



ABSTRACT

Forests - Wildlife – Announcements made by the Government of Tamil Nadu during 2021 – 2022 – Setting up of Tamil Nadu Forest and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau with Four Zonal Offices at Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai and Ramanathapuram– Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTS (FR.5) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms) No.97

Dated: 02.11.2021

பிலவ, ஜப்பசி-16

திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு- 2052

Read:

1. Announcement made by the Hon'ble Minister (Forests) on the floor of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 03.09.2021
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden letter No. WL6/17338/2021, dated: 09.10.2021.

ORDER: -

Forest and Wildlife crimes not only adversely impact the diverse flora and fauna of a region but also seriously impact the entire eco-system. Poaching and organised illegal wild life trade has serious ramifications on the Biodiversity and can lead to loss of rare species thereby threatening the sustainable and equitable growth. Tamil Nadu is one of the richest biodiversity regions in India and ranks first in India in the floral biodiversity. With 15 Wild life sanctuaries, 15 Bird Sanctuaries, 5 Tiger Reserves, 4 Elephant Reserves, 5 National Parks and 3 Biosphere Reserves. Tamil Nadu's Forest and wildlife wealth is unparalleled. It is in this context that conservation of Forest and Wildlife wealth in Tamil Nadu assumes great significance.

2. Considering the necessity to conserve the rich biodiversity of Tamil Nadu and prevent illegal forest and wildlife trade, the Government had made an Announcement on the floor of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 03rd September 2021, that a Forest and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau shall be set up to detect and prevent organized forest and wildlife crimes at State level, with following objectives.

- i. Combat forest and wildlife crime through a well designed institutional network of trained forest personnel.
- ii. Gather information related to wildlife crime and illegal trade including trans boundary trade.
- iii. Coordinate with various National and International organisations to access information and intelligence with the view to reduce and control forest and wildlife crime.

- iv. Create a state level forest and wildlife Crime Data Bank to assist investigating agencies.
- v. Develop and implement various standard operating protocols relating to forest and wildlife crime.
- vi. Create a cadre of well trained officials from among the Government departments over the years for effective monitoring of illegal trade.
- vii. Improve investigation quality for better appreciation of evidence contributing to better investigation and control of illegal wildlife trade.
- viii. Build informant networks among local communities that live in close proximity to forest and wildlife habitats
- ix. Map poaching and illegal trade hotspots in the State for better action.

3. Tamil Nadu Forest and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (TN FWCB) will be helpful to understand the latest trends and related models of forest and wildlife crime patterns. It shall also empower the Forest Department through IT solutions in criminal intelligence gathering and effective enforcement of Forest and Wildlife Acts.

4. The Tamil Nadu Forest and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (TN FWCB) shall develop and maintain state-wide data on forest and wildlife offences, forest offenders and planned wildlife smuggling incidences. It shall use required information technology practices and forest and wildlife crime information in conjunction with intelligence agencies such as Customs, Revenue Intelligence, State Police and other State Forest Departments. This will help for better adaptation to changing crime and criminal practices in the current context.

5. The headquarters of the Bureau shall be at Chennai. Four zonal offices at Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai and Ramanathapuram shall be set up. As the project requires detailed consultation with investigation agencies and legal experts, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) needs to be prepared .

6. Accordingly, Government after careful examination, accord administrative sanction for setting up of the "Tamil Nadu Forest and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau" with four zonal offices at Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, and Ramanathapuram. The Government also accord sanction of Rs 4.00 lakhs (Rupees four lakhs only) for preparation of Detailed Project Report from the funds available under the Tamil Nadu State Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA).

7. This order issues with the concurrence of the Finance department vide its U.O.No 120/JS(GKT)/2021, dated:22.10.2021.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

SUPRIYA SAHU
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(HoD),Chennai-15.
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
and Chief Wildlife Warden, Chennai-15.

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, CAMPA, Chennai-15
The Accountant General, Chennai-18.

Copy to:

The Finance Department, Chennai-09

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

Private Secretary to Principal Secretary

Environment, Climate Change and Forests) Department,
Chennai-9.

Environment, Climate Change and Forests (FR-10) Department,
Chennai-09.

SF/SCs.

B. Subhang
SECTION OFFICER
[Signature]