



Government of India  
Ministry of Environment and Forests  
(Wildlife Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road  
New Delhi-110003

F.No. 1-9/2007 WL (pt)

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011  
28/10

Shri N.Krishnappa  
Kodagu Zilla Panchayat  
Karnataka  
Fort, Madikeri- 571201

Sub: The resolution passed by the Kodagu Zilla Panchayat against declaration of Eco Sensitive Zone around Nagarhole National Park- reg.

Sir,

Kindly refer to your letter no. NO/ZPK/Council/9/2011-12 dated 2.9.2011. In this regard, it is to mention that the Ministry has taken note of the concerns and the issues raised by you against the declaration of eco-sensitive zones around the Nagarhole National Park. I may also assure you that the declaration of the eco-sensitive zone will not have any adverse effects on your day-to-day activities and your livelihoods. The guidelines of the Ministry for declaration of eco-sensitive zone around Protected Areas are only meant to encourage "**planned development**" so as to minimize the negative impacts of any activity and to refine the environment around the Protected Areas, which I am sure even you are also in favour of.

The area is part of one of the most important tiger habitats in the world. The livelihoods of the local people also depend on these forests and natural resources. The Ministry therefore applauds the efforts of the local people and local authorities in successfully protecting the unique and important wildlife habitat and ecosystem all these years. In this regard, it may be mentioned that these guidelines will not only strengthen their efforts in protecting and conserving the local natural resources and the unique ecosystem but would also help in creating a balance between these conservation efforts and development of the local communities.

Further, the purpose of declaring Eco-sensitive Zones around National Parks and Sanctuaries is to create some kind of "Shock Absorber" for the Protected Areas and act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection. **The activities in the Eco-sensitive zones would be of a regulatory nature rather than prohibitive nature.** Only those activities, which have serious inevitable impacts on the environment and are also deleterious to civic life, have been prohibited in eco-sensitive zones. Regarding the issue of prohibition of mining, it may be of your interest that any kind of mining activities within 1 km of the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries are already prohibited vide Supreme Court's order dated 4<sup>th</sup> August 2006 in W.P (C) No. 202/95. Prohibition of activities causing pollution and degrading the natural environment is only in the interest of the local people. Even the local people would appreciate living in a pristine and cleaner surrounding instead of living in a polluted area.

Regarding the issue of movement of vehicles in the ESZ, I would like to clarify that only the movement of commercial vehicles would be regulated at night. There would not be any restriction in movement of the personal vehicles of the local people and hence the daily activities of the local people would not be hampered in any way. It may also be mentioned that apart from regulating certain activities in ESZ, the guidelines also encourage activities, such as organic farming and rain water harvesting, which benefit and protect the ecosystem of the region. Making use of renewable sources of energy and adoption of green technology would also be

actively promoted in such areas. These activities would not only cause least damage to the environment but would also help in increasing the livelihood opportunities for local people.

Therefore, as mentioned above, the purpose of declaring eco-sensitive zone around protected areas is not to hamper the day-to-day activities and development of the local people but to create a balance between the unique ecosystems around the Protected Areas and economic and social development of the local communities. These guidelines are site-specific and are meant only to regulate the various activities around the Protected Areas in a manner which would cause least damage to the precious environment and wildlife of the Protected Areas.

The Ministry is aware that any efforts to conserve and protect the environment and wildlife resources of the country will not bear any results unless the people of this country accord their full support to our efforts. Hence, I would again like to assure you that declaration of ESZ would in no way impede the development of the local communities and would help them in living in harmony with their surroundings. I hope I have been able to answer all the concerns raised by you and the people of Kodagu district against the declaration of eco-sensitive zone around Nagarhole National Park.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Praktiti Srivastava)

Deputy Inspector General (WL)

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**Copy to:**

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2. The Kodagu Coffee Growers Co-Operative Society Ltd., P.B. No. 24, Kodagu, Madikeri- 571201
3. Gram Panchayat, Mullusoge, Somwarpat Taluk, Kodagu District, Karnataka
4. Poovadhi Mahila Samaj, Badaga Taluk, Kodagu District, Karnataka
5. Badaga Eshwari Co-op Grain Bank, Virajpet Taluk, Kodagu District, Karnataka
6. Parakatakeri, Virajpet Taluk, Kodagu District, Karnataka
7. Gram Panchayat, Devarapura, Virajpet taluk, Kodagu District, Karnataka
8. Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee, Gonikoppa, Virajpet Taluk, Kodagu District, Karnataka
9. Gram Panchayat, Birunani, Virajpet Taluk, Kodagu District, Karnataka
10. Town Panchayat, Virajpet Taluk, Kodagu District, Karnataka
11. Gram Panchayat, Kundachory, Madikery Taluk, Kodagu District, Karnataka
12. Gram Panchayat, Bittangala, Virajpet Taluk, Kodagu District, Karnataka