

भारत सरकार
Government of India
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
राष्ट्रीय व्याघ्र संरक्षण प्राधिकरण
National Tiger Conservation Authority

F.No.7-16 /2010 –NTCA (Part-II)

New Delhi, the October 11, 2019

To,

Chief Wildlife Warden(s),
All Tiger Range States.

Sub: Phasing out of tourism (Night Stay) from Core Areas of Tiger Reserves-reg.

Sir,

You are aware that tourism in Tiger Reserves is regulated and managed as per the prescriptions given in Tiger Conservation Plan approved by National Tiger Conservation Authority under section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The basic principle behind the regulation and management of tourism in Tiger Reserves is to adopt low-impact wildlife tourism, which protects ecological integrity of forest and wildlife areas, secure wildlife values and its surrounding areas while maintaining the Core Areas as inviolate space.

In view of above, I am to bring following Guidelines, provisions of the Act and relevant directions of Hon'ble Apex Court to your kind notice in this regard;

1. The tourism in Tiger Reserves is governed by **National Tiger Conservation Authority (Normative Standards for Tourism activities and Project Tiger) Guidelines, 2012** notified under 38 O 1 (c) vide F. No. 15-31/2012-NTCA dated 15.10.2012, which were further re-iterated by Hon'ble Apex court in **Shri Ajay Dubey Vs National Tiger Conservation Authority and Ors, SLP (civil) No.(s). 21339/2011, LAWS(SC)-2012-10-104, Decided on October 16, 2012.** Para 2.2.12 of these Guidelines provides for phasing out of permanent tourist facilities from core critical areas of Tiger Reserve as below;

"Permanent tourist facilities located inside core or critical tiger habitat, which are being used for wildlife tourism shall be phased out on a time frame decided by the LAC. Strict plans ensuring low impact adherence by these facilities shall be developed and approved by LAC for implementation. There shall be no privately run facilities such as catering, etc., inside the core or critical tiger habitat where night stay is permitted. Such existing facilities if any, are to be run by the Tiger Conservation Foundations."

2. In context of directives by Hon'ble Apex Court dated 25.11.2005 in **I.A. No.1220 (Interim Report of CEC in I.A. No. 548) and I.A. No. 994 in W.P.C. No. 202/1995**, an Advisory was issued by this Authority vide letter No. 1-16/93-PT (Part-I) Dated the 12th August, 2010 for not using patrolling camps / chowkis / watch towers inside a Tiger Reserve (Core as well as Buffer) for accommodating tourists or facilitating tourism.

3. Core Areas of Tiger Reserves are mainly constituted of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries, where the *proviso* under Section 33 (a) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 is applicable as below;

" Provided that no construction of commercial tourist lodges, hotels, zoos and safari parks shall be undertaken inside a Sanctuary except with the prior approval of the National Board."

4. In I.A. No. 2354-2355 in W.P. (Civil) No. 202/1995 T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad Vs. Union of India and Ors. decided on 05-07-2018, Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed as below;

"Forest Rest Houses / Inspection Bungalows located within the forest area including the Protected Areas shall not be transferred to private and commercial entities in the name of public-private partnership or by whatever name such an arrangement is called, for promotion of any form of tourism including Ecotourism."

Above directions have been re-iterated by F.No 12-17/2016-NTCA dated 18.07.2018 of this Authority also.

In view of compliance of above provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Guidelines of this Authority and directions of Hon'ble Apex Court, you are requested to furnish the details of permanent tourism facilities (Night Stay) available inside the Core Areas of Tiger Reserves, extent of phasing out done so far after the aforesaid guidelines of 2012 by this Authority and timeline in which these permanent tourism facilities will be phased out completely from Tiger Reserves at earliest.

Yours faithfully,

anupayak
11/11/19
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Copy to: -

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2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (HoFF), All Tiger Range States
3. Inspector General, Regional Offices, NTCA (Guwahati & Bangalore)
4. Field Director(s), All Tiger Reserves
5. AIG, Regional Office, Nagpur

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11/11/19
(Dr. Anup Kumar Nayak)
Member Secretary (NTCA)