

F. No. 5-2/2017- FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, forests and Climate Change
(FC Division)

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

Dated: 28th March, 2019

To,
The Principal Secretary/Secretary (Forests),
All State/UT Governments.

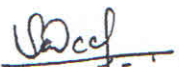
Sub: Handbook of guidelines for effective and transparent implementation of the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Sir,

In supersession of all guidelines issued in the past, a handbook of guidelines is issued for effective and transparent implementation of the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. All the provisions enshrined in these guidelines will be applicable from 8th March 2019 onwards. The copy of comprehensive guidelines is available on Ministry's website: www.parivesh.nic.in.

This issue with the approval of competent authority.

Yours faithfully,


(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forest (FC)

Copy to:

1. Prime Minister's Office, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, Ministry of Mines/Coal/Steel/MoRTH/MoPNG/MHA/MoP/MoTA, Government of India, New Delhi.
3. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, all State/UT Governments.
4. Nodal Officer (FCA), all State/ UT Governments.
5. All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), GoI, New Delhi.
6. Joint Secretary in-charge, Impact Assessment Division, MoEF&CC, GoI, New Delhi.
7. All IGF/ DIGF/AIGF in MoEF&CC, GoI, New Delhi.
8. Sr. Director (Technical), NIC, MoEF&CC **with a request to place a copy of the letter on website of this Ministry.**
9. PPS to Secretary (EF&CC)/DGF&SS/ADGF(FC)/ADGF(Wildlife), MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
10. Guard File.


(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forest (FC)

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- (i) In the following cases, cost of plantation (including ten years maintenance) of ten times the number of trees likely to be felled or specified number of trees as may be specified in the order for diversion of forest land (subject to a minimum no. of 100 plants), shall be levied from the user agency towards compensatory afforestation:
 - (a) Clearing of naturally grown trees in forest land or in portion thereof for the purpose of using it for reforestation,
 - (b) Diversion of forest land up to one hectare,
 - (c) Underground mining in forest land without surface rights,
 - (d) Renewal of mining lease for the forest area for which CA has already been paid,
 - (e) Diversion of forest land under the General Approval (GA) up to one hectare,
 - (f) Diversion of forest land upto 5.0 ha. in accordance with the General Approvals granted for activities carried out by Govt. Dept. in notified LWE Districts.
- (ii) In respect of diversion of forest land for safety zone around a mine, User Agency shall deposit the amount for afforestation on degraded forest land, to be selected elsewhere measuring one and a half times the area of forest land under safety zone with the State Forest Department in addition to depositing funds with State Forest Department for the protection and regeneration of the Safety Zone area. The State Forest Department shall execute the afforestation.

2.7 Identification of land banks for CA

- (i) The States and UTs shall create land bank for CA for speedy disposal of the FC proposals under FC Act 1980.
- (ii) In addition to non-forest land, the degraded forest land with crown density upto 40% under the administrative control of forest department may be identified using the Satellite imagery and in consultation with Forest Survey of India and will be made available for CA.
- (iii) The category of lands as specified in para 2.4 are applicable and other waste lands and non-forest lands may also be identified as land bank for the purpose of CA.

To expedite creation of land bank in a systematic manner a Committee under Chairmanship of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests may be constituted with the Chief Wildlife Warden and representatives of revenue department in the State as members of the Committee. The committee may identify the following and other such forest areas on priority for inclusion in the land bank:

- (a) Areas falling in wildlife corridors to improve connectivity between habitats;
 - (b) Areas falling in and around the Protected Areas (PAs), eco-sensitive zone of PAs, forest areas to ensure consolidation of such areas;
 - (c) Habitat of rare, threatened and endangered species of flora and fauna to ensure long term conservation of such habitats;
 - (d) Areas falling in catchment areas of important rivers, water supply schemes, irrigation projects, hydro-electric projects etc.
- (iv) To monitor the progress of creation of land bank for CA following committee,