

REVISED GUIDELINES FOR THE ONGOING
CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEME OF
PROJECT TIGER

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National Tiger Conservation Authority
Ministry of Environment & Forests
Government of India

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(1) Introduction:

Project Tiger is an ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The revised guidelines incorporate the additional activities for implementing the urgent recommendations of the Tiger Task Force, constituted by the National Board for Wildlife, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. These, interalia, also include support for implementing the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006, which has come into force with effect from 4.09.2006. The activities are as below:

- (i) Antipoaching initiatives
- (ii) Strengthening infrastructure within tiger reserves
- (iii) Habitat improvement and water development
- (iv) Addressing man-animal conflicts
- (v) Co-existence agenda in buffer / fringe areas with landscape approach
- (vi) Deciding inviolate spaces and relocation of villages from crucial tiger habitats within a timeframe by providing a better relocation package, apart from supporting States for settlement of rights of such people
- (vii) Rehabilitation of traditional hunting tribes living in and around tiger reserves
- (viii) Providing support to States for research and field equipments
- (ix) Supporting States for staff development and capacity building in tiger reserves.
- (x) Mainstreaming wildlife concerns in tiger bearing forests outside tiger reserves, and fostering corridor conservation in such areas through restorative strategy involving local people to arrest fragmentation of habitats.
- (xi) Providing safeguards / retrofitting measures in and around tiger reserves and tiger bearing forests for wildlife conservation.
- (xii) Strengthening the infrastructure of National Tiger Conservation Authority at the Centre.
- (xiii) Carrying out independent monitoring and the evaluation of tiger reserves.
- (xiv) Establishment and development of eight new tiger reserves.
- (xv) Provision of project allowance to all categories of staff working in tiger reserves.
- (xvi) Providing residential amenities to facilitate basic education to children of frontline field staff posted in tiger reserves.
- (xvii) Providing assistance to States for fostering ecotourism to benefit local people.

- 1.1 “Project Tiger” was launched in April, 1973 with the objective “to ensure maintenance of a viable population of Tigers in India for scientific, economic, aesthetic, cultural and ecological values, and to preserve for all times, areas of biological importance as a national heritage for the benefit, education and enjoyment of the people”.
- 1.2 The Project has been successfully implemented, and at present there are **28 Tiger Reserves** in **17 states**, covering an area of **37761 sq. km.** Apart from above ‘in principle’ approval for creation of eight new Tiger Reserves has been accorded. The selection of reserves was guided by the need to conserve unique ecosystem/habitat types across the geographic distribution of tigers in the country.
- 1.3 Project Tiger is an ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme, which is continued, in the XIth five-year Plan. Conservation of endangered species and their habitat, strengthening and enhancing the Protected Area Network, control of poaching, monitoring, research and ensuring people’s participation in Wildlife Conservation have been accorded high priority in the National Wildlife Action Plan and the Wildlife Conservation strategy, 2002.

2. **Past funding pattern and major activities supported under the Scheme**

During present plan period, 100% Central Assistance is being made available to States for expenditure on all non-recurring items; for recurring items, the Central Assistance is restricted to 50% of the expenditure, while the matching grant is provided by the Project States. The activities / field inputs under Project Tiger, interalia, include : (**Non recurring**) strengthening of protection, deployment of armed squads in tiger reserves, creating basic infrastructure for management, roads, wireless, civil works, habitat development, augmenting water resources, compensatory ameliorative measures for habitat restoration, eco-development, village relocation, use of Information Technology in crime detection, establishment of a digitized database in Tiger Reserves having collaborative linkage with Project Tiger Directorate in the GIS domain, monitoring and evaluation of tiger reserves, monitoring of habitat status, carrying out All India Estimation of Tigers, Co-predators and Prey animals in the GIS domain with the state of art technology, continuous monitoring of tiger populations in various tiger range states (tiger reserves and other forest areas outside tiger reserves), fostering wildlife viewing for tourists in Tiger Reserves, providing compensation to villagers for human deaths/livestock depredation by carnivores in tiger reserves, staff welfare measures, providing 'Project Allowance' to all categories of staff working in Tiger Reserves, establishment of veterinary facility, and fostering research / research projects relating to tiger conservation, replacement and purchase of new vehicles for existing and new Tiger Reserves to ensure staff mobility. (**Recurring**) creation / deployment of local work force for patrolling/barriers, habitat improvement, providing salt licks, water facility, fire protection measures, maintenance of various items, publicity and extension and legal assistance.

3. Constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

The Govt. of India had launched “Project Tiger” to promote conservation of the tiger, since the significance of its conservation has ramifications beyond State boundaries. Management of forests and wildlife is primarily the responsibility of concerned States. The field implementation of the project, protection and management in the designated reserves is done by the project States, who also provide the matching grant to recurring items of expenditure, deploy field staff/officers, and give their salaries. The Project Tiger Directorate of the Ministry of Environment and Forests was mandated with the task of providing technical guidance and funding support.

3.1 The implementation of Project Tiger over the years has highlighted the need for a statutory authority with legal backing to ensure tiger conservation. On the basis of the recommendations of National Board for Wild Life chaired by the Hon’ble Prime Minister, a Task Force was set up to look into the problems of tiger conservation in the country. The recommendations of the said Task Force, interalia include strengthening of Project Tiger by giving it statutory and administrative powers, apart from creating the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau. It has also recommended that an annual report should be submitted to the Central Government for laying in Parliament, so that commitment to Project Tiger is reviewed from time to time, in addition to addressing the concerns of local people. Broadly the urgent recommendations of the said Task Force are as below:

- Reinvigorating the constitution of governance.
- Strengthening efforts towards protection of tiger, checking poaching, convicting wildlife criminals and breaking the international trade network in wildlife body parts and derivatives.
- Expanding the undisturbed areas for tiger by reducing human pressure.
- Repair the relationship with local people who share the tigers habitat by fielding strategies for coexistence.
- Regenerate the forest habitats in the fringes of the tigers protective enclaves by investing in forest, water and grassland economies of the people.

3.2 The Tiger Reserves are faced with ecological disturbances and various other problems. Fragmentation of habitats occurs owing to overuse of forest habitats, apart from conflicting land uses leading to loss of habitat. There are also in some cases, significant village population with large number of cattle, which graze in the forests, leading to ecological degradation, apart from major sources of regular or intermittent disturbance, such as temples and commercial entities such as tea estates. This also leads to man-animal conflicts, resulting in tiger and prey mortality.

3.3 Several constraints affect field implementation of the project, viz. delayed release of Central Assistance given to the States for Field Units, staff vacancies, ageing of field staff, lack of capacity building initiatives, weak enforcement and monitoring of protection work etc. The events in the recent

past have highlighted the fact that there is a need in the States for greater commitment and vigilance. The field administration managing the tiger reserves require capacity building and supervision.

- 3.4** There is also an urgent need to strengthen the system at the Central Government level (Project Tiger Directorate), which has the mandate to oversee and guide tiger conservation in the country. Involvement of Parliament is also required to ensure review and guidance. Likewise, involvement of Chief Ministers of States and strengthening the field administration, supervision of the project and building a participatory base by including interests of local people living in and around tiger reserves are extremely important.
- 3.5** Considering the urgency of the situation, Project Tiger has been converted into a statutory authority (NTCA) by providing enabling provisions in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 through an amendment, viz. Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006. This forms one of the urgent recommendations of the Tiger Task Force appointed by the Prime Minister. The NTCA would address the ecological as well as administrative concerns for conserving tigers, by providing a statutory basis for protection of tiger reserves, apart from providing strengthened institutional mechanisms for the protection of ecologically sensitive areas and endangered species. The Authority would also ensure enforcing of guidelines for tiger conservation and monitoring compliance of the same, apart from placement of motivated and trained officers having good track record as Field Directors of tiger reserves. It would also facilitate capacity building of officers and staff posted in tiger reserves, apart from a time bound staff development plan.
- 3.6** The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006 has come into force with effect from the 4th of September, 2006, and the NTCA has also been constituted on the same date.
- 3.7** Despite three decades of Project Tiger and the efforts of the Centre and States, tiger continues to remain one of the most endangered large predators in the world. The causative factors are many, and to name a few, we may mention the important ones like loss of habitat due to agriculture expansion and development, revenge killings by people due to man- animal conflicts and above all, the demand for the body parts and derivatives of tiger in the illegal international market. These factors contribute to the decimation of our in-situ population in the wild. Therefore, continuance of a focused, species-specific, multifaceted, ecosystem project like 'Project Tiger' becomes important and crucial at this juncture to address the threats faced by the tiger and its habitat.
- 3.8** The three key imperatives in tiger conservation which necessitate a 'project mode' are: a focused approach to prioritize actions, in the interest of tiger conservation (within and outside the tiger reserves), eliciting the support of local stakeholder communities and ensuring the necessary infrastructure for protection and management. Considering the fact that conservation of tiger has ecological national significance transcending State boundaries, the

Government of India provides funding support and technical guidance to States through the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger and other schemes for wildlife conservation. Tigers are present in the forests of seventeen states in our country at present, which also include their protected areas / tiger reserves.

3.9 The distribution of tigers and their density vary in States due to several ecological and human reasons, viz. the forest cover, terrain, natural prey availability, presence of undisturbed habitat and the quality of managerial efforts taken towards protection. Since tigers are at the top of the ecological “food -chain”, their conservation results in the overall conservation of all other species of plants and animals occupying the ecosystem. We can say that tigers are indicators of the well being of the ecosystem. A healthy tiger population indicates that the other ecological components in its habitat are equally robust, since tigers need large amount of prey and good habitat. The investments made in a project of this kind are more than justified.

4. Ongoing activities and additionalities to be supported under the revised Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger:

4.1 Anti-poaching activities (ongoing) (non recurring for antipoaching squad/Tiger Protection Force deployment, and recurring for wages towards patrolling camp labourers/watchers)

The antipoaching operations in Tiger Reserves are site specific. However, the following activities, interalia, would form part of the protection strategy in Tiger Reserves:

- Deployment of antipoaching squads
- Establishing and maintenance of existing patrolling camps/chowkis and deployment of camp labourers for patrolling.
- Organising vehicular patrolling by constituting squads (Tiger Protection Force), comprising of field staff, labourers and police/SAF/ex-army personnel, with wireless handset and paraphernalia for apprehending offenders, apart from prescribing a patrolling calendar for the squad.
- Establishing and maintenance of wireless network.
- Organising surprise raids jointly with the local police in railway stations, local trains, bus-stops, buses, catchers and cafeteria.
- Ensuring special site-specific protection measures, during monsoon as ‘Operation Monsoon’ – considering the terrain and accessibility of Protected Areas.
- Deployment of ex-army personnel / home guards.
- Deployment of local work force for patrolling, surveillance of water holes, manning barriers.
- Procurement of arms and ammunition.
- Procurement/maintenance of elephant squads.
- Rewards to informers.

- Legal support for defending court cases.
- Procurement of vehicles, boats.
- Procurement field gear, night vision device.

4.2 Strengthening of infrastructure within Tiger Reserves (ongoing) (non recurring for new civil works and recurring for maintenance)

The following activities, interalia, would form part of reinforcing the infrastructure of Tiger Reserves (including support to new tiger reserves):

- Civil Works (staff quarters, family hostels, office improvement, patrolling camp, house keeping buildings, museum, culverts).
- Maintenance / creation / upgradation of road network.
- Maintenance / creation of wireless tower.
- Maintenance / creation of fire watch tower.
- Maintenance / creation of bridges, dams, anicuts.
- Maintenance / creation of firelines / firebreaks.
- Maintenance / creation of earthen ponds.
- Procurement / maintenance of vehicles (Gypsy, Jeep, Truck, Tractor).
- Habitat improvement works.
- Procurement of hardware, software / GIS.
- Procurement of compass, range finder, GPS, camera traps.
- Procurement of satellite imageries for management planning.
- Map digitization facility for management planning.

4.3 Habitat improvement and water development (ongoing) (recurring)

These, interalia, may include: weed eradication, removal of gregarious plant growth from grasslands, grass improvement, water retention structures and the like. These initiatives would increase the forage and browse values of the habitat for wild animals.

4.4 Addressing man-animal conflict (ensuring uniform, timely compensation for human deaths due to wild animals, livestock depredation by carnivores, crop depredation* by wild ungulates) (compensation for crop loss is a new component) (non recurring)

This would involve:

- Payment of compensation for cattle lifting, death of human beings and crop depredation* due to wild animals.
- Creation of crop protection structures.
- Procurement / deployment of traps, cages to catch problematic animals.
- Procurement of tranquilizing equipments, rescue vehicles and drugs.

The above initiatives are extremely important to avoid as well as redress the “park-people” interface conflicts.

(* would be supported as per prevailing norms of the State, in the delineated buffer area as explained in Section 38V of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006.)

4.5 Co-existence agenda in buffer / fringe areas (landscape approach/sectoral integration/ecologically sustainable development programme/livelihood options/eco-tourism) (new activity in case of tiger reserves where buffer has not been notified so far) (non recurring)

The fringe areas around Tiger Reserve have corridor value, and their ecological sustainability is important to prevent the area from becoming ecological sinks on account of over use of resources and unwise land use. This calls for delineation of buffer zone around a tiger reserve to incorporate such fringe areas so that it can fulfill the following objectives:

- Providing ecologically viable livelihood options to local stakeholders for reducing their dependency on forests.
- Conserving the forest area through restorative inputs involving local people for providing habitat supplement to wild animals moving out of core areas.

A comparative assessment of the forest cover status of outer fringe areas of tiger reserves upto a radial distance of 10 kms. has been done in collaboration with the Forest Survey of India. The States are required to delineate the fringe/buffer area around the core zones of tiger reserves, and submit a Tiger Conservation Plan as required under Section 38 V of the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006, to ensure wildlife conservation while addressing the livelihood issues relating to local people.

4.6 Rehabilitation package for traditional hunting tribes living around tiger reserves (new activity) (non recurring)

There is an urgent need to launch a rehabilitation and development programme for the denotified tribes and tribes involved in traditional hunting, living around tiger reserves and tiger corridors. The following denotified tribes / communities are involved in traditional hunting of wild animals : Behelias, Ambalgars, Badaks, Mongias, Bavariyas, Monglias, Pardhi, Boyas, Kaikads, Karwal Nat, Nirshikaris, Picharis, Valayaras, Yenadis, Chakma, Mizo, Bru, Solung and Nyishi. While this list is not exhaustive, around 5,000 such families are required to be taken up under a welfare programme (forming part of NTCA initiatives) during the Plan period. The rehabilitation / welfare package should be evolved in a site specific, consultative manner with livelihood options, to include : wages for such people towards their deployment in foot patrolling for protecting

wildlife, providing agricultural land with irrigation, basic health care, housing and related community welfare inputs and basic education facilities. The experience gained in the past for settling denotified tribes by the salvation army is required to be considered dispassionately while structuring the programme.

4.7 Research and field equipments (ongoing) (non recurring)

The All India tiger estimation using the new methodology approved by the Tiger task Force has resulted in a permanent monitoring protocol for the field units. The format/protocol used for the Phase-I data collection in the new estimation process should be adopted for day-to-day field monitoring. Further, assistance would be provided for fostering field oriented research and to equip the staff with facilities like GPS, camera traps, night vision, range finder and related accessories including hardware and software. As decided in the 1st meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, the tiger reserves are required to carry out the day to day monitoring of wild animals using the refined process in the GIS domain, which would enable “forecasting” vis-à-vis wildlife protection.

4.8 Staff development and capacity building (ongoing) (non recurring)

This would involve:

- Capacity building / training.
- Providing project allowance and special incentives.
- Specialized training in the use of GIS, antipoaching operations.
- Specialized training in jurisprudence and wildlife forensics.
- Study tours for appraisal of good practices in other reserves.
- Dissemination workshops.
- Specialized training in park interpretation.
- Specialized training in management planning.

The above inputs are extremely important for enhancing the skill of field staff. Several instances of poaching occur for want of specialized training in crime detection and related skills.

4.9 Deciding inviolate spaces for wildlife and relocation of villagers from core or critical tiger habitats in Tiger Reserves within a timeframe and settlement of rights (settlement of rights is a new activity) (non recurring)

The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, as well as the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, require that rights of people (Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers) recognized in forest areas within core/critical tiger/wildlife habitats of tiger reserves/protected areas may be modified and resettled for providing inviolate spaces to tiger/wild animals. This

requires payment of compensation (rights settlement in addition to the relocation package offered under the CSS at present). Chapter IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (Section 24) provides for acquisition of rights in or over the land declared by the State Government under Section 18 (for constituting a Sanctuary) or Section 35 (for constituting a National Park). Sub-section 2 of Section 24 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, authorizes the Collector to acquire such land or rights. Therefore, payment of compensation for the immovable property of people forms part of modifying / settling their rights which is a statutory requirement.

The ongoing study and the analysis of the available research data on tiger ecology indicate that the minimum population of tigresses in breeding age, which are needed to maintain a viable population of 80-100 tigers (in and around core) require an inviolate space of 800 -1000 sq km. Tiger being an “umbrella species”, this will also ensure viable populations of other wild animals (co-predators, prey) and forest, thereby ensuring the ecological viability of the entire area / habitat. Thus, it becomes an ecological imperative to keep the core areas of tiger reserves inviolate for the survival of source populations of tiger and other wild animals.

Based on the recommendations of the Professional Agency, a new package for village relocation/rehabilitation has been proposed, with the following options / norms, which adequately covers the “National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007”, while taking into consideration the difficulties / imperatives involved in relocating people living in forest areas:

The proposed package has two options:

Option I – Payment of the entire package amount (Rs. 10 lakhs per family) to the family in case the family opts so, without involving any rehabilitation / relocation process by the Forest Department.

Option II – Carrying out relocation / rehabilitation of village from protected area / tiger reserve by the Forest Department.

- (i) In case of option I, a monitoring process involving the District Magistrate of concerned District(s) would be ensured so that the villagers rehabilitate themselves with the package money provided to them. In this regard, a mechanism involving handholding, preferably by external agencies should also be ensured, while depositing a considerable portion of the amount in the name of the beneficiary in a nationalized bank for obtaining income through interest generated.
- (ii) In case of option II, the following package (per family) is proposed, at the rate of Rs. 10 lakhs per family:

(a)	Agriculture land procurement (2 hectare) and development	:	35% of the total package
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(b)	Settlement of rights	:	30% of the total package
(c)	Homestead land and house construction	:	20% of the total package
(d)	Incentive	:	5% of the total package
(e)	Community facilities commuted by the family (access road, irrigation, drinking water, sanitation, electricity, telecommunication, community center, religious places of worship, burial/cremation ground)	:	10% of the total package

(iii) The relocation process would be monitored / implemented by the following two Committees:

(State level Monitoring Committee)

- (a) Chief Secretary of the State - Chairman
- (b) Secretaries of related departments - Members
- (c) State Principal Chief Conservator of Forests - Member
- (d) Non-official members of respective Tiger Conservation Foundation - Members
- (e) Chief Wildlife Warden - Member-Secretary

(District level Implementing Committee for ensuring convergence of other sectors)

- (a) District Collector - Chairman
- (b) CEO - Member
- (c) Representative officials from: PWD, Social Welfare, Tribal Department, Health Department, Agriculture Department, Education Department, Power and Irrigation Departments - Members
- (d) Deputy Director of the Tiger Reserve/PA - Member Secretary

(iv) The above cost norms are indicative in nature to facilitate flexibility for State/site specific situation, and may be modified to allow inter component as well as inter family adjustments by respective State Governments as per site specific requirements.

(v) The relocated village would be taken up on a priority basis for eco development as well as local development through convergence of District level schemes.

(vi) The labour oriented works involved in the relocation process would be preferably implemented through the villagers who are being relocated, so that they derive benefits out of the same apart from ensuring the field implementation to their satisfaction.

- (vii) In case resettlement has been done on a forest land, the new settlement will be eligible for access to forest resources for their bonafide use through the village level committee and Gram Sabhas.
- (viii) The District Administration would facilitate fair price shop, education, health center close to the relocated site.
- (ix) “Handholding” after relocation would be ensured through the forest department with ongoing ecodevelopmental inputs through central assistance and district administration involving convergence of schemes. In this effort help of competent independent agencies may be sought wherever available.
- (x) The relocated villagers would be given priority for livelihood options emanating from the protected area.
- (xi) In case the cost of relocation including settlement of rights per family exceeds Rs. 10 lakhs, the State Government has to meet the extra cost.

The relocation process would be an open ended one, since the progress of relocation process would depend on performance by States.

4.10 Mainstreaming wildlife concerns in tiger bearing forests and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy involving locals to arrest fragmentation of habitats (new activity) (non recurring)

The forests connecting Tiger Reserves or Protected Areas have tigers and other wild animals in most of the States. At present, there is no Scheme for addressing wildlife concerns in such areas, where restorative as well as protective inputs are required. The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006, provides for addressing such corridor areas. This, interalia, would involve:

- Redressing man-animal conflict.
- Capturing problematic / aberrant wild animals.
- Monitoring of wild animals.
- Antipoaching operations.
- Habitat improvement measures.

The communities living in fringe areas of National Parks, Sanctuaries and Tiger Reserves suffer from frequent depredation of their crops on account of damage caused by wild herbivores like blue bull, black buck, wild pig and elephants. The situation becomes acute in certain pockets, since people depend on a single annual rain fed crop with low productivity. This is one of the major reasons for man-animal conflicts around our Tiger

Reserves and Protected Areas, and is a serious bottleneck in enlisting the much needed local support for wildlife conservation.

Under Section 11 of Wild life (Protection) Act, the State Chief Wildlife Wardens and officers authorized on his behalf can permit killing of wild animals causing destruction to life and property, including standing crops. However, rural communities do not favor such killings due to religious sentiments attached to these animals. Trapping and translocation of such wild animals which gain a pest value is neither feasible nor cost effective. Therefore, the situation calls for adequately compensating the stakeholder communities around Tiger Reserves from this recurring loss. This would be supported as per prevailing norms of the State, in the delineated buffer area as explained in Section 38V of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006.

4.11 Safeguards / Retrofitting measures in the interest of wildlife conservation (new activity) (non recurring)

Several Tiger Reserves are affected on account of heavily used infrastructure like roads, railway tracks and others. The high tension electric lines passing through many reserves cause mortality of wild animals due to electrocution by poachers. In the interest of wild animals several safeguards as well as retrofitting measures may be required, which would be supported on a site-specific basis.

4.12 Providing basic infrastructure/ Project Tiger Headquarter expenditure for consultancy, all India tiger estimation/continuous monitoring of tigers outside tiger reserves, strengthening of NTCA at the Center and establishing a monitoring lab in the Wildlife Institute of India. The following are envisaged (new activity) (non recurring):

- Creation of office space at Delhi for National Tiger Conservation Authority.
- Creation of GIS outstation laboratory at Wildlife Institute of India.
- Carrying out All India Tiger Estimation, monitoring.
- Support to research work.
- Contractual arrangement for special studies.
- International / National Workshops.
- Contractual arrangement for data entry, analysis.

4.13 Independent monitoring and evaluation of tiger reserves (ongoing) (non recurring)

The independent monitoring of tiger reserves was carried out using as many as 45 parameters by a panel of experts, based on IUCN format. The monitoring reports were peer reviewed by the IUCN and placed before the Parliament. This process would be continued during the XIth Plan period after further refinement.

4.14 Establishment and development of eight new Tiger Reserves (new activity) (recurring and non recurring as indicated for various activities)

'Project Tiger' has a holistic ecosystem approach. Though the focus is on the flagship species 'tiger', the project strives to maintain the stability of ecosystem by fostering other trophic levels in the food chain. This is essential to ensure an ecologically viable population of tiger, which is at the 'apex' of the ecological food chain. The community pressures on forests are ever on the increase in developing countries, and India is no exception. As a sequel, the tiger habitat has become fragile and weak at several places, warranting a focused conservation approach. Our protected areas / Tiger Reserves are analogous to "islands" in an ocean of the other-use patterns. Empirical evidences from 'island biogeography' indicate that "isolated" reserves lose their species rapidly owing to 'ecological insularization'. Further, apart from fragmentation, the situation is aggravated by degraded forest cover owing to biotic pressure, dislocated prey – predator ratio, absence of effective measures to ensure the desired level of protection and lack of eco developmental initiatives for the fringe dwelling stake holders to reduce their dependency on forest resources. Since 'Project Tiger' would go a long way in redressing the above situation, the Steering Committee of Project Tiger in its meeting held on 23.1.2003 recommended inclusion of new Tiger Reserve areas so as to increase the total area of Project Tiger from existing 37761 sq. kms. to 50,000 sq. kms. during the X Plan period. Accordingly, proposals for new Tiger Reserves were received from some States, on which 'in principle' approval has been accorded. The details are as below:

(i) Anamalai -Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuaries	Tamil Nadu & Kerala
(ii) Udanti and Sita Nadi Wildlife Sanctuaries	Chattisgarh
(iii) Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary	Orissa
(iv) Kaziranga National Park	Assam
(v) Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary	Chattisgarh
(vi) Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary and Anshi National Park	Karnataka
(vii) Sanjay National Park and Sanjay Dubri Wildlife Sanctuary	Madhya Pradesh
(viii) Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu

A total of 8 new Tiger Reserves are proposed to be included in Project Tiger, with an additional financial implication of **Rs. 32.00 crores** during the plan period.

4.15 Provision of Project Allowance to staff (all categories) of Project Tiger (providing project allowance to Ministerial staff is a new component) (non recurring)

The officers / staff of Tiger Reserves receive Project Allowance as approved by the EFC/CCEA during IX plan period as detailed below:

(a) Field Director	-	@ Rs. 1000 per month
(b) Deputy Director	-	@ Rs. 750 per month
(c) Assistant Director/ Research Officer/Veterinary Officer (equivalent rank)	-	@ Rs. 650 per month
(d) Forest Ranger and equivalent rank	-	@ Rs. 500 per month
(e) Forester and equivalent rank	-	@ Rs. 450 per month
(f) Forest Guard and equivalent rank	-	@Rs. 350 per month

The offices of Tiger Reserves are located in remote places. More often than not, the ministerial staff prefer postings elsewhere in regular Forest Division offices, as a result of which the routine official working in the Project Tiger Office are adversely affected. Further, several ongoing complimentary schemes from the Collector Sector are also dovetailed in Tiger Reserves as a part of the eco development strategy to benefit the stake holders. Such ongoing schemes, enhance the office work and therefore, able ministerial support becomes extremely crucial. However, to attract the best talent, it is proposed to extend the project allowance to ministerial staff working in Tiger Reserves as indicated below:-

Class II	-	Rs 500 (per employee per month)
Class III	-	Rs 350 (per employee per month)
Class IV	-	Rs 200 (per employee per month)

4.16 Staff welfare activities (ongoing) (non recurring)

The field staff of Tiger Reserves serve in remote and difficult areas, often subjected to endemic diseases like malaria, dengue, water-borne infections, apart from facing the risk of chance encounters with wild animals. Further, such postings are normally 'non-family postings', and the frontline personnel has to bear the cost of maintaining his family in a nearby village or town having the basic schooling and medical facilities. It is relevant to add, accommodation in such rural areas are seldom readily available. In addition, the field staff of a Tiger Reserve, unlike his counterpart in Territorial Forest Divisions, has also to bear the brunt of local community dwelling in fringe areas, owing to restrictions on the latter for free access to forest resources. Thus, the role of a frontline field personnel in a protected area or Tiger Reserve is different from his counterpart in regular Forest Divisions. The physical assault on the staff of Tiger Reserves/Protected Areas by people nurturing a grudge against the management is more common, often resulting in casualties. Therefore it becomes essential to provide amenities for staff welfare, to attract the best talent in the working age group. During the Plan

period, staff welfare inputs like residential accommodation for the children of frontline staff in nearby towns/villages, supply of kerosene, medicine, field kit, mosquito net, torch and the like would be supported.

4.17 Fostering Eco-Tourism in Tiger Reserves (new activity) (non recurring)

‘Ecotourism’ in the context of Tiger Reserves is ecologically sustainable nature-tourism, which is emerging as an important component of tourism industry. It is distinct from ‘mass tourism’, having sustainable, equitable, community based effort for improving the living standards of local, host communities living on the fringes of Tiger Reserves. Ecotourism is proposed to be fostered with financial support to the host community through ‘soft loans’ from Ecodevelopment Committees, in accordance with site – specific ‘Ecotourism plan’ and carrying capacity of Tiger Reserves in the buffer areas. The core/critical tiger habitats would not be used for any form of tourism, and the ongoing tourism activities in such areas should be phased out in the fringe/buffer areas, without affecting its corridor value. The development of tourism related facilities within the buffer zones of Tiger Reserves would continue with inputs under Project Tiger. The opportunities for stakeholders would include management of low cost accommodation for tourists, providing guide services, providing sale outlets, managing excursions, organizing ethnic dances and the like.

5. The Tiger Reserve States would be required to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Environment and Forests, as provided in the format at **Annexure-1**.
6. The Tiger Reserves would receive funding support under the ongoing Centrally sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger on the basis of a reserve specific Tiger Conservation Plan as required under Section 38-V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006. This should be prepared in accordance with the guidelines issued by the National Tiger Conservation Authority vide its Technical Document – NTCA/01/07.
7. The centrality of Panchayati Raj Institution should be ensured through consultation for deployment of local workforce, issues relating to man – animal conflicts, livelihood options, village relocation and eco-tourism.
8. The tentative cost table for the scheme is provided at **Annexure-II** for guidance.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
BIKANER HOUSE, SHAHJAHAN ROAD
NEW DELHI
AND GOVERNMENT OF**

The National Tiger Conservation Authority, hereinafter referred to as the 'NTCA', and the State Government of _____, hereinafter referred to as the State Government, have agreed to enter into an understanding.

Whereas the State Government has submitted a proposal to NTCA seeking financial assistance for protection and development oftiger reserve, hereinafter referred to as the "_____".

And whereas the NTCA is ready and willing to extend financial support for the approved items of work as shown in Article-II, on the terms and conditions given below:

ARTICLE I.

The State Government has agreed and affirmed that:-

- (a) The buffer zone around the core/critical tiger habitats shall be delineated as required under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, and a Tiger Reserve specific Tiger Conservation Plan shall be prepared as per the statutory requirements.
- (b) The staff vacancies shall be filled up for ensuring effective implementation and field protection.
- (c) The money released by the National Tiger Conservation Authority shall not be taken in revenue account but shall be made available to tiger reserves for taking up the works proposed in the Annual Plan of Operations immediately, with due compliance of the normative guidelines and advisories of the said Authority.
- (d) The estimated cost worked out by the State Governments are based on actual approved rates of PWD of the concerned State.
- (e) The Director/Officer Incharge of the Tiger Reserve shall be empowered to spend the money provided by the National Tiger Conservation Authority for immediate execution of the schemes, as per the norms and procedures prescribed by NTCA and the State Government.
- (f) The proposal shall have reference to Tiger Conservation Plan, which forms the basis of APO.

- (g) The APO must indicate the location / area of proposed initiative / initiatives on a map, along with physical target, financial target and unit rate, with the basis of estimation.
- (h) The progress report should invariably indicate the physical achievement (viz., quantity, number, area indicating location) and the objectives fulfilled on implementation of proposed activities.
- (i) A year-wise photo catalogue of physical targets shall be maintained to facilitate verification during supervisory visits.
- (j) During execution, details of estimate, man-days involved etc. shall be displayed near the work site.
- (k) Utilisation Certificate showing unspent balance, if any, shall be furnished to National Tiger Conservation Authority annually after the close of the financial year so that the same is reached in this office by 31st May of each year. Complete Utilisation Certificate shall be submitted immediately on completion of the work.
- (l) The accounts of the grants released by National Tiger Conservation Authority shall be maintained properly as per audit requirement and shall be open to inspection by the NTCA/Audit. A copy of these accounts shall also be released to NTCA. In case of construction / habitat improvement works, photocopies of the measurement books (for the work which was executed from NTCA's grant) shall also be sent to NTCA. Details of unspent amount, if any, shall be intimated to the Authority for adjustment as unspent balance or revalidation.
- (m) The State Government will ensure that the Accounts of the grants released by NTCA are audited by Statutory Audit of the State Government on annual basis and on a certificate to this effect will be sent to NTCA annually latest by 31st May each year.
- (n) The funds will be used only for the purpose of which it was sanctioned. Diversion of funds will not be allowed without the prior approval of NTCA.
- (o) The records of all assets acquired out of the grant released herewith by the NTCA, shall be made available for scrutiny of audit. Such assets shall not be, without the prior approval of Govt. of India/ National Tiger Conservation Authority be disposed off, encumbered or utilized for the purpose other than those for which the grant is sanctioned.
- (p) A statement showing the extracts of the assets created out of the grants released by NTCA shall be furnished to NTCA annually by 31st May of each year.

ARTICLE II

NTCA has agreed to provide financial assistance as "NTCA share" as grant for execution of following items of work:-

(Rs. in lakhs)		
S. No.	Item of work	Amount

ARTICLE III

If there is any delay in execution of the work, the State Govt. shall notify the National Tiger Conservation Authority in writing giving the reason for delay. If the NTCA feels that work is not progressing according to the work plan, it shall be at liberty to withhold the financial assistance or withdraw the financial assistance already granted. The unspent amount of grant as on the date of communication of the decision of the withdrawal of financial assistance by the NTCA shall be immediately returned to NTCA.

**SIGNED ON BEHALF OF
NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION
AUTHORITY**

**SIGNED ON BEHALF OF
GOVERNMENT OF**

**NAME & DESIGNATION
(With Stamp)
DATED:**

**NAME & DESIGNATION
(With Stamp)
DATED:**

EFC Annexure-II
(Rs. in crores)

S. No.	Name of Activities	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	Total
1	Anti-poaching	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	25.00
2	Strengthening of infrastructure within Tiger Reserves (including new Tiger Reserves)	11.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	51.00
3	Habitat improvement and water development	2.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	14.00
4	Addressing man-animal conflict (ensuring uniform, timely compensation for human deaths due to wild animals, livestock depredation by carnivores, crop depredation by wild ungulates)	2.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	14.00
5	Co-existence agenda in buffer / fringe areas (landscape approach/sectoral integration/ ecologically sustainable development programme/ livelihood options/eco-tourism)	7.50	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	55.50
6	Rehabilitation / resettlement of denotified tribes / communities involved in traditional hunting	NIL	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00
7	Research, providing equipments (camera traps, GPS, etc.), computer softwares, All India Estimation of Tiger/Co-predators/Prey Animals, habitat monitoring and evaluation	2.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	4.00
8	Staff development and capacity building	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	5.00
9	Deciding inviolate spaces for wildlife and relocation of villagers from core or critical tiger habitats in Tiger Reserves within a timeframe and settlement of rights	30.00	78.75	78.75	78.75	78.75	345.00
10	Mainstreaming livelihood and wildlife concerns in forests outside tiger reserves and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy involving locals to arrest fragmentation of habitats	NIL	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	6.00

11	Safeguards / Retrofitting measures in the interest of wildlife conservation	NIL	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	5.00
12	Providing basic infrastructure/ Project Tiger Headquarter expenditure for consultancy, all India tiger estimation/continuous monitoring of tigers outside tiger reserves, strengthening of NTCA at the Center and establishing a monitoring lab in the Wildlife Institute of India	2.00	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	8.00
13	Independent Monitoring and evaluation of tiger reserves	NIL	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1.00
14	Establishment and development of eight new tiger reserves	NIL	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	32.00
15	Provision of project allowance to all categories of Project Tiger field staff	2.35	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	14.35
16	Staff welfare activities	0.150	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	4.150
17	Fostering ecotourism	NIL	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	4.00
TOTAL		65.00	133.75	133.75	133.75	133.75	600.00

