

जयराम रमेश  
JAIRAM RAMESH



D.O. No. /- 50 MOS(VC) E&F

राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)  
पर्यावरण एवं वन  
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नई दिल्ली-110003

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI - 110 003

6<sup>th</sup> July, 2010

D.O. No. 9-3/2010-NTCA

Dear *Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan*

This has reference to your letter of 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2010 addressed to the Prime Minister on issues relating to preservation and protection of wildlife in Madhya Pradesh.

At the outset, I appreciate the initiatives taken by the State for strengthening tiger conservation.

We are in the process of obtaining enhanced allocation for the States towards relocation of villages from the core areas of tiger reserves. The State authorities have been asked to send a detailed proposal (reserve-wise/village-wise) in the prescribed format in this regard, which may kindly be expedited. Likewise, proposals may also be sent for other protected areas after due prioritization. I wish to further inform that village relocation is a permissible activity under the CAMPA funds.

The notification of buffer around the core areas of tiger reserves needs to be put on a fast track, since this would enable the Government of India to provide more allocation to the State under Project Tiger. As per the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the buffer zone is not a protected area (National Park/ Sanctuary) but an area for promoting coexistence between wildlife and human activity, with due recognition of the livelihood, developmental, social and cultural rights of the local people. The idea of a buffer zone is to elicit local public support for tiger conservation, with central assistance under Project Tiger. Perhaps a time bound communication strategy may help to expedite the process. The Tiger Conservation Plans of tiger reserves should also contain prescription for the buffer and areas beyond as communicated in the NTCA guidelines.

The process of declaring the buffer areas of tiger reserves as ecologically sensitive under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 may not be held up for the directives of the Hon'ble Apex Court in WP No. 460 of 2004 (Goa Foundation V/s Union of India). The National Board for Wildlife has already decided that the eco-sensitive areas may be notified on a site specific basis, and the NTCA has also issued guidelines in this context.

I earnestly request you for appropriate action on the above issues.

With regards, *Jairam Ramesh*

Yours sincerely,

*Jairam Ramesh*  
(Jairam Ramesh)

Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan,  
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh

*Issued*  
*12/110*