

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

Action Plan for Mitigating Potential Area of Corruption

S.No	Subject	Action required (Targets)	Date and modality by which targets will be achieved	Expected output
Forest Conservation Division				
1	Processing of project proposals	Strengthening of the present forest clearance proposal processing set up by:	Opening of four new regional offices – 6 months	Elimination of reasons for delay in processing
			Making provision for e-filing of forest clearance applications- 18 months	Reduction in needs for direct human interface
			Creation of additional posts of DIGF/ AIGF in the Forest Conservation Division in MoEF- 6 months	Expeditious processing of proposals by eliminating reasons for delay in processing on proposals.
			Provision of adequate support staff and infrastructure support– 1 month	
			Issue of formal instructions making it mandatory to process proposals strictly in the order of their receipt with provision for early/ out of turn processing of strategic, public utility (such as drinking water projects) and public sector projects listed in its agenda on priority basis providing- 2 months	Bringing objectivity in the forest clearance approvals
			Public disclosure of agenda of FAC/SAG meetings at-least 5 days before the meeting- Already being done	More informed discussions in the FAC meetings
			Creation of decision support database containing information on qualitative, quantitative and administrative attributes of forests and external factors having direct or indirect bearing on quality, quantity and management of forests, organized in geo-referenced platforms to facilitate informed, unbiased, and	Bringing of objectivity in proposals seeking forest clearance.

			expeditious decisions on diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose- 8 months.	
			Creation of a comprehensive check list for submission of information/ document along with the proposal seeking forest clearance- 4 months	Elimination of discretion in seeking additional information.
			Formulation of objective norms for Compensatory Afforestation- 6 months	Elimination of discretion in formulation of compensatory afforestation proposals.
			Formulation of objective norms to deal with violations: 6 months	Elimination of discretion in dealing with violations.
2.	Clearance of project proposals	Processing of recommendations of FAC/ SAG in a time bound manner by:	Issue of formal instruction to prepare minutes of FAC/SAG meeting on the same day of the meeting: 1 month	Elimination of reasons for delay. Elimination of post-meeting change in decisions.
			Issue of formal instruction to process FAC/SAG recommendations within ten working days from the date of meeting: 1 month	Elimination of discretion in processing of proposals
			Issue of formal instruction to issue letter to communicate decision of competent authority to grant/ reject the approval within 10 working days from the date of decision of the competent authority: 1 month	
3.	Post project monitoring of forestry clearance conditions		Formulation of a comprehensive policy for monitoring of compliance to conditions stipulated in the forest clearance- 4 months	Elimination of discretion in monitoring
			Public disclosure of self monitoring reports submitted by project proponents by placing its copy on website of the Ministry- 4 months	Elimination of chances of non-action on the shortcoming/ illegalities observed during monitoring.
			Formulation of objective parameters for selection of monitoring sites- 4 Months	Elimination of discretion in selection of monitoring sites.
			Mandatory submission of monitoring reports by the monitoring authority within 10 days of the site visit- 4 months	Elimination of chances of manipulation in preparation of monitoring reports.

IA Division (Environmental Clearance)

1.	Processing of project proposals	Uploading of project document on the website of MoEF.	Uploading of information is expected to start from 1 st April, 2012. However strengthening of IA Division is required for the purpose.	Will bring more transparency in the system.
		Proposals to be taken up for consideration in chronological order based on their seniority in terms of date of their submission.	It is already being done. However, for ensuring the same more effectively, strengthening of IA Division is required.	Strengthening of IA Division will help in avoiding any slippage on this account.
		Scrutiny of projects objectively based on technical analysis	Being done. However, for more effective compliance, strengthening of IA Division is required.	It will improve quality of decision making.
		Introduction of scheme of accreditation of consultants through Quality Council of India for better quality of EIAs for ensuring better decision making.	Already being done. However, further course of action would depend upon the outcome of the ongoing litigation on the subject.	It will improve quality of documentation leading to better decision making.
		Uploading of agenda of EAC meeting, minutes of EAC meeting on the website.	Being done already. It is proposed that IWSU may undertake a study on the workload vis-à-vis manpower requirement in IA Division and complete the same within two months. Thereafter, action may be taken for creation of posts as may be necessary and steps taken to fill up the same within next 4 months.	It will bring in more transparency in the system. It would help in strengthening of IA Division for effective working in a transparent manner adhering to the prescribed time schedule.
			In the meantime, the already existing vacancies	

			may be filled up by deployment of officials from within the existing manpower in MoEF.	
2.	Clearance of Project Proposals	Adherence of time schedule as provided in the EIA Notification, 2006 except in cases of projects in sensitive areas, sub-judice matters, incomplete and wrong documentation / data / information.	It is proposed that IWSU may undertake a study on the workload vis-à-vis manpower requirement in IA Division and complete the same within two months. Thereafter, action may be taken for creation of posts as may be necessary and steps taken to fill up the same within next 4 months.	It Strengthening of IA Division would help in adhering to the time schedule more effectively and would also help in better appraisal and processing of proposals.
			In the meantime, the already existing vacancies may be filled up by deployment of officials from within the existing manpower in MoEF within one month.	It may help in better functioning of IA Division.
		Uploading the TOR / EC letters on the website.	It is already being done. However, strengthening of IA Division is required for the purpose.	Strengthening of IA Division would further ensure any slippage in this regard.
3.	Post project monitoring of environmental clearance	Monitoring compliance of EC conditions by self monitoring report of project proponent and field visit by Regional Office of MoEF.	Being done already. It is also proposed to strengthen the monitoring by strengthening of all the Regional Offices as also to open additional Regional Offices. The proposal is being dealt by RO(HQ).	It will help in ensuring more effective monitoring of EC compliance.
		Uploading the monitoring reports on the website of MoEF.		It would also help in putting the information in public domain for better public scrutiny.
		Involvement of 3 rd party / other institutions including CPCB / SPCB.	This aspect will be examined and decision taken within 6 months.	It is expected to provide more effective and reliable monitoring results.