

CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEME
"PROJECT ELEPHANT"

GUIDELINES

NOVEMBER, 2013



सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

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REVISED GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF WORKS UNDER
CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEME- PROJECT ELEPHANT DURING XII PLAN.

Note: The guidelines for the assistance under C.S.S. Project Elephant indicated in the text are illustrative, and not exhaustive.

1. INTRODUCTION OF THE SCHEME:

Concerned at the primary need to restore the elephant habitats and reduce suffering of both elephant as well as the human population, the Government of India launched a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme the "Project Elephant" in 1991-92. During the first year i.e. 1991-92, Project Elephant was approved by the Planning Commission as an Annual Plan Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 2.43 crores for the year.

The Scheme has been continuing through XI Plan and has been approved by the Competent Authority for its continuation in the XII Plan with an approved outlay of Rs. 200.00 crore.

2. BROAD OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME:

Because of the elephant's non-territorial behavior and large home range requirements, elephant conservation cannot be achieved by management of small sections of forests. The entire range of the elephants needs to be managed. The migration routes and corridors are areas used by elephants to facilitate their movement between different parts of the elephants home range, and are ecological necessities for the survival of the species. It may be mentioned that elephant habitats often extend over more than one state. Therefore, inter-state cooperation and coordination in conservation measures is absolutely essential.

3. The C.S Project Elephant aims at providing support to the States for achievement of the following broad objectives:-

- i. To conserve and protect viable population of wild elephants in their natural habitats in the country;
- ii. To conserve and protect and, where necessary, to restore natural habitats and traditional corridors/migratory routes or movement paths used by the elephants – through eco-restoration, acquisition etc ;

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- iii. To take concrete measures to protect the elephants from poaching and other threats by taking suitable measures like deployment of patrolling squads, intelligence gathering etc;
 - iv. To create a viable mechanism to ensure inter-state and regional and national level coordination in protecting and conserving the elephant and its ranges;
 - v. To create infrastructure and other facilities for conservation support activities like veterinary care, management training, humane methods of capture, tranquilizing and translocation etc of wild elephants, as and when required;
 - vi. To improve and create infrastructure for the welfare of elephants in domestic use, including their veterinary care, training of mahouts and supervisory staff in proper treatment of elephants in captivity;
 - vii. To encourage and create facilities for research related to the management and ecology of elephant, and also with respect to its veterinary care;
 - viii. To take appropriate steps to mitigate man-elephant conflict through suitable measures, such as eco-development, public education and awareness programmes, scientific management, ex-gratia payments, deployment of anti-depredation teams etc.
 - ix. To take measures for detection and prevention of diseases in wild elephants.

4. "Project Elephant" is also concerned inter alia with the management of smaller identified populations or groups of wild elephants that become problematic to human life and property through

- Moderating pressures of human population on elephant habitats.
- Development and establishment of effective elephant-barrier in areas where elephant conflict is severe
- Strengthening the anti poaching infrastructure
- Research and monitoring
- Capacity building and training for effective elephant management
- Development of skilled cadre of personnel to create compassion and love for elephants

5. STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT ELEPHANT

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Wildlife and wildlife habitats in India are under administrative control of the States and Union Territories.

Project Elephant is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme to assist the Elephant Range States in their efforts to achieve the identified objectives.

- (i) The implementation of Project Elephant will continue to be through C.S.S. Plan Scheme titled "Project Elephant".
- (ii) The direct overseeing authority at the Central Government level is Director, Project Elephant, with headquarters in the Ministry of Environment and Forests at New Delhi.
- (iii) The implementation of the work in the states of "Project Elephant" will be carried out by the respective Governments.
- (iv) Research under Project Elephant may have to be carried out by individual scientists, scientific institutes, university students, forest department officials etc. through Government with the full involvement of the managers of the Protected Areas.

6. ITEMS OF WORKS IDENTIFIED FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT UNDER PROJECT ELEPHANT:

The activities given below are not exhaustive in nature. Depending on the site specific requirements, appropriate activities need to be focused upon and implemented. The following is a generic categorization of activities under the Scheme:

1. Protection of elephants :

- Establishment of anti-poaching camps, deployment of squads, etc
- Procurement of rifle / guns / ammunitions for antipoaching squad
- Strengthening of infrastructure like wireless communication, construction of culverts, bridges, etc.
- Reward to informers and expenses on intelligence gathering

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construction/maintenance of patrolling paths• Immunization of cattle around ER to prevent diseases
2. Conservation and development of habitats and corridors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improvement of habitats / corridors by enrichment plantation/eco restoration• Removal of invasive species• Creation of water bodies/ salt licks• Fire protection measures• Eco-restoration of corridors/migration routes and paths including acquisition and relocation• Soil and water conservation measures
3. Eliciting public co-operation and mitigation of human elephant conflict <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ex-gratia payment for loss of life/injury, damage to property, crop, etc.• Adoption of alternative schemes such as crop insurance etc.• Eco-development and community oriented activities• Popularization of non-conventional energy sources• Setting up of anti-depredation squads with crackers, Kerosene torches etc to scare away elephants, early warning systems.• Creation of elephant proof trenches, solar power fencing, barriers etc.• Procurement of tranquilizing guns, medicines and other infrastructure for capture and translocation of problem elephants including capture, and translocation of problem population of elephants; translocation and/or elimination of rogue elephants• In order to deal with several deaths of elephants due to train hits, the provision will also include expenses related to erection of fencing/barricades, erection of high posts for high beam searchlights, construction of embankments/correction of slopes of embankments, in identified vulnerable stretches of railway tracks and for procurement and use of communication and other ancillary equipment.
4. Improvement of support services including monitoring, research and training <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Census and monitoring of elephant population• Implementation of Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE)

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- programme including purchase of necessary equipments etc.
- Training of officers, field staff in elephant management techniques
 - Training of vets and mahouts
 - Preparation of Management Plans/Action Plans including research studies, including payment for consultancies, basic support costs, printing etc.
 - Holding of workshops, meetings, seminars etc. of the stakeholders
 - Research on various aspects of elephant management, compilation and publication of research material.
 - Awareness programmes for elephant conservation including educational/promotional visits
 - Coordination with foreign governments and international agencies, including foreign travel for programmes related to the conservation and management of elephants in the wild as well as in captivity
 - Evaluation and monitoring of Scheme
 - Support for measures prescribed in Approved Action Plans.

5. Captive Elephant management and welfare

- Monitoring of captive elephants
- Creation and management of rescue centers
- To improve and create infrastructure for the welfare of elephants in domestic use, including veterinary care, rehabilitation centre, etc.
- Creating health care facilities including research

7. ANNUAL PLAN OF OPERATIONS (APOs):

The proposals from the Governments for support under the Project Elephant should take into account the range utilization strategy of elephants, their ecological and behavioural needs, adjustment between the needs of wildlife conservation and those of the people living in the fringe areas and their dependence upon forest resources for basic sustenance, and similar other factors crucial for the survival of the species. The APOs should follow an approved Action Plan drawn for the respective States. Utilization Certificates (UCs) for the support received during the Previous Year (s) under the Scheme must accompany the APOs. UCs would be

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considered valid only if they are submitted in Form No. GFR 19 A. This should also be accompanied by item-wise performance report of the work (physical and financial) accomplished in the previous year.

NOTE: Certain problems can be avoided in processing of the proposals from the State Governments if the following points are taken into account at the time of submission of A.P.O.

- i. Request(s), if any, for revalidation of unspent balance from the grant received during the previous year (s) should reach Director, Project Elephant by the month of May of the new financial year.
- ii. Revalidation of unspent balance covers the permission to incur expenditure only against identified items of the previous year's APO from the sanctioned amount of which the savings have been indicated. Revalidation does not mean adjustment of unspent balance against any other item of work whether approved during the previous year or proposed during the new financial year.
- iii. In case revalidation of unspent balance is not sought, the unutilized amount of the sanctioned grant of the previous year (s) is adjustable towards the total grant likely to be approved against the APO of the new financial year. It helps if request for adjustment of unspent balance is specifically made in the proposed APO.
- iv. The Annual Plan of Operation, along with the Utilization Certificate for grant received during the previous year, should reach the PE division during the first quarter of the year, and preferably during the month of April of the concerned financial year. The processing of APOs at the Central Government level becomes operational only after the receipt of the Utilization Certificate for the funds released till date in Form No. GFR 19A.
- v. The proposed Annual Plan of Operation should indicate against each item of work the overall physical target to be achieved during the entire period of the Management plan of each area, the targets achieved upto the previous financial year, and the proposed physical target for the new financial year.

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- vi. The details of the proposed financial target must indicate the rates for execution of the work, physical dimension of the work and coordinates of the location (wherever possible) where the item of work is to be taken up.
 - vii. An operational map, on a convenient scale, of the concerned area (s) indicating the location (GPS) of major items of work to be taken up during the new financial year, should be provided along with the APO.
 - viii. A tentative list of headings under which various items of work may be classified in the proposed APOs, as prescribed in para 6 above, to facilitate the uniformity in the processing of the APOs.
 - ix. The CWLWs of the State should ensure that there is no duplication of the nature and items of work being proposed in the same area under the Project Elephant and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes or other Schemes such as Project Tiger, National Afforestation Programme, Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats etc.
 - x. It has been repeatedly emphasized during the various meetings and workshops conducted under the Project Elephant that the range states should identify a Nodal Officer, at least of the rank of Conservator of Forests, to coordinate and monitor the performance of implementation of works sanctioned under Project Elephant in the habitats covering different administrative divisions in their respective states, keep a liaison with other Nodal officers of the neighbouring states for the interstate coordination, Regional Coordinators of Project Elephant and the Director, Project Elephant, G.O.I. for APOs and various other concerned issues. Project Elephant is not only confined only to the Protected Areas but covers the entire range of elephant distribution and movement. This fact necessitates taking up of works for nodal officers. Without identifying such a Nodal Officer, the implementation of the Project Elephant in the States will leave much to be desired.

8. Conditions for Central Assistance

In order to qualify for financial assistance under this Scheme, the following conditions or commitments would have to be met by the concerned State Governments:

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- a. That the implementation of the Scheme shall be under the supervision of the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) of the State.
 - b. That the state must notify Field Coordinator for each Elephant Reserve to coordinate the implementation of the Scheme.
 - c. That a Perspective Management Plan for each Elephant Reserve must be prepared, if not in place, for scientific management.
 - d. That the State must bear all financial commitment for all such recurring or non-recurring expenditure which are not provided by Central Government.
 - e. That the respective CWLW would submit the Annual Plan of Operation (APO) being part of the comprehensive 5 Year Plan in the prescribed format at the beginning of the financial year with UC and physical progress report of the last FY as well as consolidated progress since inception of the project.
 - f. That the APO must indicate the location and cost estimates of the proposed activities for the particular year under the APO.

It may be noted here that the Centrally Sponsored Scheme- Project Elephant does not provide for establishment of offices and related infrastructure for administering Project Elephant in the states. The selection or identification of a Nodal officer and the Field Coordination for the reserves has to be made from the existing strength of officers.

The above mentioned points go a long way in early processing of the proposals received for operation of work under the Project Elephant. These points have been identified after an overall evaluation of the APOs so far received from different states. Special project proposals, if any, can be considered on appropriate footing according to the merit of the case.

The guidelines prepared have been framed in order to facilitate the implementation of the Project Elephant in the concerned range states and are effective with immediate effect.

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Indicative calendar of activities in pursuit of Project Elephant States:

Activity	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Submission of APO of current FY				■								
Submission of Utilization Certificate of previous FY				■								
Release of 1 st installment of APO (MoEF)					■	■						
Submission of Utilization Certificate of 1 st installment released										■		
Release of 2 nd installment of APO (MoEF)											■	
Submission of quarterly progress report to MoEF.	■			■			■			■		