranya Bhavan, Bangalore.
6. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wild Life), Aranya Bhavan, Bangalore.
7. Principal Secretary to Government, Agriculture/Horticulture/Public Works Department/Infrastructure Development Department.
8. Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Regional Office, (South Zone), Kendriya Sadana, 4th Floor, E & F Wing, 17th Main, Koramangala, Bangalore-34.
9. Chairman, Karnataka State Biodiversity Board.
10. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Working Plan), Aranya Bhavan, Bangalore.
11. Chief Executive Officer, Karnataka Evaluation Authority.
12. Member Secretary, Karnataka State Biodiversity Board. 250
13. Commissioner, Survey Settlement and Land Records.
14. All the Deputy Commissioners.
15. All the Chief Executive Officers, Zilla Panchayat.
16. All the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Territorial Divisions.
17. All the Joint Directors, Agricultural Department.
18. All the Deputy Directors, Horticulture Department.
19. All the Deputy Directors, Land Records.
20. P.S. to Addl. Chief Secretary to Chief Minister, Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore.
21. P.S. to Chief Secretary to Government, Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore.
22. P.S. to Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment.
23. SGF
24. Weekly Gazette.