



## **Ban on Green Felling**

In 1995 the Government of Sikkim banned the Green felling in forests & no clear felling, only dead, dying and diseased trees were allowed to be removed for the *bonafide* use.

The total ban on green felling for commercial purposes and the defense of this philosophy for over a decade has made our forests in terms of character and composition, an envy of our neighbors. Needless therefore, to mention that planners, scientists and advisors are increasingly of the view that Sikkim is eligible to claim carbon sequestration cost for amelioration of regional climatic conditions by retaining and regenerating forest cover.

Forest protection, wildlife conservation and maintenance of environmental fabric in the hills of Sikkim have attracted the prime focus of the Government over the last several years. Legislations, rules and guidelines have either been put in place or revised and amended to make them more stringent.

The following rules /notifications deserve special mention:

- Amendment of Sikkim Forests, Water Courses and Road Reserves (Preservation and Protection) Act, 1988:

The State Government has brought about vital amendments in the present Sikkim Forest Water Courses and Road Reserve (Preservation and Protection) Act, 1988 (Amendment 2000) to make the specified clause more stringent and harsh in enforcement. Offences such as illegal felling of trees, encroachment and grazing in the Reserve Forest have been made non-bailable. Other important initiatives, measures and actions taken are Intensification of Management & Protection, The overall management of forest land and forestry resources have been intensified by better patrolling, effective forest check posts, check on illegal extraction and transit of forest produce, reporting and recording of all forests offences and other information in Head quarter control room and Division control rooms, registration of forest cases, check on leakage of forest revenue and better communication system.

- The Sikkim Forests (Compounding of Offences) Rules, 1998  
This rule notified by the government is to make strict rules for offender who commits any forest offence. Thereby keep a check on the offenders for violating the rules.
  - The Sikkim Transit of Timber and other Forest Produce Rules, 1999.
  - The Sikkim Forest (Detection, Enquiry and Disposal of Forest Offences) Rules, 2002
  - The Sikkim Forest Department Reward Rules, 1998
  - The Sikkim Forests Cattle Tress Pass Rules, 2000
  - The Sikkim Private and Other Non-Forest Lands .Tree Felling Rules, 2006
  - The Sikkim Forest (Allotment of Areas for Quarrying of Sand and Stone) Rules, 2006.
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