



D.O.No.2411/6/2017-GC

April 10, 2017

Dear

Following are the highlights of the achievements and activities of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) for the month of **March, 2017**:

**1. Rules/Notifications/Policy Decisions:**

1.1 Two Guidelines on diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 have been issued during the month of March 2017.

1.2 Gazette Notification vide S.O 805(E) dated 14.03.2017 regarding Process for appraisal of Terms of Reference/Environment Clearance (ToR/EC) projects under violation of EIA Notification, 2006 has been issued.

**2. Conferences/Workshops/Seminars and other activities:**

2.1 **International Day of Forests 2017** was celebrated on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2017 by Ministry in collaboration with Department of Forests and Wildlife of Government of NCT Delhi at Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, Delhi.

2.2 On the occasion of **World Wildlife Day- 2017**, Ministry with support of 'CMS Vatavaran' organized exhibition of Wildlife related documentaries/short films for different School Children during 27.02.2017 to 3.3.2017 at Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh, New Delhi. Wildlife Institute of India and WII-ENVIS Centre also celebrated the day at Dehradun to raise awareness about the world's wild animals and plants.

2.3 WCCB (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) coordinated enforcement operation conceived by INTERPOL, named "**Operation Thunderbird**" involving forest and police enforcement agencies in all the States/UTs resulting in arrest of number of accused and seizures of a large number of contrabands of various scheduled species.

2.4 The e-application process for National Biodiversity Authority was formally launched by Shri Anil Madhav Dave, Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change in New Delhi through video conference on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2017.

2.5 To Commemorate World Water Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2017, National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) on behalf of MoEF&CC organized an exhibition on the theme- "*Jal Hai to Kal Hai*".

2.6 The ninth Phase of the Science Express as SECAS II has been flagged off on 17 February 2017 from Delhi Safdarjung Railway Station at 11:00 AM. As on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 SECAS has received total 4.13 Lakh visitors/participants. The SECAS II will run from 17 February to 8 September, 2017 over 19000 Km during which it will be exhibited at 68 stations across India.



## 2.7 Eco Sensitive Zones:

Of a total of **648 Protected Areas (PAs)** in the country, ESZ proposals for **315 PAs have been received** in ESZ Division. Of the 315 proposals, Draft Notifications have been published for 221 PAs and Final Notifications have been published for 186 PAs. ESZ proposals of 9 PAs are under various stages of notification

## 2.8 Environmental Clearances

During the month, a total of **168 projects** pertaining to different sectors were appraised **45 projects were accorded environmental clearance** and **50 projects were prescribed TORs**. So, a total of **95 proposals** were cleared during the month. The status of environmental clearance and TOR of Projects for the month of March, 2017 is at **Annexure-I**.

## 2.9 Forest Clearances:

During the month, **1259.93** ha of forest land in **85** cases were approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. **176.83** ha of non-forest land and **2221.86** ha of degraded forest land were earmarked for Compensatory Afforestation (C.A.).

## 2.10 Plan Expenditure:

The Plan Expenditure against the 9 Umbrella Schemes being administered by the Ministry incurred till **31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017** was **Rs.1968.42 crore** against the revised budget estimates for 2016-17 of **Rs.2060.23 crore**.

3. Important policy matters held up on account of prolonged inter-ministerial consultations: **NIL**

4. Compliance of COS decisions:

No. of CoS decisions pending for compliance	Proposed action plan/time lines for compliance of CoS decisions	Remarks
1	Ministry has decided to <b>withdraw</b> the proposal for entering of subject "Bamboo" to the name of MoEF&CC through amendment of Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961.	--

5. Number of cases of 'sanction for prosecution' pending for more than three months: **NIL**

6. Particulars of cases in which there has been a departure from the Transaction of Business Rules or established policy of the Government: **NIL**

7. Status of implementation of e-Governance:

Total No. of Files	Total No. E-files
12239	9948

8. Details of cases in which ACC directions have not been complied with:

Sl. No.	Case	Remarks
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9. Status of Public Grievances:

No. of Public Grievances redressed during the month	No. of Public Grievances pending at the end of the month
967	767

10. Information on the specific steps taken by the Ministry/Department for utilization of the Space Technology based tools and applications in Governance and Development:

10.1 In order to monitor progress of outdoor developmental/conservation/maintenance activities, MoEF&CC has developed Budget and Expenditure Management System; Web based application software for the implementing agencies to upload satellite images in KML file format indicating Latitude- Longitude Coordinates of activities undertaken before and after the completion of the project.

10.2 Ministry has its own Decision Support System developed by FSI based on combining GIS platform and remotely sensed imagery obtained by Indian Satellite IRS P-6 Liss-III. This system is used for Wildlife, Biodiversity and Forest Management and decision making related with these issues.

**With regards,**

*Encl: as above*

**Yours sincerely,**

sd/-  
(A. N. Jha)

**Shri P.K. Sinha,**  
Cabinet Secretary,  
Cabinet Secretariat,  
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New Delhi-110001

Copy to:

The Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, PMO, South Block, New Delhi.

Copy also to: PS to Hon'ble Minister, Environment, Forest & Climate Change

Sd/-  
(A. N. Jha)

*(Anil Sant)*  
Joint Secretary

Status of Environment Clearance and Terms of Reference of Projects for the month of March, 2017

	Industry-(I)		Industry-(II)		Thermal		River Valley & Hydro-Electric		Mining (Coal)		Mining (Non-Coal)		Infrastructure-I		Infrastructure-II		CRZ		Nuclear, Defence & Others		Total	
	EC	TOR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR
No. of projects at of the beginning month	38	50	109	64	08	06	21	17	18	19	183	66	19	13	169	43	48		09	00	622	278
Projects received during the month/ reopened	4	11	12	42	01	01	2	1	01	02	24	32	2	1	45	2	06		03	01	100	93
Projects cleared during the month	2	15	29	12	02	02		3	04	08	4	2	1	1	3	7			00	00	45	59
Projects converted from EC to TOR due change of scope																					0	0
Projects exempted during the month																					0	0
Projects rejected during the month (on merit)															14						14	0
Projects closed during the month (due to non-submission of inf.)									0	0	0	0									0	0
Projects withdrawn/ Transferred/Returned/Duplicate											0	0				21					0	21
Projects kept in abeyance/delisted				4							0	0									0	4
Projects pending at the end of the month	40	46	92	98	07	05	23	15	15	13	203	96	20	13	197	17	54	00	12	01	663	304