

GUIDELINES FOR GRANT OF PERMISSION FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN PROTECTED AREAS OF TAMIL NADU

1) PREAMBLE

Scientific Research in the Protected Areas (PA) notified under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 is vital for a better understanding of ecosystems, their functions, ecological status, threat perceptions of various species and their habitats. Information generated through scientific research in Protected Areas (PA) has immense value to field managers for selecting appropriate conservation and adaptive field management actions. Since Protected Areas (PA) also serve as 'control sites' or 'Source Sites' for comparing a large number of environmental and ecological parameters and processes vis-a-vis human influenced ecosystems, communities and individual species often called the 'Sink Sites' in the surrounding areas of the PAs all over the globe. To undertake basic as well as applied research on various aforesaid themes and issues by researchers, institutions and even under graduate/post graduate students in Protected Areas needs to be encouraged. Failing which, the PAs will be in a disadvantageous side for not having required scientific information on conservation and management issues of the PAs which could influence its future management. In absence of required scientific information based on field studies, such areas will automatically remain poor in having the basic inventories on the biodiversity richness and threat perceptions of the PAs.

As per the guidelines of the National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016), research projects having the objectives of measuring biological diversity, monitoring the status of indicator/flagship/threatened species of flora and fauna, and their breeding biology, needs to be given priority while granting permission to conduct research and monitoring in a PA. In addition, applied research is also needed to help overcome specific management problems in Protected Areas. Multi-disciplinary integrated research encompassing of scientific and socio-economic aspects related to PA management equally needs to be encouraged.

Recognizing the significance of a well conceived and problem solving research/study in a Protected Areas, adequate provisions for encouraging research work are available in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Section 28 and 35 (8)[grant of permit] of the Act provide authority to the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) to grant permission for required and priority research in Protected Areas [Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks]under the jurisdiction of the Chief Wildlife Warden.

2) WILDLIFE RESEARCH

Wildlife Research is defined as research conducted by qualified scientists, researchers including social scientist or by Scholars / Students / Assistants working under the supervision or Park Managers. Wildlife research may also be conducted by qualified wildlife/social scientists, enthusiasts and Conservationist. [here in after referred as researcher/Institution in these guidelines.

3) DURATION OF RESEARCH

Based on the anticipated period of study specified in such research proposals, wildlife research will be categorized as follows:-

- I) **Short Term Research:** Survey or short studies involving field work up to **one year** in duration.
- II) **Medium Term Research:** Studies requiring **two to four years** of field work for completion of the task.
- III) **Long Term Research:** Studies **exceeding four years** of field work for completion.

4) THE PRESENT PRACTICE:

At present the subject is dealt in a way as being followed for a long time in the past. Some researchers/Institutions etc. are submitting the research proposals directly to the Chief Wildlife warden, which is then referred to the Unit officers under whose jurisdiction the Protected Area falls for their opinion and comments. Because of the other works on part of the Unit Officers, many a times the recommendation from Unit officers gets delayed. The researcher/Institution keeps reminding the Chief Wildlife warden about the proposal which remains pending for want of receipt of recommendations from the Unit officers. Lack of communication between the researcher/Institution and the PA managers also hampers the process and its timely resolution. On some occasions, the researcher/Institution submits the research proposal to the Unit officers and in such a case where the researcher/Institution is able to convince the Unit officers about the research proposal and its relevance for understanding and enhancing management outcomes of the PA, the Unit officers do recommend such research proposal to the Chief Wildlife Warden for issuing permissions to carry out the proposed research work by the researcher/Institution. Not just that, it also builds an ownership on part of the Unit officers at the proposed research proposal and its perceived benefits to the PA management. The Unit officers also find time and opportunity to include finer management concerns of the PA in the proposed research proposal

enhancing its delivery and management outcomes. This approach seemingly works better. It also helps the researcher/Institution when the field work starts of the research proposal as there is advance awareness on part of both the researcher/Institution and the PA management. Following up such a mutually understood and agreed framework of a process and its field implementation no doubt works as a win-win situation both for the research proponent and the PA management. In contrast, where the permission is granted by the Chief wildlife Warden on recommendations of the Unit officers, the ownership and bonding between the research proponent and the PA manager never establishes naturally.

Therefore, it is required that we gain from our own experiences and try to evolve into a practice which is transparent, sequentially planned and worked at for achieving mutually agreed and understood processes and their timely outcomes. The following set of processes has been now incorporated into the 'Guidelines' for undertaking research and monitoring activities in the Protected Areas in Tamil Nadu. The guidelines will come to effect from 01-11-2014. These will evolve further on gaining experience while working with these and based on their efficacy and relevance they may be modified in future.

5) THE PROCESS TO BE FOLLOWED BY RESEARCHERS / INSTITUTIONS AND THE PROTECTED AREA MANAGERS.

1. Permission for research works in legally notified Protected Areas i.e., National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Tiger Reserves (Buffer and Core area) shall be granted for those Research Project which are approved and sponsored by Research Institutions / Colleges / Universities / Scientific Organizations owned or recognized by State Governments or Government of India, hereinafter referred to as 'institutions'.
2. Permission to carry out research in Tiger reserves (Core Area) shall be granted only when the Chief Wildlife Warden is convinced that it is needed for conservation of tiger and associated biodiversity and not as routine.
3. The outcome of the Research activities should aim to assist in the protection and conservation management of Protected Areas as stated in the Management Plan and is undertaken in consonance with the National Wildlife Action Plan 2002 - 2016.
4. No permission shall be granted to foreigners or Non Resident Indian or institutions owned by foreigners or Non Resident Indian unless the project has been sanctioned and permission is issued by Government of India, Ministry of

Environment Forests and Climate Change, Ministry of External Affairs / Ministry of Home and by National Biodiversity Authority as referred in the Section 3 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

5. Results of Research shall not to be transferred to certain person without approval of National Biodiversity Authority as referred in Section 4 of the Biological Diversity Act subject to applicable under Section 5.
6. Prior intimation to State Biodiversity Board for obtaining biological resources for commercial utilization, bio-survey* and bio-utilization* as referred in Section 7 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (* means survey or collection of species, sub species, genes. Components and extracts of Biological Resources for any purpose that includes characterization, inventORIZATION and bioassay).
7. In case of research that involves capture, handling and collection of biological samples from any species listed in Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, the award of permission would lie with the Director (Wildlife Preservation), Government of India (Additional Director General (Wildlife) and Director, Wildlife & Preservation, Ministry of Environment and Forests). In all cases the proposal should be submitted to the Chief Wildlife Warden with a copy of the same to the Additional Director General (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.
8. It will be obligatory on the part of Protected Area Manager to encourage required priority research in their respective areas. They may follow the identified research areas for priority as are approved in the Management Plan of the respective PA. The Protected Area Manger while having discussions with the researcher shall ensure a holistic approach on scientific information based on biodiversity and related management concerns. The research proposal shall incorporate activities and issues that may enhance management effectiveness and understanding biodiversity values of the respective Protected Areas.
9. The proposal shall contain a brief synopsis containing the objectives of the proposed research/study; methodology that shall be followed, review of literature, field work plan; budget; source of funding; duration of the proposed research proposal; expected outcomes and Terms of Reference.

10. The Researchers shall submit an application in **Part I of Form I** through the Park Manager with necessary undertakings as may be needed and shall have a detailed discussion on the outline of research work (as mentioned in Para 8 above) with him / her. The Protected Area Manager shall forward the application of the research proponent with recommendation and suggestions in **Part II of Form I** to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden.
11. Research proposal which are of shorter duration may be granted by the Chief Wildlife Warden on receiving the recommendation from Protected Area Manager.
12. Research project proposal which are medium and long term duration recommended by Protected Area Manager shall be put up before Research Technical Committee (RTC), which will meet once in 3 month and consider proposals received by it up to that period.

The composition of the Research Technical Committee (RTC) is provided in Annexure A. A panel will be created which will contain the names of subject experts on different fields of biological, ecological, socio-economic, floral and faunal diversity and related subject matters related to the research proposed. The expert member/members will be invited to participate in the meetings of the RTC and to assist the Chief Wildlife Warden in finalizing the proposals for grant of permission under the Act.
13. The medium and long term research proposals will also be sent to one expert referee on the subject for his/her opinion and recommendation on the research proposal. This will be received from the referee on request of the Chief Wildlife Warden during the period for which the RTC will be convened. The panel of the experts may be utilized for this purpose also. The opinion of the expert referee will be placed in the meeting of the RTC. Wherever received early, the opinion will be conveyed to the researcher/Institution to suitably follow the advice given by the referee and to accommodate the recommendations in the revised proposal before the meeting of the RTC. Copy of such recommendations and opinion will also be sent to the PA manager concerned.
14. The opinion and suggestions if any provided by RTC while considering the project, the project proponent shall have to modify the outline of Research work

accordingly before the grant of permission is allowed by the Chief Wildlife Warden.

15. As a general principle, no collection of sample material shall be permitted. If it is required for scientific analysis, the researcher may apply citing specific need for collection [type of material, quantity, schedule of species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and the method of sample collection etc.] and the Chief Wildlife Warden may decide collection of specimen/material/derivative etc on case to case basis.
16. Permission shall be accorded as per provisions outlined under Section 12, 17B, 28 and 35 (8) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as the case may be. Non invasive techniques will be encouraged for collection of samples for genetic / molecular and other disease surveillance related research projects.
17. The Researcher shall furnish a Security / Caution Deposit and the Fee for the study / research work as approved by the Government. :

17.1: Caution Deposit:

Sl. No	Researcher / Photographer	Amount to be collected*
1.	Students : MSc., / B.Sc., etc.,	Rs. 500
2.	Ph.D. Scholar	Rs. 1000
3.	Research Organization	Rs. 5000
4.	Project oriented Research work sanction by Government of India and others	Rs. 25,000
5.	Foreigners	US Dollar 1000
6.	Photography Priced – Publication – Photography Commercial photography and priced publication on material and photograph	Rs. 5000

**The caution deposit amount will be refunded to the Researcher/Institute on submission of final report to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden and also to the PA manager concerned.*

17.2: Fees:

The following amount will be charged as fees for research work (Non-Refundable) as approved by the Government.

Sl. No	Researcher / Photographer	Amount to be collected
1.	Students: MSc./B.Sc. etc.,	Rs. 500
2.	Ph.D. Scholar	Rs. 1000
3.	Research Organization	Rs. 5000
4.	Project oriented Research work sanction by Government of India and others.	Rs. 25,000
5.	Foreigners	US Dollar 1000

6.	Photography Priced – Publication – Photography Commercial photography and priced publication on material and photograph	Rs. 5000
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18. The Park Manager may impose reasonable and required terms and PA specific conditions for the researcher / Institution.
19. In case of research period more than one year, the researcher shall provide interim progress report for the progress of research work and make a Presentation before Park Manager once in six months failing which the permit issued shall be cancelled.
20. The study team shall be permitted entry into the Protected Area only with proper forest guides / staff / eco development committee members as the case may be. Suitable amount shall be fixed by the Park Manager from time to time for such services rendered by them.
21. A researcher need not be required to pay entry fee to the park. If researcher needs to use a vehicle for his research activities inside the park, no entry fee for the vehicle will be charged. Other facilities when availed will be charged at the rate applicable to Government officials on duty.
22. The Protected Area Manager shall also issue photo Identity Card to the Researcher or his assistants valid during the period of the study.
23. Movements of the researcher and or his assistants in the PA shall be recorded in a log book to be maintained by him which will be submitted to the park management every month.
24. Movement at night shall be allowed only if it is part of the approved research project. A schedule for such movements shall be developed in consultation with the management authorities and shall be permitted accordingly by Protect Area management authorities.
25. If photography is involved during the course of Research work or collection of biological resources, copies of the photographs with identity of plants/animals shall be sent to District Forest Officer or Wildlife Warden as the case may be, who shall maintain a register for this purpose.
26. A minimum of three copies (hard and soft copy) of the published research reports and one copy (hard and soft copy) of the final research report shall be

given free of cost to the Chief Wildlife Warden, on expiry of the period of research.

27. The institution shall be held liable for any damage or loss caused due to the action of negligence or otherwise of the members of the research team. The Institution/ Researcher shall make good to Government in Forest Department for any loss caused and for the destruction or damage to any forest produce, caused and for the destruction or damage to any forest produce, wildlife, forests or the environment. The loss will be assessed by the Chief Wildlife Warden, and his decision shall be final.
28. The Chief Wildlife Warden has the full discretionary powers to grant, suspend or reject permission to regulate the field works related to the research project with respect to time and space in view of the protection and management problems in the Protected Areas.
29. The Chief Wildlife Warden may at his discretion grant extension to the period of permission on request from the head of the Institution, if there are sufficient reasons to believe that the field works could not be completed due to reasons beyond the control of the researchers/institution.
30. Since Wildlife Institute of India acts as the national nodal agency and repository on wildlife research, it would be obligatory on the part of researcher / research organization to provide a soft and hard copy of his data/ report / findings / thesis etc. to Wildlife Institute of India who in turn would make it available on their website for easy access by the interested people.
31. Final report and other scientific publications of the project (hard and soft copy) should be submitted within three months (for short-term research), six months (for long-term projects) to the Chief Wildlife Warden. For long-term projects, half years progress reports should be submitted to the park authorities by the researcher.

In case of violation of any of the conditions mentioned herein, the security will be forfeited to Government without prejudice to other legal proceedings. The Researchers of Central and State Government are exempted from payment of the fees and security deposit for research work. But the other procedural formalities for submission of application shall be followed.

Form No. I

Photograph
(*stamp size*) to be
affixed.
Photograph duly
Signed by Head
of Institution.

APPLICATION FORM**A) Part I: To be filled in by the Researcher:**

1.	Full particulars of the applicant.	
2.	Name	
3.	Address (Permanent, Official & Mailing)	
4.	Whether three stamp size photographs of the applicant is enclosed. (one of which to be affixed in this application in the manner indicated and space provided)	
5.	Brief particulars of the project approved by the Institution (Enclose copy of the project approved by the Institution)	
6.	Institution and researchers to be involved.	
7.	Name of the Principal investigator/ Researchers involved in the above work and also certify whether the researchers are Indian Citizen / Non-Citizen of India / Non Resident Indian, with a copy of their Photo ID.	
8.	Name of the Research Project	
9.	Area of Research work Sanctuary / National Park / Tiger Reserve / Biosphere Reserve / Conservation Reserve	
10.	Synopsis of the Proposed Research Work	
10.1.	Objectives of the research programme.	
10.2.	Methodology of the study proposed to be adopted	
10.3.	Brief review of literature	
10.4.	Duration of Research Period	
10.5.	Budget	
10.6.	Copy of the Sanctioned order if any issued by the funding agency	
10.7.	Funding source (details to be given)	
10.8.	Details of the biological resources and / or its by-products to be accessed and full information on the following. (If collection of Biological Specimen is involved)	
a.	Local Name (scientific name)	
b.	Name of the Specific site for collection or source.	
c.	Date of collection / visit	
d.	Details of the parts of biological resources to be assessed or collected.	
e.	Quantity to be assessed	

f.	Known uses (published and unpublished) of the genetic resource and for its by-products to be accessed.	
11.	Proposed use of the biological resource to be accessed, it is meant for scientific research, education or any other use.	
12.	Details of license fees, royalties, price and other compensations offered for the resources.	
13.	Proposed systems and modalities for Department about identification, research and other findings and the use of biological resources.	
14.	Copy of the project proposal for the study / sanctioned by the funding agency	
15.	Copy of letter on the fulfillments of the conditions as specified in the Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Biological Diversity Rule , 2004	
16.	Any other additional information	

[Attach extra sheet wherever required]

Please Note

Strike out whatever not applicable

I ----- s/o, d/o----- do herewith certify that the information given in this form is true to my best knowledge. In case there being untrue is known or established, I shall face all the legal and otherwise consequences. Such an event will also make any permission granted to me to undertake the proposed research null and void.

Date:

Place:

Signature of the Applicant

Witness:

Counter Signature of Head of Organization

B. Part II: Remarks of the Protected Areas Manager:

- a. Do you recommend the research proposal for issue of permission -----

- b. Have you added some contents or made suggestions to the proposal: Yes / No
- c. If 'Yes' please briefly elaborate
- d. Any other point you wish to elaborate or add.

[Please use extra sheet wherever required]

Date:

Signature of the PA Manager

UNDERTAKING FOR CARRYING OUT RESEARCH WORK IN PROTECTED AREA

Name of the Project:-

1. I / We hereby undertake that there shall be no collection of biological resources.
2. I / We shall be liable under the relevant provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and other condition specified by the management authority.
3. I / We hereby undertake to comply with all the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Biological Diversity rules 2004.

In case of any violations I / We shall be responsible.

Date:

Place:

Signature of the Applicant

Counter Signature of Head of Organization

**UNDERTAKING FOR GRANT OF ACCESS / COLLECTION OF BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES FOR
PROTECTED AREAS**

1. I/We hereby undertake that the accessed biological resources shall be utilized only for the purpose specified in the application which I/We shall be liable under the relevant provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and other condition specified by the management authority.
2. I/We hereby undertake to comply with all the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Biological Diversity rules 2004.

In case of any violations I/We shall be responsible.

Date:

Place:

Signature of the Applicant

Counter Signature of Head of Organization

Annexure – A
Members – Research Technical Committee

1.	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, Chennai.	Chairman
2.	Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PT)	Member
3.	Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Chennai.	Member
4.	Chief Conservator of Forests (Research)	Member
5.	Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) and Project Director, TBGP	Member
6.	Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board	Special Invitee
7.	Chief Conservator of Forests (Biodiversity).	Member Secretary

The Committee will Co-opt additional Subject-specialists as special invitees depending on the subject, nature and outline of the Research activities proposed to be undertaken by the Researcher. List of subject-specialists will be dynamic in nature and will be updated every year.