

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005

CHAPTER –XI

The budget allocated to each of its agency, indicating the particulars of all Plans, proposed expenditures and reports on disbursement made:-

Plan Schemes

In all, 12 Plan Schemes have been implemented by the Department during the year 2012-13 ie. in the first year of 12th Five year Plan which are covering the activities of Direction, Administration and capacity building, Silvicultural Research, Forest Regeneration and development of Non Timber Forests Produce, Forest settlement and consolidation, Forests resource survey and Working Plans, Harvesting forest produce, Forest extension and publicity, Production of sawn timber and improvement of Govt. Saw Mills, development of infrastructure by construction of buildings, Biodiversity conservation, protection of forests and coastal ecosystem, conservation of mangroves and promotion of eco-tourism in the islands.

The Scheme wise details are given below:

Scheme No. 1. Direction Administration and capacity building

The scheme aims to strengthen the forest administration and human resource management in the Union territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands to conserve, develop and manage the rich biodiversity of the islands. About 87% of the geographical area of these islands is notified forests and 81% of geographical area is under forest/tree cover as per State Forest Report 2009 published by the Forest Survey of India. There are also some grass lands in Nicobar group of Islands. Rich biodiversity comprises of 5100 animals, including 52 mammals, 244 birds and 76 reptiles with high degree of endemism (found only in these Islands).

1. Forest Direction and Administration play an important role in the over all functioning of the Department to fulfill the mandate and achievement of targets under various schemes. Implementation of the policies is supervised at circle level and its strengthening/ modernization is important to keep pace with the changes in environment. During the coming 5 years, more emphasis has been laid on computerization in office management and monitoring will be introduced at each level for improving efficiency and achieving targets as per Result Framework Document (RFD). Continuous monitoring will enable the direction office to issue appropriate directions from time to time for improving the forest administration.
2. Capacity Building aims to develop technically trained manpower to manage the forest resources scientifically. Regular capacity building is essential for human resource development which ensures adoption of latest know-how for scientific management of natural resources. The frontline forest Executive Staff at the level of Forest Guards and Foresters are deputed for training at the state level Forest Training School, Wimberlygunj. Besides imparting the induction training, special refresher course for continuous up-gradation of skill

and capability of the executive staff are also conducted. Orientation courses, awareness programmes for PRI members, officers and staff of the Department, general public and school children are also the part of Capacity Building Programme.

Scheme No. 2: Silviculture and Forestry Research

These islands are endowed with a variety of flora and fauna and are very rich in biodiversity. There are as many as many as 9 forest types found with many unique eco-systems. The diversity in plants particularly forestry species provides ample scope for carrying out forestry research including developing Silviculture techniques of important species. This scheme will continue in the present form as Silviculture and Forestry Research that will provide vital inputs for better management of forests. The recommendations contained in the *National Forestry Research Plan* shall be implemented under this scheme along with the projects identified on priority areas of research. Besides this, the existing sample plots, preservation plots, seed orchards, seed production areas and plantations shall be maintained under the scheme.

Research projects which are to be carried out over a period of 5-10 years broadly cover the establishment of seed production areas to produce quality seeds, standardization of nursery techniques, evolving technique and practice for natural regeneration of forests, study of growth of important species, evolving farm forestry models for the A & N Islands, biodiversity conservation and studies on mangroves.

Scheme No. 3: Forest Regeneration and Development of NTFP

- i. Natural Regeneration in Forests and Plantation** – As per the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 07.05.2002, the worked out forests of A & N Islands are to be brought into its natural profile. Accordingly, after removal of timber, the forest areas are required to be regenerated by undertaking several silvicultural operations in the remaining natural forest crop in the said area as per prescriptions of the approved working plans. The operations also include planting of indigenous species in large gaps and casualty replacement in the subsequent years. Under the scheme, thinning operations will be carried out in old Teak plantation and gap will be planted with natural species as per the prescriptions of the approved Working Plans. In addition, the scheme also provides plantation activity in degraded forest areas to enrich their growing stock as well as planting of forest encroachments pockets on being vacated by forest encroachers.
- ii. NTFP** – Supply of Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) to the Islanders and SSI Units is one of the mandates of the Department of Environment & Forests. The Department is supplying the NTFP (Ballies, Posts, Cane, Bamboo, Thatching Leaves, Fire wood, etc.) to the Villagers / islanders / SSI Units since long from the natural forests and old NRA. There are about 110 Nos. of cane and Bamboo based small scale/cottage/tiny units in the Islands. These Non-timber forest produce provides livelihood to a large number of people engaged in these units. The demand of raw material is continuously increasing with its diversified uses, as these are also required for fencing, hut making and various other domestic uses by the settlers. To meet the local demand, plantation of Cane, bamboo and poles will be undertaken in forest area under this scheme.

Scheme No. 4: Forest Survey, Consolidation and Working Plan

Working Plan – To manage the forest resources judiciously on scientific principles, consolidation of forest area, survey of forest resources and preparation of Working Plan are pre-requisite. The Working Plans prepared for each territorial division for a period of 10 years are to be revised periodically. Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 07.05.2002 in W.P. (P) No. 202 of 1995 directed to revise all existing Working Plans confining forestry management practices in already worked out forest areas. Working Plan revision involves demarcation, survey, forest boundary, preparation of forest inventory, collection of data and analysis of growth and yield of forest produce, etc. As per direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court, Working Plans of South Andaman, Middle Andaman, Mayabunder, Diglipur, Baratang and Little Andaman Forest Division have been revised. Recently proposal for preparation of working scheme for Nicobar division has been approved by the Govt. of India. The Administration has also approached the Hon'ble Supreme Court for inclusion of un-worked area under appropriate working circle for meeting the local demand of timber and NTFP. Once this is finalized, the old prescriptions of Working Plans will have to be revised.

Consolidation – Consolidation of forest boundary is very essential to manage forest resources scientifically. Various components of consolidation are survey, demarcation and consolidation of forest boundaries and settlement of rights. This also includes demarcation of boundary between revenue and forest lands, digitization of entire forest boundary and its reconciliation of revenue records. It is proposed to complete the Consolidation activities during this XIIth FYP period. Special Thrust during XIIth FYP:

1. To complete the balance consolidation activities viz. survey of forest area, erection for RCC pillars with base concreting during XIIth FYP period.
2. Creation of digital database of forest boundary at Division and Range level and merging the field survey data with the GIS Database for scientific management and future planning of the forest area.
3. Revision of the Working Plan as per the time schedule.
4. Finalization of reconciliation of forest boundaries in South Andaman & Baratang Division.
5. Updating database on forest type maps on A & N Islands.

Scheme No. 5: Forests Extension and Publicity

The main objectives of the scheme are to promote extension of tree cover beyond the conventional forest area and to educate the masses about the need for conservation and protection of forests and wild life. In order to reduce the pressure on natural forests, the scheme envisages programmes to extend forest cover by promoting raising of plantation of fuel wood, fodder and fruit bearing trees by farmers on their own land as well as community land etc. To involve the Panchayati Raj Institution on extension forestry, the Department provides Grant-in-Aid for implementing the area specific social forestry projects. The scheme also includes implementation of various Afforestation schemes and protection activities with the involvement of Joint Forests Management Committee (JFMC), thereby making local people as one of the major stakeholder of our conservation efforts. Awareness generation programmes through celebration of important events like Van Mahotsava, World Environment Day,

International Biodiversity Day, World Forestry Day, etc. organizing nature camps, seminars, workshops, etc. are also important components of this scheme.

Under the scheme, it is also proposed to undertake other extension activities at various important locations visited by the tourists. These activities mainly include development of model beach, development and maintenance of nature's trail, providing publicity materials for the visitors. It is also proposed to involve the local people for the management of such activities through JFM.

Scheme No. 6: Forests Utilization

Supply of timber to the Islanders, SSI Units and other Govt. Departments for local consumption is one of the mandates of the Department. After the implementation of Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 07-05-2002, the timber harvesting has been restricted to worked-out forest area and timber is being harvested as per the revised working plans approved by the Central Empowered Committee constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. As per the revised working plans, yield of timber per hectare have been reduced considerably. This has increased per unit cost of extraction of timber as compared to extraction cost prior to revision of working plans. The scheme also makes provision for expenditure towards harvesting and transportation of timber from outlying divisions to feed the two Govt. Saw Mills at Chatham and Betapur.

During the 12th FYP, the following thrust areas are identified:

1. Augmentation of existing machineries, operational vehicles, extraction tools.
2. Creation of database on extraction activities like location of the coupe, coupe area, tree marking details, number of trees removed and merging these data on GIS database at range and divisional level as part of Forest Management Information System. This will be one of the inputs for future working plan revisions

Scheme No. 7: Forests Building & Roads

Most of the forestry activities spreads over the interior areas of the Island which makes it mandatory for the forest officials and workers to work in the interior forest areas. To facilitate working by the staff and the workers, it has become obligatory on the part of the department to provide appropriate residential and non-residential accommodation to the field staff and workers. Besides this, construction of fair weather forest roads for transportation of harvested timber as well as patrolling are required to be undertaken and maintained.

Scheme No. 8: Biodiversity, Wildlife Conservation and Eco development

These Islands are known for its rich biodiversity and very high endemicy which need to be conserved, protected as national natural heritage. To achieve this object A&N Islands has constituted 96 Sanctuaries and 9 National Parks covering an area of 1620 Sq.Km. having 537.64 Sq.km of territorial water and it constitutes 23% of total forest area. These are scattered all over the length and breadth of the islands and protection is a daunting task. This scheme provides strengthening the infrastructure for protection and conservation of these (Protected Area Network) Sanctuaries & National Parks. Besides, the scheme makes provision for establishment of Biological Park at Chidiyatapu including construction of road, buildings, animal enclosures etc. Procurement of vehicles, boats and other equipments is also made under the scheme

for protection and patrolling of sanctuaries and national parks. Management of Marine life is included under the scheme to conserve the various bio-resources in and around the forestry and wildlife area. Cataloguing, characterization and conservation of flora and fauna, microbes and marine bio resources shall be taken up during 12th Five year Plan. Regular monitoring of faunal biodiversity and its composition changes shall be done to study the influence of climate change and other factors. Special Thrust areas are:

1. Demarcation of National Park and Sanctuaries.
2. Improvement in the infrastructure and protection mechanisms.
3. Construction of buildings for frontline staff in remote areas.
4. Ongoing activities related to development of Chidiyatapu Biological Park.
5. In-situ and Ex-situ conservation measures of endangered and endemic species of these Islands.
6. Population census of important fauna.
7. Implementation of Eco-development schemes in Pas.
8. Preparation of Management Plans for large and medium sized PAs.

Scheme No. 9: Improvement of Govt. Saw Mill

Two Government saw mills namely Government Saw mill Chatham and Betapur are run and maintained by Forest department to cater the needs of local inhabitants for sawn timber. Most of existing machineries in these Govt. Saw Mills are quite old and requires to be replaced in a phased manner. To ensure uninterrupted supply of sawn timber, the scheme makes provision for procurement of new machineries in replacement of old ones and also maintenance of saw mills. To ensure the life of sawn timber, timber seasoning /treatment units form important component of saw mills. To provide adequate support to the Mill, there is Mechanical and Electrical work shops which are required to be maintained. The scheme also envisages maintenance of building (saw mills) and other infrastructure. One important activity under the scheme for 12th FYP will be the modernization of both the saw mills in order to increase the productivity. This will involve replacement of old, obsolete and non-functional machines, more automation and introduction better treatment facility for longevities of sawn timber. The modernization plan for both the saw mills may either be prepared by engaging a consultant or departmentally in case suitable consultants are not available. It is also proposed to run Betapur Saw Mill on PPP (Public Private Partnership) mode

Scheme No. 10: Protection of Forests and Coastal Eco system

A & N Islands are known for its rich biodiversity, endemism, Tropical rain forests, mangrove, corals and marine wealth in its pristine state. 80% of the total geographical area is covered with forest cover as per the report of the ISFR 2009. The protection issue has been highlighted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, Prof. Shekar Singh Commission Prof. C R Babu Committee and IDA and all these recommendations propose to improve the protection measures by the Department of Environment and Forests. Hence, the protection scheme needs to be revised keeping in view of the new challenges. Security of Nation's boundaries and border areas is critical not only from strategic angle but also from the point of 'ecological security'. This is applicable more in case of our coastal territory adjoining the maritime borders and Exclusive

Economic Zone (EEZ), which are open frontiers. In contrary to our land borders, they are easily approachable by foreigners and difficult to monitor because of their vastness. The problem of protecting our maritime areas and wealth gets further complicated and compounded in isolated Andaman & Nicobar islands which have a coast line of more than 1962 km exposed from all the sides; about 6,00,00 sq. km. of EEZ and sparse settlements only in 37 islands out of more than 500 islands.

In the IDA meeting held on 15th June 2011 under the Chairman ship of Hon'ble President of India, it was desired that the MoEF would formulate a scheme exclusively for protection keeping in view of the vulnerability of islands forests and Coastal ecosystem. A scheme has been forwarded to the GoI by the Administration vide letter no. CWLW/C/62/436 dated 05-08-2011 for ₹ 53.21 Crore. The scheme envisages redeployment of existing strength without any new creation of post during this FY Plan.

Scheme No. 11: Conservation and Development of Mangroves & Littoral Forests

Mangroves and Littoral forests play a very significant role in conserving the coastal ecosystem and checking coastal erosion. They also provide breeding homes to marine life. These Islands have extensive open coastline and inland creeks which are fringed with littoral forests and mangrove forests respectively. Conservation of Mangrove and coral reef ecosystem are the integral part of any strategies to combat the emerging threat from sea due to climate change. The scheme provides specific studies to be undertaken on the aspects. Protection and development of these ecosystems are very important from ecological point of view. The scheme envisages raising of mangroves and coastal belt plantation in suitable areas. It also provides for procurement of boats for patrolling and for execution of the works.

Integrated mangrove restorations programme in suitable areas of islands shall start through people's participatory approach. Soil and sea water parameters in coastal areas shall be monitored to study their influence on mangrove ecosystem.

Scheme No. 12: Eco Tourism

The tourism policy of Andaman & Nicobar Islands aims to promote sustainable nature bound tourism by developing eco-friendly tourist infrastructure. The Andaman & Nicobar Administration is focusing on the issues like – augmentation of infrastructure facilities and providing the required support facilities for promotion of nature based tourism, along with ensuring adequate safety and security to the tourists. There is a strong scope to promote eco-tourism because of the fact that there is limited scope for industrial activities in the islands and declining timber harvesting/ wood based industries pursuant to Supreme Court's judgment dated 07/05/2002. This has led to tourism being identified as a key sector for economic development, revenue and employment generation in the islands. Keeping in view the fragile ecology and limited carrying capacity of the islands, the objective of the Administration is to strive for sustainable nature based eco-tourism. The Supreme Court's in its judgment dated 07/05/2002 has accepted the recommendation of Prof. Shekhar Singh for development of eco-tourism based on forest resources and areas in these islands and such infrastructure should remain under the control of Forest Department.

At the same time the development is required to generate local employment and economic development on a sustainable basis. Accordingly, the Jungle Lodges & Resorts (JLR), Bangalore an entity under the Department of Tourism, Govt. of

Karnataka was engaged as a consultant for preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) in this regard. The JLR has submitted final DPR which has been accepted by the Administration. The scheme will be operated as per the guidelines prescribed in the DPR. The DPR proposes following three circuits for development:

- Circuit 1- South Andaman: M315.ount Harriet - Shoal Bay- Madhuban
(Base at Mount Harriet with 15 double bedded cottages, Reception-cum-lounge by reconstructing the old commissioner's Bungalow- A dormitory for 10 and other facilities. Satellite camps at Shoal Bay & Madhuban- 5 tented accommodation with basic facilities.)
- Circuit 2- Middle Andaman: Long Island- Guitar Island- North Passage- Button Island National Park
(20 Double bedded cottages, Reception-cum-lounge-cum-museum and quarters for support staff by remodeling the existing Main store building and Staff quarters of the Forest Department, Dormitory for 10 persons and other facilities. Use of solar power, Sea water for flushing, Rain water Harvesting, Generator linked desalination plant, Waste water treatment. Satellite camps at Lalaji Bay, Mark Bay and Cuthbert Bay– 5 tents with basic facilities)
- Circuit 3- North Andaman: Smith Island- Aerial Bay- Saddle Peak
(Base camp at Smith Islands - 15 Nicobarese style huts, Staff quarter – water harvesting structure, Equipments for re-cycling of water, recycling of bio-geo-degradable wastes, solar power harnessing structure, Use of salt water for flushing , Rain water harvesting, Generator linked desalination plant. Satellite camp at Lamiya Bay – 5 tented accommodation with basic facilities.)

Outlays for the year 2013-14 (Rs. in Lakhs)

Major Head	Outlay
2406 (Revenue)	2666.00
4406 (Capital)	1790.00
	4456.00

Scheme wise break up of proposed outlay for Annual Plan 2013-2014

Sch. No.	Name of Scheme	Proposed Outlay (` in lakh)			
		S/Andaman	N & M Andaman	Nicobar	Total
1	Direction, Administration and Capacity Building	480.00	0.00	0.00	480.00
2	Silviculture and Forestry Research	90.00	0.00	0.00	90.00
3	Forest Regeneration and Development of NTFP	102.50	272.50	5.00	380.00
4	Forests, Resources Survey, Consolidation and Working Plan	139.50	216.50	44.00	400.00
5	Forests Extension, Publicity	163.00	106.00	11.00	280.00

6	Forests Utilization	95.50	504.50	0.00	600.00
7	Forests Buildings and Roads	205.00	175.00	0.00	380.00
8	Bio-diversity and Wildlife Conservation and Eco-Development	386.00	170.00	215.00	771.00
9	Improvement of Govt. Saw Mills	225.00	65.00	0.00	290.00
10	Protection of Forests and coastal eco system	170.00	170.00	85.00	425.00
11	Conservation and Development of Mangroves & Littoral Forests	49.00	69.00	12.00	130.00
12	Eco Tourism	68.50	161.50	0.00	230.00
	Total	2174.00	1910.00	372.00	4456.00

Annexure –1 Agency wise distribution of fund under BE.2013-14 (Plan)