

भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests



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NEW DELHI

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PARYAVARAN BHAWAN, C.G.O. COMPLEX
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LODI ROAD, NEW DELHI-110003

CHIEF SECRETARY OFFICE
By No. 962
Date 20/3

No.16/2/84-CSC

Dated the 14th March, 1989.

Pranman

To

The Chief Secretary,
Government of Assam,
Dispur,
GUWAHATI

21.3.89

SUB : ESTABLISHMENT OF BIOSPHERE RESERVE AT MANAS IN ASSAM

Pranman
discuss on
21.3.89

Sir,

The Government of India has identified potential sites for preserving biological diversity with the following broad objectives:-

1873

- conservation of representative samples of ecosystem;
- provision of long-term conservation of genetic diversity in-situ;
- promotion of basic and applied research work and its monitoring; and
- dissemination of experience for education and training.

g. Frank
g. Eminent
CCF

2. Manas in the State of Assam represents the Burma monsoon forests biogeographic region. In accordance with the guidelines on the subject, a project document for setting up of a Biosphere Reserve in Manas area was prepared by the Ministry of Environment & Forests based on the report prepared by the Zoological Survey of India.

3. The matter has been considered in detail by the Government of India in consultation with the Government of Assam and it has been decided to set up the Biosphere Reserve in the Manas area. The Biosphere Reserve will be deemed to have come into being with effect from 14.3.1989.

Contd.....2



4. The total area of the Biosphere Reserve is about 2,837 sq. kms., i.e., the existing Manas Tiger Reserve. The boundary and zonation into core and buffer zones of the Biosphere Reserve are given at Annexure-I. The details of the area to be earmarked for manipulation activities such as forestry, agriculture, eco-restoration, agro-forestry, etc., will be worked out by the project authorities.

5. The following will be the important aspects of the Manas Biosphere Reserve:-

- a) The core and the buffer areas and manipulation activities which may be permitted in the buffer zone will be in conformity with the general guidelines for biosphere reserve and will be determined accordingly by the Management Council. A detailed map will subsequently be submitted by the Government of Assam.
- b) The core zone of the Biosphere Reserve will be kept absolutely undisturbed. The Biosphere Reserve by itself will not affect the rights of the tribal or other people of the area.
- c) The constitution of the Biosphere Reserve by itself will not, in any way, change the status of legal ownership of the land and forests.
- d) There will be a Biosphere Reserve Management Council with the composition given in Annexure-II.
- e) The Government of India will provide financial assistance for approved items of expenditure included in the Action and Management Plan to be prepared by the Government of Assam. This may broadly come under the following heads:-
 - Survey
 - Conservation
 - Protection
 - Eco restoration
 - Education & awareness
- f) There will be a Research Committee as per composition shown in Annexure-III.
- g) The subjects of research and the institutions identified for the purpose are shown in Annexure-IV. There may be additions and alterations in the list, when necessary.

- h) The Government of Assam will set up a local Committee for coordination of the activities of the various departments in the Biosphere Reserve area.
- i) The Government of Assam will nominate an Officer as Director of the Biosphere Reserve. He may be an existing functionary who may not necessarily be an exclusive functionary for this purpose.

Yours faithfully,

(K.P. GEETHAKRISHNAN)

SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Encl : As stated

Copy to:-

1. The Secretary,
Planning Commission,
Yojana Bhavan,
New Delhi.
2. Chief (Science),
Planning Commission,
Yojana Bhavan,
New Delhi.
3. Secretary,
Department of Forests.,
Government of Assam.,
Dispur, GUWAHATI.
4. Secretary,
Deptt. of Environment,
Govt. of Assam,
Dispur, GUWAHATI.
5. Chief Conservator of Forests,
Govt. of Assam,
Dispur, GUWAHATI.
6. Chief Wildlife Warden,
Govt. of Assam,
Dispur, GUWAHATI

(K.P. GEETHAKRISHNAN)

SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

ANNEXURE - I

ZONATION - MANAS BIOSPHERE RESERVE

General description and the boundary:

The Manas Biosphere Reserve will cover an area of 2,837 sq.kms., in the State of Assam alongwith international boundary between India and Bhutan. The area runs along the Indo-Bhutan international boundary connecting rivers Sankosh and Dhansiri in west and east respectively, in the Darrang district of Assam. The area lies between the longitudes $90^{\circ} 30'$ to $91^{\circ} 15'$ E and latitudes $25^{\circ} 45'$ to $26^{\circ} 50'$ N.

Zonation: Core zone : The Manas Biosphere Reserve will have a core zone of 391 sq.kms., i.e., the core of the existing Manas Tiger Reserve.

Buffer zone : The remaining area, i.e., 2,446 sq. kms., will serve as buffer zone of the Biosphere Reserve.

ANNEXURE - III

COMPOSITION OF RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON MANAS BIOSPHERE RESERVE

1. Chief Wildlife Warden,
Government of Assam .. Member Convener
2. Director,
Zoological Survey of India .. Member
3. Representative of Guwahati
University .. Member
4. Field Director, Manas Project Tiger .. Member
5. Director,
Botanical Survey of India .. Member
6. Representative of the
Ministry of Environment & Forests .. Member
7. Director,
Wildlife Institute of India,
Dehra Dun. .. Member

ANNEXURE - IV

LIST OF RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS AND PRIORITY AREAS IDENTIFIED FOR UNDERTAKING RESEARCH IN MANAS BIOSPHERE RESERVE AREA

<u>Institutions</u>		<u>Priority Areas</u>
1. Regional Centre of Botanical Survey of India	..	Floral Inventories
2. Regional Station of Zoological Survey of India	..	Faunal Inventories
3. Guwahati University	..	Ecological Studies
4. Wildlife Institute of India	..	Study on Wildlife
5. Central Water Commission	..	Hydrological studies
6. Regional Centre of Indian Council of Agricultural Research.	..	Problems connected with landuse specially agriculture.

Secy. Forest U.O.

U/O. NO.WL/FG.33/114/EP/76-82
Dated Guwahati, the 24th Jan.'89.

The core area within a Biosphere Reserve is an area to be maintained as sanctum sanctorum wherefrom all biotic interference are to be completely eliminated. Normal forestry operations such as harvesting of yields, regeneration efforts and all other forms of silvicultural activities are also not permissible within the core area.

In the instant case the core area to be constituted within the 25 kms limit from the Indo Bhutan boundary as suggested by the Govt. of India has not yet been defined and delineated. It would be curved out in due course from within the proposed Biosphere reserve which will comprise of a part of Manas RF west of Sukanjan river, Bengtel RF, Kuklung RF, Chiranj RF, Ripu RF and Kachugaon RF.

The complete elimination of forestry operations within the core area will result in considerable loss of revenue. It is therefore envisaged that in the remaining areas of these reserve forests outside the core area, the existing management practices shall be continued as before.

In this connection a map showing the extent of the proposed Biosphere Reserve is enclosed.

o/c

ASAM
24.1.89

Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife,
A S S A M.

24.1.89
Issued 00:00:00