

## **GUIDELINES FOR COLLECTION OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS FROM FOREST AREAS FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.**

### **Need for Scientific Research**

Research and monitoring are very significant in strengthening wildlife management. Qualitative and quantitative inventory of floral and faunal diversity studies on their habitat requirements, ecological aspects, dynamics of change etc., are essential for better management of the Protected Areas (PAs) as well as non-PAs. Wildlife Research is being undertaken within the PAs and other forest areas of the state by various scientific institutions. Some of the projects involve collection of specimens of plants, insects, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds etc.

The Western Ghats form one of the 25 biodiversity hot spots of the World. Therefore, there is grave concern in the State about bio-piracy. In order to ward off chances of bio-piracy, it has been decided to streamline the guidelines for collection of biological specimens from the forests. Hence, hereinafter permit to enter Wildlife Sanctuaries/ National Parks / Closed areas and other forest areas, to collect specimens for the purpose of scientific research, shall be granted by the Chief Wildlife Warden.

### **Conditions for Grant of Permit:**

1. Permits for research works in Protected Areas and other forest areas in the ownership and possession of the Government shall be granted only for those Research Project which are approved and sponsored by Research Institutions repute or Universities or Scientific Organizations owned or recognized by State Governments of Indian Union or Government of India (hereinafter referred to as institutions).
2. The authority to grant such permission shall be Chief Wildlife Warden (hereinafter referred to as authority).
3. Permits shall be granted only on application recommended by the Institution in the proforma described for the same.
4. Principal Investigator, co-investigators and minimum number of assistants shall only be permitted to enter the PAs/Forests for the work.
5. No permissions shall be granted to foreigners or institutions owned by foreigners unless the project is sanctioned and permission is issued by Government of India in Ministry of Environment & Forests.
6. State Biodiversity Committee may also be consulted if the “Authority” (see column 2 above) so feels.
7. For any species available outside the forest area and for any other research study possible outside the forest area, no permission will be given for collection and study of such specimen from the forest area.

8. The researcher shall collect only specimens of permitted species from such Wildlife Sanctuaries/National Parks/Forest areas and on such dates/time actually agreed by the researcher and the Divisional Forest Officer/Wildlife Warden having jurisdiction over the area.
9. The Researcher and his team shall be bound to act in accordance with the existing Acts, Rules and directions of the concerned officers.
10. The field programmes and visits of the research team shall be intimated to the concerned Wildlife Warden/Divisional Forest Officer/Asst. Wildlife Warden/Range Officer in advance.
11. The researcher shall collect only minimum number of specimens absolutely required for the research work. The list of specimens collected shall be submitted to the Chief Wildlife Warden/Range Officer immediately after each visit. In the case of inventory of flora/fauna, since the identity of the specimen collected is not known, a list of number of unidentified specimens collected shall be given.
12. If the photography is involved during the course of collection of biological resources, copies of the photographs with identity of plants/animals shall be sent to Divisional Forest Officer or Wildlife Warden as the case may be, who shall maintain a register for this purpose.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. The institution shall furnish a security for Rs.5000/- (Rupees five thousand only) by way of deposit in Treasury Savings Bank A/c pledged in favour of Chief Wildlife Warden, which shall be released to the institution after settlement of liabilities on completion of the project. In case of violation of any of the conditions mentioned herein, the security will be forfeited to Government without prejudice to other legal proceedings. Institutions under the Central and State Government and autonomous bodies under the Central and State Government are exempted from payment of the security deposit. But the other procedural formalities for submission of application shall be followed by such institutions.
16. 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 problem in the Protected Areas/Forest areas.

17. Chief Wildlife Warden or any competent authority shall have the powers to suspend, withdraw or cancel the permission granted, for violation of any of the conditions of permission, or it is subsequently found that any particulars furnished by the applicant in the application are not true or for any other just and valid reasons to be recorded in writing and, the Government or Department or any Forest Officer shall not be liable to pay any compensation for loss or damages or inconveniences caused due to the suspension, withdrawal or cancellation of the permit.
18. Any vehicle, vessel, weapon, tree or tool that has been used for violation of the conditions specified herein shall be forfeited to the State Government and the offender will be proceeded against as per provisions of the law in operation in forest area/wildlife sanctuary/national park/closed area of the State.
19. The study team shall be permitted entry into the forest area only with proper accompaniment of forest guides/staff as the case may be. Suitable amount is fixed by the Chief Wildlife Warden from time to time will have to be remitted by the study team for such services rendered by the Forest Department.

**Procedure for Grant of Permit.**

20. Permission shall be granted only on application recommended by the Institution in the proforma prescribed for the same with two copies of the Project proposal and the security deposit Rs.5000/- to the Chief Wildlife Warden and one copy of the project proposal to Wildlife Warden/Divisional Forest Officer of the Protected Area / Forest Division where the researcher has to work. Institutions under the Central or State Government and autonomous bodies under the Central or State Government are exempted from payment of the security deposit.
21. The application for permits for research work involving sanction, collection is given in **Annexure-1** (separate application forms to be filled by the Principal Investigator and Co-investigator, if both of them require permission for collection).
22. Three number of stamp size photograph shall accompany the application form (one of which shall be affixed on the application in the manner indicated and space provided).
23. The permission will be granted in the format given as Annexure-II.
24. 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.

Annexure I

Photograph (stamp  
Size) to be affixed.  
Photograph to be  
Signed by Head  
of Instituion.

**APPLICATION FORM**

**PART – A**

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.	Objectives of the research programme.	
8.	Budget	
9.	Funding source (details to be given)	
10.	Details of the biological resources and / or its by-products to be accessed and full information on the following.	
a.	Identification (scientific name)	
b.	Specific site of collection or source.	
c.	Date of collection / visit.	

d.	Details of the parts of biological resource to be assessed.	
e.	Quantity to be assessed	
f.	Known uses (published and unpublished) of the genetic resource and for its by-products to be accessed.	
4.	Proposed use of the biological resource to be accessed, it is meant for scientific research, education or any other use).	
5.	Details of licence fees, royalties, price and other compensations offered for the resources.	
6.	Proposed systems and modalities for Department about identification, research and other findings and the use of biological resources.	

**PART – B**  
**UNDERTAKING**

I/We hereby undertake that the accessed biological resources, the details of which are given in Column 3, shall be utilized only for the purpose specified in Column 4, filling which I/We shall be liable under the relevant provisions of the Kerala Forest Act, 1961 and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Date: .....

Place: .....

Signature of the Applicant.

Counter Signature of Head of Organization

