

WORKING PLAN OF AURANGABAD FOREST DIVISION		
(2013-14 to 2022-23)		
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SUMMARY OF PRESCRIPTIONS

1. THE TRACT:

The Aurangabad Forest Division came into existence in 2003 vide Environment and Forests department, Government of Bihar notification no. 3688 dated 22.10.2003 comprising the Aurangabad and Arwal Districts with the objective of protection of natural resources and increasing green cover through afforestation on government wastelands, road, river and canal sides and non-productive private lands. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood. The climate is more temperate, with average rainfall being 1176.70 mm.

2. THE AREA:

The total geographical area of the two districts is 3305 ha of Aurangabad District and 626 ha of Arwal District. The total forest area of the Aurangabad Forest Division is 187.60 ha limited to Aurangabad District only, there being no forests in Arwal district. The total forest area of the Division is protected forest, amounting to 5.60% of the total geographical area of the district.

3. STATE OF BOUNDARIES:

The status of boundaries is unsatisfactory in the Division. There are a few permanent boundary pillars constructed in past demarcating the forests from the adjacent private lands. At few places trench fencing has also been done. However, at some places the boundaries between the forest area and the private lands are not demarcated. The old boundary pillars need to be maintained regularly. At other places new pillars need to be constructed.

4. RIGHTS AND CONCESSIONS:

The forests of Aurangabad Forest Division are not burdened with any right except right of way and watercourse. The privileges granted include grazing of cattle and free grant of small timber and firewood.

5. THE FORESTS:

The forests in Aurangabad Forest Division correspond to the 'Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests' as per Champion and Seth's classification of forests. Within this type, local variations are met with, due to variations in nature of soil and topography. Better stocked patches occur in cooler and protected areas on the south-west corner of the district adjoining the forests of Gaya

Forest Division and Daltonganj Forest Division of Jharkhand State. But these patches are also under heavy biotic pressure.

6. PAST MANAGEMENT:

Aurangabad Forest Division was earlier part of Gaya Forest Division as one of its Ranges. This new Division was created in 2003. The forests of this Division were also managed by the same working plan as prescribed for the Gaya Forest Division. The last approved working plan was that of Sri B. C. Jha's Plan effective from 1980-81 to 1999-2000 which has been described in Chapter-VII of Volume-I.

7. WILDLIFE:

In past the area was well known for its wildlife games. However, in present times wildlife is not prominent in the tract. Jackal, hare, rats, monkeys and few reptiles are seen in this tract.

8. AREA OF THE PLAN:

The forest area of this Division is 187.60 sq. km. limited to Aurangabad District only. However, the area of the Plan shall be the entire geographical area of the two districts, covering the forest area as well as the area outside the forests, which forms the bulk of the area and is most suited for increasing tree cover. The legal status is as below.

Legal Status of Forest Area in the Division (Area in sq. km.)

Name of District	Geographical Area	Total Forest Area	RF	PF	Total
Aurangabad	3305	187.60	0	187.60	187.60
Arwal	626	0	-	-	0
Total	3931	187.60	0	187.60	187.60

9. OBJECTIVES:

The following main objectives have been fixed for this Working Plan-

1. Long Term Objectives:

(i) To maintain environmental stability through preservation of the remaining natural forests and restoration of ecological balance

(ii) To improve the productivity of Forests to meet the essential local needs, especially fuel wood, fodder and small timber for the rural people.

- (iii) Increasing substantially the forest/tree cover through afforestation and social forestry programmes, especially on all degraded and unproductive lands, river and canal sides, and other fallow lands.
- (iv) To ensure scientific management of the Forests.
- (v) To protect the Forests through the co-operation of local communities on the principles of Joint Forest Management.

2. Short term Objectives:

- (i) Improvement of the existing growing stock and its density by reclamation of degraded forests through plantations aided by artificial regeneration.
- (ii) Improvement of soil quality through soil conservation measures.
- (iii) To give special attention to water conservation measures inside the forest area so as to improved moisture regime and water availability.
- (iv) Plantation of suitable species which can meet the local requirements. Bamboo will be given importance for sustainable yield.
- (v) To increase diffusion areas for wild life.
- (vi) Involvement of the local people in the management process through Joint Forest Management.
- (vii) Strengthening of infrastructure of the Division for protection and achieving the above goals.

10. PROPOSED WORKING CIRCLES:

The following Working Circles have been proposed in this Plan-

- i. Protection-cum-Improvement Working Circle.
- ii. Soil & Water Conservation (Overlapping) Working Circle.
- iii. Rehabilitation Working Circle.
- iv. Plantation Working Circle.
- v. Wildlife Management (Overlapping) Working Circle.
- vi. Joint Forest Management (Overlapping) Working Circle.
- vii. NTFP, Medicinal Plants & Fodder Management (Overlapping) Working Circle.

Management prescriptions for following operations have also been proposed.

- a. Management of Tree Cover Outside Forests (TOF).
- b. Miscellaneous Regulations.
- c. Monitoring & Evaluation

10.1. Protection-cum- Improvement Working Circle

The Protection-cum Improvement Working Circle includes those forest areas which have some rooted stocks and can establish if protected and some silvicultural operations done. This is limited to the hill tops and nala banks in the remote areas. The total area allocated to this WC is 4713.12 ha (25% of the total forest area). The main objective of this circle is to protect the existing natural resources. The hills and hillocks which have suffered the most in loss of soil and vegetation are also included in this working circle.

This working circle also covers the areas under inferior miscellaneous growth of poor density. These areas do have potential to convert itself into good forest in comparatively lesser time and with lesser efforts.

10.2. Soil & Water Conservation (Overlapping) Working Circle

Aurangabad

Division falls under the rain shadow zone, there being 1176.70 mm of normal rains only through out the year distributed in 50 average numbers of rainy days. Only 55% of the net area of the Aurangabad District is irrigated from all sources. Due to illicit felling and indiscriminate removal of vegetation, the hills and hillocks have suffered heavy erosion. Due to low rainfall and poor moisture retaintivity of the soil, most of the past plantations have failed or are having stunted growth. Thus, apart from silvicultural operations, it is necessary to make an appropriate plan of action for improvement of soil and water (moisture) content in the forest area. Hence the entire forest area of 187.60 sq. km. of the Aurangabad Forest Division has been kept under this working circle. However, an area of 90.00 sq. km. have been proposed to be undertaken for soil & water conservation measures in the first five years of the Plan period.

10.3. Rehabilitation Working Circle

An area of 9167.42 ha (49% of the total forest area) included under Rehabilitation Working Circle is under stocked forests having root stock. This working circle comprises of such forests which are either in bushy stage i.e. rooted wastes or in perpetual sapling stage since long and are not able to grow up and establish into pole crop by itself due to adverse biotic factors and interferences like grazing, fire and unregulated felling.

The hills and hillocks which have suffered the most in loss of soil and vegetation are also included in this working circle.

This working circle also covers the areas under inferior miscellaneous growth of poor density. These areas do have potential to convert itself into good forest in comparatively lesser time and with lesser efforts. An area of 6000 ha. have been proposed to be planted in the first five years of the Plan period. Depending on the success of the schemes and the mid term appraisal, provisions for the next five years will be made.

10.4. Plantation Working Circle

This working circle comprises of 4879.83 ha of barren and eroded plain areas near the foothills where there is no chance of natural regeneration in near future. Being adjacent to the villages, there is immense biotic pressure.

The area can be easily assessed, planted and in the following years sivicultural operations can be done. It also includes those areas where plantations have been done in the past. An area of 2500 ha. have been proposed to be planted in the first five years of the Plan period. Depending on the success of the schemes and the mid term appraisal, provisions for the next five years will be made.

10.5. Wildlife Overlapping Working Circle

This will be an overlapping working circle extending over the entire geographical area of the Aurangabad Forest Division. This working circle will deal with the conservation/ regulation of faunal wildlife in the forests as well as outside within the perspectives of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (Amendment Act 2006). The Divisional Forest Officer, Aurangabad Forest Division is the ex-officio Wildlife Warden and he will be responsible for the protection, conservation and development of wildlife present in the area. The wildlife seen during enumeration work are neelgai, jackal, wolf, and hare, while others commonly seen are hyena, sloth bear, few bird species and reptiles.

10.6. Joint Forest Management (Overlapping) Working Circle

This Working Circle is constituted with a view to achieve the objectives of the sustainable management based on the principles of participatory approach. As all prescriptions of the earlier working circles are subject to the constitution of the Forest Protection Committees and preparation of Micro-plans, this working circle becomes important for the constitution of different committees, their regulations and functioning, and overall sharing of responsibilities as well as benefits.

Thus, the area allotted to this overlapping working circle is the entire forest area of the Aurangabad Forest Division and also the adjoining non-forest areas.

10.7. NTFP, Medicinal Plants & Fodder Management (O) W Circle

The forests of the Division were once rich in NTFP and medicinal plants, but now has depleted due to heavy biotic pressure. However, there still occurs khair (*Acacia catechu*), bamboo (*Dendrocalamus strictus*), kendu leaves and other NTFP very much scattered here and there in the entire forest area of the Division, but not in workable quantity and quality. The bamboo, to a large extent, occurs in dry mixed forest often associated with Salai on hill tops and occasionally with Sal. Thus, the entire forest area needs special treatment for these species, as protection and enrichment plantations, to establish again so as to meet the bonafide needs of the local people.

10.8. Management of Tree Cover Outside Forests (TOF)

In Aurangabad Forest Division, the forested area of 187.60 sq. km. is confined to Aurangabad District only, there being no forest area in the Arwal District of the Division. The geographical area of the two districts Aurangabad and Arwal is 3305 and 626 sq. km. respectively. Thus, out of the total area of 3931 sq. km. in the two districts, an area of 3746 sq. km. lies outside the forested area. This area has to be used for increasing the tree cover, which will not only be helpful to meet the daily requirements

of the local people, but also release pressure from the forests and help to improve the environment of the area and conserve biodiversity.

Thus, Afforestation works will be done in the entire area of the two districts of the Division outside the forest area, extending plantation of trees on farm lands, road, canal, river and rail sides and on other fallow lands.

11. PLAN EXPENDITURE & REVENUE:

The present condition of the forests of the Division is highly depleted and not in position to give any revenue in true sense. However, some sale price may be collected from the illegally felled trees/poles, those along the roads and also as compensation receipts. The expenditure on plan activities including protection works and infrastructure development during the Plan period is Rs. 138.24 crores including the expenditure on establishment, which accounts for 28% of the total estimated expenditure.

12. SOURCE OF FUNDING:

The source of fund for the activities prescribed in the Plan will be from-

- i. Forest Development Agency Funds from GOI.
- ii. Plan Funds from GOI & GOB.
- iii. Non-Plan Funds from GOB.
- iv. CAMPA FUND
- v. Employment Guarantee Schemes, as MGANREGA.
- vi. Van Ewam Vanyaprani Sanrakshan Kosh.
- vii. Bamboo Mission
- viii. 13/14th Finance Commission, etc.