

## **Best Practice 05: Issuance of Certificate for Non-Forest Land**

### **Overview**

The **Issuance of Certificate for Non-Forest Land** is a best practice implemented by the **Forest Department** of Madhya Pradesh. Officially launched on **October 23, 2020**, this reform aims to simplify and digitize the process of obtaining certificates for land parcels that do not fall under the eco-sensitive zone or come under the purview of forest land. The system is accessible via the online portal <https://mpforest.gov.in/forestnoc/index.html>.

### **Pre-Reform Scenario**

Prior to the implementation of this reform, the process for obtaining a Certificate for Non-Forest Land was entirely offline. Applicants were required to visit multiple offices, including Forest, Revenue, and Town and Country Planning (T&CP), to obtain the necessary consents. This process was cumbersome and time-consuming, leading to delays and frustration for applicants.

### **Objective**

The primary objective of the best practice is to streamline the process for the issuance of Non-Forest Certificates through an online system. This system is designed to facilitate applications for land parcels that do not fall under eco-sensitive zones, thereby improving efficiency and reducing the burden on applicants.

### **Implementation**

The **GIS-based system** was developed for the issuance of Non-Forest No Objection Certificates (NOCs). The system verifies the **Khasra** details of the respective NOC applications and issues the NOC through the developed platform. Users can download their NOC Certificates directly from the system. Additionally, the department has a module to view NOC applications and manually mark the status for buffer land. The system also generates Rejection Certificates or forwards applications to the **Divisional Forest Officer (DFO)** as per the specific case.

## **Key Features**

- **Digitization:** The entire process has been digitized, moving from an offline to an online format, significantly simplifying the procedure.
- **Simplification:** The new system streamlines the steps required to obtain a Certificate, reducing complexity and enhancing user experience.

## **Impact**

The implementation of the system has significantly reduced the number of procedures and documents required for obtaining a Certificate. As of now, more than **6,536 applications** have been approved through the system. The process is now governed by the **Public Service Guarantee Act**, with a defined service timeline of **15 days**. The new system has also minimized the delay costs incurred by users, as it eliminates the need for multiple visits to departmental offices.

## **Replicability**

This reform is replicable across other ministries and states/UTs. Officers are encouraged to exercise discretion in identifying the viability of replicating this reform in different contexts.

## **Relevant Portal**

For more information and access to the system, please visit the portal: <https://mpforest.gov.in/forestnoc/index.html>.