

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES*
FOR
THE CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEME:
“INTENSIFICATION OF FOREST MANAGEMENT”
(Formerly known as Integrated Forest Protection Scheme)

1. BACKGROUND

Forests play a crucial role in ecological and economic stability of the country. It is estimated that the forests directly and indirectly contribute towards livelihood support of about 270 million people in the country. On a larger scale the contribution of forests and tree cover in carbon sequestration and mitigation of vagaries of climate change are also being increasingly recognized.

The National Forest Policy 1988 aims at bringing 33% of country's geographical area under the forests/tree cover. While aiming to expand the forest cover in the country, it is equally important to improve the state of existing forests and protect them against various threats. The threats to forests include encroachments, forest fires, illegal felling for timber and firewood grazing, diseases and incursion of weeds and other invasive species. In addition, there are problems related to unique vegetation and eco-systems either due to high value or peculiar nature of their management. Examples of this include forests with species such as Sandalwood, Red Sanders and Bamboo to name a few. The scheme of Intensification of Forest Management intends to address both the general problems of forest protection and protection of unique vegetation.

2. INTRODUCTION OF THE SCHEME

The Intensification of Forest Management scheme is a revised version of Integrated Forest Protection Scheme that was in operation during the 10th Five Year Plan and has been allowed to continue in the 11th Five Year Plan as well. The main components of the scheme during the 11th Five Year Plan are as under:

- (i) Forest Fire control and Management (existing).
- (ii) Strengthening of Infrastructure (existing).
- (iii) Survey, Demarcation and Working Plan preparation (existing).
- (iv) Protection and Conservation of Sacred Groves (New).
- (v) Conservation and Restoration of Unique Vegetation & Ecosystems (New).
- (vi) Control and Eradication of Forest Invasive Species (New).
- (vii) Preparedness for Meeting Challenges of Bamboo Flowering and Improving Management of Bamboo Forests (New).

* The provisions of these guidelines are subject to changes, if any, made by the CCEA.

3. FUNDING PATTERN

The component-wise funding pattern of the scheme is given in the table below:

Sl. No	Component	NE States (including Special category States)		Other States/UTs	
		Central Share	State Share	Central Share	State Share
1.	Forest Fire Control and Management	90%	10%	75%	25%
2.	Strengthening of Infrastructure	90%	10%	75%	25%
3.	Survey, Demarcation and Working Plan preparation	90%	10%	75%	25%
4.	Protection and Conservation of Sacred Groves	100%	-	100%	-
5.	Conservation and Restoration of Unique Vegetation & Ecosystems	100%	-	100%	-
6.	Control and Eradication of Forest Invasive Species	100%	-	100%	-
7.	Preparedness for meeting challenges of Bamboo Flowering and improving Management of Bamboo Forests	100%	-	100%	-

4. IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

The Scheme will have a Central Sector component and a State Sector component. The major works of the Scheme that are to be implemented by the State/UT Forest Department would be implemented through the State Sector component by releasing the funds to the concerned States/UT Governments. Under the Central Sector component of the Scheme, the Forest Protection Division of the Ministry of Environment & Forests would implement the works of monitoring, evaluation and other such works which are spread over more than one State/Union Territory.

5. COST NORMS

The items of works under all the components of the Scheme would be sanctioned keeping in view the current market rate and prevalent wage rate in the concerned State/UT. The cases of construction of buildings would be considered based on preliminary estimates and in accordance with the norms and instructions on the subject.

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6. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

The proposals under the Scheme shall be considered in two different sets. The first set comprising of all the three existing components of the earlier Scheme, (Integrated Forest Protection Scheme), and the second set of proposals separately for each of the four new components.

- (a) **First set of proposals** (i.e. components of Forest Fire control, Strengthening of Infrastructure, Survey, Demarcation and Working Plan preparation): The total cost of these three components shall be combined cost of set one. Under this, with a view to ensuring that different components get adequate representation, it is proposed that:
- (i) Atleast 15% of the cost of the proposal would be for the purpose of preparation of Working Plans, Survey and Demarcation works.
 - (ii) A provision for contingency can be made upto a maximum of 5% of the project cost.
 - (iii) The cost on civil works and purchase of vehicles shall not exceed 50% of the project cost.
 - (iv) The remaining component shall cover the works such as fire protection, information and communication technology etc.
- (b) **The second set** will comprise of individual proposals for each of the four new items and shall be considered separately without the restrictions as mentioned in para 5 (a) and (b) above. Following considerations would, however, be made while considering the proposals for new components.
- (i) **Protection and Conservation of Sacred Groves** – The various components of works to be covered under this component are indicated in the proforma designed for seeking proposals and submission of Progress Report –**Annexure (A)(i) to (A)(iii)**.

Emphasis shall be on involvement of the local community in preparation of Management Plan for the Sacred Groves, inventories of flora and fauna and improvement works. Assistance shall not be considered for structure like boundary wall and fencing. A comprehensive document on all Sacred Groves of the State/UT is expected as one of the outcomes.

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- (ii) **Conservation and Restoration of Unique Vegetation & Ecosystems** – The various components of works to be covered under this component are indicated in the proforma designed for seeking proposals and submission of Progress Report – **Annexure (B)(i) to (B)(iii)**. Emphasis would be on providing assistance for those components which are not covered by the IFPS components.
 - (iii) **Control and Eradication of Forest Invasive Species** - The various components of works to be covered under this component are indicated in the proforma designed for seeking proposals and submission of Progress Report –**Annexure (C)(i) to (C)(iii)**. Emphasis will be given to the works of prevention and research on Forest Invasive Species and at least 50% of the funds of the proposal shall be utilized for this purpose.
 - (iv) **Preparedness for meeting challenges of Bamboo Flowering and improving Management of Bamboo Forests** – The various components of works to be covered under this component are indicated in the proforma designed for seeking proposals and submission of Progress Report –**Annexure (D)(i) to (D)(v)**. Financial assistance shall not be considered for those items which are covered by the National Bamboo Mission of Ministry of Agriculture.
- (c) The area of operation for all the above components shall not overlap with the areas of operation under the scheme Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India and a certificate to this effect should invariably accompany the proposal.

7. RELEASE OF FUNDS

Funds for the approved Annual Work Plan shall be released in two installments. The first installment, being not more than 80% of the approved Annual Plan shall be released initially. The second installment of balance amount shall be released subject to (a) production of utilization of not less than 50% of the amount of the first installment and (b) a progress report for the same.

8. PROJECT PROPOSALS FROM THE STATES/UNION TERRITORIES

All the States/UTs will be required to submit their Plans under the Scheme for a period of five years (remaining three years for 11th plan period) with a break-up of annual plans of operation for all the components of the Scheme as per the **Annexure (A)(ii), (B)(ii), (C)(ii), (D)(ii) and (D)(iii)**.

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9. SCREENING OF PROPOSALS FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

The proposals received from various State/UT Governments will be examined and put up to a committee (Screening Committee) constituted with the approval of the DGF&SS. The Committee shall have the following members:

Additional Director General of Forests (FC)	-	Chairman
Deputy Inspector General of Forests (NAEB)	-	Member
Deputy Inspector General of Forests (RT)	-	Member
Deputy Inspector General of Forests (WL)	-	Member
Deputy Inspector General of Forests (FPD)	-	Member
Director (Finance)	-	Member
Representative of Civil Construction Unit	-	Member

10. WORKS/ACTIVITIES NOT COVERED UNDER THE SCHEME

For the purpose of implementation of the Scheme, no post would be created either in the Ministry or States/UTs. The cost of establishment of regular staff and recurring costs on infrastructure and equipments shall not be eligible for funding under the Scheme.

11. MONITORING AND REVIEW

- (i) The Ministry will arrange for periodic monitoring and evaluation of the Scheme through its officials, State Forest Department, Regional Centres of the Ministry and/or independent consultants/NGOs.
- (ii) The State Forest Departments shall be responsible for regular monitoring and evaluation of Intensification of Forest Management scheme. A Review and Monitoring Committee under the chairmanship of PCCF shall be constituted for periodic review of the scheme. CCF (Development)/CF (Hqrs) will be the Member-Secretary of the State Monitoring Committee. The CFs will be the members of the Committee. The Member-Secretary shall convene meetings at least half yearly and review the progress the scheme.
- (iii) PCCF/CCF/CF of the concerned State/UT (as the situation may be) shall furnish a quarterly progress report on physical and financial target achieved in the enclosed proforma as per **Annexure-(A)(iii). (B)(iii). (C)(iii). (D)(iv) and (D)(v).**

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12. AMENDMENTS IN THE GUIDELINES

During the course of implementation of the scheme, for consideration of any deviation from the existing provisions of these guidelines, the screening committee may recommend such proposals for decision by the DGF&SS.

Amendments to the guidelines would also be possible with the concurrence of the Minister of State (Forests & Wildlife).

Annexure -(A)(i)

General instructions for submission of proposals for component: “Protection and Conservation of Sacred Groves” under : Intensification of Forest Management.

Note: *It may please be noted that the area of operation of proposal under this component shall not overlap with the area of operation under the Scheme ‘Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat’ of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India.*

The proposal under this component may include following works/activities:

- (1) Inventory of Sacred Groves: A State-wise inventory of all the sacred groves with details of their locations, area, and people involved in protection, cultural and religious beliefs associated with these sacred groves.
(It may also be useful to prepare a comprehensive document on all the sacred groves of the State.)
- (2) The State/UT Governments have to demarcate the Sacred Groves that would be covered under the Integrated Wildlife Habitat Development Scheme and under the Intensification of Forest Management Scheme.
- (3) For those Sacred Groves that exist on the community lands, contribution of community in protection and conservation may be brought on board.
- (4) Documentation of Flora and Fauna of each Sacred Grove.
- (5) Preparation of Management Plan/Work Plan for improvement and conservation in sacred groves.
- (6) Improvement works:
 - (i) Labelling of important species and signage.
 - (ii) Cultural operations.
 - (iii) Improvement of footpaths.
 - (iv) Laying of eco-trails for education purposes.
 - (v) Protection measures.
- (7) Community involvement incentives and eco-development activities.
- (8) Research/studies on the status of soil, nutrients, water regime, and biodiversity status of the sacred grove vis-à-vis neighboring areas.
- (9) Expected outcomes and outputs on annual basis and five yearly bases.

(10) Other state specific miscellaneous works (not covered above).

Note: It may please be noted that as far as possible in all activities of works the people associated with a particular sacred grove would be involved in planning, execution and monitoring of the work programmes.

Annexure-B(i)

General instructions for submission of proposals under the component “Conservation and Restoration of Unique Vegetation and Eco-system” under CSS: Intensification of Forest Management.

Note: *It may please be noted that the area of operation of proposal under this component shall not overlap with the area of operation under the Scheme ‘Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat’ of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India.*

The proposal may include the following:

(1) Introduction:

An account of vegetation type that are unique, endemic or highly valuable and that require extraordinary protection and conservation measures in the State/UT. The description shall include name of such species, their extent of distribution, their ecology, economic value and reasons for extraordinary measures for which protection are required.

(2) Management:

A broad description of status of present management practices.

(3) Constraints:

Description of such management interventions that are necessary for protection/conservation of the vegetation types/eco-systems with related factors. Such factors may clearly be spelt out.

(4) Proposal:

A list of physical activities broadly categorizing them into following heads may be given:

- (i) Management including new technology
- (ii) Survey/Inventory
- (iii) Communication
- (iv) Infrastructure for forest protection
- (v) Research
- (vi) Pilot project/other miscellaneous works

Annexure -(C)(i)

General instructions for submission of proposals for component: “Control and Eradication of Forest Invasive Species” under CSS: Intensification of Forest Management.

Note:

- 1. It may please be noted that the area of operation of proposal under this component shall not overlap with the area of operation under the Scheme ‘Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat’ of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India.*
- 2. The State Forest Department may undertake research works, either directly through the Department Research Facility or through sponsored research by other Institutes of repute.*

The proposal under this component must be accompanied by documents on Forest Invasive Species (FIS) in the State/UT indicating details of their extent of spread and approximate damage in physical and financial terms being caused by FIS. The proposal may include following works/activities:

- (1) Establishment of a Cell for monitoring of Forest Invasive Species with facility for data maintenance, map drawing, and information system. The cell may also host research fellows for data management and information sharing. This cell may work under the Research Wing of the State Forest Department. The sub-components may include:
 - (i) Building cost (if facilities do not exist); a small building with facility for housing computer and other equipments for data management and a small hall-cum-interpretation centre.
 - (ii) Computer and peripherals
 - (iii) Map drawing equipments, digital cameras etc.
 - (iv) Engagement of research personnel.
- (2) The survey work shall lead to production of physical as well as digitized map of the affected areas. This will entail the use of all modern technological support like GIS, GPS etc.
- (3) Preparation of FIS Management Plan (must incorporate existing research input on prevention and control of each important FIS).
- (4) Research including biological studies (life cycle, spread mechanism), studies on biological pests of the FIS and studies on chemical and other prevention methods.

- (5) Pilot projects for eradication of Forest Invasive Species (giving details of species, area and method of eradication).
- (6) Extension of methods and technology.
- (7) Community involvement.

Annexure -(D)(i)

General instructions for submission of proposals for component: “Preparedness for meeting challenges of Bamboo Flowering and improving management of Bamboo Forests” under CSS: Intensification of Forest Management

Note: Financial assistance shall not be considered for those items which are covered by the National Bamboo Mission of Ministry of Agriculture.

The proposal shall be accompanied by a write up on the status of Bamboo forest in the State, giving geographical distribution species wise. An assessment regarding flowering of bamboo, species - wise, area - wise anticipated during next five years may also be annexed.

The proposal may include following set of activities:

- (A) Activities for improving management of bamboo forests:
 - (1) Cultural operations including de-congestion of the bamboo areas
 - (2) Laying and maintenance of extraction paths
 - (3) Creation of temporary depots and major depots.
 - (4) Clearing up of areas for assisting natural regeneration of preferred bamboo species
 - (5) Planting activities (site preparation, nursery raising and planting).
 - (6) High yielding disease resistant varieties planting material.
 - (7) Fire prevention and control.
 - (8) Expected outcomes and outputs on annual basis and five yearly bases.

- (B) Preparedness for meeting challenges of bamboo flowering:
 - (1) Research and studies on the flowering patterns of the pre-dominant bamboo species.
 - (2) Mixing of bamboo species and planting material of different origin for avoiding gregariousness of flowering in large areas (achieving staggered flowering).
 - (3) Strategy and preparedness for accelerated harvest and marketing of the flowered bamboo material in the event of gregarious flowering.
 - (4) Expected outcomes and outputs on annual basis and five yearly bases.
