

## WCCB Volunteers Scheme

### **1. Introduction / Background:**

- 1.1 India is a mega biodiversity landscape with about 8% of the known global species of flora and fauna. However, this biodiversity is under stress from poaching and illegal trade in endangered species.
- 1.2 The Wild Life Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) is a statutory body constituted by Government of India, to combat organized wildlife crime in the country. The Bureau has its headquarters at Delhi, five regional offices at Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Jabalpur and three sub-regional offices at Guwahati, Amritsar and Cochin.
- 1.3 The functions of the Bureau mandated under Section 38 (Z), of the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972, are as follows:
  - (i) Collect and collate intelligence related to organized wildlife crime activities and to disseminate the same to State and other enforcement agencies for immediate action so as to apprehend the criminals and to establish a centralised wildlife crime data bank;
  - (ii) Co-ordination of actions by various officers, State Governments and other authorities in connection with the enforcement of the provisions of this Act, either directly or through regional and border units set up by the Bureau;
  - (iii) Implementation of obligations under the various international Conventions and protocols that are in force at present or which may be ratified or acceded to by India in future;
  - (iv) Assistance to concerned authorities in foreign countries and concerned international organisations to facilitate co-ordination and universal action for wildlife crime control;
  - (v) Develop infrastructure and capacity building for scientific and professional investigation into wildlife crimes and assist State Governments to ensure success in prosecutions related to wildlife crimes;
  - (vi) Advise the Government of India on issues relating to wildlife crimes having national and international ramifications, and suggest changes required in relevant policy and laws from time to time.
- 1.4 Keeping in view the enormity of tasks, the existing resources of the Bureau need to be augmented substantially in the long run. However, for its immediate requirement, it has been decided to enrol willing citizens of the country, who have requisite aptitude and knowledge on wildlife crime issues,

as volunteers, to assist the Bureau in its mandated tasks. Selected volunteers will be designated as WCCB Volunteers and they will supplement WCCB field presence for the duties assigned.

## **2. Objectives:**

The objective of the Scheme is to associate volunteers in the following activities of the Bureau:

- (i) To collect information on wildlife crimes and activities of wildlife criminals, and pass it on to the Bureau or other relevant enforcement agencies for requisite action.
- (ii) To assist the State Forest Department officers in building awareness and capacity of stakeholders for combating wildlife crimes.
- (iii) To conduct public education campaigns/ programmes on wildlife, wildlife crime and relevant policies and laws.

## **3. Eligibility criteria and application form:**

**The eligibility criteria are as below:**

- (i) The applicant must be a citizen of India;
- (ii) The applicant must not have been convicted of any wildlife offence and also must not be an accuse in any on-going wildlife offence case in any court in India.
- (iii) The applicant should be at least of 18 years age

### **General Conditions**

- (i) The applicant should be dedicated and committed to the cause of wildlife conservation and should have means to conduct the duties and passion.
- (ii) The applicant should be familiar with the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and other related laws.
- (iii) The applicant should have good networking and communication skills.
- (iv) The applicant should be able to handle stress.
- (v) The applicant should be conversant with Hindi, English and regional languages of the respective area
- (vi) Women are encouraged for applying for this voluntary position.
- (vii) Holding of this position does not entitle one to undertake any law enforcement actions directly. The applicant has to pass the necessary

information to the legally mandated enforcement agencies. The applicant may act as an assistant to an enforcement officer, subject to the approval of the enforcement official, during any operation in pursuance to the information provided by the volunteer.

The form of Application is attached at Annexure.

**4. Mode of publicity of the Scheme and collection of applications:**

The applications for registration of volunteers shall be generally invited once in a year.

The applications shall be invited through advertising on the website of the Ministry and also the WCCB. It may also be advertised in newspapers, if felt necessary.

The applications shall normally be received in the head quarter of the WCCB.

**5. Selection Committee and process:**

The selection committee shall comprise of the following:

- (i) Addl. Director, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, New Delhi: Chair;
- (ii) Representative of the Additional DG (Wildlife);
- (iii) Two non-government experts practicing in the field of wildlife crime nominated by ADGF(Wildlife);
- (iv) Deputy Director, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau: Member Secretary.

The term of the individual members shall be two years initially and they shall be eligible for re-nomination. The nomination of the individual members on expiration of term of the outgoing incumbents will be made by the Additional Director General (Wildlife).

The Committee shall examine the applications to assess the applicants for their suitability for the scheme. The Committee may also interview all or shortlisted applicants for the purpose.

**6. Antecedents verification and issuance of ID Card and tenure:**

The antecedents of the selected applicants shall be got verified by the WCCB through concerned District Magistrate/ Deputy Conservator of Forests or other such Govt agencies as deemed fit. The applicants found suitable shall be issued an Identity Card identifying them as "Volunteers". The Identity Card shall bear the name of WCCB and shall be valid for a period not exceeding

one year initially. The validity shall be prominently displayed on the front of the Card. The enrolment of the Volunteers may be renewed by Additional Director, WCCB for a period not exceeding two years at a time and Identity card issued based upon their performance and continued suitability without subjecting them to normal selection process.

**7. Duties of volunteers and monitoring process:**

The Volunteers are expected to collect information on wildlife crimes and activities of wildlife criminals; and pass it to the officers of the Bureau for requisite action. In urgent cases, they may pass the actionable inputs to the local forest and police officers under intimation to the officers of the Bureau.

The Volunteers may be required to assist WCCB and / or State Forest Department officers in conducting training courses and sensitization programmes on wildlife, wildlife crime and relevant legislations to central and State enforcement agencies, prosecutors and Judicial officers.

The Volunteers are required to conduct public education campaigns/ programmes on wildlife, wildlife crime and relevant policies and laws.

The Volunteers will perform their duties under observation of the Regional Deputy Director concerned/ WCCB Headquarter.

**8. Cancellation of enrolment as Volunteer**

- (i) A volunteer may seek cancellation of enrolment without indicating reason thereof.
- (ii) Whenever it is found out that any volunteer is involved in illegal activities, or activities which are not in accordance with terms of the scheme or its objectives, the WCCB may terminate the enrolment of the volunteer and seek the Identity Card issued back.

**9. Review of the Scheme:**

The Scheme shall be reviewed at an interval of five years or earlier, if so felt by the Additional Director, WCCB or Additional Director General (Wildlife).