

**Wildlife Protection Deptt
Revised Plan for 2011-12
&
Proposed Plan for 2012-13**

The Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife Protection Department has evolved from erstwhile Game Department of Jammu & Kashmir State. From time to time the Wildlife of J&K has been managed, for different objectives. In earlier times, the wildlife was managed exclusively for game purposes and accordingly the rules were also framed to protect wild animals in wilderness and game reserves. Rules were also framed accordingly to regularize the hunting of big and small game in all three regions of J&K State.

Over a period of time the wildlife hunting as a game changed into organized trade for meeting requirements of various products at domestic and international markets. In the last 50 years to meet the requirements of trade, lot of uncontrolled hunting took place which resulted into the considerable reduction of animal population in wilderness. Not only this, even the increase in human and live stock population also added to the shrinking of habitats of these animals in the wilderness. The dwindling population of these animals and its impact on the ecological balance in nature activated several conservation groups throughout the world raising voice and concern for immediate protection of these species and spaces. India being one of the signatories of the agreements and international conferences changed its policies and enacted new legislations to protect the flora and fauna of the country. The Indian Wildlife Protection Act was passed in 1972 and the J&K State also enacted Wildlife Protection Act in 1978. Through the enforcement of these acts and rules the **erstwhile Game Department** switched its responsibilities from game regulating authority to **Wildlife Management Authority**.

Functions of the Department of Wildlife Protection

With the increasing responsibility of the department from the game regulation to the wildlife conservation, the function of the department have changed considerably to meet new and additional responsibilities/challenges in order to accelerate the scientific management of the protected areas. At present, J&K State is making efforts to come at par with the scientific management of PAs' at national level as per the recommendations of Indian Board for Wildlife. The function and objective of the department as per the J&K Wildlife Protection Act, 1978 amended up to 2002 are as under:

- ✓ Management & Habitat improvement of protected areas.
- ✓ Management, Restocking, Reallocation, of rare and endangered species.
- ✓ Anti-Poaching/Anti-Smuggling drives.
- ✓ Law Enforcement/Wildlife Crime check.
- ✓ Wildlife Management Plans formalities and implementation thereof.
- ✓ Captive breeding, Zoos & Zoological Parks.
- ✓ Wildlife Health Care, Capture, Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release.
- ✓ Man – Animal Conflict resolution.
- ✓ Eco-Tourism promotion.
- ✓ People’s participation for protection/preservation of wildlife.
- ✓ Awareness & Nature Education.
- ✓ Research and Training Programmes.

The following ongoing schemes are in operation under state plan schemes during the eleventh five year plan period for the conservation, preservation and development of wildlife in the state in various National parks, Wildlife sanctuaries, Wetlands reserves and Conservation reserves. The major works carried out by the department include development of national parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries, improvement of habitat of wildlife, population monitoring, development of infrastructure within the protected areas, etc., under the following approved schemes:

- ✓ Research Survey & Census
- ✓ National Parks & Wildlife Sanctuaries
- ✓ Small & Big Game Reserves
- ✓ Wetland Reserves
- ✓ Captive Breeding & Rehabilitation Programme
- ✓ Wildlife Week & Publicity
- ✓ Nature Club Projects
- ✓ Training Symposium & Conference
- ✓ Forest Biosphere Reserve
- ✓ Eco- Development
- ✓ Strengthening of Wildlife Protection

- ✓ Mini Zoological Park
- ✓ Maintenance of Capital Assets
- ✓ Handling of Man Animal Conflict.

The schemes implemented during 11th FYP will continue for the department during the 12th Five Year Plan as well with the following objectives:

Objective:

The Department of Wildlife Protection has taken several measures for protection of wildlife and their habitat. Attempts are made to manage the PAs on scientific lines, though there are huge gaps in what should be done and what is being done, in view of the very low plan size of the department. The Department under Hon'ble Supreme Court orders is expected to manage the Protected Areas through Management Plans.

The rare and endangered species found in the State are Hangul, Snow leopard, Chiru, Markhor, Musk deer, Brown bear, Black necked crane, Western tragopan etc. We are making all efforts to save these species.

The Protected Areas are managed through fencing of vulnerable areas, habitat management, afforestation, soil and water conservation, fire protection, development of infrastructure, census and survey, wildlife health monitoring and veterinary care, handling of Man-Wild Animals conflict situations, capture, rescue and rehabilitation of problematic wild animals, management of Zoological Parks, Deer Parks and Rescue Centers etc. The management operations are facilitated through State Plan grants, Centrally Sponsored Schemes including Species Recovery Programmes & now Compensatory Afforestation Management & Planning Authority (CAMPA).

- a) Effective Management of Protected Areas.
- b) Conservation of wild and endangered species and their habitat.
- c) Restoration of degraded habitat within Protected Areas.
- d) Control of Poaching, Taxidermy and illegal Trade of wildlife animal and plant species.
- e) Monitoring and Research.

- f) Ensuring people's participation in wildlife conservation.
- g) Conservation awareness and education.
- h) Wildlife Tourism (Eco-Tourism).
- i) Ex-situ conservation programme.
- j) Health Monitoring and Disease control.
- k) Resolution of Man-animal conflicts.
- l) Infrastructure Development.

The brief of the schemes is as under:

1. Research Survey and Census

Management is not end to the problems, but it is an approach to control them, which, are identified through extensive and intensive Research programmes. The objective of the scheme is to conduct Census and Survey of indicator species of animal and birds to determine

- a) Population trends.
- b) Population densities before and after management intervention in different areas / zones or in different habitats (Natural/Man-made) and conducting of Research Programmes within the department as well as in collaboration with universities and other research organizations from within and outside the State. Since the outlay of the scheme for the current financial year is only Rs. 4.00 lacs the department took up only the following activities:
 - Wildlife population Health Monitoring in and around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
 - Biennial census of Hangul.
 - Habitat Evaluation

The financial allocation is very low and needs considerable enhancement so that the census of important species like Markhor, Chiru and other scheduled species including Migratory Bird health survey in Wetlands of J&K can be conducted. The Research Programmes can be conducted within the department as well as in collaboration with universities and other research organizations from within and outside the State. Keeping in view the above the Rs.8.00 lacs are proposed during 2012-13 .

2. National parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries

The aim of the scheme is to develop the National parks and Wildlife sanctuaries in the state. Infrastructural facilities like staff accommodation, protection measures in the shape of fencing at vulnerable points to staff, illegal movements and encroachments, improvement and extension of fire lines and construction of watch towers/ shelter sheds at vintage points and, communication facilities by way of roads/paths, bridges/ culverts and vehicles are being raised for efficient and prompt management. Due attention is paid to improve the habitat conditions. In this regard degraded areas are treated through closures and planting of fodder and fruit bearing species. Soil conservation works like check dams and Gully /Nalla plugging operations are undertaken in eroded pockets to arrest soil run off. This scheme is made operational in all the national parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries. Programmes for redevelopment and further strengthening of infrastructural facilities and habitat improvement / protection is taken in hand in these areas to make them ideal for inhabiting animal and bird species. The outlay for the scheme during the current financial year was Rs. 145.50 lacs and during 2012-13 the outlay under the scheme is proposed at Rs. 160.00 lacs by only giving 10% hike to the current year's outlay.

3. Small and Big Game Reserves

The State of Jammu and Kashmir has 35 Conservation Reserves which were notified as Game Reserves under the J&K Wildlife Protection Act, 1978 and were re-designated as Conservation Reserves when the J&K Wildlife Protection Act, 1978 was amended in 2002. These Conservation Reserves were notified by then Maharaja of Jammu & Kashmir as 'Game Reserves / Wetlands Reserves' and were primarily managed from game regulation point of view. The Game Reserves (now Conservation Reserve) generally form buffer areas of the notified National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries and have been subjected to tremendous biotic pressure over a period of time. There is need to protect and develop these Conservation Reserves on modern scientific lines with people's participation. ***As funding under CSS is available only for National Parks & Wildlife Sanctuaries, these Conservation Reserves have remained neglected for want of funds.*** The proposal for providing funds for some of the conservation reserves under CSS have already been submitted to the State Government / Government of

India for consideration but till date only **Wangath Conservation Reserve** and **Sudh-mahdev Conservation Reserve has been included under CSS**. The outlay during the current financial year under state plan was only Rs.20.00 lacs which is too meager to make any meaningful development of these reserves in terms of rehabilitation of these degraded areas to be achieved through effective fencing and planting of suitable species of trees, bushes and grasses, habitat manipulation and soil conservation works. Provision for various infrastructural activities like construction of staff quarters, up gradation / improvement of roads / paths and other things is difficult to envisage due to meager outlay which needs to be enhanced considerably at least to Rs. 40.00 lacs during the current financial year 2011-12 so that the desired results under the scheme are achieved. Same outlay of Rs. 40.00 lacs is proposed under the scheme during 2012-13.

4. Wetland Reserves

The Wetlands are important habitat for both resident and water birds. These wetlands also serve store houses for rich varied animal and plant life being more productive than land eco-system. These wetlands are unique to the state of J&K and are wonderful gift of nature. Wetlands also support varied type of livelihood like fishing, fodder, fire wood and fruit.

Considering the importance of the wetlands, a separate division has been created and one wildlife Warden has been posted exclusively to look after the overall management and conservation of the wetlands of Kashmir Valley. The department has initiated various measures for restoration and development of these wetlands. In order to save these wetlands from encroachment these are being closed by way of fencing. Integrated approach to maintain all wetlands on scientific lines to make these wetlands ideal habitats for the resident as well as migratory birds. Keeping in view the importance of wetlands in J&K State, Ramsar Convention has included Tso Morari in Ladakh, Hokersar in Kashmir Valley and Surinsar-Mansar in Jammu region as Ramsar sites. Besides, other wetland like Shallabug, Hygam, Mirgund in Kashmir and Gharana ,Pargwal & Kukrian in Jammu are also important wetlands and needs concentrated efforts for their development as well.

Following urgent measures are proposed to be initiated on priority in the notified wetlands:

- a. Construction / strengthening of marginal bunds and plugging of breaches to store required water level.
- b. Making of pools by Deweeding / removing of slash and desilting operations to control weeds to attract birds.
- c. Sowing of diverse indigenous submerges, aquatic and emergent floral species to combat weed infestation biologically, and to provide food and cover niches to the life forms.
- d. Construction of watch towers to improve protection and to facilitate scientists and tourists to study and observe birds.
- e. Exploiting tourism potential of the wetlands through peoples participation.

Since, the outlay for the current financial year 2011-12 is Rs. 35.00 lacs, only one wetland in Kashmir namely Hokersar is being managed with this meager funding and rest of the wetlands are devoid of any development / management. For the Current Financial year 2011-12 the revised outlay under the Scheme is proposed at Rs. 40.00 lacs and enhancement of outlay to Rs. 50.00 lacs is proposed for the year 2012-13 for effective management of all the notified wetlands in the order to achieve the desired results.

5. Captive breeding and Rehabilitation Programme.

The objective of the scheme is to provide feed, fodder and medicines to the captive stock at Manda Deer Park, Mansar Deer Park and Mantalai enclosures in Jammu Region and in case of Kashmir Region, Dachigam National Park and Pahalgam Deer Park. Wild Animal Health Monitoring is also one of the components of the scheme.

During the current financial year 2010-11, an amount of Rs. 35.00 lakhs is the approved outlay under the scheme. The actual requirement under the scheme comes out to be Rs. 50.77lakhs. **This requirement has been worked out as per the number of the animals kept at various captive breeding centers (Mini Zoo Manda, Deer Park Mansar, Mantalai, Taday, Dachigam NP and Mini Zoo Pahalgam etc.) and as per the consumption of the feed (consumption statement enclosed).** Thus the total requirement during current financial year of Rs. 50.77 lacs has been projected as revised outlay and the proposed outlay for 2012-13 is Rs. 55.00 lacs only, keeping in view increase in number of

animals because of breeding and addition of rescued animals also due to hike in the rate of feed, fodder, meat & chicken, drugs and the expenditure on upkeep of the animals.

6. Wildlife Week and Publicity

The Department observes wildlife week every year during the first week of October, to bring awareness of the conservation of nature and natural resources among the people in General and youth in particular. A wide variety of programmes for school children/ students including painting, quiz and essay competitions, seminars, symposium and workshops are organized to disseminate the message of conservation among masses. Nature camps in protected areas are also organized in order to expose the educated youth to the field conditions for better understanding of the wildlife importance and conservation. Films on conservation topics are displayed in various educational institutes during the week. Wide publicity through mass Media and distribution of publicity material is also ensured to generate public awareness. The outlay during the current year is Rs. 3.00 lacs which requires no revision but during the next financial year 2012-13 the proposed outlay has been put at Rs. 5.00 lacs in order to implement the scheme smoothly and to derive the best results.

7. Nature Club Projects

Unlike the scheme for wildlife week and publicity, this scheme is operational throughout the year with the objective to make available information on all aspects of the living and non-living environment to highlight the uniqueness of diverse ecosystems of the State through following components.

- (i) To establish Nature Interpretation Centre in or in the close vicinity of the Protected Areas, fully equipped with informative, interpretive and illustrative variety of publicity material, besides audio-visual aid with film / book library for public awareness.
- (ii) To prepare and exhibit informative, thematic and illustrative hoardings, wayside exhibits and signage in Protected Areas, an important interpretive tool for visitors interest and awareness.
- (iii) To establish a network of nature clubs in educational institutes and village committees in village located in close proximity of the Protected Areas as target groups for nature education.

Nature club activity are organized in various schools and colleges, to make this class of the society aware about the nature and awareness towards wildlife protection issues. The activities in these clubs include organizing the symposiums and quiz programmes, painting / essay competitions and workshops, highlighting the basic objective of awareness among students about the importance of wildlife conservation. The approved outlay during 2011-12 under the scheme is Rs. 5.00 lacs needs no revision during this year and same outlay has been proposed during the year 2012-13 in order to propagate the message of wildlife conservation and to bring the mass awareness.

8. Training, Symposium and Conference

At present the field of wildlife is highly advanced and purely scientific, and it is very essential to impart practical trainings among all ranks of the field staff of the department both at national and international levels. Variety of short-term courses within the country are attended by field officers from time to time to acquaint themselves with the advancement made in the fields of interpretation, zoo management, health monitoring and in several other branches. The approved outlay during the current financial year under the scheme is only Rs. 4.00 lacs and needs no revision during this year and an outlay of Rs. 5.00 lacs has been proposed for the year 2012-13 to meet the departmental requirements.

9. Forest Biosphere Reserves

The concept of Biosphere Reserve in India is yet at an experimental stage and has no legal implication. Its objective has considerable flexibility for adoption to meet the specific needs in zones contiguous in space for conservation (core zone) and for manipulative research (buffer/fringe zones or multiple use zones) to study the effects of human activities. The approved outlay under the scheme is Rs. 1.50 lacs needs no revision during this year and same outlay has been proposed during the year 2012-13.

10. Mini Zoological Parks

Zoological Parks are the best areas for scientific study of animal behavior and are actually the living museums as well as laboratories. The role of zoo as a source of amusement has changed to a source of gene bank, information, education research and generating of awareness for saving the endangered fauna. One Zoological Park have been set up at within

the Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary at Manda in Jammu, besides deer parks have been setup at Phalgam in Anantnag and Mantlai & Tanday Rakh in Udhampur Districts.

On the instruction of Central Zoo Authority of India and State Government layout plan for the establishment of Mini Zoo in Jammu has been prepared. A Zoo in Kashmir valley is also planned. The Experts from CZA are likely to visit in the month of December,2011, following which proposal for establishment of Zoo both at Jammu and Kashmir will be prepared so at present provision for establishment of a Zoo cannot be decided and loaded in the plan . As such, the approved outlay (Rs. 18.00 lacs) under the scheme during the current financial year 2011-12 needs no revision and the proposed outlay for the year 2012-13 has been put at Rs. 20.00 lacs only **which is likely to go on higher side when the plan for establishment of Zoo at Jammu/ Srinagar are approved by CZA/ State Government during 2012-13.**

11. Eco-Development

This Scheme is in operation in the State with the objective to reduce the dependency of the people on the resources of Protected Areas, who live in or around these areas, so that alternative sources are created to meet their requirements, in order to mitigate such pressures in and around Protected Areas. While denying the population living in or around the Protected areas their free access to grazing grounds and collection of fuel wood, fodder, fish MFP, concessional timber and other resources which they have been enjoying since long and makes it obligatory for the department to supplement the alternate sources in terms of providing of LPG cylinders including stoves, solar lanterns, pressure cookers, improved chullhas etc besides construction of community bathrooms and toilets, culverts, bridges are also taken up under the scheme in order to ameliorate the socio-economic conditions of the targeted population. The approved outlay under the scheme is Rs. 9.00 lacs and needs no revision during 2011-12 and for the year 2012-13 Rs.20.00 lacs has been proposed so that the benefit of the scheme percolates to the targeted (ST) population . The scheme is important from the view point of providing alternative sources of income to the people in and around the Protected Areas and simultaneously reduce dependence on natural resources in Protected Areas.

12. Strengthening of Wildlife and Control of Poaching

This scheme is in operation with the purpose of strengthening the organization in the State for prompt and speedy control both in and outside the Protected Areas in terms of anti poaching / anti grazing, immediate infrastructural requirements of the department etc. The revised outlay under the scheme for the current financial year has been proposed at Rs. 128.00 lacs and for the year 2012-13 the outlay of Rs. 230.00 lacs has been proposed. The increase from Rs. 20.00 lacs to Rs. 128.00 lacs during Current Financial year to Rs. 230.00 lacs for the next financial year is because of the following reasons:

2011-12 (Revised Outlay)

- ✓ **Rs. 100.00 lacs** has been proposed for construction of Direction Office building at Rajbagh Srinagar. The department at Srinagar is functioning from the depilated and old huts of Pollution Control Board compound as the office of the department was gutted in April, 2005 blaze of TRC, Srinagar.
- ✓ **Rs. 8.00 lacs** has been proposed for purchase of vehicle for use in the Office of Chief Conservator of Forests(Wildlife), Jammu against the condemned vehicle (Maruti Gypsy) for which the proposal has been submitted to Administrative Department vide letter No: WLP/Plan/47-Vol II/2011/3403-05 dated 24.10.2011.
- ✓ **Rs. 20.00 lacs** being the approved outlay shall be utilized for the normal implementation of the scheme throughout the State.

2012-13 (Proposed Outlay)

- ✓ **Rs. 200.00 lacs** been proposed for construction of Direction Office building at Rajbagh Srinagar.
- ✓ **Rs. 30.00 lacs** for the normal implementation of the scheme throughout the State

13. Maintenance of Capital Assets

Under the scheme Maintenance of Capital Assets, the capital assets created by the department are maintained. The anticipated expenditure 2011-12 under the scheme will be Rs. 10.00 lacs (the original approved outlay). Since the assets of the department get increased year after year and in order to maintain the assets of the department created in terms of infrastructural development an amount of Rs. 20.00 lacs are proposed during 2012-13.

14. Handling of Man Wild Animal Conflict Situation:

The Department is engaged most of the time in handling the man wild animal conflict situation all over the State with its meager manpower and shortage of technical staff. The quantum of work load and seriousness of the situation can be accessed on the basis table below:

Division	Received		Settled		Total Pending		Amount Paid (Rs in Lacs)	
	Death	Injured	Death	Injured	Death	Injured	Death	Injured
Anantnag	41	486	39	434	2	52	39.00	32.42
North	41	303	41	287	0	16	41.00	30.93
Central	19	176	16	116	3	60	16.00	12.00
Shopian	1	55	1	29	0	26	1.00	4.08
Wetland	2	9	1	1	1	8	1.00	0.15
Jammu	1	7	1	6	0	1	1.00	0.572
Kishtwar	8	75	8	69	0	6	8.00	9.382
Rajouri	15	134	15	98	0	36	15.00	5.15
Ladakh	0	3	0	3	0	0		0.036
Total	128	1248	122	1043	6	205	122.00	94.72

The above table only indicates the number of cases reported (both death/injury) and the cases settled in terms of payment of compensation by the department. The other side of the story reflects the efforts of the Department both in terms of financial / physical manpower to handle the situation on daily basis viz:

Visits on call/ information in a Division	Month	No. of incidents reported
Central	Jul-11	32
North	Jul-11	38
Kishtwar	Aug-11	34
Anantnag	Oct-11	28
Total in four divisions		132
Average incidents reported in a division in a month		33
Average incidents/calls in 8 divisions in a month		264
Average expenses for hiring of vehicle per/day		1500
Average expenses per/day for POL of Departmental Vehicle		1000
Total Average expenses		2500
Average expenses per/month in a division		75000
Average expenses per/month in 8 divisions		600000
Average expenses for high conflict period of 9 months		5400000
Average expenses for three months		720000
Total expenses for 12 months		6120000

	Say Rs.	61.00 lacs
Add		
1. Purchase of tranquilizing guns with accessories		10.00
2. Purchase of tranquilizing drugs		10.00
3. Purchase of other equipments like automatic cages/ simple cages/ ladders/ ropes/ torches etc.		10.00
Sub Total		30.00
	Grand total	91.00

As will be noticed from the above, considerable effort of the department is towards attending the calls for resolution of Man Animal Conflicts. It has also to arrange equipments & drugs for meeting these exigencies.

To deal with the situation of this nature, substantial strengthening of the Wildlife Protection Department is called for in terms of the mobility, communication, equipments, trapping / translocation facilities, rescue centers, compensation package, honorarium to Eco Development Committees and awareness raising etc. For the above said purpose, the Department finds it very difficult to handle the situation with the meager amount of approved outlay of Rs. 40.00 lacs and substantial increase in funding is required. The requirement during the current financial year 2011-12 will be Rs. 60.00 lacs and the proposed outlay for the year 2012-13 has been also put at Rs. 60.00 lacs. It may be mentioned also that some amount on this account is also made available by Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the purpose to handle the situation in specific Protected Areas whereas the department has to address the cases in the forest areas and sometimes in the cities as well.

Chief Wildlife Warden
J&K Government Jammu