

## INTRODUCTION

The Working Plan for West *Melghat* Division is the first plan of the area, after the reorganization of the divisions. It covers both Reserved Forests and Protected Forests (compensatory afforestation areas) in charge of West *Melghat* Division.

The present West *Melghat* Division is formed by drawing and merging the part areas of erstwhile West *Melghat* Division and South *Melghat* Division. Accordingly *Dharni and Dhakna* Ranges were managed under *Shailendra Bahadur* and *B.S.Thengdi's* plan till 2002-03. The *Akot and Dhulghat* Ranges were managed under *B. S. Thengdi's* working plan till 2003-04. The present plan replaces the above two plans and will be in force for 10 years w.e.f. 2008-2009.

The Preliminary Working Plan Report prepared by *Shri G. P. Garad* was approved by the State Level Committee on 10-3-2004 and communicated vide letter No.1261, dated 8-2-05. On the basis of the approved PWPR, the current plan has been prepared. However, some changes have been proposed in the Working Circles mentioning in the PWPR. After analysis of enumeration results, a decision has been taken to merge Afforestation Working Circle with Improvement Working Circle as the crop composition and number of trees/ha. in both WCs are more or less same. Protected Forest (Area taken as compensatory lands) which have already been planted and needed improvement works are included in Improvement Working Circle. In addition, the area proposed to be managed as TPWC (overwood removal) has been merged with SCI Working Circle from which it was earlier carved out. The decision for merging was taken after consideration of pre-dominance of trees of seed origin in crop composition, analysis of regeneration data, the biodiversity consideration, and also the vicinity of Melghat Tiger Reserve to the Division. Old Teak Plantations will be managed as per prescriptions given under Plantation (Overlapping) Working Circle. The chapters of the Plan are prepared according to the National Working Plan Code-2004. Accordingly, 4 mandatory overlapping Working Circles are introduced. These are 1. Bamboo (Overlapping) Working Circle, 2. Wildlife (Overlapping) Working Circle 3. N.T.F.P. (Overlapping) Working Circle 4. Plantation (Overlapping) Working Circle. Chapters on JFM and Forest Protection has also been incorporated in the Plan. In addition to this, new chapters on Biodiversity, Socio Economic Survey, Five Year Plans are added to the Plan.

To preserve the *Melghat* ecosystem in perpetuity, conservative fellings have been prescribed. Earlier working was prescribed up to 45° slope and the same has been brought down to 25° slope.

The computerized inventory management system evolved by *Shri Dhabekar* ACF has been used in analyzing the enumeration data obtained from the field by S.O.F.R. unit *Amravati*. The digitized maps have been generated by Geo-media Cell of this office.

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Place : Amravati.

(V.R.Tiwari)

Conservator of Forests

Working Plan Division, Amravati.