

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Related to Wild Life Clearance under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972

Q.1 What is Wild Life Clearance?

Wild Life Sanctuaries: For consideration of proposals for use of areas within wild life sanctuaries (WLS), the Wild Life (Protection) Act mandates that the State Board for Wild Life be consulted as per section 29, and its permission taken before any activity is permitted inside a WLS. Further, in view of the directions of the Supreme Court dated May 9, 2002 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 337/1995, all such proposals also require the recommendation of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life (NBWL) before they can be approved. Section 33(a) also requires the prior approval of the NBWL for construction of commercial lodges, hotels, zoos or safari parks inside a sanctuary.

National Parks: For similar uses of areas within National Parks (NP), similar consultation and recommendation is required to be taken from the NBWL as per section 35(6) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act.

Tiger Reserves: For activities within protected areas which constitute Tiger Reserves, the above provisions are attracted automatically. Further, sections 38-O(g) and 38W require the approval of the NBWL for activities within, and in areas linking protected areas and tiger reserves.

Q.2 What is the process to be followed in applying for Wild Life Clearance?

The User Agency/Project Proponent is required to file the application online as provided in the User Manual of Online Submission and Monitoring of Environmental, Forests and Wild Life Clearance – a Single Window Clearance System. The user manual is available on the website <http://www.moef.nic.in/division/orders-and-releases>

The user agency can apply for forest, wild life and environmental clearances on the single portal.

The user agency can also track the movement of the proposal through different stages of processing through the online clearance system.

The roles of various agencies involved in the process and actions required to be taken are available in the manual. In case of difficulty, the details of concerned authorities to be contacted are also available.

Q.3 What are the timelines to be followed by various agencies in processing an application for Wild Life Clearance?

DFO/Wild Life Warden	i. Initial scrutiny within 5 days of receipt of proposal
	ii. 30 days after receipt of complete proposal for site inspection, consultation with Conservator of Forests/Chief Conservator of Forests/Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and forwarding to the Chief Wildlife Warden
Chief Wild Life Warden	20 days from receipt of proposal for scrutiny and recommendation to the State Government for placing before the State Board for Wild Life
State Board for Wild Life and State Government	The recommendation of the State Government, formed in consultation with the SBWL, and thereafter forwarded to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change enclosing the copies of minutes of the State Board for Wild Life's consultation - this stage may take up to 90 days .
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change	Initial scrutiny within 5 days of receipt
Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life	Meetings are convened once every 3 months generally.