

F. No. 11-29/2015-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(F C Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi-110003.
Dated: 30th May, 2017

To,
Principle Secretary (Forests),
State of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.

Sub: Establishment of Elephant Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre in Sarguja Forest Division, Chhattisgarh-regarding.

Ref: NoNVL/Mgmt/17/2213 dated 18.04.2017.

Kindly refer to the letter from PCCF Chhattisgarh dated 18.4.2017 on the proposed Elephant Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre in Sarguja Forest Division, Chhattisgarh to be established in compliance of the Chhattisgarh High Court over 4.71 ha.

The matter has been examined in the ministry and I am directed to say that the establishment of Zoo and Wildlife Safari whether stationary or mobile, where captive animals are kept for exhibition to the public but does not include a circus and an establishment of a licenced dealer in captive animals, are non site specific activities and therefore clearance under FC Act is required after exploring alternative land use. It has been noted that Zoos and Wildlife Safaris are established where captive animals are kept for exhibition to the public and leads to revenue generation and these establishment can be established on non forest land.

However in those cases where the rescue centres are established inside the forest by the state Government purely for rehabilitation and recapitulation and *not for public display and enjoyment* then the establishment of such rescue centre may be treated as forestry and wildlife activity within the meaning of Forest Conservation Act 1980 as provide in the explanation- (b) of the section 2 of the FC Act.

Provided further that if the rescue centres are established as part of the Zoo and Safari or otherwise where wild animals are kept also for exhibition to the public, then the establishment of such facilities shall be treated as non forestry activities under section 2 of the FC Act and provisions of FC Act shall be applicable.

Issued with the approval of competent authority.

(Nisheeth Saxena)

Sr. Asst. Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Copy to:

1. Principal Secretary/Secretary (Forests), All State/UT Governments
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, All States/UTs.
3. Nodal Officer, PCCF, All States/ UTs.
4. All Regional Officers of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.
5. RO(HQ), MoEF, New Delhi.
6. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi.
7. Guard File.

(Nisheeth Saxena)

Sr. Asst. Inspector General of Forests (FC)