

Explanatory document on compliance of project with relevant CEPF policies

1. CEPF Pest Management Plan, 2012

The project will remove *Lantana camara* only through manual removal of the bushes. We will not be using any pesticides, herbicides, chemicals or animal treatment for removal of invasive species. Therefore we believe the provisions of this policy will not be applicable to this project.

2. Environmental and Social Management framework

The project is compliant with the provisions of the above mentioned framework. In particular, the project does not

- Involve any conversion or degradation of any critical natural habitats and forest resources. On the contrary, the project aims at protecting natural habitats from degradation thus helping protect wildlife species that are dependent on these habitats; as a measure of compliance, all changes will be recorded.
- Adversely affect physical cultural resources in any way;
- Require land acquisition or relocation of local communities;
- Adversely affect indigenous peoples. In fact the project aims to build capabilities amongst the indigenous people for alternate livelihoods based on their traditional skill sets and in tune with their traditional knowledge of the forests;
- Involve any environmental sensitivities that need to be addressed;
- Involve any sites with known or potential archeological, paleontological, historical, religious, or unique natural values.

3. CEPF Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework

The two indigenous communities that are present in the project area are Jenu Kurubas (who live in the Guddukere village) and Solegas (who live in the Chik Yel Chetti village). We believe the project complies with this framework because of the following reasons:

- Paadhai in partnership with Junglescapes has been carrying out project activity in the project area since 2007. Based on our experience and discussions with local

stakeholders, we do not envisage any adverse impact of the project on the indigenous peoples living in the area.

- A prior consultation was done on 9th and 10th August 2013 with the Guddukere and Chik Yel Chetti communities regarding the project. The details of the project were explained to the members of the community. A summary of the result of the consultations is given below:
 - The communities are keen on pursuing the 'green economy' model of alternate livelihoods proposed in the project.
 - The community expressed that this would enable them to be involved in a self-reliant activity and reduce their dependence on casual labour work in nearby farms which was seasonal and uncertain. They also requested that any such activity should be designed in a way to give them continuous employment/livelihood and income rather than a seasonal engagement. It was explained to them that while restoration of lantana cleared areas could be carried out around the monsoon period, the lantana craft activity could be done throughout the year, and the lantana bio-char activity during the summer months, so that the activities could be spread out over the whole year uniformly.
 - The community also expressed that the removal of lantana and restoration of such cleared lands would improve the health of the forest and also improve the water table.
 - Both men and women in the community are keen to take part in the activities. While the men are keen in lantana removal, restoration and bio char activities, the women are keen on activities like lantana craft making and planting of saplings.
 - The Guddukere community has been involved in the last 3 years in reforestation activities of Junglescapes and expressed happiness over the opportunity that this has given them to improve their livelihoods.
- We will also submit a social impact assessment as per the planning framework within 3 months of the start of the project.
- This project is expected to have a number of positive impacts on the indigenous people living in the project area.

- a. At the present these people are dependent on casual labour in nearby agricultural farms for their livelihood. This employment is not in tune with their traditional skill sets. As a result most of these people are losing their connection with the forests that surround them, including their knowledge of the flora and fauna.
 - b. The employment in nearby farms is seasonal and at low wages, thus leading to subsistence living and related health hazards. The project by creating alternate livelihoods will help the local community to improve their economic condition.
 - c. This project will build capabilities amongst these people to be self-reliant and pursue alternate livelihoods that are closer to their traditional values and lifestyles, and hence should improve their self-confidence.
- However, as a matter of abundant caution, consultations will be held with every quarter with the indigenous people in the area (represented by the Lokkere and Chik Yel Chetti EDCs) during the project cycle and their feedback obtained and taken into account. Also, necessary Grievance Redress Mechanisms will be put in place, including the public display of a poster summarising the project details and providing appropriate contact information.

4. CEPF Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions

As we understand, this process framework is not attracted by this project because:

- The project does not envisage involuntary restrictions of access to legally designated parks and protected areas in any manner as the project activities are proposed outside the PA limits; the project site falls under the notified Eco Sensitive Zone of the Bandipur Tiger Reserve but this does not entail restrictions of access to resources to local communities (please refer attached notification dated 4 October 2012 issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests –the list of prohibited, restricted and permitted activities in the Eco Sensitive Zone are detailed in paragraph 3 of the notification on page 28);
- The project does not support efforts to improve enforcement of existing restrictions in any manner;

- The project does not involve any kind of support for the development and implementation of management plans for protected areas or resources such as wildlife, non-timber forest products and production areas.

Also, the framework says it does not apply to projects that provide incentives to change livelihood and natural resource use practices on a voluntary basis. This project aims to incentivise changes in livelihoods and provides access to natural resources i.e. *Lantana camara*. In our discussions the Forest Department have expressed support for the project and also to the access to *Lantana camara* resources as long as this is carried out in the reserve forest areas, which is in line with the project plan.