

Government of Himachal Pradesh
Department of Forests.

No. FFE-B-C(15)-3/2005-III

Dated: Shimla-171002 the 25-02-2017

NOTIFICATION

The Governor of Himachal Pradesh is pleased to notify the "HP Forest Department Re-revised Eco-Tourism Policy- 2017" enclosed as Annexure -I (15-pages) approved by the State Cabinet vide Memorandum under Item No. 97 on dated 17-02-2017.

By Order

(Tarun Kapoor)
Pr. Secretary (Forests) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

Endst. No. as above

Dated Shimla-171002 25-02-2017

Copy forwarded for information and n/a to:

- 1 The ACS to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, HP
- 2 The Private Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister, HP.
- 3 The Private Secretary to Hon'ble Forest Minister, HP.
- 4 The Private Secretary to the Chief Secretary to the GoHP.
- 5 All the ACS/Pr. Secretaries/ Secretaries to the GoHP.
- 6 The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFI) HP, Shimla-1.
- 7 The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) HP, Shimla-1.
- 8 The Managing Director, HPSFC Ltd. Shimla-171009.
- 9 The Accountant General, H.P. Shimla-4.
- 10 The Sr. Dy. Accountant General, H.P. Shimla-4.
- 11 All the Deputy Commissioners in HP.
- 12 All the Conservators of Forests, Himachal Pradesh.
- 13 All the DFOs in Himachal Pradesh.
- 14 The Controller, Printing and Stationary Department, HP Shimla 171005 with a request to publish the Notification in Extra Ordinary Gazette at early date with 5 extra copies.
- 15 GAD Section, HP Secretariat w.r.t. the cabinet decision dated 17-02-2017.
- 16 Guard file (100) spare copies.

(Sat Pal Dhiman) 25-2-2017

Joint Secretary (Forests) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

HIMACHAL PRADESH FOREST DEPARTMENT

RE-REVISED POLICY

ON

**DEVELOPMENT OF ECO-TOURISM
IN HIMACHAL PRADESH**

2017

1. PREAMBLE

Himachal Pradesh, known for its rich natural heritage, is amongst the top tourist destinations in the country, both for national as well as international visitors. Recent estimates place the number at about 160 lakh visitors - more than twice the State's population. However, much of the tourism related activity is concentrated in four major locations, Shimla, Manali, Dharamshala and Dalhousie. A majority of the visitors do not get an opportunity to experience the rich bio-cultural diversity contained in the many Forest areas, Sanctuaries and National Parks that comprise such a large part of Himachal Pradesh.

The Forest Department of Himachal Pradesh framed an Eco-tourism policy during 2005 to enable tourist to experience this national heritage. The policy needed revision mainly due to the procedural requirements of obtaining clearance of Eco-tourism sites under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 as per guidelines of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India. Some changes in the existing policy document have also been necessitated in the context of the evolving understanding of Eco-Tourism concepts and principles.

The Revised Eco-Tourism Policy 2016 aims at bringing the wilderness and virgin ecosystems of Himachal Pradesh closer to visitors and at the same time ensure adequate safeguards and systems for the protection and conservation of these natural resources. By involving local communities, the policy would help in increased livelihood opportunities as well as their involvement in awareness building, protection and conservation. It also envisages generation of financial returns which can be ploughed back into proper up keep and maintenance of the environment. It shall also promote greater understanding and appreciation for natural and cultural heritage.

The ongoing Eco-Tourism projects also need to be re-looked at and reviewed in view of the Central Ministry's guidelines on Eco-Tourism. It may be necessary to evaluate the on-going projects in order to decide on their further continuation after the culmination of the term of these projects.

2. CONCEPT

'Eco-tourism', in a very broad sense, means venturing into and enjoying nature in such a way as to assure that negative impacts on the cultural and natural environment are

minimized and mitigated. It is, therefore, 'responsible' tourism, which, besides being ecologically and culturally sensitive, helps the local communities in realizing social and economic benefits.

This Policy is based on the understanding that involvement of local communities in eco-tourism would support their livelihood needs and consequently create a stake for them in the conservation of local culture, ecology, and environment.

3. VISION & OBJECTIVES

The vision is to preserve and protect the natural (both flora and fauna) and cultural heritage of Himachal Pradesh, provide opportunities to enhance livelihood of local people, generate resources for sustainable development and promote greater understanding and appreciation for this heritage through authentic Eco-Tourism initiatives.

The Eco-Tourism Policy would encourage a partnership between civil society (local communities, NGOs, Eco-Clubs, academic institutions) as well as private enterprises/businesses and the State Government Departments of Forest, Tourism, Fisheries, I&PH, Power & PWD.

4. MISSION STATEMENT

To make Himachal Pradesh a leading Eco-tourism destination, with Eco-Tourism attracting at least 10% of overall tourists visiting the State by the year 2030.

5. PRINCIPLES

Eco-Tourism can be one of the most viable options for conservation of natural resources and sustainable development in a mountain State like Himachal Pradesh. It has to be executed mindfully, with the minimum impact to inspire cultural awareness, tolerance, and commitment to natural resource conservation. The following Eco-Tourism principles will form the basis of this policy:

Design, construct and operate low-impact facilities:

- Provide a positive experience for both visitors and hosts.
- Build environmental and cultural awareness and respect.
- Minimize physical, social and behavioural impacts.
- Provide direct financial benefits for conservation and livelihood opportunities to local communities

- Deliver memorable interpretative experiences to visitors
- Recognize the rights and spiritual beliefs of the local People

6. STRATEGY

The principles outlined above will be pursued through an appropriate strategy that comprises the following components:-

A. Institutional Arrangements:

- (i) Forest Department has created a *Special Purpose Vehicle* in the form of 'Himachal Pradesh Ecotourism Society' (HP ECOSOC), registered vide No.422 dated 30-06-2006 under the Registration rules of Societies Act 1860 to assist in delivering the mission and objectives of the Policy.
- (ii) HP ECOSOC covers the entire State. It will work with eco-tourism Societies at Division/Circle level to facilitate PPP initiatives at identified locations and provide guidance in furtherance of the principles underlying this policy.

The Division/Circle level societies shall be chaired by the concerned Conservator of Forests/Chief Conservator of Forests of the Forest Circle concerned. The Local Divisional Forest Officer (T)/DFO (Hqtr) will be the Member Secretary of the Division/Circle Level Society and a member of the Governing Body. The District Tourism Development Officer and representative of Deputy Commissioner as well as representatives from the Zilla Parishad, Panchayat Samiti, Nagar and Gram Panchayats will be members of the Governing Body. New Circle Level Societies shall be constituted where these do not exist already and existing Division level Societies shall be merged into respective Circle level Societies in due course of time. The Division/Circle Level Societies can meet on quarterly basis to review, monitor and evaluate the implementation of various activities of all Eco-tourism projects in a Circle. The constitution is suggested as under:

(i) Chairman	CF/CCF concerned
(ii) Member Secretary	DFO(T)/DFO (HQ) of Circle
(iii) Representative of Deputy Commissioner	Member
(iv) Representative of Zilla- Parishad	Member
(v) Representative of Gram Panchayats	Member
(vi) Representative of BDC	Member
(vii) Representative of Tourism Dep.	Member
(viii) All DFOs of the Circle	Member
(ix) DM Forest Corporation	Member

(x) NGO/ CBO working in the field within the Circle Member(one person)

This Governing body will be responsible for approving the annual budgets, action plan. The society will have Supervision Committees headed by the concerned DFOs who will be responsible for all the day to day operations and preparing the budget and annual plan etc. for approval of the Governing Body. The constitution of the Supervision Committee shall be as under:

1. Divisional Forest Officer	Chief Executive Officer
2. Divisional Manager of HPSFDC Ltd.	Member
3. All R.Os of Concerned Division	Member
4. Pradhan of the Gram Panchayat	Member
5. SDO (I&PH)	Member
6. Representative of HIMURJA (Solar Energy)	Member
7. A.M. HPSFDC Ltd Concerned	Member
8. NGO/CBO (One Member)	Member

The Supervision Committees will look after projects and activities in the area of the Division.

(iii) These Division/Circle level societies will send their proposals for fresh eco-tourism sites to HP ECOSOC for securing Government approval and further action for getting project proposals prepared and securing partners for their operation, by following the procedure laid down in this policy.

B. Creating awareness and capacity building of the principal stakeholders:

- (i) HP ECOSOC will concentrate on capacity building through experience sharing, workshops, training programmes and field visits etc., either in-house or through carefully selected organizations/entities.
- (ii) To inculcate the spirit of environmental awareness at an early age, the Division level Societies would engage students at various levels beginning at the primary level.
- (iii) HP ECOSOC will develop appropriate training modules (continuous, practical & participatory) and training material/case studies for the various stakeholders and ensure that emergence of appropriate technologies is to be advanced.
- (iv) Training programmes for nature guides, appreciation of flora/ fauna shall be organized. It shall be the endeavour of the Division level Societies to train a pool of certified nature guides and provide them livelihood opportunities.
- (v) Division/Circle level Societies shall liaise with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) working in the field of Natural Resource Management for providing them

training and other material relevant for eco-tourism.

- (vi) For their education and awareness activities, HP ECOSOC and Division level Societies shall leverage funds through the Externally Aided Projects, the CAT Plans, Capacity Building programmes of H.P. State Tourism Development Board and resources generated from projects developed under PPP mode.

C. Community Involvement

- (i) The endeavour would be to extend maximum benefit to the local community either in the form of employment or resource generation. Local communities will be encouraged to come forward to take up various economic or promotional activities in their areas for furthering the vision and objectives of this policy.
- (ii) Such local communities could be in the form of PRIs, CBOs, User Groups, Mahila Mandal, Yuvak Mandals, Forest Development Committees, watershed development committees, Eco-Clubs, Self-help groups etc.
- (iii) Members of the local community will be represented in the Division/Circle level societies as well as in the Executive Body.

D. Coordination with partner Departments

- (i) Necessary linkages and synergies in the policies and programmes of all concerned departments/agencies will be aimed at by establishing effective coordination mechanisms at the State and the District levels.
- (ii) Linkages with other partner Departments shall be established in the HP ECOSOC (at the level of Governing Body and Executive Committee) and other societies.
- (iii) Linkages with other policies/programs of the State Government/other States & Eco-Tourism Societies of India will be established, such as the State Forest Policy and the New Sustainable Tourism Development Policy 2013, etc.

E. Marketing

- (i) HP ECOSOC shall provide a platform for effective marketing through website and website linkages, which shall provide information for online booking of facilities
- (ii) Tie ups shall be facilitated with organizations/ entities/tour operators/ travel agents/hoteliers engaged in tourism promotion.
- (iii) HP ECOSOC shall utilize the services of Publicity Wing of Forest Department for

popularizing the eco-tourism destinations during fairs and festivals.

- (iv) The services of print and electronic media shall be utilized for dissemination of eco-tourism hot spots and potential sites so as to lure the 'discerning tourist'.
- (v) Forest Rest Houses included under eco-tourism, shall be used for marketing of eco-tourism products like camps/ nature walks/ trekking etc. by enhancing its infrastructure.

F. Important Stakeholders and their functions:

- a) **Visitors:** Responsible travel to natural areas and making available financial contribution for conservation of natural heritage and empowerment of local people.
- b) **Local Communities:** Provide positive experiences for the visitors.
- c) **HP ECOSOC (Special Purpose Vehicle):** Practice and promote ecotourism according to the principles of ecotourism; Capacity building of stakeholders; key interface for ensuring FCA clearance and PPP partners.
- d) **Division/Circle level Societies:** Managing all operations for responsible eco-tourism at ground level.
- e) **Government Departments (Forests, Tourism, PWD, I&PH, Rural Development, Revenue):** Provide positive experiences for the visitors; Minimize impact; Build environmental, cultural awareness and respect. By implementing and educating others about ecotourism, contribute to the positive and more sustainable development of the tourism industry.
- f) **Concerned Panchayat, BDC and Zilla Parishad:** Provide positive experiences for the visitors.
- g) **Partners managing sites:** Practice and promote ecotourism according to the principles of ecotourism.

G. Development & Management of Eco-Tourism Assets

- (i) The State already boasts of a few van vihars and nature awareness centres. It shall be the endeavour to bring all the facets of such nature tourism related assets into a common fold under the aegis of the institutional arrangements envisaged in this policy.
- (ii) Development of nature parks/ van vihars, nature trails etc. that are important from eco-tourism point of view shall be carried out so that not only the tourists outside

State have access to nature. State dwellers shall also have an opportunity for nature appreciation and recreation. *Decisions with respect to utilization and management of these assets shall be taken by the Division/Circle level Societies.*

- (iii) Eco-tourism circuits shall be created, which will allow the visitors to access the existing infrastructure of Forest Rest Houses/Eco-Tourism camping sites.
- (iv) HP ECOSOC shall facilitate selection of partners for Eco- Tourism sites in PPP mode after taking approval of Government of HP. The guidelines about the management of existing Eco-Tourism sites are also provided in this policy document. Adherence to guidelines will be overseen by the Division/Circle level societies.
- (v) Trekking routes shall be popularized and arrangements shall be worked out to offer trekking packages to the discerning tourist, who may like to visit rural and interior areas of the State.
- (vi) Eco-Tourism societies at division level shall endeavour to tie up with school groups and colleges for organizing camps in selected Forest Rest Houses /Eco-Tourism Camping sites operating under its aegis.
- (vii) Eco Circuits shall be created by these societies to link the potential sites.

H. Development and Management of New Eco-Tourism Sites through Departmental Mode and Public Private Partnership (PPP)

A constructive and mutually beneficial partnership between the public and the private sector would be worked out for development of New Eco-Tourism Projects under Public Private Partnership mode as per the provisions made under Himachal Pradesh Infrastructure Development Act, 2001. Some sites shall be developed by the H.P. Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC) and the HP State Forest Development Corporation Ltd (HPSFDC) which are agencies of the State Government. HPTDC will be given preference over HPSFDC if they ask for the same site. They will, however, be given only those sites which they want to run on their own. Few sites shall be developed in departmental mode. PPP projects will only be given directly by the Forest Department. ECOSOC & Circle Level Societies may therefore take action accordingly.

(i) Type of Structures allowed:

No permanent structures will be allowed. Only following types of structures will be allowed:

- (a) Tents of various types;
- (b) Wooden structures; and
- (c) Pre-fabricated structures which can be removed.

In all these cases flooring of cement or tiles or stone may be put up without building deep foundation.

(ii) Modes of Operation:

The sites may be operated in the following modes:

- (a) By the societies directly on departmental mode;
- (b) By the H.P. Tourism Development Corporation/H.P. Forest Development Corporation and;
- (c) Through a private party/outsourcing agency/PPP mode. These will be given directly by the Forest Department.

Even in departmental mode some services may be outsourced or given in PPP mode. Detailed terms and conditions and model agreement will be developed for the sites.

(iii) Investment/Building of infrastructure:

Infrastructure i.e. paths, roads, sewerage, water supply and all buildings/structures may be developed in the following alternatives:-

- (a) All infrastructures to be build by Societies/Tourism Corporation/ Forest Corporation;
- (b) Partial infrastructure by Societies & partially out-sourced/private agencies;
- (c) All infrastructures by out-sourcing to private agency/PPP mode.

Whoever builds the infrastructure, the ownership will lie with the Forest Department i.e. Government. The private party or Corporations, if allowed to build infrastructure, will be on behalf of Forest Department and assets created will therefore be owned by Forest Department only.

The private party will build infrastructure only in land allotted. In case any work pertaining to water supply or sewerage has to be done outside the allotted area, Forest Department may be asked to do the work on payment basis or society may do it. If any infrastructure belonging to Forest Department of Government falls in the area it may be allowed to be used if included in the project by the Forest Department.

(iv) Nature/Forest Awareness Centres

Those sites where all infrastructure belongs to Forest Department and is primarily used for creating of awareness about nature/forests, training regarding environmental protection/nature/forestry and spreading message to the community, generating interest in nature are considered as Forest sites and will also serve as Nature/Forest Awareness Centres. These centres will have experts on the subject and literature/audio visual aids and material etc. to create awareness about Nature/Forests and sensitize the visitors about Environmental Conservation.

(v) Time period of allocation to private parties:

i. When all investment is made by Society(ies) of Forest Department: 3 years extendable by 2 years

ii. Where major investment is made by the private party-out sourced agency: 10 years extendable by 5 years. The time period of allocation for Tourism/Forest Corporation will also be 10 years extendable by 5 years.

(vi) Common facilities:

In all the modes of operation, it shall be ensured that following common facilities are available to the visitors:-

- a. Booking arrangement ;
- b. Website ; and
- c. Publicity.

(vii) MoEF & CC,GOI Guidelines regarding FCA clearance for Eco-tourism Projects:

As per Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, GOI guidelines, an Eco-Tourism project implemented in PPP mode, shall require prior approval of Central Government under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, if it involves all or one or more of the following, namely,

- (a) De-notification of Forest land or apportion thereof.
- (b) Breaking up or clearing of a forest land or portion thereof.
- (c) Assigning any forest land or any portion thereof by way of lease or otherwise to any private person or to any authority, corporation, agency or any other organization not owned, managed or controlled by Government.
- (c) Clearing of trees which have grown naturally in a forest land or a portion, for the purpose of using it for reforestation.

Efforts will therefore be made to identify sites where none of the above is involved and no forest land is required to be given on lease or breaking of land or cutting of trees is involved. Only in rare cases where there is no alternative, sites requiring FCA clearance be taken up.

(viii) Allotment of Projects

Such projects shall be allotted to the private sector through a transparent and competitive process. The Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India for Formulation, Appraisal and Approval of Public Private Partnership Projects shall be broadly followed for greater transparency. The following stepwise procedure shall be followed.

a) Step-I: Project Identification- Selection of new sites

New Eco-Tourism Projects proposed to be taken up through PPPs may be identified through various channels of Forest Department and forwarded to the HP ECOSOC by Circle level societies. The forest land to be leased out for each project shall be maximum upto one (1) hectare and no felling of trees should be involved. HP ECOSOC will assess prima facie feasibility keeping in view relevant parameters of access, infrastructure, attractions, etc. and secure government approval to proceed further in the matter. This will involve engaging of consultants for project formulation, preparation of bidding documents and assisting in this process. The Himachal Pradesh Infrastructure Development Board (HPIDB) shall be asked to assist in this process as envisaged in the HP IDB Act and as per the instructions of the Finance Department issued from time to time.

b) Step-II: Approval of HPIDB to Final Project Proposal:

The HP ECOSOC through the Administrative Department shall secure approval of the HPIDB to the final shape of the project including the terms of concession agreement and period of concession. The project period shall be kept for 10 years extendable by 5 years which shall be reckoned from the date of commercial operations of the Project since at least a period of 6-12 months would be spent in getting all the clearances. The documents that would need to be prepared would, *inter -alia*, include the various agreements to be entered into with the concessionaire detailing the terms of the concession and the rights and obligations of the various parties. Typically, a PPP will involve the concession agreement that will specify the terms of the concession granted to the private party and will include the rights and obligations of all parties.

There could be associated agreements based on specific requirements. The proposed RFP from prospective parties will also be got approved from the HPIDB.

c) Step-III: Approval of the project under Forest Conservation Act, 1980:

After the approval of the final project proposal by the HPIDB, HP ECOSOC wherever non-forestry activities are involved shall get prepared the diversion proposal through concerned Divisional level/Circle level societies and seek prior approval of the competent authority under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 in view of the MoEF & CC's guidelines in this regard. Payment of all the costs like Net Present Value (NPV), Compensatory Afforestation (CA) and other charges so required shall be borne by the HP ECOSOC for which the funds shall be sought initially from the Government by the HP ECOSOC. Subsequently these funds shall be realized by the Government from the Project awardees through HP ECOSOC in due course on finalization of the award and during period of commercial operations of the project. Alternatively when project is given on PPP mode the private party may be asked to pay for these charges or asked to obtain clearance at their level.

d) Step-IV: Invitation to Bids and Bid Criteria:

Financial bids will be invited after approval of the project under FCA, 1980 has been obtained wherever required. An appropriate Concession Fee will be fixed as bidding parameter for the selection of best bidder. The qualified bidder who quotes the highest best bid/price shall be selected for award of the project. Eligibility conditions for bidders will be as specified in the RFP as per criteria enclosed at Annexure-A. *For eligibility criteria, preference will be given to Himachalis.*

(e) Step-V: Eco-restoration

(i) Sites that shall be offered for Eco-Tourism projects shall be returned back by the entrepreneur after the project period as envisaged in the Concession Agreement is over. The entrepreneur shall pay eco-restoration charges as specified in the Concession agreements and any subsequent agreements mutually arrived at thereafter.

(ii) Eco-restoration refers to the scientific practice of ecological restoration, which is the practice of renewing and restoring degraded, damaged, or destroyed ecosystems and habitats in environment by active human intervention and action.

(iii) The idea is to bring back the site to its original condition (or as near to original as

possible), through interventions designed to (a) mitigate the impacts caused by humans on forest lands and (b) allow/ supplement process of natural rejuvenation. The structures put up will be transferred to Forest Department as such and will not be removed.

e) Step-VI: Distribution of Revenues generated through Eco Tourism:

(i) HP ECOSOC and Division/Circle Level Eco-Tourism Societies shall act as the repository of all possible sources of funding, like grants from State Tourism Department, Tourism Department of GoI, HP State CAMPA and other such sources.

(ii) HP ECOSOC and Division/Circle Level Eco-Tourism Societies shall generate resources from (a) levy of user charges/concession fee on eco tourism sites in PPP mode, (b) fees from van vihars, camps, treks, trails, film shooting, rest houses etc.

(iii) Distribution of Revenue generated through Eco-tourism sites, Van Vihars, Van Chetna Kendra and Nature Awareness Centres and use of government assets such as rest houses, shall be as under:

a) **State Government Share:** 20% of the total revenue realized shall be deposited in the Government treasury.

b) **HP ECOSOC Share:** 20% of the total revenue realized shall go to the HP ECOSOC

c) **Division/Circle Level Eco-Tourism Society Share:** Remaining 60% revenue shall remain with the Division/Circle Level Eco-Tourism Society to implement the action plans and also for further sharing with the local Gram Panchayats/communities for which appropriate guidelines shall be framed.

d) **HPSFDC Ltd/ HPTDC Share:** The HPSFDC Ltd. / HPTDC shall make use of 60% share for the Promotion of Eco-Tourism as well as a proportion out of this amount shall go as revenue to the Corporation. Appropriate guidelines will be framed for this purpose.

I) Impact assessment studies, research and 'do not disturb' practices:

(i) Impact assessment studies would be carried out at periodic intervals so as to ascertain impacts of eco-tourism on environment and remedial measures taken.

(ii) Impact assessment studies would also be carried out to gauge the efforts being made for education and awareness about nature and ecology through eco-tourism.

(iii) The number of tourists permissible shall be kept within limits. The carrying capacity concept will be the cornerstone of the State's Eco-Tourism Policy. Carrying capacity shall be determined for various eco-tourism products i.e. sites, trekking sites/trekking circuits.

(iv) Eco-tourism would aim to have low impact on environment and minimal infrastructure

requirements.

- (v) Regulatory measures to ensure social, cultural and environmental sustainability as well as safety and security of tourists shall be enforced through appropriate instruments.
- (vi) There would be conscious effect towards poverty alleviation, employment generation and environmental regeneration.
- (vii) A set of 'do not disturb' guidelines would be issued for educating tourists, private enterprises so as to inculcate the right eco-tourism spirit, to minimize the use of resources for recreation and for general protection of nature.
- (viii) Research shall be undertaken in various facets of eco-tourism, with a view to encourage eco-tourism, minimize negative impacts, eco-restoration techniques and technologies and to offer better eco-tourism products including their marketing.

J) Future Policy for Existing Sites - Impact Assessment Studies:

Impact assessment studies to evaluate the on-going projects shall be carried out immediately. Based on that, fresh project formulation is proposed by following the same process as already specified for new sites. The only difference will be in selection of PPP partner. Swiss Challenge method will be used for allotment on the culmination of the term of the project. This will allow the existing partners (subject to their meeting eligibility conditions) to match a higher financial bid by any other person, subject to any minimum conditions of original bid amount specified in the RFP. The existing sites given for the term less than specified in this policy i.e. ten years extendable by five years may be brought under the amended policy through mutual agreement.

K) Eco Club:

An Eco Club will be created at the State level for promotion of Environment conservation related activities. Any individual interested in Environmental conservation and Nature may become member of the Club. The Club will promote Environment & Nature conservation in Himachal Pradesh. All the persons staying in any of the Eco-tourism sites will be encouraged to become members of the Club in order to continue their long term association with the Eco-tourism sites. It is hoped that the membership will increase gradually and will go in lakhs. There will be tremendous support for such environmental friendly activities in H.P. Eco Clubs will be registered as separate society with Chief Secretary as Chairman and the Hon'ble Chief Minister as Chief Patron.

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'Eco Tourism Project in Himachal Pradesh'

Minimum Eligibility Criteria: (SUGGESTIVE)

To be considered as technically qualified, a Bidder shall fulfil the following minimum eligibility criteria (the " Minimum eligibility Criteria"):

A. Technical Capacity: For demonstrating technical capacity and experience (the "Technical Capacity"), the Bidder shall, over the past 1(one) financial year preceding the Bid Due Date, have operated in India, any travel & tourism or entertainment project with minimum turnover/income of(2 x Project Cost). *Provided further that in case of Himachali entrepreneurs, this shall be 1.5 x Project Cost.*

B. Financial Capacity: The Bidder shall have Net Worth (the "Financial Capacity") of 0.5 of Project Cost in absolute amount at the close of preceding financial year. *Provided further that in case of Himachali entrepreneurs, this shall be 0.3 of Project Cost.*

Definition of Travel & Tourism or Entertainment Project:

- 1 Eco Tourism activities as per Central/ State Govt. guidelines
- 2 Hotel & restaurant
- 3 Resorts
- 4 Heritage or Historical Monuments
- 5 Museum & Galleries
- 6 Lodging & Catering
- 7 Transport
- 8 Tour Operators
- 9 Travel Agents
- 10 Information & Guiding
- 11 Adventure
- 12 Wildlife Attractions
- 13 Castles
- 14 Leisure Parks
- 15 Sports Complex
- 16 Event Management
- 17 Multiplex
- 18 Shopping Mall & Festival
- 19 Banquets
- 20 Cinema & Film
- 21 Theatre