

**MADHYA
PRADESH STATE
FOREST POLICY
2005**

1. Introduction

Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country. The forests of the state are very important because of the abundance of biodiversity and for being the catchment area of many important rivers. Therefore, the forests of the state contribute significantly to the environmental and ecological balance and water conservation in the country. The state has a leading place in the wildlife conservation as well. About 11.4 per cent protected area (national park and sanctuaries) of the forests falls under the wildlife management. About 20 per cent of the country's and about 10 per cent of the world's population of tigers is in Madhya Pradesh. Therefore, the state has been named as the 'Tiger State'.

The national Forest Policy, 1988 has given a new dimension to the forest management and protection. According to this policy, the ecological and environmental significance of forests has been kept supreme and the rights of the communities dependent on the forests have been given priority. Instead of being market-oriented, the forest management has been made sustenance-oriented for the communities dependent on forests, especially tribal women and other weaker sections.

Madhya Pradesh has been in the forefront of forest management in accordance with the spirit of the National Forest Policy. The state of the forests has improved significantly due to the efforts made in the area of sustainable forest management with the people's participation. At present, entire forest area of the state is under scientific management. Forest cover has increased. The contribution of the state in the production of wood and non-wood forest products in the country is the largest. Moreover, in view of the increasing socio-economic importance of medicinal plant species and to ensure its conservation development and nondestructive exploitation, in government forests, there is need to increase their production on the private lands also. With the help of the joint forest management, communities dependent on forests, especially the tribes, other weaker sections and women have been assigned main role in the forest management and conservation. As a result of the people's participation in the sustainable forest management, benefits of indigenous technical knowledge are also being reaped. With a view to make the joint forest management more and more people-oriented and provide more and more benefits to the forest-dependent communities, amendments as required have been made in the resolutions issued by the government from time to time for this purpose.

As a result of increasing population and the need for development, efforts are being made in the sphere of the extension forestry with a view to reduce the difference between the increasing demand of wood and non-wood forest products and its supply as well as reduce the pressure on government forests. There is need to simplify the rules related to the exploitation and transportation of trees with a view to encourage the extension forestry. At the same time, there is also need to make intensive efforts to provide improved variety of plants as per the requirements of the farmers and for extending the tree cover. With a view to encourage forestry on the private lands, the Lok Vaniki programme has been implemented in the entire state, under which any person can manage the tree-covered area on his private land on the basis of management scheme.

In order to encourage the forest-based industries, it is necessary to facilitate such legal and administrative environment, under which the forest-based industries can plant trees on the fallow land also on the private land of the farmers with their cooperation, to meet its requirement of the necessary raw material and so that such industries may be attracted towards Madhya Pradesh.

Even after such efforts forests have degraded in some areas due to biotic-pressure and paucity of resources, especially degradation has taken place in the semi-arid areas, which has been causing soil erosion, extension of ravines and desertification. The water flow in the rivers and ground water resources have also been adversely affected. Therefore, it has become necessary to take up water-shed based management in the forests.

With the objective of providing the state proportionate resources at the national level, it is necessary to introduce the system of 'Natural Resource Accounting', so that efforts could be made to provide resources for forest conservation and management matching the contribution of direct and indirect benefits of the forests in the Gross Domestic Product. Moreover, to mobilize financial and other resources it is also necessary to encourage private investment and also mobilize resources from other sources, such as environment tax, water tax, external grants, loans, etc. It is also necessary to attract private investment to augment the productivity of the most degraded government forests.

As a result of the changes taking place in the global trade system, certification of forest products as per the international requirements is also necessary, so that fair price could be obtained for the forest products of the state in the international markets.

Plantation of trees on a large scale is necessary with a view to control the environmental pollution in the urban areas as well as natural

beautification and augmenting of greenery. It is, therefore, necessary to seek adequate cooperation from various government and non-governmental institutions, local bodies, voluntary institutions and the general public. At the same time, it is also necessary to conserve available natural resources in various cities and villages, such as wetland, sacred grove, areas covered by trees and hills.

There are several new tasks and challenges before the forest officials at present. Under the circumstances, it is absolutely necessary that sufficient knowledge, skill and resources are made available to them so as to enable them to execute these tasks and face the challenges. In view of this, new direction shall have to be given to the efforts for human resource development. With a view to benefit from the latest techniques, it is necessary to adopt information technology in the forest management.

A clear vision and strategy is required to fulfill the above objectives. **Through this policy, the management of forests through a rational legal and institutional infrastructure, for conservation, development and sustainable use of forests, using the ecological, economic, social and technical resources of the state will be done in such away that, apart from environmental protection, ecological balance and groundwater conservation needs of forest dependent communities may also be full filled and productivity of forests may be enhanced so that, alongwith the development of forest resources, socio-economic development of these communities may be ensured by providing them employment.**

2. Objectives

Basic objectives of the State Forest Policy are as follows:-

- 2.1 Expanding forest tree-covered area to make it one-third of the geographical area.
- 2.2 Ensuring stability of the environment and ecological balance by developing government forests and private areas under forest cover through sustainable management of forests.
- 2.3 Strengthening beneficial components, forces and systems for the protection and management of forests.
- 2.4 Optimizing the use of timber, fuelwood, bamboo, fodder and minor forest produce, to maximise their production and creating atmosphere for regular availability of forest-based alternative employment to forest dependent families.

- 2.5 To earmark 10 per cent of the forest area under intensive management for production of timber in order to reduce the gap between its demand and supply.
- 2.6 Increasing the production of non-timber forest produce, especially herbal medicines, and making economic conditions of the forest-dependent communities better by ensuring their sustainable exploitation, value addition and marketing.
- 2.7 Promoting extension forestry without adversely affecting the agricultural production, promoting plantation of bamboo in the rural areas and thus making it the means of income for the villagers and ensuring better management of revenue and private areas covered with forests by implementing Lok Vaniki.
- 2.8 To build essential legal environment and to provide facilities to enable the forest-based industries to produce their own raw material
- 2.9 To give priority to the social needs and aspirations of the local communities in the use of products obtained from sustainable exploitation of the forests not considering them a source of income only.
- 2.10 To make efforts for sustainable development of weaker sections of the society, especially forest dependent tribal communities and women in view of the environmental, economic, social and cultural linkages of these communities with forests.
- 2.11 Reducing losses caused to the forests due to uncontrolled grazing and collection of head load fuel wood.
- 2.12 Promoting alternative sources of energy in order to reduce pressure on government forests.
- 2.13 Strengthening the management of protected areas to conserve biodiversity, strengthening cohesion between the wild life management and the requirements of those living in forests and taking steps to conserve bio-diversity outside the protected areas also.
- 2.14 To develop Eco-tourism and Herbal-Health Tourism in forest areas for the benefit of forest dependent communities and conservation of natural resources.
- 2.15 Directing forest research and extension in accordance with the prevailing conditions and future requirements.
- 2.16 Providing traditional and modern techniques and skills as well as healthy work atmosphere to forest officials and members of the forest committees in order to encourage them to work with full capacity and zeal.

- 2.17 Attracting private investment for the afforestation work on a large scale in the forestry sector.

3. Strategy to achieve the objectives

3.1 Expansion and development of forest area for environmental stability and ecological balance.

- 3.1.1 One-third forest area of the state comprises degraded forests, the condition of which is alarming because of soil erosion and decreasing reproduction. A time-bound programme aimed at rehabilitating the forests would be carried out after identifying such areas with the help of comprehensive surveys and treating the affected areas according to site specific needs.
- 3.1.2 Afforestation work will be taken up on a large scale with the help of local communities including the women in the denuded forest areas, like desert areas of the western Madhya Pradesh, which will help in establishing ecological balance, checking desertification and providing employment to local communities, especially the women.
- 3.1.3 Treatment of catchment areas of rivers of the state and areas sensitive for soil erosion is essential for the purpose of water and soil conservation. Hence, through soil conservation and catchment area treatment, these areas will be tree covered as far as possible. For this, efforts will be made to increase tree cover on private and community lands in a planned way through massive peoples' participation by secondary regeneration work in dense forests, improvement of forest in degraded forest areas and wastelands, irrigated plantations in suitable areas and farm-forestry & agro-forestry under extension forestry.
- 3.1.4 The existing rules will be suitably simplified to remove legal hassles being faced by the land owners in felling of trees on private lands, their transportation and marketing, so that the general public, private organisations and forest based industries may be encouraged for extension forestry and Lok Vaniki.
- 3.1.5 Management of the wildlife protected areas will be strengthened and measures will be taken for the biodiversity conservation in the forest areas outside these also.
- 3.1.6 Trees planted on the road side, canals, railway lines and the fallow land would be properly managed and trees would be planted on empty land. With a view to protecting the trees planted in such areas, the 'Tree

Protection Act' enforced in the urban areas shall be extended to these areas as well.

3.1.7 Conservation of environment and the ecological stability would be ensured on the entire forest area and the area outside also under the provisions of the 'Environment (Protection) Act, 1986'.

3.1.8 Green belts shall be developed in the urban areas with a view to establish environmental balance and the ground water recharging and the land use of existing green belt areas will not be altered.

3.1.9 Adequate conservation of ecologically sensitive important natural areas like Amarkantak, Pachmarhi, Tamia, Betul and Nimar will be ensured after enlisting them.

3.2 Demarcation

3.2.1 All the pending disputes regarding boundaries of forest areas will be settled under a time-bound programme and demarcation of forest blocks will be ensured. After demarcation of orange areas and other revenue forests under a time-bound programme, suitable areas will be notified.

3.2.2 Settlement of the forest areas shall be done as soon as possible.

3.2.3 A special campaign shall be carried out for the consolidation of records of the forest land and separate arrangements shall be ensured for this purpose.

3.2.4 Development of the forest villages shall be ensured and initiative would be taken to convert them into revenue villages. The development of the basic amenities, like electrification, approach roads and drinking water etc., in the forest villages will be ensured till their conversion into revenue villages.

3.3 Forest Protection

3.3.1 Illicit felling

3.3.1.1 Existing system, rules, acts and procedures pertaining to the forest protection, especially to the checking of illicit felling, shall be reviewed and made more effective. For this purpose, the forest officials shall be delegated sufficient powers as per requirement.

- 3.3.1.2 Wireless network and other related communication facilities shall be expanded with a view to strengthen the forest protection system.
- 3.3.1.3 All the officers engaged in the protection of forests upto the range level shall be provided vehicles and other resources.
- 3.3.1.4 Organisation of Special Protection Force shall be strengthened in the sensitive areas.
- 3.3.1.5 Arms shall be provided to the forest officials for the protection of forests and they will be trained to use them.
- 3.3.1.6 A system of forest posts shall be developed in sensitive areas and efforts shall be made for group patrolling.
- 3.3.1.7 Maximum participation of local communities shall be ensured in the forest protection.
- 3.3.1.8 Establishment of special courts at district level for speedy disposal of forest offences will be initiated.
- 3.3.1.9 Apart from the persons engaged in illicit felling from forests, provision for stern action against their abettors will also be made.
- 3.3.1.10 Efforts will be made to provide suitable employment opportunities to the villagers living around areas sensitive for illicit felling in the village itself, so that they do not depend much on forests.
- 3.3.1.11 The persons informing about illicit felling will be encouraged by rewarding them, keeping their identity confidential.
- 3.3.1.12 The persons, organisations, local communities, forest and police officials doing courageous work and making outstanding contribution toward protection of forests will be honoured by rewarding them.
- 3.3.1.13 Special schemes pertaining to the employees' welfare at field level shall be introduced to help the forest officials engaged in the protection of forests.

3.3.2 Encroachment

- 3.3.2.1 Encroachment in the forest areas shall be checked effectively and in future no encroachments of any kind shall be allowed on the forest land.
- 3.3.2.2 Apart from forest encroachers, provision for stern action against their abettors will also be made.
- 3.3.2.3 In order to check increase in the area under encroachment, the existing settled encroached areas shall be permanently demarcated as soon as possible.

- 3.3.2.4 Tree plantation shall be undertaken in the encroachment sensitive areas with peoples' cooperation.
- 3.3.2.5 Efforts shall be made to provide suitable opportunities of employment in the villages adjacent to the encroachment sensitive areas.

3.3.3 Mining and other non-forestry activities on the forest land

- 3.3.3.1 Mining will be permitted in the forest areas only with the permission from the competent authority. Mining against rules shall not be permitted and the illegal mining shall be strictly prohibited.
- 3.3.3.2 In case, the forest land is used for the purpose of mining, reforestation of such area shall have to be sought from the concerned agency as per the requirements of the area concerned.
- 3.3.3.3 In general, non-forest activities shall not be permitted on the forest land. Permission for using the forest land for non-forest activities could be granted under unavoidable circumstances only as per the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- 3.3.3.4 Plantation of indigenous species and quality afforestation will be ensured for reforestation of all the mined area as well as compensatory afforestation in lieu of change of land use for non-forestry purposes.
- 3.3.3.5 Apart from persons indulging in illicit mining in forests, provision for stern action against their abettors will also be made.
- 3.3.3.6 Provision in respect of the management and treatment of the mining areas in the degraded forests shall be included in the working plans.

3.3.4 Unregulated grazing

- 3.3.4.1 Grazing shall be managed as per the carrying capacity of the forest areas. Illegal and excessive grazing shall be completely prohibited.
- 3.3.4.2 Rotational grazing system will be introduced in suitable areas as per provisions of the working plans. Stall feeding will be encouraged.
- 3.3.4.3 In order to reduce the huge losses to the forests due to excessive grazing intensive schemes shall be chalked out for the development of pastures by selecting blank and less dense forest areas.
- 3.3.4.4 An appropriate system for livestock management will be evolved through inter-departmental programmes.

- 3.3.4.5 Effective measures would be taken with the cooperation of the bordering states to check unregulated grazing by cattle coming from other states.

3.3.5 Fire management

- 3.3.5.1 A new fire protection system will be developed after detailed study of effects of fire on forests of the state, in view of both the beneficial and harmful effects of fire in forests.
- 3.3.5.2 Modern techniques and equipment shall be used to control the forest fires.

3.3.6 Protection from pests and diseases

An appropriate system of forest management shall be developed for protection from various kinds of diseases and destructive forest-pests.

3.4 Forest Management

- 3.4.1 Working plans for the forest management shall be prepared on scientific basis, which shall be revised from time to time.
- 3.4.2 Management of the entire forest area shall be done only as per working plans. In the areas having vigourless root stocks because of ageing, high forests (seed originated) shall be extended through plantation.
- 3.4.3 In view of the natural association of the forest dependent communities with the forests the main objective of the forest management shall not be to earn revenue, but to accord priority to the interests of these communities.
- 3.4.4 Local species shall be accorded priority in the natural forest areas.
- 3.4.5 Micro plans of the areas under joint forest management shall be prepared within the ambit of the working plans.
- 3.4.6 At least 10 per cent forest area shall be kept under intensive management. For this purpose degraded forests of good site quality shall be selected.
- 3.4.7 Modern techniques available from time to time shall be used extensively in the forest management.

3.5 Production of timber, fuel wood and bamboo in government forests

- 3.5.1 With a view to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of timber, fuel wood and bamboo in the state, the productivity of the forests shall be increased by encouraging natural regeneration and using latest techniques of silviculture.
- 3.5.2 In order to increase the production of timber, at least 10 per cent forest area shall be kept under intensive management. For this purpose degraded forests of good site quality shall be selected.
- 3.5.3 For genetic improvement of commercially important forest species, biotechnology techniques will be used after identifying qualities of these species.
- 3.5.4 In order to check the expansion of ravines and for conservation of soil and water in degraded forests, available traditional and modern techniques shall be used.
- 3.5.5 In view of the importance of bamboo in the rural economy, bamboo forests shall be expanded and special efforts shall be made to check the degradation of existing bamboo forests and to increase its productivity.
- 3.5.6 In order to increase the productivity of severely degraded government forests, such forest areas shall be enlisted with its geographical details and initiatives would be taken to attract private investment for its afforestation.

3.6 Production, sustainable harvesting, value addition and marketing of non-timber forest produce

- 3.6.1 For economic upliftment of forest dwellers of the state, increase in production of non-timber forest produce, in and outside forest areas, and their sustainable & non-destructive harvesting will be ensured.
- 3.6.2 Village-level schemes shall be implemented to provide assistance to local persons/organisations enabling them to run cottage industries for the processing of non-timber forest produce and its value-addition.
- 3.6.3 An information system shall be developed for the collection of non-timber forest produces, its storage and marketing through the primary forest produce cooperative societies and joint forest management committees.

- 3.6.4 Species providing important non-timber forest produce shall be identified and work related to their genetic records and chemical analysis of their active components shall be taken up with the use of bio-technology in respect of its collection and value-addition.

3.7 Conservation, development and sustainable harvesting of medicinal plant species

- 3.7.1 In view of increasing importance of medicinal plant species and their excessive demand for indigenous therapy, their conservation, development and non-destructive harvesting will be done in government forests and increasing their ex-situ production on private lands also will be encouraged to expand their plantation area.
- 3.7.2 Medicinal plant species shall be enlisted for its conservation and a detailed scheme shall be chalked out for the conservation of its habitat and its sustainable harvesting.
- 3.7.3 For the purpose of value addition of medicinal forest produce, processing skills and techniques shall be made available to local persons/organisations, so that employment opportunities for the local residents could increase.
- 3.7.4 Initiative shall be taken to attract private investment for planting medicinal species on a large scale in the most degraded government forests.
- 3.7.5 In order to ensure marketing of the medicinal forest produce and their processed products appropriate mechanisms shall be developed at national as well international levels.
- 3.7.6 Efforts will be made for value addition in the products of medicinal and aromatic plants by improving the quality of their constituents through modern and traditional techniques of biotechnology.
- 3.7.7 Laboratories will be established for quality test and certification of medicinal components of medicinal plants.
- 3.7.8 Persons having traditional knowledge about medicinal plants shall be enlisted and their traditional knowledge shall be documented and incorporated in public health security programmes.

3.8 Lok Vaniki and Extension Forestry

- 3.8.1 In order to reduce pressure on government forests, forestry on private land and revenue forest land and its scientific management

shall be encouraged through Lok Vaniki. For this purpose, the Lok Vaniki Act/rules shall be strengthened and suitably revised as per requirement from time to time.

- 3.8.2 Villagers / farmers will be motivated to plant trees on the boundary-mounds of their fields and private wastelands to meet the requirement of wood from outside the forests as far as possible. For this purpose, appropriate scheme will be implemented for rewarding the farmers doing notable work in this regard. To encourage small holding farmers for forestry, provision for special grant will be made however, it will be ensured that this does not adversely affect the agricultural production.
- 3.8.3 Inorder to ensure peoples' participation towards afforestation, in accordance with the concept of Panch 'J', trees equal in number to at least the population of the state, in addition to government plantations, will be planted in 3 years in the first stage with active participation of public, Gram Panchayats, forest committes, non-governmental organisations and voluntary institutions. Thereafter, this campaign will be perpetually continued.
- 3.8.4 Farmers shall be encouraged and trained to set up their own nurseries and grow plants for the extension forestry. Remaining plants and seeds shall be supplied by the forest department.
- 3.8.5 Farmers shall be encouraged to plant more and more fruit-bearing and other such trees on their land. For this purpose, important fruit-bearing and other plants like *mahua* (*madhuca indica*), *chiraunji* (*buchanania latifolia*), etc. shall be made available to them at concessional rates.
- 3.8.6 Farmers shall be encouraged to grow medicinal plants on their private land.
- 3.8.7 In order to provide substitute of wood in the rural areas and to make bamboo an important source of their income, villagers shall be encouraged to plant bamboos in the enclosures around their houses and for this purpose rural nurseries shall be established.
- 3.8.8 Keeping in view of the recognition of bio-fuel as an alternative source of energy, energy plantations and plantation of species providing bio-diesel, such as *ratana jot* shall be encouraged.
- 3.8.9 Inorder to reduce the demand of fuelwood, use of alternative sources of energy such as solar energy, bio-gas and improved stoves will be encouraged. For this purpose, to motivate people dependent on forests, these communities, especially women, will be provided cooking gas, go-bar-gas plants and other alternative sources

of energy on concessional rates for a limited period. Gasifier / mini power plants, based on lantana, grass, fodder and other agricultural waste produce, will be set up in villages not having electricity.

- 3.8.10 In order to augment the productivity of forests on private areas modern techniques like tissue culture, improved variety of seeds and plants shall be used. While selecting species priority shall be accorded to the requirement of farmers and forest-based industries.
- 3.8.11 Necessary information and skill for value addition and marketing of their products will be provided to the farmers / persons adopting extension forestry.
- 3.8.12 In order to remove difficulties being faced by the landowners at present in respect of felling transportation and marketing, of trees of all species, including teak, on their private land under the extension forestry, rules shall be so simplified that every farmer/individual /industry could harvest, transport and market the forest produce obtained from the planted trees like any other agro-crop.
- 3.8.13 In order to promote extension forestry, private land on which trees have been grown will be acquired by the government, if need be, only after paying full compensation of such land and trees grown over it.
- 3.8.14 In order to encourage plantation of fruit bearing trees alongwith other useful species like ratanjot, karanj etc., on domiciled land of village, necessary amendment will be made in section 239 of the Land Revenue Code, 1959.

3.9 Forest-based Industries

- 3.9.1 In view of the important role of the forest-based industries in the economy of the state and the employment to local communities, forest-based industries shall be encouraged in coordination with concerned departments.
- 3.9.2 Forest-based industries such as herbal medicines, lac manufacturing, incense stick manufacturing, honey production, bio-diesel production and wood-craft etc., will be encouraged in view of their vast potential in the economy of the state and employment generation.
- 3.9.3 Forest-based industries shall be encouraged to fulfil requirement of the raw material on their own. For this purpose, such statutory and administrative atmosphere shall be created, so that the forest-based industries could undertake afforestation work on the fallow land and

also the land of the farmers with their cooperation. If the requirement of the raw material is still not met, the forest department would meet such demand as far as possible on the market prices.

- 3.9.4 Land Ceiling Act and other land-related acts shall be amended as per need, so that the afforestation work could be undertaken on a large scale on private lands so that investors as well as farmers could be attracted towards this work. But it shall be ensured that it does not cause any adverse effect on the agro-production.
- 3.9.5 Small and medium farmers shall be encouraged to plant such species on the boundaries of their fields and on fallow land, which are used by the industry. Besides, species useful for the industry shall also be planted on the government land, which is not needed for pasture.
- 3.9.6 Species providing necessary raw material to the cottage industries shall be planted and the local communities shall be imparted training in cottage industries and proper mechanism shall be developed to ensure the marketing of products manufactured by them.
- 3.9.7 Forest-based industries shall be encouraged towards developing new afforestation techniques, producing improved variety of seeds and plants and their marketing and certification as well as providing technical information and skills to the farmers. Initiative would be taken to establish *mandi* system for the marketing of forest produce of industrial use.
- 3.9.8 Appropriate partnership shall be developed between the forest committees set up under the joint forest management and the industries based on the species found in the forest areas being managed by such committees.
- 3.9.9 Efforts will be made to make available the government land, not suitable for agriculture, which is not being used for meeting basic needs of the local communities, to the persons and industries, willing to do plantation outside forest land, on easy terms for providing raw material to forest-based industries, reducing environmental pollution and obtaining international aid under 'Clean Development Mechanism'.

3.10 Joint Forest Management

- 3.10.1 Villagers in all the villages within a radius of 5 km from the boundaries of forests will be encouraged to constitute committees and the existing committees will be strengthened for better conservation and management of forests and to fulfil the forest-

based needs of the villagers. At least 30 per cent representation will be given to women in total number of members and chairpersons of all the committees.

- 3.10.2 Rural development works will be coordinated with various departments related with rural development according to the micro-plans of forest committees.
- 3.10.3 System of alternative employment and imparting required skills for this purpose will be developed from the income earned by the committees.
- 3.10.4 Necessary training shall be imparted for the empowerment of the committees.
- 3.10.5 For use and development of traditional knowledge and methods regarding bio-resources of rural and tribal communities, a partnership will be established amongst these communities, the forest committees and research institutions, and their contribution towards forest management will be encouraged.
- 3.10.6 The committees will be given required legal powers alongwith delegation of responsibilities to prevent forest offences.
- 3.10.7 Inorder to establish goodwill and harmony between forest officials and members of Joint Forest Management committees, joint workshops will be organized.
- 3.10.8 The bio-geographic site-specific plant species, found in Joint Forest Management Committee areas, their products and methods of processing will be registered under the 'Geographical Indication of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act', 1999, so that in case of their use elsewhere, its benefit may go the people of that area.

3.11 Rights and Concessions (Nistar)

- 3.11.1 The prevalent Nistar system for fulfilling the forest-based needs of the local people for fuel, bamboo, poles, hal-bakkhar, etc., will be made sustainable and continued throughout the year, if needed, subject to availability.
- 3.11.2 Inorder to minimize transportation cost in providing nistar material to the eligible beneficiaries, the nistar material will be distributed from the coupes as far as possible.
- 3.11.3 Villagers living only within a radius of 5 Km from forest boundaries will be allowed to take out dry, fallen fuel wood from forests as head-loads for domestic use subject to availability. For this purpose, eligible villagers will be identified and enlisted.

- 3.11.4 Efforts will be made to provide alternative employment to the people cutting and removing wood as head-loads from the forests to wean away such people from the practice of head loads in order to reduce the damage caused to the forests by such practice.
- 3.11.5 Efforts shall be made to reduce dependence of villagers on forests in meeting their requirements of forest produce with the help of Lok Vaniki and extension forestry.

3.12 Development of forest-dependent communities

- 3.12.1 Keeping in view the contribution of the tribal communities in the conservation of forests and their economic, social and cultural association with the forests, an all round development of these communities shall be taken up. For this purpose, efforts shall be made to benefit them from development schemes being carried out by other departments, such as Rural Development, Agriculture, Animal husbandry, Tribal Development, etc.
- 3.12.2 Development of forest-dependent communities shall commence from the poorest families on the basis of the *antyo daya* concept.
- 3.12.3 Villages located near the forest boundaries shall be developed on a priority basis.
- 3.12.4 In view of the inability of the forest dependent communities to manage sufficient food for them, 'Food For Work Programme' will be implemented as per needs for these communities in forestry and other labour-intensive works for the whole year in all areas, as far as possible.
- 3.12.5 Efforts will be made to implement more and more employment-oriented developmental schemes to free the forest dependent communities from the influence of forest offenders and naxalites.
- 3.12.6 Initiatives will be taken to develop transport facilities in villages in and around forest areas.

3.13 Empowerment of forest-dependent tribals, landless and women

- 3.13.1 Active participation of tribals, landless and women will be ensured in forest management and income obtained from it by making them aware and trained.
- 3.13.2 For providing alternative self-employment to the tribals, landless and women, necessary legal arrangement will be made to help them get loans from financial institutions on priority basis.

- 3.13.3 More and more self-help groups shall be set up for the empowerment of women and such groups shall be encouraged to associate them with cottage industries based on forest produce.

3.14 Biodiversity conservation

- 3.14.1 Biodiversity rich sites will be identified and they will be enlisted and developed as 'Biodiversity Heritage Sites'.
- 3.14.2 Bio-diversity existing within and outside the forest areas (in public and private areas) shall be conserved as per the provisions of the 'Bio-diversity Act, 2002'.
- 3.14.3 Conservation of bio-diversity shall be accorded sufficient importance in the working plans of all the forest areas.
- 3.14.4 Bio-diversity abundant sites in the urban areas shall be identified, properly conserved and developed. Besides, efforts shall be made to set up botanical gardens and zoological parks in the available suitable areas.
- 3.14.5 In view of the significant role of the local communities in the conservation of bio-diversity, appropriate share of such communities shall be ensured in the benefits accruing from the knowledge about the bio-resources and their sustainable use.

3.15 Protection of wildlife

- 3.15.1 As per the recommendations of the Wildlife Institute of India, the protected areas (national parks and sanctuaries) shall be extended. For this purpose, ecologically rich areas shall be identified and declared protected areas. But in order to reduce the conflict with the nearby forest-dependent communities, it shall be ensured that such an extension does not cause any hurdles in meeting the forest-based requirements of these communities.
- 3.15.2 A cadre of well-trained specialists shall be developed by imparting specialized training to the forest officials and the employees in the management of the protected areas and the wildlife management in other forest areas
- 3.15.3 While declaring new protected areas, adequate place shall be given to the new categories of protected areas, i.e. Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves, as provided in the "Wildlife Protection Act (amended 2000)" of the Government of India.

- 3.15.4 Management of protected areas shall be taken up only after preparing the management plan, in which top priority shall be accorded to the protection of wildlife.
- 3.15.5 Alternate arrangements shall be made to meet the requirements of those local communities, which have been deprived of utilizing certain forests areas because of their declaration as protected areas, for which efforts shall be made to get necessary funds reimbursed from Government of India.
- 3.15.6 Adequate importance will be ensured to the conservation of Wildlife in preparation of working plans of forest areas outside the protected areas also.
- 3.15.7 Dried up natural water resources in the protected forest areas and outside it shall be revamped and artificial water resources shall be constructed as per the requirement of the wildlife species naturally found there.
- 3.15.8 Appropriate arrangements shall be made to protect the health of the wildlife and prevention of infectious diseases in them. For this purpose, arrangements of necessary diet for the wildlife shall be made and wild life health monitoring, disease diagnostic research cells shall be set up at suitable places.
- 3.15.9 For prevention of infection of cattle-induced diseases in wild animals, vaccination of cattle every year will be ensured in co-ordination with the veterinary department.
- 3.15.10 In order to ensure continuity of protected areas and the genetic stability of the wild animals, corridors between the protected areas shall be identified and managed rationally.

3.15.11 Mitigation of man-animal conflict

- 3.15.11.1 Inorder to minimize the adverse effects on the interests of local communities in the process of conservation of biodiversity-rich areas, wildlife species on the verge of extinction and their habitats, the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries will be rationalized without displacing the villages situated at their borders.
- 3.15.11.2 The process of determination of rights in national parks and wildlife sanctuaries will be completed in the time limit prescribed in Wildlife Protection Act.

- 3.15.11.3 The villages situated inside national parks and wildlife sanctuaries will be settled elsewhere after making suitable arrangements for rehabilitation of the villagers living in them.
- 3.15.11.4 In order to ensure contribution of villagers in the protection of protected areas, integrated programme of eco-development in the villages located within the national parks and sanctuaries or on its boundaries shall be accelerated.
- 3.15.11.5 In order to reduce the destruction caused by the wild animals to the crops of the villagers, they shall be encouraged to build stone walls, electric fencing, chain link fencing, etc. around their fields in sensitive areas and grant shall be provided for this purpose. Fencing work in highly sensitive areas near the boundaries of the national parks and sanctuaries shall be carried out by the government.
- 3.15.11.6 Arrangements shall be made for quick payment of compensation in the cases of the loss of human and cattle life.
- 3.15.11.7 Arrangement for estimation of the damage caused by wild animals to the crops of villagers and provision for compensation for this damage will be made and efforts will be made to implement crop security insurance scheme in collaboration with the insurance companies. For this purpose, funds will be demanded from the Central Government.
- 3.15.11.8 Wild animal rescue mobile squads, equipped with modern equipment and trained personnel, shall be set up at suitable places to catch the animals strayed from the forest areas into the populated ones and release them back into the forests.

3.15.12 Prevention of poaching of wild life

- 3.15.12.1 The increasing incidents of poaching and smuggling of wild animals will be effectively curbed in view of the increasing demand of their organs in the international market. The Tiger Cell and the anti-poaching squads of the state will be further strengthened.
- 3.15.12.2 Wildlife forensic laboratories shall be set up at suitable places to provide necessary evidence in the court in the cases related to the poaching of wild animals.
- 3.15.12.3 A database of wild life offence cases and the offenders shall be prepared to check poaching and smuggling of organs of wild

animals and an effective coordination with bordering states shall be maintained.

- 3.15.12.4 The informers of wildlife offences will be encouraged by rewarding them, keeping their identity confidential.
- 3.15.12.5 The persons, organizations and forest officials doing courageous and outstanding work in the field of wildlife protection will be rewarded and honoured.

3.16 Eco-tourism

- 3.16.1 Eco-tourism will be promoted in protected areas and suitable forest areas outside them to create attachment for nature in people, especially making them aware towards conservation of wildlife and protected areas.
- 3.16.2 In order to fully utilize the tourism potential of places important from the eco-tourism point of view, approach roads for such areas will be adequately developed.
- 3.16.3 In accordance with the prime spirit of eco-tourism, the shape of tourism will be such as to make the forest-dependent communities partner in the benefits of tourism, along with conservation of natural resources, environmental protection and social adaptability.
- 3.16.4 In order to reduce the pressure of tourism on prominent protected areas, eco-tourism shall be developed in more and more other protected areas and forests outside them as per the tourism policy of the state.
- 3.16.5 Eco-tourism will be developed in the forest areas only after preparing, and in accordance with, eco-tourism management plans. The eco-tourism management plan will include clear procedures for conservation of natural resources, like water and energy, and waste disposal.
- 3.16.6 Heritage of religious, archaeological or historical significance in the forest areas, such as statues of gods and goddesses, ancient statues, rock paintings, fossils, historical forts, etc. shall be enlisted and documented and their restoration and conservation shall be ensured.
- 3.16.7 In order to make eco-tourism more attractive and effective, interpretation centers shall be set up in all the eco-tourism areas. Besides, individual interpretation shall be encouraged by imparting training in this sphere to local educated villagers, which would not only benefit tourists, but provide employment to such villagers as well.

- 3.16.8 In order to minimize biotic pressure and pollution on the forest areas adjoining the protected areas, commercial activities on the boundaries of the protected areas shall be developed in a planned manner.
- 3.16.9 Priority will be given to spend the income generated from eco-tourism on tourism management, interpretation and eco-development works.
- 3.16.10 Special staff shall be engaged on contract basis for tourism management in protected areas, so that protection of the protected areas is not affected due to assigning this task to the regular staff.
- 3.16.11 For constant monitoring of the adverse effects of eco-tourism on forests, wildlife and environment, a suitable system with laid-down procedure will be evolved so that the adverse effects may be controlled and minimized.

3.17 Use of Information Technology

- 3.17.1 Information technology shall be used in order to benefit from latest techniques in forest management and increase the efficiency of forest personnel.
- 3.17.2 For speedy exchange of information at various levels of forest management, sufficient numbers of computer hardwares and softwares will be provided and networked.
- 3.17.3 The Forest Management Information System (FMIS) shall be strengthened.
- 3.17.4 Latest techniques like satellite imagery and G.I.S. shall be used more and more while preparing working plans for the forest management.
- 3.17.5 Appropriate arrangements shall be made for exchange of information, softwares and modern techniques by coordinating with organisations associated with management of forest and environment, which are using information technology.

3.18 Research and Extension

- 3.18.1 Continuous research work shall be undertaken in order to improve the techniques of forest management to increase the forest productivity.

- 3.18.2 New inventions in the field of bio-technology shall be used to increase the productivity of the forests. Cooperation of various agricultural universities shall also be sought for this purpose.
- 3.18.3 Research shall be conducted to develop methods of regeneration of local multipurpose species.
- 3.18.4 Prior to afforestation in various forest areas, chemical analysis of the soil of such areas shall be undertaken to determine suitable species.
- 3.18.5 High quality seeds, plantation material and modern plantation techniques shall be developed.
- 3.18.6 All the forest research and extension centres shall be strengthened and their earning by selling improved plants, seeds, etc. and providing technical knowledge and training to the forest-based industries and the farmers shall be used to make these centres self-reliant.
- 3.18.7 Site-specific techniques will be developed for appropriate use of ravines, wastelands and areas of steep slopes.
- 3.18.8 Research shall be conducted with the cooperation of forest-based industries to develop improved variety of plants in order to facilitate availability of industrial raw material.
- 3.18.9 Habitats of various non-timber forest produce and medicinal plants of private and commercial use and their present methods of harvesting will be enlisted and continuous research for their improvement will be done.
- 3.18.10 In order to improve the quality of products of various medicinal species continuous research shall be undertaken using biotechnology to grow improved variety of plants. Cooperation of various agricultural universities shall also be sought for this purpose.
- 3.18.11 Research shall be undertaken for the effective marketing of products of medicinal plants after preparing a marketing research infrastructure.
- 3.18.12 Comprehensive research shall be carried out to determine the carrying capacity of grazing in the forest areas.
- 3.18.13 Fire management guide shall be prepared for various forest areas after studying the impact of fire on the forests.

3.19 Human Resource Development

- 3.19.1 Arrangements to impart appropriate training to the forest officials and the members of the forest committees shall be made in order to

- provide them adequate knowledge, skills and proper working environment.
- 3.19.2 Joint workshops will be organized to change the way of thinking of forest officials and people in such a way so as to establish cordial relations between them.
 - 3.19.3 All the forestry training institutes shall be upgraded to enable them to impart training to the forest officials, members of the forest committees, farmers and personnel of the forest-based industries.
 - 3.19.4 Distance Training System shall be used more and more to train the forest officials, members of the forest committees and the people in various aspects of forestry.
 - 3.19.5 Necessary changes will be made from time to time in the training programmes being conducted after carrying out 'Training Needs Analysis' for forest officials.
 - 3.19.6 Suitable arrangement will be made for dissemination of the knowledge acquired by various officers / staff who got training abroad to other officials and staff, especially foresters at lower level.
 - 3.19.7 Forest officials of various levels shall be provided specific knowledge and skills of information technology and a positive attitude shall be inculcated in them to use the same.
 - 3.19.8 'Human Resource Development Information System' shall be developed in order to prepare a database of training institutes, subject specialists, training material and training needs of the trainees to organise training in various subjects.
 - 3.19.9 In order to boost the morale of the lower rung personnel of the department, to provide them a fear-free work environment and to enable them realise their importance in the administration, more and more interaction and dialogue shall be ensured between officers and the employees at various levels.
 - 3.19.10 In order to maintain the spirit of working with full efficiency and zeal among the officers and the employees of various cadres of the department, suitable arrangements shall be made for regular recruitment and timely promotions in all the cadres.
 - 3.19.11 Forest officials doing outstanding and courageous work in the field of forest and wildlife protection and development will be encouraged by giving them out of turn promotions.
 - 3.19.12 Efforts will be made to provide residential and hostel facilities at suitable places to the families of forest officials posted at remote and inaccessible places to provide them opportunities of residential

facility and basic education. Permission for admission in tribal hostels will also be arranged to the dependents of such forest officials.

- 3.19.13 Group Insurance Schemes will be implemented for executive staff posted at remote and sensitive areas in view of the arduous working conditions and risks involved to them.
- 3.19.14 Initiative will be taken for providing basic amenities like drinking water, primary health, basic education, etc., to labours engaged in forestry works and their families as per the provisions of the acts / rules of the Central Government.
- 3.19.15 Active initiative for giving impetus to the population control programme will be taken in coordination with the health & family welfare department to reduce the adverse biotic effects on forests due to immensely increasing population.

3.20 Publicity

- 3.20.1 In order to create awareness among the people about the conservation of forests and wildlife and provide them information in respect of various schemes implemented by the department, wider publicity shall be made by using various means of communication more and more.
- 3.20.2 In order to effectively implement important schemes such as Lok-Vaniki and extension forestry, detailed information in this regard shall be provided to the farmers. For this purpose along with the use of the print and the electronic media, forest extension officials as well as agricultural extension officers shall be sent for personnel contact.
- 3.20.3 Subjects depicting the importance of the forests and the environment protection shall be included in educational curriculum at various levels.
- 3.20.4 Efforts shall be made to set up 'Nature Clubs' in the educational institutions and excursions and nature camps in protected areas and specific forest areas shall be organized.
- 3.20.5 Awareness shall be created among public through films, street plays, folk arts, paintings, essay competitions and debates in various educational institutions, *gram panchayats*, public places and social events like fairs.
- 3.20.6 In order to make the awareness drive about the forests, the wildlife and the environment effective, joint workshops shall be organized

with the officials of the administration, police, judiciary, military, the non-governmental organizations and peoples' representatives.

- 3.20.7 Use of alternative sources of energy, such as bio gas, solar energy, gasifiers, improved *chulhas*, etc., shall be widely publicized. Interpretation centres shall be set up in all the national parks and sanctuaries. Centres set up earlier shall be upgraded. For the convenience of tourists in the protected areas suitable arrangements shall be made to provide guides by training local educated persons.

3.21 Finance

- 3.21.1 Efforts shall be made to augment financial provisions in the budget of the state in consonance with the importance of the forestry.
- 3.21.2 Effort will be made to get budget allotment from Central Government in forestry sector for the state in proportion to the forest area of the state.
- 3.21.3 A 'natural resource accounting system' shall be developed to determine the contribution of the forests towards the gross domestic product by evaluating the direct and indirect benefits accruing from the forests. Efforts shall be made on its basis to get proportionate allocations from the central government in the national budget for conservation and management of forests of the state.
- 3.21.4 Inorder to make soft loans available for intensive forestry works in suitable areas, 'Madhya Pradesh Forest Finance Corporation' will be established with the cooperation of Central and State Government.
- 3.21.5 Efforts shall be made to converge the development schemes of various state departments and the central government, which are helpful in the conservation and development of forests, in the forests or nearby areas.
- 3.21.6 Efforts shall be made to persuade the central government to levy forest development cess on imports of wood and allocate its proportionate share for Madhya Pradesh.
- 3.21.7 Suitable efforts shall be made to seek financial assistance from the national and the international institutions.
- 3.21.8 Inorder to obtain funds from private individuals / organisations for development of forests of the state, 'Green Madhya Pradesh Fund' will be established. Efforts will be made to get introduced provision of Income Tax exemption on contribution towards this fund by private individuals / organisations.

- 3.21.9 Funds and resources for the wildlife protection shall also be made available from the 'Madhya Pradesh Tiger Foundation Society' and the 'development corpus' of national parks and sanctuaries.
- 3.21.10 Earnings from eco-tourism shall be re-channeled for the purpose of eco-development, forests and the wildlife management and the interpretation works.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

An effective monitoring and evaluation system will be developed to ensure time-bound implementation of the State Forest Policy to achieve its objectives. Within this, appropriate 'Criteria and Indicators' will be determined for various activities described in this policy, which will be reviewed from time to time.
