

18. Strengthening, Expansion and improvement of sanctuaries (Sharing Basis)

- a. This is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 60:40 sharing basis (Centre: State).
- b. ***Financing pattern;*** The proposed outlay of the scheme is Rs. 450 lacs for the financial year 2016-17. Out of this, Rs. 270 lacs will be the Central Share and Rs. 180 lacs will be the State Share.
- c. ***Aims and objectives;*** Improvement of wildlife habitats i.e. National Parks and Sanctuaries.
- d. ***Quantum of funds likely to be borne by Government of India or by any other external agency;*** Being a centrally sponsored schemes on sharing basis, Govt. of India is to provide Rs. 270.00 lacs as central share.
- e. ***Benefits of the scheme;*** Although wildlife is found throughout the State, the secure home of wildlife are the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries in the State where the animals have assured protection. The total area covered under the National Parks & Wildlife Sanctuaries is 303.62 KM². Though the wild animals live in wilderness, yet to mitigate the ill effects of human activities in their areas, some activities for the development of these animals and their habitats are necessary in their protected areas. Necessary action for improvement of wildlife habitats, provision of water, construction of fence, plantation of fruits and fodder species, erection of watch towers, development of camping sites, provision for guided tours and nature education, procurement of necessary equipment for bird watching, creation of nature trails, etc. will be taken in the protected areas. Eco-development activities in villages adjoining Protected Areas will be undertaken to the extent possible. Census of wildlife species of management importance will be carried out. The brief descriptions of the work to be undertaken in protected areas are as under:-

- (i) ***Sultanpur National Park;*** It is the oldest recognized bird habitat in the state visited by a large variety of domestic and migratory birds. The condition of this water body was adversely affected by changes in land use and natural drainage of the adjoining area in the past. However, a pipe line has been laid from village Kaliawas through Gurgaon Water supply scheme for augmentation of water to Sultanpur National Park and now there is a regular flow of water to the lake. Recurring expenditure on staff and maintenance of Salim Ali Information Centre and tubewell have to be done in the National Park. Being located close to Delhi, it is often visited by VIPs and therefore special care of this National Park is essential. Under the centrally sponsored scheme (CSS) the State Govt. has received Rs. 82.97 lacs from MOEF during 2012-13(Rs. 51.57 lacs) and 2013-14 (Rs. 31.40 lacs) for public awareness & education, habitat improvement, plantation, fencing of boundary wall, weed removal, digging of new area and tubewell facility, construction of platform for feeding of birds, fixing of artificial wood nest, digging and refilling of soil, protection of plantation, board and hoarding and publicity material. Further, activities like protecting the park by boundary fencing and organizing nature conservation and awareness camp have also been carried out. Other activities include improving the research base and scientific management by assessing the water quality and identification of flora and fauna in the park. Additional facilities will also be provided at the park for eco-tourism.
- (ii) ***Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary;*** It is the largest water body in Haryana regularly visited by over 300 species of migratory and domestic birds. Although, less known than Sultanpur National Park at present, it has a potential to develop into a prominent centre for bird-watching and eco-tourism. Efforts have to be made to see that it gets adequate water from JLN Canal System in the vicinity. The lake has to be kept free from water hyacinth and other weeds. The old chain link fence around the sanctuary needs to be repaired and replaced at many places. Plantation of fruit trees, de-silting of lake at several places and construction of mounds inside

lake bed have to be undertaken to improve the habitat for birds. The centrally sponsored scheme funding in the last two year has been received 49.31 lacs. During the 2012-13, out of this Rs. 7.64 lac used in 2012-13 and Rs. 29.94 lac used in 2013-14 for the management activities. The rest of unspent amount 11.73 lac is got revalidated for the year 2014-15. The main works executed in last 2 years were like removal of water hyacinth from the lake, fencing with barbed wire, fixing of artificial nest for birds for its breeding and its related activities. In addition to this other activities like organizing nature conservation and awareness camp, purchase of motor boat for lake and formation of self-help group for women empowerment have also been organized and carried out effectively.

- (iii) ***Kalesar National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary***; This protected area is well known not only in the State but in the northern Indian region. However, availability of drinking water for animals in this protected area, especially during the pinch period, is quite inadequate. Because of very limited availability of water points for wild animals in the park, they are prone to easy poaching activity. In order to mitigate this problem, it is necessary to increase the water points to spread out the wild population. Trenches need to be dug at strategic locations around and inside the protected area to prevent the entry of poachers. In addition fire prevention measures are required every year. Research on Red jungle fowl and other endangered species is being undertaken in the scheme. Facilities for nature education, guided tours and bird-watching will be developed. Camping sites and nature trails will be established to promote eco-tourism. Eco-development activities will be undertaken for human habitations living in the corridor area between Rajaji National Park and Kalesar National Park. The wild animals like Tiger, Panther, Elephants etc. use this corridor for migration between the two National Parks. Eco-development activities in the corridor will help to develop people's participation for protection of migrating wildlife population.

- (iv) ***Bir Shikargah Wildlife Sanctuary:*** Bir Shikargah Wildlife Sanctuary is close to cities of Chandigarh and Panchkula, easily accessible, densely covered with tree vegetation and having sizeable population of ungulates and birds. Since it does not have perennial water sources, artificial water sources will be provided. Lantana weed is required to be removed regularly to improve the habitat of the sanctuary. Gaps in the pockets of existing Eucalyptus plantations will be filled by planting fruit trees with a view to phase out Eucalyptus gradually.
- (v) ***Khol- Hi-Raitan Wildlife Sanctuary:*** An area of 2226.58 Hectares of R.F, has been declared as Wildlife Sanctuary vide Haryana Government notification No. S.O.269/C.A.53/1972/S.26-A/2004 dated 10.12.2004. This area will be developed. The availability of water and fodder will be improved in the sanctuary.
- (vi) ***Nahar (Rewari), Saraswati (Kaithal), Bir Bara Ban (Jind) and Berwala (Panchkula) Wildlife Sanctuaries***

Adequate protection would be provided to these sanctuaries. The basic requirement of food and water of the resident animal population would be met. Habitat will be improved by planting grasses, fodder and fruit trees.