

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road  
New Delhi-110 003

**Dated: 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2024**

To

Addl. Chief Secretaries (Forests)/Principal Secretary (Forests),  
All State Government/UT Administrations

**Sub: Clarification on the provisions of guidelines given under para 1.22 of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and Rules, made thereunder – reg.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to letter no. A/MOEFCC/24/281 dated 16.10.2024 received from Federation of India Mineral Industries, FIMI requesting for uniform guidelines for fixing charges of Wildlife Management Plan(WLMP) and Soil and Moisture Conservation Plans(SMCP) , prepared and implemented in compliance of approvals granted under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. In this connection, it is to inform that the matter has been examined in the Ministry in light of submissions made by the FIMI. After examination of the same, the following is clarified:

- i. The Guidelines at para 1.22 of the Chapter-1 of Consolidated Guidelines issued on 29.12.2023 by the MoEF&CC provides for an optional arrangement for the User Agencies and States to forward the compliance of in-principle approval to the Central Government in such cases where due to unavoidable circumstances, there is delay in the preparation of Wildlife Management /Soil and Moisture Conservation Plans and its submission along with the compliance of in-principle approval granted earlier. In such cases, the User Agency can make an upfront payment of 2% of the project cost towards the cost of implementation of Wildlife Management and 0.5% in lieu of the cost of implementation of Soil and Moisture Conservation Works for submitting the compliance of in-principle approval.
- ii. However, in cases where there is no delay and the WLM/SMC Plan has been prepared by the User Agency before submission of compliance of in-principle approval, the provision of upfront payment of 2% and 0.5% shall not be applicable. In such cases, the User Agency needs to make the payment towards the actual cost of implementation of the WLMP/SMCP, as provided for in the estimate of the approved WLM/SMC Plans.
- iii. Further, measures to be suggested in the Wildlife Management or SMC Plan should be based on the requirement of site i.e. site-specific interventions need to be taken in the area to mitigate the impact of the diversion of forest land. The same should be incorporated in the WLMP and SMC Plans. The values of 2% and 0.5% provided in para 1.22 of the Consolidated Guideline are only indicative values and they cannot be considered as a standard

benchmark for preparing the WLMC or SMC which should be based on the specific field requirements . Therefore, it is appropriate for the States/UTs to prepare these Plans based on the actual cost of the interventions required to be made at the site and not based on the indicative financial outlay totalling to 2% (for WLMP) or 0.5% (for SMCP) of the total project cost.

In view of the above, I am directed to request the State Government/UT Administrations to take into consideration the above clarifications while arriving at the cost of WLMP and SCMP.

This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully

**(Charan Jeet Singh)**  
Scientist 'E'

Copy to:

1. PCCF & HoFF, all States/ Union territories Administrations
2. The Dy. DGF (Central), all Regional Offices of MoEF&CC
3. The Nodal Officer (Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan), all States/ Union territories Administration
4. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
5. Guard File.