

Status of Working Plans in Andhra Pradesh as on 23.08.2017

Need for Working Plans:-

Working Plan is an organized and mandatory document which prescribes the management at the Forest Division level for a period of 10 years. It is also a Policy Implementation Document, where the *Vision* of the Forest Department for next ten years is reflected in clear Statement of *Objectives* with several mandatory *Actions* and the measurable *Indicators* for gauging the progress towards achieving the Objectives. To achieve the Vision of the Government of India, the Policy Objectives are already enunciated in the 1988 Forest Policy Statements that are broadly related to Ecological, Biodiversity, Production, Economic and Social Objectives. Therefore, the Management Plan (Working Plan) should prescribe appropriate Actions so that the Objectives of the Forest Policy are fully accomplished. Further every prescribed Action must be linked with a set of Performance Indicators, that are quantifiable, the measurement of which shall indicate the progress (either positive or negative) towards achievement of the Objectives.

To achieve the forest policy objectives and certain international commitments, Government of India has revised the existing "National Working Plan Code, 2004" and communicated new guidelines in the form of "National Working Plan Code, 2014". As per the prescriptions of the Working Plan Code, all forests are to be managed under the prescriptions of a working plan / scheme prepared on the basis of principles of sustainable forest management and recognized and innovative silvicultural practices. The authority as designated by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, approves the working plan for this purpose. Generally no timber harvesting is done in any forest area without an approved working plan / scheme. It is the duty of the owner / manager of the forest area to ensure the preparation of the working plan / scheme. While a detailed working plan is prepared for large areas such as forest division, working schemes are prepared for smaller areas for a specific purpose or areas like private, village, municipal, cantonment forests, etc. Even working schemes have all major elements of working plan; and these schemes also need the sanction of competent authority designated by the Ministry of Environment & Forests. Further, the Honorable Supreme Court of India has passed orders (in WP No. 202/95) insisting for the preparation of working plans / schemes for all types of forests.

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Government of India (GOI) has linked release of funds under Finance Commission (Forest) Grants for managing the forests as per the prescriptions of Working Plans approved by GOI.

Further, at least 80% (16 out of 21 in AP) of Working Plans should be in place every year for getting full budgetary releases under FC (Forest) Grants from 2012-13 onwards. In the State of Andhra Pradesh out of (21) numbers of Working Plans, (14) numbers of Working Plans are in currency as they are approved by Government of India. Out of the balance 7 numbers of Working Plans, 1 Working Plan expired on dt.31-03-2013, 2 numbers of Working Plans expired on dt.31-03-2014, 1 Working Plan expired on dt.31-03-2015, 1 Working Plan expired on dt.31-03-2016 and 2 numbers of Working Plans expired on dt.31-03-2017. There is a need to immediately get the approval of GOI for at least another 02 numbers of Working Plans so as to receive 100% FC Grants from Government of India. Out of the 7 expired working plans, 3 numbers are in DWPR stage and the balance 4 are in PWPR stage. Among the 3 DWPRs, 1 DWPR of Visakhapatnam Division came up for discussion before the Standing Consultative Committee(SCC) meeting on 07.04.2017 which concluded with the instructions to prepare the DWPR as per the new NWPC-2014. The DWPR of Guntur Division is under progress. The DWPR of Atmakur WLM Division was sent to R.O., Chennai for scrutiny. It can be discussed in the SCC meeting as soon as possible. Out of the 4 PWPRs, PWPR of Krishna Division was submitted to R.O., Chennai, 2 PWPRs of Paderu and Chittoor (East) Divisions are under progress and 1 PWPR of Chittoor (West) was returned for rectification. It is expected that final approvals for at least the desired 2 numbers of Working Plans can be obtained before **31 -10-2017**.

Working plans in Residuary Andhra Pradesh (after bifurcation):-

The abstract of the Status of the Working Plans showing the Numbers and the Names of the Divisions for the Residuary State of Andhra Pradesh is stated in the Table given below.

List of Divisions in Residuary Andhra Pradesh showing the Status of working plans			
S · N O ·	Status of Working Plans	Divisions in Residuary Andhra Pradesh	
		Names of the Divisions	No.
1	WPs in Currency as on Date.	Vizianagaram, Kurnool, Markapur WLM, Giddalur, Kadapa, Nellore, Narsipatnam, Proddatur, Srikakulam, Eluru, Nandyal, Kakanada, Ananthapur, Rajampet WLM	14
2	WPs expired for which DWPR approved by SCC & Final approval required from GOI.	- Nil -	0
3	WPs expired and for which PWPRs are approved by the SCC and DWPRs pending approval by SCC.	Atmakur WLM	1
4	WPs expired and for which PWPRs are approved by the SCC and DWPRs awaited.	Visakhapatnam and Guntur	2
5	WPs expired and for which PWPRs not yet approved.	Krishna, Chittoor (West), Chittoor (East) and Paderu	4