

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,  
New Delhi-110003

**Dated: 25th October, 2021**

To

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

**Sub: Undertaking Ecotourism activities in forest areas vis-a-vis provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – reg.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the minutes of the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in their meetings held on dated 23.04.2019 and 23.01.2020 wherein based on representations received from various State Governments, it recommended to amend para 11.10 of the Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, clarifying that; construction of permanent structure for the purpose of ecotourism on forest land shall be considered as a non-forestry activity.

Subsequently based on the recommendation of the FAC in their meeting on 17.02.2021 and accepted of the same by the competent authority in the Ministry, following have been decided:

i. Para 11.10 of the Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, shall read as:

*"Development/construction of facilities which are not of permanent nature, in forest areas for the purpose of ecotourism by Government authorities shall not be considered as non-forestry activity for the purpose of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980."*

ii. Paras 1.18 (iv) and 12.13 of the Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, stand deleted.

This issued with the approval of the competent authority of the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

sd/-

**(Sandeep  
Sharma)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, All State Governments/UT Administrations
2. The Regional Officer, All Integrated Regional Offices of the MoEF&CC
3. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the PCCF, All State/UIT Governments
4. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi
5. Guard File