

MINUTES OF THE EXPERT COMMITTEE FOR DECLARATION OF ECO-SENSITIVE ZONE (ESZ) AROUND WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES/NATIONAL PARKS ON 4th FEBRUARY, 2016

A meeting of the Expert Committee for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones around wildlife sanctuaries/national Parks was held in the Ministry on 4th February, 2016 under the chairmanship of Shri Hem Pande, Special Secretary. The proposals for finalization of draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) notifications were taken up for discussion during the meeting. The list of participants is annexed.

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members of the Expert Committee and representatives of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, UT of Chandigarh, Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. The Haryana Government officials requested that the proposal for finalisation Wildlife Sanctuary ESZ for Shikargadh may not be taken up in this meeting. Chairman accepted the request. The officials from UT of Chandigarh requested that the proposal for finalization of ESZ for Sanctuary may also be taken up for discussion along with the proposal for Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary. The request was accepted. The Committee noted that the generic comments/observations received from the Conservation Action Trust, Mumbai with respect to the regulated and prohibited activities for various notifications being considered in the meeting could be adequately addressed within the provisions of the draft notification and the existing rules and regulations. Chairman invited the representatives of various States to make presentation on their proposals.

2.1 Eco-sensitive Zone around Tale Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh:

Shri G N Sinha, PCCF (WL), Env. & Forest Department, Arunachal Pradesh apprised the committee about the proposal. The salient features are as follows:

Area of PA:	337 sq.km
Proposed ESZ area:	95.90 hectares
Proposed Extent:	0 to 100 meters

Only generic comments from Conservation Action Trust, Mumbai were received. The Committee noted that no justification has been provided for zero ESZ on North, South, East side. The Committee viewed that being forest area the extent of ESZ can be enhanced on this side. State Government was, therefore, advised to enhance the extent of ESZ and submit the revised proposal with all details including the revised ESZ area at the earliest.

2.2 Eco-sensitive Zone around Kane Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh:

Shri G N Sinha, PCCF (WL), Env. & Forest Department, Arunachal Pradesh apprised the committee about the proposal. The salient features are as follows:

Area of PA:	55.18sq.km
Proposed ESZ area:	95.90 hectares
Proposed Extent: -	The extent of ESZ varies from 50 metres to 500 metres.
	- The extent of ESZ is 50 metres in the southern and eastern and 100 meters to 500 meters on northern side of the Kane WLS.

After detailed discussions, the Expert Committee sought the rational for 50m of ESZ around Kane WLS in the state of Arunachal Pradesh, and desired that this may be reviewed. The Committee also desired that the State may depute suitable representative familiar with the ESZ proposal and make power point presentation along with maps of ESZs and other details.

2.3 Eco-sensitive Zone around Rajiv Gandhi Orang Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam:

Shri R. G. Garawad, DFO, Western Assam, Wildlife Division, made a presentation on the proposal. The salient features are as follows:

Area of PA:	79.28 sq.km
Proposed Extent:	3 km to 25 kilometers

The Committee deferred the consideration of proposal, as the presentation from state Government was not based upon the draft notification issued by the Ministry.

2.4 Eco-sensitive Zone around Kailam Wildlife Sanctuary, Manipur:

Shri P. N. Prasad, Forest Department, Manipur made a presentation on the proposal of the State Government. The salient features are as follows:

Area of PA:	187.50 sq.km
Proposed ESZ area:	734.0 sq.km
Proposed Extent:	3.7 km to 13.0 kilometers

The comments were received from Conservation Action Trust, Mumbai and Thanlon Sub-Divisional Chief's Association, Manipur, which were discussed during the meeting. It was decided to be uniform with other ESZ notifications, construction activities may be shifted from prohibited activity to regulated activity prescribing that "a) No new commercial construction of any kind shall be permitted within 1 km from the boundary of the **Kailam Wildlife** Wildlife Sanctuary or Eco-Sensitive Zone whichever is nearer.

Provided that, local people shall be permitted to undertake construction in their land for their residential use including the activities listed in sub-paragraph (1) of paragraph 3:

Provided further that the construction activity related to small scale industries not causing pollution shall be regulated and kept at the minimum, with the prior permission from the Competent Authority as per applicable rules and regulations, if any.

(b) beyond one kilometre upto the extent of Eco sensitive Zone construction for bona fide local needs shall be permitted and other construction activities shall be regulated as per Zonal Master Plan. It was also decided that the Monitoring Committee to be headed by the Concerned Deputy Commissioner instead of Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary of Monitoring to be Dy. Conservator of Forests instead of Divisional Commissioner. The representative of State Government desired that transmission lines be permitted to pass through the ESZ area passing through the Churacha. This was agreed to.

After detailed discussions, the Expert Committee recommended the finalization of Draft Notification declaring Eco-Sensitive Zone around the Kailam WLS in the state of Manipur incorporating the aforesaid provisions.

2.5 Eco-sensitive Zone around Zeilad Wildlife Sanctuary, Manipur:

Shri P. N. Prasad, Forest Department, Manipur made a presentation about the project proposal. The salient features are as follows:

Area of PA:	21.00 sq.km
Proposed ESZ area:	235 sq.km
Proposed Extent:	3.5 km to 13 kilometers

No comments were received from stake holders/public. It was decided It was decided that to be uniform with other ESZ notifications, construction activities may be shifted from prohibited activity to regulated activity prescribing that “a) No new commercial construction of any kind shall be permitted within 1 km from the boundary of **Zeilad** Wildlife Sanctuary or Eco-Sensitive Zone whichever is nearer. Provided that, local people shall be permitted to undertake construction in their land for their residential use including the activities listed in sub-paragraph (1) of paragraph 3:

Provided further that the construction activity related to small scale industries not causing pollution shall be regulated and kept at the minimum, with the prior permission from the Competent Authority as per applicable rules and regulations, if any.

(b) beyond one kilometre upto the extent of Eco sensitive Zone construction for bona fide local needs shall be permitted and other construction activities shall be regulated as per Zonal Master Plan. It was also decided that the Monitoring Committee to be headed by the Concerned Deputy Commissioner instead of Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary of Monitoring to be Dy. Conservator of Forests instead of Divisional Commissioner.

After detailed discussions, the Expert Committee recommended the finalization of Draft Notification declaring Eco-Sensitive Zone around the Zeilad WLS in the state of Manipur.

2.6 Eco-sensitive Zone around Yangoupokpi Lakch Wildlife Sanctuary, Manipur:

Shri P. N. Prasad, Forest Department, Manipur has given presentation about the project proposal. The salient features are as follows:

Area of PA:	184.8 sq.km
Proposed ESZ area:	25,300 hectares
Proposed Extent:	0 km to 7.8 kilometers

Only generic comments from Conservation Action Trust, Mumbai were received. It was decided that to be uniform with other ESZ notifications, construction activities may be shifted from prohibited activity to regulated activity prescribing that “a) No new commercial construction of any kind shall be permitted within 1 km from the boundary of the **Yangoupokpi Lakch Yangoupokpi Lakch** Wildlife Sanctuary or Eco-Sensitive Zone whichever is nearer.

Provided that, local people shall be permitted to undertake construction in their land for their residential use including the activities listed in sub-paragraph (1) of paragraph 3:

Provided further that the construction activity related to small scale industries not causing pollution shall be regulated and kept at the minimum, with the prior permission from the Competent Authority as per applicable rules and regulations, if any.

(b) beyond one kilometre upto the extent of Eco sensitive Zone construction for bona fide local needs shall be permitted and other construction activities shall be regulated as per Zonal Master Plan. It was also decided that the Monitoring Committee to be headed by the Concerned Deputy Commissioner instead of Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary of Monitoring to be Dy. Conservator of Forests instead of Divisional Commissioner.

After detailed discussions, the Expert Committee recommended the finalization of Draft Notification for declaring of Eco-Sensitive Zone around the Yangoupokpi Lakch WLS in the state of Manipur.

2.7 *Eco-sensitive Zone around Parnahita Wildlife Sanctuary, Telangana*

The agenda item was not taken up for consideration by the Expert Committee as draft notification declaring Eco-sensitive Zone around Parnahita Wildlife Sanctuary, Telangana has already been considered and recommended for finalization by the Expert Committee. The item was inadvertently placed on the Agenda.

2.8 – 2.9 *Eco-sensitive Zones around Mookambika Wildlife Sanctuary, Daroji Bear Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnataka:*

The Committee was informed that four objections and suggestions were received on the draft notification declaring eco-sensitive zone of Daroji Bear Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnataka. The same were circulated as part of agenda papers to the members. Shri R. Gokul, CCF, Forest Department, Karnataka gave a presentation about the Eco-sensitive Zone proposal inter alia covering the following (i) physical boundary and map of ESZ, and (ii) Inventory of Activities to be prohibited, regulated and permitted. It was informed by the officers of the Forest Department that the responses of the State Government on objections and suggestions received on the draft notification need to be approved by the Competent Authority in the State Government, which requires some time. Hence, the proposals may be deferred.

2.10 *Eco-sensitive Zone around Umred Karandla Wildlife Sanctuary, Maharashtra:*

The Committee was informed that one objection and one suggestion were received on the draft notification declaring eco-sensitive zone of Umred Karandla Wildlife Sanctuary, Maharashtra. The same were circulated as part of agenda papers to the members. Ms. Jayoti Banerjee, DCF, Nagpur Forest Division, Forest Department, Maharashtra gave a detailed presentation inter alia covering the following (i) physical boundary and map of ESZ, (ii) land use categories in the ESZ, (iii) Existing Legal Rights, Privileges & Obligations to Local Community, (iv) Biodiversity Value, (v)

Inventory of Activities to be prohibited, regulated and permitted, (vi) item-wise response to objections and suggestions on the draft notification.

It was highlighted during the presentation that the State Government proposes rationalization of the boundary of the Eco-sensitive Zone as given in the draft notification. The State Government proposes that the boundary of the Eco-sensitive Zone may be made co-terminus with the boundary of the closest village to the protected Area boundary. This rationalization has been proposed as the earlier demarcation of Eco-sensitive Zone was based upon distance as a result of which the ESZ boundary was bisecting a single village into ESZ and non-ESZ portion. Also there were chances that the distance based boundary of ESZ could have even bisected a single plot of land into ESZ and non-ESZ portion. In the present case as the PA is situated near Nagpur the pressure on land is high, therefore keeping in view practical feasibility and administrative issues, it had been proposed by the State Government that the ESZ boundary may be aligned with the village boundaries.

In this regard, DCF, Nagpur projected the map of the ESZ with the modifications as suggested by the State Government. The Committee observed that the implementation of the ESZ notification on the ground level needs to be done by the State Government based upon site specific conditions. As such, the suggestions of the State Government have importance in terms of the practical implementation of the provisions of the notification. However, the Committee noted that there are many places, where due to the suggested changes, the extent of ESZ at many places has become zero and is touching the boundary of the PA.

The Committee was of the opinion that in all such cases, where the extent of the ESZ has become zero, the complete villages adjacent to the PA boundary could be included in the ESZ so that extent of ESZ is not zero and PA boundary is not exposed while at the same time ensuring sustainable development of the villages falling within ESZ through regulation/promotion of activities. The Committee was also of the opinion that, in case, there is adjoining forest area with the PA the same may also be included in the ESZ. The State Government may revise accordingly the

proposal and forward the revised proposal after approval of the Competent Authority of the State Government.

The Committee noted that the generic comments received with respect to the regulated and prohibited activities for this and other notifications being considered in the meeting could be adequately addressed within the provisions of the draft notification and the existing rules and regulations.

2.11 *Eco-sensitive Zone around Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh:*

Shri Rupak De, PCCF (WL), Uttar Pradesh briefed about the project proposal. The salient features are as follows:

Area of PA:	500.73 sq.km
Proposed Extent:	1 kilometers

The comments were received from (i) Bir Kunj, Uttar Pradesh (ii) State Secretary, U.P. Khet Majdur Union, U.P (iii) Chairman, Manav Seva Ashram Samiti Village & Post Kargra Thana Chopan Janpad Sonebhadra, U.P. (iv) Prayas Samajik Seva Samiti P.O. Chopan Sonebhadra, U.P (v) Indian Marksvadi Communist Party Janpad Sonebhadra, U.P. and (vi) Shri Kripa Dutt Pathak, Village Gurdah, District Sonebhadra, UP. These were forwarded to the State Govt. of Uttar Pradesh for seeking their comments. As per the advice of State Govt. committee decided to ignore the comments.

It was decided that the Activities i.e “Establishment of new major hydroelectric projects” and “Undertaking activities related to tourism like rope ways, over-flying the sanctuary area by hot air balloons etc.” shall be shifted from prohibited to Regulated category. Commercial Mining would however continue to remain in prohibited category except for bona-fide use of local.

After detailed discussion, the Expert Committee recommended the finalization of Draft Notification for Declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zone around the Kaimur WLS in the state of Uttar Pradesh with above amendment.

2.12 Eco-sensitive Zone around Pant Wildlife Sanctuary, Bihar:

Shri Bharat Jyoti, Director, Eco. & Environment, Bihar briefed the proposal. The salient features are as follows:

Area of PA:	35.84 sq.km
Proposed ESZ area:	2954.5 hectares
Proposed Extent:	100 meters to 1 kilometers

Shri Jyoti informed that the “extent of ESZ at some places is 3 kms therefore the extent of ESZ may be mentioned as varying from 100 m to three kilometers from boundary of the sanctuary” instead of from 100 m to one kilometer from boundary of the sanctuary”. He further informed that that there will not be any change in the area of ESZ or name of villages He requested that the Entry no. 11 “Construction activities” may be shifted from *Prohibited activity* to *Regulated Activity* in line with other similar notifications and also because relatively large area in 23 villages almost equal to the area of the sanctuary has been included in ESZ.

After detailed discussion, the Expert Committee recommended the finalization of Draft Notification, for Declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zone around the Pant WLS, in the State of Bihar with above amendments.

2.13 – 2.14 Eco-sensitive Zone around Ghatigoan Hurna Wildlife Sanctuary and Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh:

The Committee was informed that one objection or suggestion was received on the draft notification declaring Eco-sensitive Zone around Ghatigoan Hurna Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh. The same were circulated as part of Agenda papers.

Shri Sudeep Singh, Chief Conservator of Forests (CPA), Environment Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh informed the Committee that the Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted revised proposals with respect to declaration of eco-sensitive Zones around 29 National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries to the Ministry which includes revised proposal for Eco-sensitive Zone around Ghatigoan Hurna Wildlife Sanctuary and Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in the state. He explained

the revised proposal in detail. It was informed that the State Government has proposed ESZ to an extent of 100 meters on the notified urban and 'Abadi' area side and 2 kilometers on the rest of area from the boundary of the Protected Areas.

He stated that the State Government has proposed to prohibit only two activities in the ESZ viz. setting up of saw mills and wood based industries and commercial use of firewood, while 10 activities were kept in the regulated category and 7 were kept in the promoted category. The category wise list of activities mentioned in the revised proposals is given below:

Prohibited activities

- I. Setting up of saw mills and wood based industries
- II. Commercial use of firewood

Regulated activities

- I. New trenching ground
- II. Use or production of any hazardous substances
- III. Grant and renewal of mining lease
- IV. Setting up of hazardous and polluting industries (Red/Orange category industries of Schedule -5)
- V. Establishment of major projects
- VI. Old trenching ground
- VII. Discharge of effluent and solid waste in natural water bodies or terrestrial area
- VIII. Air vehicular and noise pollution
- IX. Felling of trees
- X. Establishments of hotels and resorts

Promoted activities

- I. Protection of hill slopes and river banks
- II. Agriculture and horticulture practices by local communities as on date
- III. Use of renewable energy sources
- IV. Restriction of vehicle movement
- V. Insulation of electric lines
- VI. Rain water harvesting
- VII. Organic farming

The Committee noted that activities such as Commercial Mining were placed in the prohibited category in the proposals need from State Government earlier. The Committee re-iterated its earlier observations with respect to removal of the 8 prohibited activities in the revised proposals which were informed to the State Government in the meeting of the Expert Committee held on 26th November 2015, wherein, it was inter alia mentioned that activities like commercial mining, stone quarrying and crushing units, (ii) setting up of industries causing water or air or soil or noise pollution, (iii) establishment of new major hydroelectric projects and

irrigation projects, (iv) use and production of any hazardous substances, (v) discharge of untreated effluents and solid waste in natural water bodies or land area have significant adverse environmental impact. These activities are also included in prohibited activities as per the guidelines of the Ministry issued in 2011. Also, that as per the interim order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 04.08.2006 in the matter of T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad Vs. UOI in W.P.(C) No.202 of 1995 and order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 21.04.2014 in the matter of Goa Foundation Vs. UOI in W.P.(C) No.435 of 2012 mining cannot be carried out within one kilometre from the boundary of the National park and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

The Committee was of the view that activities such as mining, stone quarrying and crushing units, (ii) setting up of industries causing water or air or soil or noise pollution, (iii) establishment of new major hydroelectric projects and irrigation projects, (iv) use and production of any hazardous substances, (v) discharge of untreated effluents and solid waste in natural water bodies or land area need to be prohibited in the Eco-sensitive Zone.

While discussing the activities which are proposed to be regulated/prohibited in the Eco-sensitive Zone, it emerged that use of firewood for commercial purpose and Undertaking activities related to tourism like over-flying the national park area by aircraft, hot-air balloons may be put under regulated activities but with prior approval of Chief Wildlife Warden of the State. The Committee stated that eco-tourism cottages could be permitted within 1 km.

2.15 – 2.22 *Eco-sensitive Zones around Shergarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Bassi Wildlife Sanctuary, Sitamata Wildlife Sanctuary, Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Todgarh Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary, Van Vihar Wildlife Sanctuary, Jaisamund Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan*

One generic objection and suggestion each were received from Conservation Action Trust for each of the ESZs being considered in the meeting. These were circulated to all members as part of Agenda papers. Shri V S Bohra, CCF (WL), Forest Department, Rajasthan stated that the State Government has concurred the

finalization of the following draft notifications. He submitted detailed letter from the Forest Department which provided item-wise comments of the Forest Department on the draft notifications being considered in the meeting. He mentioned that there were certain typographical errors in the draft notifications which have been indicated in the detailed letter and the same may be corrected in the final notification. Shri Bohra also stated that in the case of Eco-sensitive Zone around Bassi Wildlife Sanctuary the correct village list has been provided and the same may be used while finalizing the notification. The State Government also pointed out that provision given with respect to construction activity which is quoted as “No new commercial construction of any kind shall be permitted within one kilometer from the boundary of the Protected Area” gives an impression that the prohibition is over a uniform area of one kilometer even if the Eco-sensitive Zone has an extent of less than one kilometer. It was clarified that this provision is now being explicitly stated clarifying that the prohibition will apply to the ESZ boundary or one kilometer whichever is nearer. Shri Bohra informed that all the points mentioned by him are stated in the detailed letter of the State Government.

The sanctuary-wise salient features are given below:

Shergarh Wildlife Sanctuary

Area of PA:	81.67 sq.km
Proposed ESZ area	58.6 sq.km
Proposed Extent:	up to 1 km.

Bassi Wildlife Sanctuary

Area of PA:	138.69 sq.km
Proposed ESZ area	113.29 sq.km
Proposed Extent:	up to 3 km.

Sitamata Wildlife Sanctuary

Area of PA:	422.9 sq.km
Proposed ESZ area	172.45 sq.km
Proposed Extent:	0.5 km. to 3 km.

Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary

Area of PA:	5.19 sq.km
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Proposed ESZ area 28.7 sq.km
 Proposed Extent: 250 m to 5 km.

Todgarh Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary

Area of PA: 475.23 sq.km
 Proposed ESZ area 202.68 sq.km
 Proposed Extent: up to 1 km.

Van Vihar Wildlife Sanctuary

Area of PA: 23.6 sq.km
 Proposed ESZ area 23.6 sq.km
 Proposed Extent: up to 1.5 km.

Jaisamund Wildlife Sanctuary

Area of PA: 52.34 sq.km
 Proposed Extent: 100 m to 8.62 km

Keoladeo National park

Area of PA: 28.73 sq.km
 Proposed ESZ area 14.25 sq.km
 Proposed Extent: up to 500m

In case of Keoladeo National park the representative of Wildlife Institute of India suggested that the ESZ may include Ghana canal, Ajan bandh and Chiksana canal. The Committee viewed that, in case, new areas are to be included in the ESZ the State Government should send a formal letter in this regard otherwise the area stated in ESZ in the draft notification may be finalized.

The Committee noted that the generic comment from Conservation Action trust have been received for notifications under consideration with respect to Rajasthan with respect to the regulated and prohibited activities, these could be adequately addressed within the provisions of the draft notification and the existing rules and regulations. The Committee after detailed deliberations recommended the draft

notification for finalization after incorporating the suggestions indicated by the State Government.

2.23 *Eco-sensitive Zone around Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary, Chandigarh:*

Shri Santosh Kumar, CCF, Chandigarh Union Territory briefed about the project proposal. The salient features are as follows:

Area of PA:	25.9849 sq.km
Proposed ESZ area on UT of Chandigarh side	1050.0 hectares
Proposed Extent:	2.0 kilometers to 2.75 kilometers

Only generic comments were received from the Conservation Action Trust, Mumbai. As requested by the CCF, the Committee agreed that in uniformity with other similar notifications, construction activity may be kept under Regulated Category instead of under Prohibited Category. It was also agreed to bring the “Erection of mobile towers” under Regulated Category. It was also decided that the Monitoring Committee, may be headed by the Chief Wildlife Warden, UT of Chandigarh and Dy. Conservator of Forest to be the Member Secretary of the Monitoring Committee. After detailed discussions, the Expert Committee recommended for finalization the Draft Notification declaring of Eco-Sensitive Zone around the Sukhna WLS, in the Union Territory of Chandigarh as per above amendments.

Chairman, ESZ Committee desired that the Government of Punjab & UT Chandigarh may discuss the matter of ESZ for Sukhna WLS within the State of Punjab expeditiously.

2.24 *Eco-sensitive Zone around City Bird Sanctuary, Chandigarh:*

Shri Santosh Kumar, Chandigarh briefed about the project proposal. The salient features are as follows:

Area of PA:	2.90 hectare
Proposed ESZ area:	12.2 hectares
Proposed Extent:	80 meters to 125 meters

Comments were received from residents/institutions/association of Sector-21, UT Chandigarh, Nirankari (Rawalpindi), Sector-21 B, UT Chandigarh, Citizen's Association (Regd.), Sector-21, UT Chandigarh and from Conservation Action Trust, Mumbai, Maharashtra. The comments were discussed during the meeting.

As requested by the CCF, the Committee agreed that in uniformity with other similar notifications, construction activity may be kept under Regulated Category instead of under Prohibited Category. It was also agreed to bring the "Erection of mobile towers" under Regulated Category. It was also decided that the Monitoring Committee, may headed by the Chief Wildlife Warden, UT of Chandigarh and Dy. Conservator of Forest to be the Member Secretary of the Monitoring Committee. After detailed discussions, the Expert Committee recommended for finalization the Draft Notification for declaring Eco-Sensitive Zone around the City Bird Sanctuary, in the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

2.25 *Eco-sensitive Zone around Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary, Haryana:*

Ms. Amarinder Kaur, PCCF(WL), Haryana briefed about the project proposal. The salient features are as follows:

Area of PA:	10,0.88 sq.km
Proposed ESZ area:	38.42 sq.km
Proposed Extent:	0 meters to 1900 meters

Ms. Kaur informed that in response to the draft notification dated 17th September, 2015, for delineation of Eco-Sensitive Zone around Kalesar National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, the village Panchayat Araiyanwala, Member Panchayat Ward-9, Panchayat Kalesar, Nangal Patti and Member Block Samiti Faizpur, Ward No. 20 have submitted representations wherein they have mentioned that Kalesar Forest area is very rich in Wildlife and variety of Wildlife is found in the area. They have also submitted that River Yamuna passing nearby Kalesar National Park is important source of drinking water for wildlife and Mining in Yamuna River Close to Protected Area will have negative impact on wildlife of the area.

Ms. Kaur mentioned that accordingly the State Government has decided to amend the boundaries of ESZ around Kalesar National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary to include the Yamuna River passing through area bordering Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The revised map of ESZ boundary together with its latitude & Longitude was provided during the meeting. The revised Eco-Sensitive Zone is from 0 to 1900 meter from the boundary of Kalesar National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary within the state of Haryana and the area of ESZ is 3892 ha.

She further informed that the erection of mobile towers has been kept under prohibited category. It should be kept under regulated or permitted activity to facilitate better communication/connectivity for the people/villages falling in the ESZ.

The generic comments received from Conservation Action Trust, Mumbai, which were also discussed.

The committee agreed to keep erection of mobile towers under Regulated category. After detailed discussions, the Expert Committee recommended the finalization of Draft Notification for Declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zone around the Kalesar WLS, in the state of Haryana with above amendments.

2.26 *Eco-sensitive Zone around Tekhni Rehmpur Wildlife Sanctuary, Punjab:*

Shri Dharendra Singh, Punjab briefed about the project proposal. The salient features are as follows:

Area of PA:	382 hectares
Proposed ESZ area:	72.44 hectares
Proposed Extent:	100 meters

No comments were received. After detailed discussions, the Expert Committee recommended the finalization of the Draft Notification for Declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zone around the Tekhni Rehmpur WLS, in the state of Punjab.

2.27 *Eco-sensitive Zone around Bir Aishwan Wildlife Sanctuary, Punjab:*

Shri Dhirendra Singh, Punjab briefed about the project proposal. The salient features are as follows:

Area of PA:	264.40 hectares
Proposed ESZ area:	80 hectares
Proposed Extent:	100 meters

No comments were received except generic comments from Conservation Action Trust, Mumbai. After detailed discussion, the Expert Committee recommended the finalization of the Draft Notification for Declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zone around the Bir Aishwan WLS, in the state of Punjab.

2.28 *Rupi Bhabha WLS:*

Shri P.L.Chauhan, CCF (WL), Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh briefed about the justification provided by the State particularly w.r.t settlements. The Committee decided that the revised proposal may be submitted by the state Govt. along with brief note of all 30 WLS and there Eco-sensitive Zone (ESZ) on HEPs, whether individual as well as in combination.

Requirements of Coordinate of PAs & ESZs

Additional Agenda Item: Requirement of coordinates for Protected Areas and ESZs

All the representatives of the State Governments were requested to provide geographical coordinates in tabular form of prominent points on the boundary of the Protected Area along with ESZ coordinates while forwarding the proposals to the Ministry. Details of coordinates for Protected Areas boundary for proposals already sent o the Ministry may also be forwarded.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

List of Participants

Members of Expert Committee

1. Shri Hem Pande, Special Secretary, Chairman
2. Dr. T. Chandini, Adviser, MoEF&CC;
3. Dr. Sarnam Singh, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, ISRO, Dehradun;
4. Shri Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, Assistant Director, Forest Survey of India, Dehradun;
5. Shri P.K.Duria, Town & Country Planner, TCPO, Ministry of Urban Development, GOI;
6. Ms. Abha Agarwal, AP, TCPO, Ministry of Urban Development, GOI;
7. Dr. S.A. Hussain, Scientist G, WII Dehradun;
8. Shri Paramjit Singh, Director, Botanical Survey of India,
9. Shri Kailash Chandra, Director (I/C), Zoological Survey of India
10. Shri VRS Rawat, ICFRE, Dehradun;
11. Dr. S.S Samant, Scientist 'F', GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Env & Dev, Kosi, Almora;
12. Shri Prabhat Tyagi, Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, New Delhi;
13. Shri Lalit Kapur, Director, MoEF&CC-Member Secretary;

Officials of State Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chandigarh UT, Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh

14. Shri Bhagwan, PCCF, WL/CWLW, Govt. of Maharashtra;
15. Shri T.S.K Reddy, CCF, Nagpur, Govt. of Maharashtra;
16. Ms. Jyoti Banerjee, IFS, Nagpur Forest Division, Govt. of Maharashtra;
17. Shri Bharat Jyoti, Director (Eco. & Env.), Department of Env. and Forest, Govt. of Bihar;
18. Shri Dharendra Singh, CWLW, Govt. of Punjab;
19. Shri V S Bohra, CCF (WL), Jaipur, Govt. of Rajasthan;
20. Shri Mahendra Kumar, Govt. of Rajasthan;
21. Ms. Amarinder Kaur, PCCF cum CWLW, Govt. of Haryana;
22. Shri K C Meena, IFS, CF, WL, Govt. of Haryana;
23. Shri R. Gokul, CCF, Govt. of Karnataka;
24. Shri Maria Christu Raja D , DCF, Govt. of Karnataka;
25. Shri Takhat Singh Ranawat, DCF, Govt. of Karnataka;
26. Shri G N Sinha, PCCF (WL), Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh;
27. Shri P. N. Prasad, Govt. of Manipur;
28. Shri Rupak De, PCCF (WL), Govt. of Uttar Pradesh;
29. Shri R P Singh, APCCF (WL), Govt. of Madhya Pradesh;
30. Shri Sudeep Singh, CCF, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh;
31. Shri Santosh Kumar, CCF, UT. Chandigarh;
32. Shri P L Chauhan, CCF(WL), Govt. of Himachal Pradesh;
33. Shri T.R.Dhiman, DFO, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh;
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