

F. No. 6-133/2014 (Part)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(Wildlife Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jorbagh Road, New Delhi-110003
Dated: 26th September, 2014

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

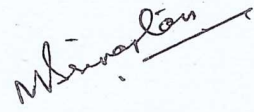
Sub: Reforms for making the wildlife clearance processes more efficient - guidelines reg.

With a view of bringing improvement in overall environmental governance in the country, one area of emphasis is on bringing in more efficiency in the processes related to clearances dealt in the Ministry. In this context, it has been proposed that as the requirement of permission from MoEF&CC for carrying out preliminary survey for projects in wildlife sanctuaries/ national parks is based on consideration of the task of survey as a non-forestry activity, there is scope of rethinking on this aspect and so it may be considered to authorise PCCF (WL)/ CWLW to give permission for survey in protected areas with the condition that no cutting of trees is involved.

In this context, it may be seen that as per section 28 of Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972, Chief Wildlife Warden, on application, grant a permit to any person *inter alia*, to enter a sanctuary for certain purposes including scientific research and transaction of lawful business, subject to prescribed conditions. The permit can be issued with approval of state government and consultation with the SBWL, only when invasive activities (destroy, exploit, remove etc from PA) are involved. Section 28 is applicable *mutatis mutandis* on National Parks under section 35 (8) of WLPA.

Keeping in view these facts, when any survey or investigation work for any development project is proposed within a protected area, and if it does not involve any invasive activity coming in the definition of section 29, it can be considered to permit the survey works with all appropriate checks and conditions. This step can save a series of steps of clearance for survey alone, if the same does not affect the normal management of the Protected Area.

It is advised therefore that the Chief Wildlife Wardens may exercise the mandate provided in section 28 and consider prescribing appropriate guidelines for application and safeguards to be followed for grant of permission to enter Protected Areas for survey/ investigation if no physical disturbance on the PA is contemplated.



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To

1. The Principal Secretary, Environment & Forests Department, All States/UT Govt.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, All States/UT Govt.
3. The Chief Wildlife Warden, All States/UT Govt.