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GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
FOREST DEPARTMENT

Re.No: 40355/07/WL-3      Office of Pri.Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Dated :31.12.2007      Aranya Bhavan, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

Sri S.K.Das, I.F.S.,  
Pri.Chief Conservator of Forests.

Circular No. 2 - /2007/WL-3 -

Sub:- Wildlife - Community based Eco-tourism in reserve  
forest areas and Protected Areas of Andhra Pradesh -  
Certain Guidelines issued - Reg.

Ref:- GOI, NTCA-F.No.19-16/2003/PT(Vol.IV), dt:23.08.07.

\* \* \*

Eco-Tourism, may be defined as:-

*"Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment  
and improves the well-being of local people."*

Ecotourism is about connecting conservation, communities and  
sustainable travel.

Further it means that those who implement and participate in responsible  
tourism activities should follow the following ecotourism principles:

- minimize impact
- build environmental and cultural awareness and respect
- provide positive experiences for both visitors and hosts
- provide direct financial benefits for conservation
- provide financial benefits and empowerment for local people
- raise sensitivity to host countries' political, environmental, and social climate

Keeping in view the above objectives we have started Community Based  
Eco-Tourism programme under the ongoing CFM project. The CBET  
programme at the following sites are at different stages of development.

Sl. No.	Name of the Site	Forest Division	District	Year of inception
1	Talakona	WLM, Tirupathi	Chittoor	2004-05
2	Mamandur		Chittoor	
3	Kamabalakonda	Visakhapatnam	Visakhapatnam	
4	Tatipudi	Vizianagaram	Vizianagaram	
5	Coringo	WLM, Rajahmundry		2005-06
6	Maredumilli	Kakinada	East Godavari	
7	Kuntala	Adilabad	Adilabad	2004-05
8	Pochera		Adilabad	
9	Indiramma Rani Tope	Proddutur	Kadapa	2006-07
10	Rajiv Gandhi National Park	Kadapa		
11	Gubbalamangamma	Palencha	Khammam	
12	Ramapa	Kakinada	East Godavari	
13	Peuchalakona	Nellore	Nellore	2007-08
14	Mannanur	WLM, Achampeta	Mahabubnagar	

It is observed that the implementation at most of the above sites is going at a slow pace without necessary infrastructure to achieve the envisaged goals and objectives of eco-tourism. Moreover there is a huge scope for identification of many other places with high potentiality for development of CBET.

The CFs/ DFOs are requested to identify new sites in CFM and non-CFM districts and send proposals to this office for approval for establishment of CBET under other schemes.

After reviewing the progress of the above 14 projects over the past few months, immediate issue of suitable operational guidelines is felt necessary.

Accordingly the following guidelines are issued for compliance by the implementing agencies,

1. Goal should be to promote a responsible tourism to natural areas which shall be sustainable, equitable, community-based endeavor for improving the living standards of the indigenous host communities and to create a

stake in conservation of the environment besides offering the possible best to the nature loving tourists.

2. Location: To the extent possible, the administrative complex of the eco-tourism project should be located on the fringes of the forest or the protected area to be run by the local communities. The Eco-tourism zone should be suitably identified with areas having significant geomorphological features, flora and fauna and cultural values.

If areas are not available outside the Reserve Forest, the structures should be eco-friendly huts and temporary in nature which may be erected not only to cater to the needs of the tourists but also to serve as shelters for animal trackers and tribal helpers.

3. Terms and conditions of participation by local people:

- i) The local village communities falling within the specific community based tourism zone will carry out the programme jointly with forest department as per the rules in annexure(II) of G.O.Ms.NO.13, EFS&T (For.III) Dept., dt:12.02.02 and G.O Ms.No.4 EFS& T (For.III) Dept.,dt:12.01.04, in general, unless otherwise specified.
- ii) A Project Management committee shall be formed by the General Body of the CBET Communities with representation from all the concerned villages with a strength of 15 members, 50% of whom shall be women.
- iii) The Project Management Committee shall prepare a micro plan / business plan for the project adopting RRA & PRA techniques and get it approved by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer, who is the implementing agency. The micro plan shall be prepared on sustainable basis for a 5 year a period, including a gestation period of one year and a withdrawal mechanism before end of 5<sup>th</sup> year.
- iv) Two copies of the micro plan approved by the Divisional Forest Officer shall be submitted to the PCCF /CWW for sanction and release of funds

4. Accounting system and sharing of benefits:-

The accounts will be maintained by the Project Management Committee under a joint account operated by the chairman of the committee and the

Forest section officer concerned who is the member-secretary. 50 % of the revenue realized will be kept in the joint account of the VSS / EDC and Forest Dept. and to be utilized for development of the ecosystem and balance 50% will be kept in the VSS / EDC account and used as decided by the General Body of the VSS / EDC. This sharing mechanism will commence when the project attains sustainable level at the end of 5<sup>th</sup> year of implementation.

The fee collected from the tourist will be deposited with the committee in the terms of G.O.Ms.No.13 of 2002.

5. Guidelines for key players:

1. Implementing Agency:- Forest Department(Divisional Forest Officer)concerned should be the main implementing agency. By the end of 5<sup>th</sup> year or the time taken for full development of the eco-tourism project with respect to infrastructure and becoming financially viable, the management should be totally transferred to the project management committee or the Confederation of Eco-development committees / Vana Samrakhsana Samithies with the state tourism department and the forest department assuming supportive and supervisory roles.

2. The Host Community: would be provided financial support through capital investment from developmental schemes or soft loans from community credit programme to ensure their participation.

3. Generating additional resources by inviting entrepreneurs to develop site specific tourism packages, by providing appropriate programmes shall be examined.

6. Operational guidelines:

- i) The planning should be flexible site specific and participatory. It should form part of a larger Eco-development plan for the area within the normative standards of a landscape code.
- ii) Assessment of existing infrastructure, surface transportation, road, electricity, and water supply facilities together with law and order situation should be made.

- iii) Simple, adequate boarding and lodging facilities keeping in view the visitor carrying capacity of the area in tune with natural environment in the area, should be provided.
- iv) A fair weather road network within the identified tourism zone should be developed comprising of tracks, self guided nature trails, Signages, wayside exhibits, observation towers, public conveniences and garbage disposal facility.
- v) For visitor accommodation, semi permanent structures in ethnic style should be provided avoiding those with exotic look causing visual pollution. Care should be taken to provide mosquito proof nets for night stay and safe drinking water.
- vi) Shall provide visitor information by way of dos and don'ts, what to see and where to see through leaflets, brochures, signages, guide service and film shows.
- vii) The members of the local community may nominate persons considered fit for jobs relating to front desk management, nature guides, cooking, serving, house keeping and security job.
- viii) Each project site should have first aid facility which may be added by an outlet for selling local tribal medicine.
- ix) The project management committee members should be imparted training for skill development, code of conduct, hospitality, health and sanitation, forest and wildlife conservation, lodged ownership / management, marketing of eco-tourism products, organizing shows on tribal culture and forging partnerships with tourists and tourism industries.
- x) A non-visible snake proof trench should be dug up around the visitor accommodation facilities for safety purposes.
- xi) All around the eco-tourism complex a 4 inch chain-link mesh of 6 ft. height erected with M.S. angles fixed in CC bed should be provided so as to ensure safety to the visitors from wild carnivores and at the same time facilitate viewing wildlife.
- xii) The permanent watchtowers wherever built should be utilized fully by providing shelters in the ground floor for the animal trackers and nature guides.

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xiii) The possibility of providing small water bodies around visitor complex be explored and this should be created for providing facilities for recreation.

xiv) Each Project establishment should be supported by a self contained backup electrical generator free from noise.

xv) There should not be any littering in the Protected Area and carrying polythene bags should be totally dispensed with.

xvi) The visitor carrying capacity of the area is to be enhanced by inculcating discipline in conducting themselves in the wilderness.

xvii) Adventure tourism (rock climbing, ropeway, paragliding, river crossing, etc.) may be encouraged duly following all safeguards.

xviii) Wherever large trees like ficus species etc., are found tree machan may be constructed to give the visitor the real experience in the jungles.

xix) The advantage of the urban people's interest towards nature may be taken fully and harvested for best eco-friendly results.

xx) The animal trackers and nature guides shall be given identity card by the park management and their welfare be ensured through EP etc.

xxi) The dos and don'ts annexed should be scrupulously followed by the management as well as the visitors.

The Implementing agency should follow the above norm and guideline scrupulously to achieve the objective of sustainable development of ecotourism.

Encl: Annexure I & II

Sd/-S.K.Das,  
Prl.Chief Conservator

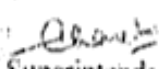
To

All the Officers in Distribution List "A".

Copy to the Superintendent "Z" Section / Asst. Z3, O/o Prl. C Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad for information necessary action.

Copy to the SF

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Eco Tourist's Entry Permit ( Proforma)

1. Name of the Eco Tourism Project & PA :
2. Visitor Particulars:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Visitor	M/F	Age	Health Status

3. Total Amount of Entry Fee Collected: Rs.

4. Facilities opted:

- a. Boarding:
- b. Lodging, period of stay:
- c. Photography still Camera/ Videos camera:
- d. Own Vehicle / Park Vehicle:
- e. Tribal cultural show:
- f. Angling :
- g. Trekking on Nature trail:
- h. Bird watching:
- i. Guide Service:
- j. Others:

5. Validity Period of Permit:

Date:  
Time:

Permit Issuing Authority

(Please see overleaf for Dos and Don'ts in the Park)

- Entry into the Park without valid permission is strictly prohibited. Please do not enter the Protected Areas without valid permit or pass. Trespassers will be prosecuted as per the provisions of law.
- Carrying of firearms, ammunition or toxic material of any kind inside the Pas is strictly prohibited.
- Kindling or burning of fire, cooking of meal and carrying inflammable material of any kind inside the Forest / Park / PA is strictly prohibited.
- Nature and wild animals do not like disturbance of any kind. Do not make noise or loud cries and do not throw stones or offer edible things to the wild animals while venturing through Pas.
- Do not go close to snakes or other wild animals. It may be dangerous.
- Do not carry articles made of plastic such as plastic bags, bottles, glasses, cups, etc., inside the park.
- Do not litter around and throw waste papers or articles in the Park. Use the places or Bins meant for the purpose.
- Use of horn, searchlights and musical instruments are not allowed.
- Carry and use of liquor inside the PA is strictly prohibited.
- Swimming in the water bodies and river pools is risky. There may be crocodiles in the water bodies and you may become feed to them.
- Permission is allowed only for the time period between the sunrise and the sunset. Outdoor visit during the night hours is strictly prohibited.
- Observe silence if you really want to enjoy nature in its naked best.
- Nature is mysterious. Keep a vigilant eye around while moving. Every moment has the potent to be a lifetime experience for you. Don't miss this opportunity.
- For your enjoyment please do not disturb sleeping / resting wild animals. Wild creatures also need privacy like us.
- Take the help of eco-guides to maximize the gains and joy of your visit.
- Only guided and conducted tours shall be permissible in the Pas. The speed of vehicles shall not exceed in any case more than 20 km. per hour inside the Tourism zone.
- They should co-operate with the Park managers for their own well being and safety as well as for the safety and well being of the beautiful creatures of this Park.