

जयराम रमेश
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FOREWORD

I am pleased to introduce the draft guidelines for voluntary village relocation in notified core/critical tiger habitats of tiger reserves.

Section 38V 4(i) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 specifically provides for the consolidation of key tiger habitats, based on the urgent recommendations of the Tiger Task Force.

It defines core or critical tiger habitats as:

“areas of National Parks and Sanctuaries where it has been established, on the basis of scientific and objective criteria, that such areas are required to be kept as inviolate for the purpose of tiger conservation, without affecting the rights of the Scheduled Tribes or other such forest dwellers, and notified as such by the State Government in consultation with an Expert Committee constituted for the purpose”

The purpose of these guidelines is to facilitate the State implementing agencies in carrying out voluntary relocation/rehabilitation from notified core/critical tiger habitats, in compliance with the relevant provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, read with the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. **The guidelines aim to ensure that all necessary statutory procedures for the full and effective implementation of relocation are adhered to; and that in the process of conservation and protection of tigers, the rights of forest dwellers are respected.**

These draft guidelines are being placed on the Ministry of Environment and Forests website for a period of 30 days, to seek inputs from a wide spectrum of stakeholders.


(Jairam Ramesh)