

F. No. 1/9/2018-ESZ
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(ESZ-Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi- 110 003

Dated: 3rd December, 2018

Subject:- Amendment to the Direction issued under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 w.r.t Western Ghats on 13.11.2013.

In continuation to the Direction under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 w.r.t. Western Ghats on 13.11.2013, the paragraph 5 of the directions replaced as follows:

“And whereas, HLWG noted that approximately 60 per cent of the Western Ghats region is under cultural landscape i.e. it has human dominated land use of settlements, agriculture and plantations (other than forest plantations) and around 40 per cent of the land area is under natural landscape. Of the natural landscape, the biologically rich areas, with some measure of contiguity are roughly 37 per cent of the Western Ghats which is 59,940 km². HLWG identified this 37% of natural landscape having high biological richness, low forest fragmentation, low population density and containing Protected Areas (PAs), World Heritage Sites (WHSs) and Tiger and Elephant corridors as an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA);

Whereas, the State Government of Kerala had undertaken the exercise to fine tune ESA in the State by physical verification and as per this exercise, ESA recommended by the State Government of Kerala is spread over an area of 9993.7 square kilometre, which includes 9107 square kilometre of forest area and 886.7 square kilometre of non-forest area.

Accordingly, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986) and sub-rule (3) of rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued the draft Notification dated 10.03.2014 with subsequent notifications on 04.09.2015, 27.02.2017 and 03.10.2018, thereby demarcating an area of 56,825 square kilometre spread across six States namely, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamilnadu, as the Western Ghats Ecologically Sensitive Area”.

2. Now for the purpose of Directions of date 13.11.2013 issued under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 it is clarified that the Ecologically Sensitive

Areas of Western Ghats would be 56825 sq. km. as mentioned in the draft Notification.

4. List of Villages would also be as per the draft Notification dated 03.10.2018.
5. The other paras of the Directions dated 13.11. 2013 remains the same.
6. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

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To,

1. State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Gujarat,
2. State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Maharashtra.
3. State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Goa,
4. State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Karnataka.
5. State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Kerala
6. State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Tamil Nadu
7. State Expert Appraisal Committee, Gujarat,
8. State Expert Appraisal Committee, Maharashtra
9. State Expert Appraisal Committee, Goa
10. State Expert Appraisal Committee, Karnataka
11. State Expert Appraisal Committee, Kerala
12. State Expert Appraisal Committee, Tamil Nadu
13. All Sectoral Expert Appraisal Committees, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
14. Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board
15. Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board of Gujarat/Maharashtra/Goa/ Karnataka/Kerala/Tamil Nadu

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1. PS to MEFCC
2. PS to MoS, E,F& CC
3. PPS to Secretary (E,F& CC)
4. PPS to AS (AKM)
5. PS to ADV(SCG)/JS(IA)
6. Concerned Regional Offices of the Ministry dealing with the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu