

**FORMAT FOR PREPARATION OF VILLAGE
RELOCATION PLAN FROM CORE / CRITICAL
TIGER HABITATS**

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**National Tiger Conservation Authority
Ministry of Environment & Forests
Government of India**

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BACKGROUND

1. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, as well as the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, require that rights of people (Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers) recognized in forest areas within core/critical tiger/wildlife habitats of tiger reserves/protected areas may be modified and resettled for providing inviolate spaces to tiger/wild animals. This requires payment of compensation (rights settlement in addition to the relocation package offered under the CSS at present). Chapter IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (Section 24) provides for acquisition of rights in or over the land declared by the State Government under Section 18 (for constituting a Sanctuary) or Section 35 (for constituting a National Park). Sub-section 2 of Section 24 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, authorizes the Collector to acquire such land or rights. Therefore, payment of compensation for the immovable property of people forms part of modifying / settling their rights which is a statutory requirement.

2. The ongoing study and the analysis of the available research data on tiger ecology indicate that the minimum population of tigresses in breeding age, which are needed to maintain a viable population of 80-100 tigers (in and around core) require an inviolate space of 800 -1000 sq km. Tiger being an “umbrella species”, this will also ensure viable populations of other wild animals (co-predators, prey) and forest, thereby ensuring the ecological viability of the entire area / habitat. Thus, it becomes an ecological imperative to keep the core areas of tiger reserves inviolate for the survival of source populations of tiger and other wild animals.

GUIDELINES

3. Based on the recommendations of a Professional Agency, a new package for village relocation/rehabilitation has been proposed, with the following options / norms, which adequately covers the “National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007”, while taking into consideration the difficulties / imperatives involved in relocating people living in forest areas:

4. The proposed package has two options:

4.1 **Option I** – Payment of the entire package amount (Rs. 10 lakhs per family) to the family in case the family opts so, without involving any rehabilitation / relocation process by the Forest Department.

4.2 **Option II** – Carrying out relocation / rehabilitation of village from protected area / tiger reserve by the Forest Department.

4.2.1 In case of option I, a monitoring process involving the District Magistrate of concerned District(s) would be ensured so that the villagers rehabilitate themselves with the package money provided to them. In this regard, a mechanism involving handholding, preferably by external agencies should also be ensured, while depositing a considerable portion of the amount in the name of the beneficiary in a nationalized bank for obtaining income through interest generated.

4.2.2 In case of option II, the following package (per family) is proposed, at the rate of Rs. 10 lakhs per family:

(a)	Agriculture land procurement (2 hectare) and development	:	35% of the total package
(b)	Settlement of rights	:	30% of the total package
(c)	Homestead land and house construction	:	20% of the total package
(d)	Incentive	:	5% of the total package
(e)	Community facilities commuted by the family (access road, irrigation, drinking water, sanitation, electricity, tele-communication, community center, religious places of worship, burial/cremation ground)	:	10% of the total package

4.2.3 The relocation process would be monitored / implemented by the following two Committees:

(State level Monitoring Committee)

- (a) Chief Secretary of the State - Chairman
- (b) Secretaries of related departments - Members
- (c) State Principal Chief Conservator of Forests - Member
- (d) Non-official members of respective Tiger Conservation Foundation - Members
- (e) Chief Wildlife Warden - Member-Secretary

4.2.4 (District level Implementing Committee for ensuring convergence of other sectors)

- (a) District Collector - Chairman
- (b) CEO - Member
- (c) Representative officials from: - Members
PWD, Social Welfare, Tribal Department, Health Department, Agriculture Department, Education Department, Power and Irrigation Departments
- (d) Deputy Director of the Tiger Reserve/PA - Member Secretary

4.2.5 The above cost norms are indicative in nature to facilitate flexibility for State/site specific situation, and may be modified to allow inter component as well as inter family adjustments by respective State Governments as per site specific requirements.

5. The relocated village would be taken up on a priority basis for eco development as well as local development through convergence of District level schemes.

5.1 The labour oriented works involved in the relocation process would be preferably implemented through the villagers who are being relocated, so that they derive benefits out of the same apart from ensuring the field implementation to their satisfaction.

5.2 In case resettlement has been done on a forest land, the new settlement will be eligible for access to forest resources for their bonafide use through the village level committee and Gram Sabhas.

5.3 The District Administration would facilitate fair price shop, education, health center close to the relocated site.

5.4 “Handholding” after relocation would be ensured through the forest department with ongoing ecodevelopmental inputs through central assistance and district administration involving convergence of schemes. In this effort help of competent independent agencies may be sought wherever available.

5.5 The relocated villagers would be given priority for livelihood options emanating from the protected area.

5.6 In case the cost of relocation including settlement of rights per family exceeds Rs. 10 lakhs, the State Government has to meet the extra cost.

5.7 The relocation process would be an open ended one, since the progress of relocation process would depend on performance by States.

6. The funding support for village relocation from the core / critical tiger habitats in the Tiger Reserves would be provided through the Annual Plan of Operations, based on the reserve-specific Tiger Conservation Plan, on a case-to-case basis.

7. The provisions contained in Section 38V of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, should be strictly complied with during the relocation process.

8. The centrality of Panchayati Raj Institution should be ensured through consultation during the village relocation.

9. Format for preparing a village relocation plan

9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 Name of the Tiger Reserve

9.1.2 Name of the village

- 9.1.3 Total area of the village
- 9.1.4 Legal Status : Revenue / Forest / Other category
- 9.1.5 Summary
 - 9.1.5.1 Number of families (category-wise)
 - 9.1.5.2 Total human population
 - 9.1.5.3 Total livestock population
 - 9.1.5.4 Proposed site for relocation (in case of **option-II**)
 - 9.1.5.5 Area of the proposed site and its legal status
 - 9.1.5.6 Total allocation required

- 10. Details of families identified.

- 11. Details relating to settlement of rights.

- 12. Details of incentives provided.

- 13. Description of relocation site (in case of **option-II**), with a map showing the layout of homestead land, houses and community facility.

- 14. Details of proposed work at the relocation site:
 - Agriculture land (procurement / development)
 - Transportation
 - House building
 - Pasture / woodlot
 - Access road
 - Irrigation
 - Drinking water facility
 - Sanitation
 - Electricity
 - Telecommunication
 - Community centre
 - Places of worship
 - Burial / Cremation ground

- 15. Other related details:
 - Access to forest resources
 - Access to irrigation facility
 - Access to Anganwadi / School
 - Access to Hospital
 - Access to fare price shop
 - Access to telecommunication facility

- 16. Details of livelihood support and handholding.

- 17. Grievance redressal system.

18. Monitoring and evaluation (State level).

19. Suggested implementation matrix:

Scale of nature of intervention → ↓	Relocation Site	Park/PA	District	State	National
Location and livelihoods	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overall site location and implementation of the R&R package 2. Ensuring basic infrastructure 3. Individual plots for housing and farming 4. Off-farm livelihood options 5. Demographic based specific inputs 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tiger Reserve planning for relocation 2. Ensuring biodiversity gains expected on relocation are actualized 3. Benefit sharing systems with hotel and tourism operators 4. Ensuring convergence with other programmes 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensuring access to basic infrastructure 2. Linking relocated communities with district development programmes 3. Providing State support to the handholding agency 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enabling policies for land purchase 2. Linking State level financial and training institutions 3. Formalizing benefit sharing system 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set up institutional framework for enterprises. 2. Enabling financial decisions and transfers in time 3. Interface with all concerned institutions
Responsible person/ implementing agency	Coordinator, Handholding Institution	Field Director	District level Implementing Committee	Chief Wildlife Varden	NTCA
Management & Administration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Baseline establishment 2. Proper record keeping 3. Ensuring entitlements 4. Capacity building 5. Interface with various agencies 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Land identification 2. Discharge of entitlements 3. Creating linkages for livelihood support 4. Establishing a grievance redressal system 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Land acquisition for R&R 2. Ensuring integration with revenue and development administration 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensuring time-bound completion of R&R tasks 2. Ensuring tenure continuity for officials involved in R&R 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trouble shooting 2. Sharing best practices 3. Introducing central schemes for community development
Monitoring & Evaluation	NTCA Monitoring Committee	NTCA	State level monitoring Committee	State level monitoring Committee	NTCA
Legal aspects	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Providing information on legal situation – rights and duties 2. Highlighting discrepancies if any in the process. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval of land addition owing to relocation 2. Clearance under FC Act for relocation (if required) 3. Providing inputs for compliance under various relevant Acts and Rules 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conducting the LA process 2. Ensuring extinction of rights in PA and establishing rights in relocated area. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensuring compliance with Wildlife Act 2. Ensuring compliance with Tribals & OFD Act 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensuring compliance with Wildlife Act 2. Ensuring compliance with Tribals and OFD Act

20. Cost table and phasing
