

Status of Working Plans in Undivided Andhra Pradesh

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 Forestry 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.

State of working plans in Undivided Andhra Pradesh:-

Government of India (GOI) has linked the releases under Finance Commission (Forest) Grants for managing the forests under the prescriptions of GOI approved Working Plans. As per the guidelines of GOI, at least 80% (34 out of 42 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 undivided State of Andhra Pradesh out of the 42 numbers of Working Plans, 15 numbers of Working Plans are in currency as they are approved by Government of India. Out of the balance 27 numbers of Working Plans, 22 numbers of Working Plans expired on dt.31-03-2013 and 5 numbers of Working Plans expired on dt.31-03-2014. There is a need to immediately get the approval of GOI for at least another 19 numbers of Working Plans or Working Schemes so as to receive 100% FC Grants from Government of India. Since the Draft Working Plan Reports (2nd PWPRs) for 15 Divisions are

already approved by the State Level Working Plan Committee, the same can be furnished to GOI after receipt of the 2nd PWPRs from the WPOs (CF/DFOs). The balance 7 numbers of 2nd PWPRs can be discussed in the Working Plan Committee within a period of one month. It is expected that final approvals for at least the desired 19 numbers of Working Plans can be obtained before 31-08-2014.

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

The abstract of the Status of the Working Plans showing the Numbers and the Names of the Divisions for the newly formed State of Telengana and the Residuary State of Andhra Pradesh is stated in the Tables below.

Abstract of the Status of Workings Plans in the State of Telengana and Andhra Pradesh			
Status of Working Plans	Residuary Andhra Pradesh	Telengana	Undivided Andhra Pradesh
Total Number of Working Plans	21	21	42
1:-WPs in Currency as on Date	9	6	15
2:-WPs expired for which 2 nd PWPRs approved by WP Committee & Final approval required from GOI.	9	6	15
3:-WPs expired and for which 1 st PWPRs are approved by the WP Committee and 2 nd PWPRs pending approval by WP Committee	1	6	7
4:-WPs expired and for which 1 st PWPRs are yet to be approved and for which the Working Plans are to be prepared based on the National Working Plan Code 2014.	2	3	5

List of Divisions in Telengana and Residuary Andhra Pradesh showing the Status		
Status of Working Plans	List of Divisions for Residuary Andhra Pradesh	List of Divisions for Telengana
1:-WPs in Currency as on Date	Krishna, Paderu, Chittoor(E), Chittoor(W), Anantapur, Rajampet, Kakinada, Eluru, Nandyal (9)	Nizamabad, Kamareddy, Bhadrachalam(S), Palonvcha, Warangal(S), Nirmal (6)
2:-WPs expired for which 2 nd PWPRs approved by WP Committee & Final approval required from GOI.	Srikakulam, Vijaynagaram, Narsipatnam, Nellore, Giddalur, Kurnool, Kadapa, Proddutur, Markapur (9)	Mancherial, Bellampally, Karimnagar(E), Karimnagar(W), Hyderabad, Achampet (6)
3:-WPs expired and for which 1 st PWPRs are approved by the WP Committee and 2 nd PWPRs pending approval by WP Committee	Visakhapatnam (1)	Mahboobnagar, Bhadrachalam(N), Khammam, Warangal(S), Adilabad, Kagaznagar, (6)
4:-WPs expired and for which 1 st PWPRs not yet approved	Guntur, Atmakur (2)	Medak, Kothagudem, Nalgonda (3)

Approved Working Plans and their Duration (Residuary State of AP)			
SL	Division	GOI Reference of Approval	Working Plan Period
1	Krishna	F(C)A/11.6/218/AP/WP, Dated 25.11.2005	2005-06 to 2014-15
2	Paderu	F(C)A/11.6/216/AP/WP/420, Dated 15.06.2006	2006-07 to 2015-16
3	Chittoor (E)	F(C)A/11.6/211/AP/WP/726, Dated 03.09.2007	2007-08 to 2016-17
4	Chittoor (W)	F(C)A/11.6/209/AP/WP/908, Dated 26.09.2007	2007-08 to 2016-17
5	Rajampet	F(C)A/11.6/216/AP/WP/6230, Dt. 23.12.2009.	2009-10 to 2018-19
6	Anantapur	F(C)A/11.6/239/AP/WP/7352, Dt. : 18.06.2010	2010-11 to 2019-20
7	Kakinada	F(C)A/11.6/10/WP/AP/4517, Dt. : 12.12.2013	2012-13 to 2021-22
8	Nandyal	F(C)A/11.6/29/WP/AP/4512, Dt. : 12.12.2013	2012-13 to 2021-22
9	Eluru	F(C)A/11.6/57/WP/AP/4513, Dt. : 12.12.2013	2012-13 to 2021-22
10	Visakhapatnam	F(C)A/11.6/217/AP/WP/654, Dated 03.07.2003	Expired on 31-03-2013
11	Narsipatnam	F(C)A/11.6/215/AP/WP, Dated 02.07.2003	Expired on 31-03-2013
12	Srikakulam	F(C)A/11.6/230/AP/WP, Dated 29.08.2003	Expired on 31-03-2013
13	Vijaynagaram	F(C)A/11.6/221/AP/WP/1746, Dated 25.11.2003	Expired on 31-03-2013
14	Nellore	F(C)A/11.6/202/AP/WP, Dated 13.08.2003	Expired on 31-03-2013
15	Giddalur	F(C)A/11.6/205/AP/WP/187, Dated 25.04.2003	Expired on 31-03-2013
16	Kurnool	F(C)A/11.6/187/AP/WP, Dated 12.11.2002	Expired on 31-03-2013
17	Proddutur	F(C)A/11.6/189/AP/WP/2722, Dated 23-03-04	Expired on 31-03-2013
18	Kadapa	F(C)A/11.6/190/AP/WP/2723, Dated 23.03.2004	Expired on 31-03-2013
19	Markapur	F(C)A/11.6/145/MISC/AP, Dated 29.08.2003	Expired on 31-03-2013
20	Guntur	F(C)A/11.6/287/AP/WP, Dated 28.06.2004	Expired on 31-03-2014
21	Atmakur	F(C)A/11.6/218/AP/WP, Dated 21.09.2004	Expired on 31-03-2014
Approved Working Plans and their Duration (State of Telengana)			
1	Nizamabad	F(C)A/11.6/222/AP/WP/3842, Dt. 23.02.2009	2008-09 to 2017-18
2	Kamareddy	F(C)A/11.6/222/AP/WP/4440, Dt. 19.05.2009	2008-09 to 2017-18
3	Paloncha	F(C)A/11.6/33/WP/AP/4509, Dt. : 12.12.2013	2012-13 to 2021-22
4	Bhadrachalam (S)	F(C)A/11.6/26/WP/AP/4518, Dt. : 12.12.2013	2012-13 to 2021-22
5	Warangal (N)	F(C)A/11.6/34/WP/AP/4511, Dt. : 12.12.2013	2013-14 to 2022-23
6	Nirmal	F(C)A/11.6/43/WP/AP/4519, Dt. : 12.12.2013	2013-14 to 2022-23
7	Mancherial	F(C)A/11.6/214/AP/WP/709, Dated 03.06.2003	Expired on 31-03-2013
8	Kagaznagar	F(C)A/11.6/212/AP/WP/1355, Dated 01.10.2003	Expired on 31-03-2013
9	Adilabad	F(C)A/11.6/208/AP/WP, Dated 06.10.2003	Expired on 31-03-2013
10	Bellampally	F(C)A/11.6/213/AP/WP, Dated 06.10.2003	Expired on 31-03-2013
11	Khammam	F(C)A/11.6/195/AP/WP/491, Dated 05.06.2003	Expired on 31-03-2013
12	Bhadrachalam (N)	F(C)A/11.6/186/AP/WP/1747, Dated 25.11.2003	Expired on 31-03-2013
13	Warangal (S)	F(C)A/11.6/203/AP/WP, Dated 13.08.2003	Expired on 31-03-2013
14	Karimnagar (E)	F(C)A/11.6/199/AP/WP, Dated 30.12.2003	Expired on 31-03-2013
15	Karimnagar (W)	F(C)A/11.6/198/AP/WP/1926, Dated 30.12.2003	Expired on 31-03-2013
16	Mahboobnagar	F(C)A/11.6/201/AP/WP, Dated 12.02.2004	Expired on 31-03-2013
17	Hyderabad	F(C)A/11.6/236/AP/WP, Dated 12-02-04	Expired on 31-03-2013
18	Achampet	F(C)A/11.6/206/AP/WP/1745, Dated 25.11.2003	Expired on 31-03-2013
19	Nalgonda	F(C)A/11.6/227/AP/WP/468, Dated 10.06.2004	Expired on 31-03-2014
20	Kothagudem	F(C)A/11.6/184/AP/WP/1247, Dated 19.08.2004	Expired on 31-03-2014
21	Medak	F(C)A/11.6/231/AP/WP, Dated 14.12.2004	Expired on 31-03-2014

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Separate Management / Working Plans / Scheme:-

Separate Management Plans are prepared for National Parks / Wild Life Sanctuaries / Tiger Reserves / Territorial Forests / Forest Development Corporations / Other Government / Non-Government Agencies having exclusive geographical jurisdiction. In a Territorial Forest Division though the macro unit of management is the Divisional forest area (excluding areas allotted to other agencies or diverted for non-forestry use e.g. Protected Areas, APFDC Areas, SCC Ltd Areas, RoFR Areas, Irrigation Reservoir Areas, Mining Areas etc.) the micro / primary unit of management is the Compartment. Therefore the Area of each of the Compartment is thoroughly analyzed before prescribing appropriate strategies for achieving the management objectives in consonance with the principles of 1988 forest policy of GOI. Once the analysis is made either the full Compartment or part of the Compartment is treated with a special type of management intervention. All the Compartments / Sub-Compartments having same type of management intervention are kept under common silvicultural prescriptions and these areas (Compartments / Sub-Compartments) are kept under an exclusive management plan, known as independent working circles. Therefore the total area under each of the independent working circles, when summed up, should exactly match the total area under the Divisional working plan. Some of the management issues cover overlapping forest areas irrespective of the Silvicultural prescriptions and therefore Compartments / Sub-Compartments having those features are to be managed with additional silvicultural prescriptions. Therefore such special areas, in addition to be in one of the Independent working circles, are allotted to one/many of the Overlapping working circles. Sometimes, though the areas are managed under similar silvicultural prescriptions, for the purpose of approval of the management plan by different managing Agencies they are kept under exclusive overlapping working circles (e.g. JFM Areas, CFM areas under RoFR Act, Tiger Reserve Buffer areas). For each of the Working Circles (Independent & Overlapping), annual physical and financial projections are forecasted in the working plan for a period of 10 years and the same is reviewed after completion of 5 years (Mid-Term Review) and finally the revision of the existing Working Plan starts two years before the Completion of the existing working plan period.

Major Independent Working Circles:-

In most of the Divisions of Andhra Pradesh under the management intervention of independent working circles exclusive Compartments / Sub-Compartments are allotted to either of the below mentioned working circles.

(1)Bio-Diversity Working Circle:-

Compartments / Sub-Compartments in Hills with canopy density more than 0.4 or some of the Compartments / Sub-Compartments in Plains with canopy density more than 0.4 or Mangroves forests or Grasslands or Water bodies or areas having diversity of species or presence of endangered species are allotted to Bio-Diversity working circle. Very little management interventions like erection of water harvesting structures along the streams are carried out in such areas.

(2)Conservation Working Circle:-

Compartments / Sub-Compartments surrounding the Bio-Diversity Working Circle area or Compartments / Sub-Compartments in Hills with canopy density less than 0.4 or Compartments / Sub-Compartments susceptible to excessive soil erosion or

Compartments / Sub-Compartments in the catchment of lakes & other water bodies are allotted to Conservation working Circles. Management intervention like Soil and Moisture Conservation works, Check Dams, Percolation Tanks, Seed sowing in Contour trenches, Pitting & Planting of local species in large gaps are carried out in these areas.

(3) Degraded Forests Improvement Working Circle:-

(Including special areas having Teak, Red Sanders etc.)

Forest Areas in Plains with canopy density of more than 0.1 and less than 0.4 and not falling in Bio-diversity or Conservation Working Circle are allotted to this Working Circle. Management intervention like tending of existing root stock, seed sowing in SMC trenches, other water harvesting structures, Labour Intensive Plantation of local species in large gaps, Semi-Mechanical Method of Plantation of local species in large gaps with leveled area are carried out in these areas.

(4) Plantation Working Circle:-

(Including Teak / Red Sanders / Eucalyptus / Shelterbelt / Other Species)

Forest Areas in Plains with canopy density of less than 0.1 and suitable for planting and not falling in Bio-diversity or Conservation Working Circle or Degraded Forests Improvement Working Circle or areas having matured (seed origin / coppice / clone) plantations (irrespective of canopy density) without any naturally regenerated forestry (sapling/pole) crops as under canopy are allotted to this Working Circle. Management intervention like Artificial Regeneration, felling of the matured crop and artificial regeneration of commercial long rotation high value species, short rotation high yielding species, Fuel wood species, SMC works etc are taken up in this working circle.

Major Overlapping Working Circles:-

In most of the Divisions of Andhra Pradesh under the management intervention of overlapping working circles the Compartments / Sub-Compartments are allotted to any one or many of the below mentioned working circles.

(1) Non-Timber Forest Products (Overlapping) Working Circle:-

All the Compartments having the potential for production of Non-Timber Forest Products (e.g, Beedi Leaf, Canes and other Forest products that are leased to GCC Ltd. (Gum Karaya, Honey, Hill Brooms, Tamarind etc.)) except the Compartments allotted to Bio-diversity Working Circle are allotted to this Overlapping Working Circle. Planting of NTFP seedlings, sowing of NTFP seeds in gaps, non-destructive collection of NTFP, improvement techniques and research in augmenting the production are taken up in such potential areas falling in other independent working circles.

(2) Bamboo (Overlapping) Working Circle:-

Compartments having adequate number of Bamboo clumps excluding the Compartments touching the Sanctuary / National Park Boundaries and Compartments allotted to Bio-Diversity Working Circle are allotted to this Overlapping Working Circle. Activities like decongestion of Bamboo Clumps, harvesting of matured bamboos, SMC Works for augmenting the proliferation of bamboo rhizomes etc. are taken up in such potential areas falling in other independent working circles.

(3)Wildlife (Overlapping) working Circle:-

All the forest areas outside the PA areas where wild life prominence is there are kept under this working circle. Activities like mitigation of man-animal conflict, creation of wild life corridors, improvement of wildlife habitat for herbivorous animals and carnivorous animals, creation of fodder plots for wild animals in interior forest areas and creation of fodder plots in forest fringe areas for domestic animals are taken up in such potential areas falling in other independent working circles.

Miscellaneous Regulations:-

Creation of Base Camps, Strike Forces, Mobile Parties, Fly Squad parties, engagement of professional lawyers for prosecuting the offenders and confiscation of forest produce with vehicles, Offence Cases Tracking, Illegal Encroachment eviction forces, Fire extinguishing instruments, watch towers, wild life protection force etc. are the major activities described under this prescriptions. The activities of forest protection in general (e.g. protection from fire, illicit felling, illegal encroachment, poaching, hunting, killing of wild animals, smuggling etc.) is kept in a separate sub-section under these prescriptions, as much thrust is laid on forest protection.

Forest Areas under Joint Forest Management:-

Compartments / Sub-Compartments falling within the forest areas handed over to the village communities for the purpose of management and benefits sharing among the VSS Members are managed under these prescriptions. However, the respective silvicultural treatment practices prescribed under other independent / overlapping working circles are incorporated into this working circle based on the Micro-Plan prepared for the VSS for managing such areas with emphasis on forestry related benefits to the village population.

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