



Chapter V

Decentralization of Powers

Both administrative and financial has become the corner stone of Government policy to make the administration more responsive and responsible. Forest Divisions have been empowered to clear bills and payments towards small works and wages for nursery works, maintenance and repairs, fuel expenditures, office expenses. Peoples' participation, co-operation and their involvement has been the base and basis for natural resource management.

Role & Responsibility of different Circles.

1. Territorial Circle

Role: Protection & Management of Forests.

Responsibility: Protection of RF, Khasmal, Gaucharan & Privately owned Forests, Implementation of Sikkim Forest, Water Courses and Road Reserve (Protection & Preservation) Act, 1988 and Indian Forest Act, 1927. Regulation of transit of Forest Produce like timber, firewood, charcoal, NTFP and Medicinal Plants, Implementation of NAP (National Afforestation Programme) through FDA & JFMCs. Fire protection etc.

2. Social Forestry & RVP.

Role: Afforestation through Society.

Responsibility: Afforestation in privately owned forests through villagers. Awareness raising among the people for increase in free cover through Social and Farm Forestry. Maintenance of nurseries for afforestation and distribution of free seedling for planting in non-agricultural private lands. Treatment critical watersheds through integrated vegetative and engineering measures through river valley project schemes funded by Government of India. Watersheds of high & very priority are identified by this circle and projects are submitted to Government of India for sanction. Presently four watersheds in West & in East are under implementation sediment discharge is monitor before and after treatment by creating sediment monitoring stations in representative outlets. This Circle also functions as coordinator for implementation of Integrated Wastelands Development Projects funded by Government of India in ratio of 91.67 (centre), 8.33 (State). The schemes are implemented through the Zilla Panchayat in all districts.

3. Land Use & Environment.

Role: Soil and Water Conservation in Forest Lands.

Responsibility: Implementation of Schemes for soil and water Conservation through vegetative and engineering measures in the Watersheds. Raising of nursery for plantation in eroded areas for checking soil erosion. Protection and management of wetlands. Treatment of landslide affected areas. Management of Environment Information System. Catchment area treatment of power projects etc.



4. Wildlife.

Role: Protection of Wildlife.

Responsibility: Management of Protected Areas (Pas) for protection and conservation of wildlife, Protection of wildlife outside the PAs. Implementation of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Regulation of Transit of wildlife and wildlife products. Preparation & Implementation of Wildlife Management Plans in PAs. Implementation of NAP through FDAs & EDCs.

5. Himalayan Zoological Park.

Role: Ex-situ Conservation of Wild Animals & Birds.

Responsibility: Ex-situ Conservation of Wild Animals & Birds for education, research and eco-tourism. Providing similar type of habitat to the Captive animals as that in natural habitat. Study of breeding habits of the rare and endangered wild animals and birds. Monitoring of the health of the animals and treatment of experienced senior veterinarian. Regulation of visitors to the Park.

6. N.T.F.P.

Role: Cultivation & Management of NTFP & Medicinal Plants inside & outside Forest areas.

Responsibility: Implementation of schemes for cultivation of Non Timber Forest Produce and Medicinal Plants inside and outside forest areas in collaboration with National Medicinal Plants Boards and State Medicinal Plants Boards. Creation herbal gardens for demonstration and awareness of the people for motivation and research purpose. Identification of traditional herbal healers and their recognition. Registration & Promotion of contractual farmers for medicinal plants cultivation by providing subsidy and marketing.

7. Working Plan.

Role: Preparation of Working Plan for Management of Forests.

Responsibility: To prepare working plan for Management of Forests like RF, Khasmal, Gaucharan as well privately owned forests in a scientific and sustainable manner for a span of at least 10 years. Compartmentalisation of territorial forests to give district identity for each compartment with natural boundaries. Providing specific management prescription for each compartment for a period of minimum 10 years. Separate working plans for each territorial forest division excluding the wildlife PAs which will be managed through WL Management Plan.

8. Eco-Tourism & Publicity.

Role: Promotion of Eco-Tourism in Forests & wildlife Protected areas. Publicity matters of Forest Environment & Wildlife Management Department.

Responsibility: Sikkim with 0.2% of the countries geographical area has over 26% of the total biodiversity of the country. Sikkim tourism has mainly focused on Eco-tourism like wildlife trekking seeing, wetland Eco-tourism, waterfalls and snow sight seeing tourism, aesthetic tourism. The responsibility of this circle to regulate the ecotourism in co-ordination with Territorial and Wildlife Circles, Management of Saramsa Garden is vested to this Circle. This circle also co-ordinates the publicity activities of the Department.

9. Research.

Role: To carryout research in Forestry Wildlife.

Responsibility: To carryout research for improvement of planting material for afforestation, identification of seed stands plus trees for seed production for nurseries. Modernization of nursery techniques for higher production, hardening before transplanting the seedlings to withstand



extreme weather condition, study of growth and character of important tree species, their increment, response to improved techniques etc. by laying sample plots and preservation plots. Research in Wildlife collection and preservation of important, rare and endangered specimens of flora in herbarium.

10. Parks & Gardens.

Role: Creation and Maintenance of Parks & Gardens & development of Aesthetic and Urban Forestry.

Responsibility: Creation and Maintenance of Parks & Gardens & Development of Aesthetic and Urban Forestry, Implementation of Programmer for ecological development of urban and sub-urban areas. Beautification of available vacant lands in town areas by creating ecological parks and gardens. Beautification of venues for international, national and State events / functions.

11. TSP & SCSP.

Role: Implantation of Tribal Sub-Plan and Scheduled Cast Sub-Plan.

Responsibility: Implementation of Tribal Sub-Plan and Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan. The Planning Commission, Government of India has issued guidelines for setting aside around 25.6% of the total plan budget for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes in the State. Out of the allocated budget by Forest Env. & Wildlife Management department for TSP & SCSP, the circle prepares forestry based schemes which are aimed for the economic development of the STs & SCs in the State and implements the schemes.

12. Planning and Statistics

Role: Preparation of Five Year Plans and Annual Plans of the Department. To assist the PCCF-cum-Secretary in training policies and overall administration in the Department.

Responsibility: This circle prepares the Five Year Plans and Annual Plans of the Department which are implemented after these are approved by the State Government and the Planning Commission, Government of India. This circle is also responsible for collection compilation and analysis of the information supplied by other circles regarding implementation of the schemes, revenue generation based on which the Annual Administrative Report of the Department is prepared. This circle also prepares periodical reports as and when asked by the Government. This circle co-ordinate with other circles in all the policies and programmes of the Department.

13. Regional Administrative Centre.

Role: To address the problems of the people of South & West District.

Responsibility: The State Government has established the Regional Administrative Centre (RAC) at Jorethang, South Sikkim for the benefit of the people of South & West District and each department has established office headed by the officer of the level of Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary to address the needs issues and grievances of the people of the two districts pertaining to each department. The Forest Env. & Wildlife Management Department also in the process of establishing the office of one C.F. and one J.D. in the RAC. The CF will be overall in-charge of Territorial & Wildlife Division and the JD will be in-charge of the LU&E, Social Forestry and Zilla Panchayat Divisions located in South & West districts. Both the offices will have a common finance section and common establishment section. Administrative and financial powers will be delegated to both CF & JD to deliver to the requirement of the people of the two districts. One JD and some of the establishment staff have already been posted and posting of CF and other officers, staff is under process.



14. Forest Conservation Act, 1980 Cell.

Role: division of Forest Land for non forestry purpose.

Responsibility: This Circle deals with the diversion of forest land for non forestry purpose under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Transfer of forest land and realization of Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land diverted, realization of compensatory afforestation fund for the forest land diverted, realization of fund for catchment area treatment of power projects is done by this cell. This cell, after completion of all formalities by the Territorial Circle, arranges for clearance of the State Government for the forest land diverted and sends it to the MOEF, Government of India. When final clearance of the land diverted is obtained from GOI, the forest land is handed over to the user agency by Territorial Circle under intimation to the FCA, 1980.

15. Utilization Circle.

Role: Extraction & Sale of Forest Produce.

Responsibility: This Circle deals with felling, extraction, conversion and sale of forest produce Viz. timber, firewood, charcoal, poles etc. from the forest land diverted under FCA, 1980. Felling and extraction of trees posing danger to life & property in thickly populated areas, towns, National Highway is done by this Circle. This circle also deals with the import of forest produce from outside the State. Issue of licences to the timber sale agent and running of the lone sawmill Department is done by this circle.

16. Personnel management (Establishment Section).

Role: Management of Service records of the Employees.

Responsibility: This Section is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the personal file of all the Group 'C' & 'D' employees of the Department viz. Range Officers, Head Forest Guards, Forest Guards, staff of Accounts Division, Ministerial Staff, Drivers, Peons, chowkidars (Watchman), Malis(Gardeners), Technical Staff and all other Group 'C' & 'D' staff. This section deals with sanction of leave, increments, training, disciplinary action, transfer, and promotion etc. of the group 'C' & 'D' staff of the Department. Appointment of Range Officers, Block Officers, Head Forest Guards and Forest Guards is taken care of by this section.

DEVOLUTION OF POWERS – BACs (Block Administrative Centres)

In order to empower grass root level people, the Government of Sikkim has established 27 (twenty-seven) Block Administrative Centres (BACs) throughout Sikkim since 2004-05 onwards. These 27 BACs are located with full fledged office buildings in all four districts at

- (4 in NORTH): Tsunghang, Mangan, Dzongu, Kabi
- (9 in EAST): Gangtok, Pakyong, Rakdong-Tintek, Khamdong, Ranka, Regu, Parakha, Rhenock, Duga
- (8 in SOUTH): Yangang, Rabangla, Temi, Namthang, Sumbuk, Jorethang, Wok, Namchi
- (6 in WEST): Daramdin, Soreng, Kaluk-Rinchenpong, Dentam, Geyzing, Yuksom

The FEWMD has posted officers of the rank of Assistant Conservators of Forest (ACFs) at each BAC with full powers for fulfilling many functions, such as:

1. In Monitoring Committee ACF as Member-Secretary (with line department as Members) is empowered to monitor the IWDP and 'Hariyali' programmes being implemented in BAC jurisdiction, along with Block Development Officer (BDO) as Chairperson.
2. All Sericulture Division activities to be implemented within BAC jurisdiction
3. Beneficiaries under IWDP and 'Hariyali' programmes to be selected by the Monitoring Committee
4. ACF (BAC) is deemed ACF (Territorial) for enforcement of Forest Acts & Rules on non-forest land and empowered as under for *bonafide* use of the public:
 - a. To issue Marking Orders for upto four (4) trees at a time from private holdings
 - b. To issue Transit permit for movement of timber within district only
 - c. To issue permission for collecting boulders and stones from private holding
 - d. To allow collection of leaf litter, mosses and grass from Reserve Forest fringes (in order to also prevent forest fires during dry months)

With this innovative initiative, the public of Sikkim no longer needs to travel long distances or spend time at district headquarters or Gangtok. They can now avail all the listed facilities at the village level itself and fulfill their *bonafide* requirements through the ACF of their own BAC, thus saving precious resources of time and money.



ORGANISATIONAL CHART













