



ABSTRACT

Forest – Announcement – Establishment of Marine Elite Force with two units - for strategic protection of the coastal and marine biodiversity, prevention of wildlife poaching and illegal trade in coastal regions – Mitigating disasters affecting wildlife species and their habitats in the coastal regions of Tamil Nadu with focus on Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve including Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park and the Palk Bay Areas - Approved – Orders - Issued.

Environment, Climate Change - Forest (FR.14) Department

G.O.(D) No.36

Dated: 22.02.2022

பிலவ, மாசி- 10

திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு-2053

Read:

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden,
Chennai-15. C.No.WL6/17338/2021, Dated: 09.10.2021 and 08.12.2021.

ORDER:-

Tamil Nadu has a long coastline of about 1076 km which has unique marine resources spread over in the Indian Ocean, Palk Bay and the Bay of Bengal. The Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar occupy nearly 675 km long coast line. The Gulf of Mannar is endowed with rich varieties of marine flora and fauna and is home to significant ecosystems, such as, the coral reefs, rocky shores, sandy beaches, mud flats, estuaries, mangrove forests, seaweed stretches and seagrass beds that rare and endangered corals, seagrasses, crustaceans, molluscs, fin fishes and seaweeds apart from the seasonally migrating marine mammals such as whales, dolphins, porpoises and marine turtles. The Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay are considered as "Biologists paradise". Record of over 4223 species of flora and fauna has been documented by various researchers and investigators over several decades.

The marine resources are constantly exploited for economic reasons. Many protected marine species are also hunted illegally by the poachers and smugglers as those fetch huge prices in domestic and international illegal wildlife markets. Thus, many of rare and endangered species are facing constant threats to their survival due to over exploitation. Practice of prohibited trawl net fishing and other illegal fishing methods bring additional stress on the species. Marine turtles, sea cucumbers, sea horses, sharks and rays, pipe fishes, dugongs, dolphins, and sea shells face extraordinary hunting pressures.

In order to address the above and to strengthen protection in the ecological sensitive coastal marine areas in the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere reserve particularly the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park and the Palk Bay, establishment of Marine Elite Force with professional training and exposure is proposed with mainly the following objectives, inter alia,

1. Strengthening protection and sustainable management of marine area.
2. Disaster management affecting marine and coastal wildlife.
3. Capacity development
4. Intelligence collection and dissemination.

2. Considering the above, the Government have announced on the floor of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 03.09.2021 that "A Marine Elite Force will be set up in the State to combat marine wildlife crimes, including the smuggling, prevention and poaching of marine animals". In accordance with this announcement, it is proposed to establish a specialized Marine Elite Force to protect the valuable resources by preventing crime activities in the region and other disasters. Major components of Marine Elite Force are as below:-

- i) Establishing two units of Marine Elite Force
- ii) Engaging five Marine Watchers per unit on contract basis
- iii) Purchase of two deep water boats
- iv) Engaging two boat drivers
- v) Providing ration / special allowance / risk allowance for Marine Watchers / Boat Drivers
- vi) Providing fuel for patrolling boat
- vii) Intelligence Collection and data sharing and interaction meeting with other stake holders i.e. customs, coast guard, navy, marine police and fisheries
- viii) Providing suitable Marine field gadgets such as life jacket, camera traps, IR cameras, diving equipments, snorkeling equipments etc.
- ix) Providing of 10 Digital Handheld Transceivers
- x) Providing camping equipments night lamp, torch, tents etc.,
- xi) Providing brochures, posters, pamphlets etc.,

3. The Government after careful examination of the said proposal, accord sanction for establishment of Marine Elite Force with two units for strategic protection of the coastal and marine biodiversity, prevention of wildlife poaching and illegal trade in coastal regions, and mitigating disasters affecting wildlife species and their habitats in the coastal regions of Tamil Nadu with focus on Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve including Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park and the Palk Bay areas to the tune of Rs.1,09,65,000/- (Rupees One crore nine lakh and sixty five thousand only) for the year 2021-2022 towards the items of works, as annexed to this order.

..3..

4. The expenditure sanctioned in para 3 above shall be debited to the following head of account:-

“2406. Forestry and Wildlife - 02. Environmental Forestry and Wildlife -
110 Wildlife Preservation - State's Expenditure – AS Marine Elite Force

Sl. No	Component	Detailed Head of Account	DP Code	Amount (in Rs)
1	Payment of Special and Risk Allowances @ Rs.1,000/- per month	301 Salaries - 04 Other Allowance	2406 02 110 AS 30104	36,000
2	Awareness campaign	308 Advertising and Publicity - 01 Advertisement Charges	2406 02 110 AS 30801	2,00,000
3	Procurement of marine modern tools	319 Machinery and Equipment's - 01 Purchase	2406 02 110 AS 31901	18,00,000
4	Purchase of deep water boats	321 Motor Vehicles - 01 Purchase	2406 02 110 AS 32101	80,00,000
5	Intelligence collection, data sharing with stake holders	333 Payment for Professional and Special Services - 03 Special Service	2406 02 110 AS 33303	2,00,000
6	Engaging marine watchers @ Rs.12,500/- per month	333 Payment for Professional and Special Services - 04 Contract Payment	2406 02 110 AS 33304	4,50,000
7	Ration for Marine Watchers and Boat Drivers	343 Cost of Ration - 01 Cost of Ration	2406 02 110 AS 34301	54,000
8	Fuel for patrolling boats	345 Petroleum, Oil and Lubricant - 01 Petroleum, Oil and Lubricant	2406 02 110 AS 34501	2,25,000
			GRAND TOTAL	1,09,65,000

5. The expenditure sanctioned at para 3 above, shall constitute an item of "New Service" and the approval of the Legislature shall be obtained in due course of time by an inclusion in the Supplementary Estimates for the year 2021-2022. Pending approval of the Legislature, the expenditure shall initially be met by drawl of an advance from the Contingency Fund. Orders regarding this will be issued by the Finance (BG.I) Department separately. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(..4..)

..4..

shall apply to the Government in Finance (BG.II) Department in prescribed format along with a copy of this order for sanction of an advance from the Contingency Fund. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests shall also send necessary draft explanatory notes for inclusion of the expenditure in the Supplementary Estimates for the year 2021-2022, without fail.

6. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests is the Estimating, Reconciling and controlling authority for the above new head of account. The Pay and Accounts Officer / Treasury Officer concerned are directed to open the above new Head of Account in their accounts.

7. This order issues with the concurrence of Finance Department vide its U.O.No.7617/Fin(ECC&F)/2022, Dated: 22.02.2022 with Additional Sanction Ledger Number 1637 (One thousand six hundred and thirty seven).

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

SUPRIYA SAHU
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Department),
Chennai-15.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden,
Chennai-15.

The Principal Accountant General, Chennai-18

The Pay Accounts Officer, Chennai-35.

The Accountant General, Chennai-18.

Copy to

The Hon'ble Chief Minister's Office, Chennai-9.

The Senior Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister (Forests), Chennai-9.

The Private Secretary to Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department, Chennai-9.

The Finance (AHDF&FW / BG.I / BG.II) Department, Chennai-9.

Environment, Climate Change and Forest (FR.7) Department, Chennai-9.

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//FORWARDED BY ORDER//

V.S. Damm
Section Officer *22/02/2022*
22/02/2022

**Annexure to G.O (D) No.36,
Environment, Climate Change and Forest (FR.14) Department,
Dated:22.02.2022.**

**Cost Table for Establishment of two Marine Elite Force Units for prevention of
marine animal hunting including smuggling in Gulf of Mannar Marine National
Park during the year 2021-2022**

Sl. No.	Item of Works	Qty	Unit	Rate per Unit	Amount sanctioned for 2021-2022
					(Rs. in lakhs)
I Protection and Enforcement infrastructure					
1.	Engaging 5 marine watchers per unit 5 Nos. X 2 unit @ Rs.15,000 per month (which includes Salary, Risk Allowance, Special Allowance & Ration)	10	Nos.	0.15	4.50
2.	Purchase of deep water boat with customization for each of 2 Elite Force Units with well equipped accessories	2	Nos.	40	80.00
3.	Engaging 2 boat drivers @ Rs.15,000 per month (which includes Salary, Risk Allowance, Special Allowance & Ration)	2	Nos.	0.15	0.90
4.	Fuel for patrolling boat @ 750 litre per month per unit	750 litre per unit	litre	0.001	2.25
	Sub-Total – I				87.65
II Training and exposures in specialized centres in India and abroad					
1.	Intelligence Collection and data sharing and interaction meeting with other stake holders i.e customs, coast guard, navy, marine police and fisheries	LS	LS	LS	2.00
	Sub-Total - II				2.00

Sl. No.	Item of Works	Qty	Unit	Rate per Unit	Amount sanctioned for 2021-2022 (Rs. in lakhs)
III Procurement of Marine Modern tools					
1.	Providing suitable Marine field gadgets such as life jacket, camera traps, IR cameras, under water drones, scuba diving equipments and snorkeling equipments, oxygen mask under sea walk equipment, under water monitoring equipments including other surveillance system, modern tools and AMCs	LS	LS	LS	10.00
2.	Digital Handheld Transceivers for communication	10	LS	0.3	3.00
3.	Camping equipments such as night lamp, torch, tents, foldable table and stools, chairs etc.	2	Nos	2.00	5.00
Sub-Total – III					18.00
IV Awareness campaign and advocacy					
1.	Brochures, posters and pamphlets, publication @ 1 lakh/division/year	LS	LS	LS	2.00
Sub-Total - IV					2.00
Grand Total (I + II + III + IV)					109.65
(Rupees One crore, nine lakh and sixty five thousand only)					

SUPRIYA SAHU
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//True Copy//

V.S. Sahu
Section Officer 22/02/2022
22/02/2022