

Annexure to G.O No. FEE 75 FAP 2022 dated 27.11.2024

“Karnataka Forest Wildlife & Climate Change Foundation”

(KFWCCF)

Under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960

RULES AND REGULATIONS

(Byelaw)

1. Name of the Foundation:

Karnataka Forest Wildlife & Climate Change Foundation

2. Location of the Registered office of the Foundation:

At: Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force)
4th Floor, Aranya Bhavan, Malleshwaram,
District: Bengaluru
PIN:560003

3. Area of Operation/Jurisdiction:

Area of operation of the Foundation shall be the State of Karnataka.

4. Definitions:

In these Rules and Regulations (Byelaw) unless the context requires otherwise;

- a) “Foundation” shall mean the Karnataka Forest Wildlife & Climate Change Foundation (KFWCCF)”
- b) “Chairperson of the Governing Body” shall mean the Minister in charge of Forests and Wildlife.
- c) “Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Body” shall mean the Additional Chief Secretary (Forest Environment, and Ecology Department)
- d) “Member secretary of the Governing Council” shall mean the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force
- e) “Government” means the State Government of Karnataka, unless otherwise specifically mentioned.
- f) “CSR” and means the Corporate Social Responsibility unless otherwise specifically mentioned.
- g) “CER” means the Corporate Environmental Responsibility unless otherwise specifically mentioned.

5. Aims & Objectives and Constitution of the Foundation:

5.1) Aims & Objectives: The Foundation aims to undertake impactful projects that promote environmental sustainability, preservation of forest and wildlife, biodiversity protection, and climate change mitigation in Karnataka

5.2) Constitution: The Foundation shall be a non-profit making institution registered under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act 1960 for the implementation of projects where corporate entities can invest in impactful projects focused on environmental sustainability, preservation of forest and wildlife, biodiversity protection, and climate action in Karnataka.



6. Governance Structure:

KFWCCF is participatory governance framework, which ensures representation from the Government, private sector, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and academia. The governance structure will include:

6.1 Governing Body

- i) The Governing Body will play a critical role in overseeing the strategic direction, policy formulation and financial oversight of the foundation's initiatives.
- ii) It ensures balanced representation from the government, private sector and civil society, facilitating transparency, accountability, and collaboration.
- iii) The Governing Body shall ensure a strategic, transparent, and accountable approach, driving meaningful outcomes for environmental sustainability and social development.

The Governing Body shall consist of the following members.

Sl. No.	Designation	Status
1.	The Minister in charge of Forests and Wildlife	Chairperson
2.	The Additional Chief Secretary (Forest, Environment and Ecology Department)	Vice-Chairperson
3.	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife	Ex -Officio Member
4.	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, EWPRT&CC.	Ex-Officio Member
5.	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Development.	Ex-Officio Member
6.	Principal Secretary, Forests, FEE	Ex Officio Member
7.	Principal Secretary, Environment and Ecology, FEE.	Ex Officio Member
8.	Principal Secretary, Finance department.	Ex Officio Member
9.	Principal Secretary, Commerce and Industries.	Ex Officio Member
10.	2 Representatives from Key industries bodies such as FICCI, Nasscom, CREDAI and CII bringing in private sector expertise and alignment with CSR goals to be nominated by Govt.	Non-Official Member
11.	2 CSR Heads of leading multinational corporations (MNCs) ensuring corporate engagement in project development and execution- to be nominated by Govt.	Non-Official Member
12.	1 Eminent academicians and environmental experts with expertise in Bio-diversity, climate change and sustainable development- to be nominated by Govt.	Non-Official Member
13.	1 Representatives from Civil Foundation Organizations actively working in the fields of climate action and conservation- to be nominated by Govt.	Non-Official Member
14.	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force)	Member Secretary

6.1a Membership:

The Non-official members shall be appointed by the Government, for a period of 3 years. The term of the ex-officio members shall be co-terminus with their appointment to the posts held by them.

6.1b. Functions and Powers of the Governing Body:

- i) Strategic Oversight: Setting the strategic direction of the Foundation, ensuring alignment with both CSR regulations and approval of key projects, ensuring they address Karnataka's environmental and social needs. The Governing Body shall also approve the operational guidelines of the Foundation.
- ii) Financial Oversight: Ensuring the efficient use of funds, including CSR/CER contributions, philanthropic donations, and other revenue streams. The Governing Body will be responsible for approving annual budgets, reviewing financial reports, and ensuring that funds are allocated transparently.
- iii) Policy Formulation: Defining the policies governing the Foundation's operations, including project approval processes, partnership criteria, and monitoring and evaluation frameworks.
- iv) Partnership Development: Fostering partnerships with corporate, international organizations, academia, and government bodies to maximize the impact of the Foundation's initiatives.
- v) Monitoring and Evaluation: Overseeing the progress and impact of projects, ensuring that outcomes are measurable and in line with the Foundation's objectives. Regular progress reports will be reviewed, and adjustments to strategies will be made as needed.
- vi) To add, delete or modify any of the clauses of the Memorandum of Association of the Foundation, subject to the approval of the Government.

The Governing Body shall ordinarily convene meetings at every 6-month interval. Decisions will be made by majority vote, with Chairperson having the final authority in case of any deadlock.

To ensure transparency, all decisions, financial statements, and project reports will be publicly accessible through the Foundation's website. The Governing Body shall also release an Annual Report detailing the Foundation's achievements, financial performance, and upcoming initiatives.

6.2a Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for day- to- day management, administration and execution of the foundation's initiatives. This committee shall ensure that projects are implemented efficiently, funds are utilized effectively, and goals are aligned with the broader strategies set by the Governing Body.



The Executive Committee shall consist of the following members

Sl. No.	Designation	Status
1.	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force)	Chairperson
2.	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife	Ex officio Member
3.	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, EWPRT&CC.	Ex Officio Member
4.	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Development.	Ex Officio Member
5.	Principal Secretary, Environment and Ecology, FEE.	Ex Officio Member
6.	Director General, EMPRI	Ex Officio Member
7.	Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Publicity and ICT	Ex Officio Member
8.	Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife	Ex Officio Member
9.	Member Secretary, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board	Ex Officio Member
10.	All the 13 Chief Conservator of Forest/Conservator of Forest of Circles	Ex Officio Member
11.	2 Representatives from the industry and IT companies to be nominated by the Government	Non-Official Member
12.	2 Experts from the field of Wild life Conservation and Environment Sector to be nominated by the Government	Non-Official Member
13.	Nodal Officer: A dedicated Nodal Officer will be appointed from within the Executive Committee, by the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, to oversee the Foundation's CSR Cell, ensuring efficient coordination between CSR partners, government departments, and project implementation teams.	Member Secretary

6.2 b Membership:

i. A member of the Executive Committee, except non-official members, become a member by reason of the office of appointment he/she holds and his/her membership of the Executive Committee shall terminate when he/she ceases to hold that office or appointment.

ii. The non-official members shall be appointed by the Government. The tenure of the non-official members shall be for a period of 3 years.

6.2 c Functions and Powers of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall have the following responsibilities:

- Operational Management: Overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Foundation, ensuring that projects are executed in accordance with the guidelines set by the Governing Body. This includes managing timelines, budgets, and resource allocation for ongoing and new projects.

- **Project Implementation:** The committee shall be responsible for the execution of all CSR-funded projects, other projects based on the donations received, Wildlife Conservation plan implementation from the Funds from the User Agencies Which commit funding for such activities as part of the Environmental clearance, and ensuring that they meet the set objectives and produce measurable outcomes. This involves liaising with the relevant forest divisions, corporate partners, and local communities to ensure smooth project implementation.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** The Executive Committee shall develop rigorous monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework to assess the progress of projects.
- **Periodic reports on project milestones, financial disbursements, and impact assessments** will be submitted to the Governing Body as well as to corporate partners and Donors.
- **Financial Management:** Managing the budget and ensuring transparent fund utilization for each project. The Executive Committee shall work closely with the finance team to ensure that funds from CSR Contributions and other Sources are efficiently allocated.
- **Stakeholder Co-ordination:** Ensuring smooth coordination between corporate partners, government agencies, CSOs and local communities. The Executive Committee shall also handle stakeholder engagement, ensuring that all parties are aligned with the project's goals and deliverables.
- **Resource Mobilization:** The Committee will actively engage in securing additional funding and resources from philanthropic organizations, international agencies, and social impact investors to complement the CSR contributions. This will help scale successful initiatives and expand the Foundation's impact.

The Executive Committee shall meet at least once every quarter to review progress, make key operational decisions, and address any challenges that arise during project implementation. Decisions will be made by consensus, with the Chairperson having the authority to make final decisions in cases where consensus is not reached.

The Executive Committee is directly accountable to the Governing Body and shall submit quarterly reports detailing project progress, financial expenditures, and overall outcomes. Additionally, the Committee will prepare an Annual Report that will be placed before the Governing Body and shall be shared publicly, ensuring transparency in the Foundation's operations.

The CSR Cell, headed by the Nodal Officer will be set up by the Executive Committee, to assist in discharging its function.

6.3 CSR Cell

The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Cell within the Karnataka Forest, Wildlife & Climate Change Foundation (KFWCCF) shall serve as the operational hub for all Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) and CSR-related activities. Its primary function will be to coordinate, manage, and monitor CSR projects in alignment with both corporate, economic and environmental objectives. CER and CSR are the main strategies that help in the creation of efficient and environmentally sustainable businesses.



The CSR Cell shall play a pivotal role in facilitating the engagement of corporates with the Foundation's projects, ensuring compliance with CSR guidelines as outlined in Schedule VII, Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013.

For the effective administration, management, implementation of projects, monitoring and evaluations, Report generations, website maintenance, development of other IT tools, etc., by the CSR Cell, an amount equal to 5% of the CSR contributions, donations, etc., shall be earmarked towards the administrative costs of CSR cell and the Foundation.

6.3a Functions of the CSR Cell

CSR Cell shall be the key point of contact between corporate partners, the government, and the project implementation teams, ensuring that CSR and CER contributions are effectively challenged into impactful, measurable projects. The CSR Cell's responsibilities include:

- **Coordination with Corporates:** The CSR Cell shall act as the primary liaison between corporates and the Foundation. It will approach companies for CSR funding, facilitate partnerships, and ensure that corporate contributions are aligned with specific projects. Cell will work closely with CSR Heads of companies to match their sustainability goals with the Foundation's project needs.
- **Project Identification (Charter of Desirables) and Proposal Development:** The CSR Cell shall work with various divisions of the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) to identify potential projects, to be called as Charter of Desirables, which are eligible for CSR funding as per the Policy formulated by the Foundation. It will develop Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), including cost estimates, timelines, expected outcomes and sustainability assessments to be presented to corporate partners.
- **Facilitating Agreements and Partnerships:** The CSR Cell shall be responsible for negotiating and finalizing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and tripartite agreements between the Foundation, corporate partners, and the implementing government bodies (e.g., Deputy Conservators of Forests of Territorial, Wildlife and Research wings). These agreements will outline the roles, responsibilities, and financial commitments of each party.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E):** A critical responsibility of the CSR Cell is to establish a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track the progress and impact of CSR/CER-funded projects. The Cell shall conduct regular site visits, track project milestones, and generate reports on project performance. This ensures that corporate partners are kept informed about the impact of their contributions and the progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Financial Management and Reporting:** The CSR Cell shall oversee the receipts, disbursements and utilization of CSR funds, ensuring compliance with CSR regulations and corporate requirements. The Cell will maintain detailed financial records for each project, ensuring transparency and accountability in the use of funds. Regular quarterly financial reports will be submitted to both the Executive Committee and the corporate partner.



- Ensuring Compliance with CSR/CER Guidelines: The CSR Cell shall ensure that all projects meet the criteria outlined in Schedule VII, Section 135 of the Companies Act, ensuring that CSR /CER activities align with legal and regulatory requirements. It will also ensure that projects contribute to specific SDG targets, such as SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).
- Ensuring compliances with Statutory Laws: The CSR cell shall ensure that all the activities are in tune with the Forest Act, Forest Conservation Act, Wildlife Protection Act, working plans and Management plans, Environment Protection Act, Biodiversity Act, Societies Act, Companies Act and any other applicable Law.
- Capacity Building and Stakeholder Engagement: The CSR Cell shall engage with key stakeholders, including local communities, NGOs and government departments, to build capacity for project implementation. It will organize training programs and workshops to ensure that all parties involved in project execution are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills.
- Public Transparency and Communication: To ensure transparency, the CSR Cell shall regularly update the Foundation's website with the charter of desirables/Projects, DPRs, progress reports, project outcomes, impact assessments and financial disclosures. This will help maintain public confidence in the Foundation's work and demonstrate the impact of corporate contributions.

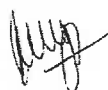
The CSR Cell shall be headed by a Nodal Officer, appointed by the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, who will oversee all CSR/CER operations. The Nodal Officer will report directly to the Executive Committee, ensuring alignment between operational execution and the strategic direction set by the Governing Body. The Nodal Officer shall be supported by a team of professionals with expertise in:

- CSR/CER strategy and management
- Project management and coordination
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Financial management and reporting
- Environmental science and sustainability

This multidisciplinary team will ensure that all aspects of project execution from proposal development to implementation and reporting are managed effectively and efficiently. The above key personnel and ministerial staff shall be engaged on an outsourced basis. Till the time the Foundation generates money for its administrative costs, the Karnataka Forest Department will depute Officers/officials from the Forest department, on deputation or as concurrent charges.

6.3b Responsibilities of the Nodal Officer

- Lead CSR/CER Engagement: The Nodal Officer shall spearhead corporate outreach, managing relationships with corporate partners and identifying new opportunities for engagement.



- **Supervise Project Implementation:** They will ensure that all CSR/CER-funded projects are implemented according to plan, ensuring that deliverables are met within the established timelines and budgets.
- **Oversee Reporting and Compliance:** The Nodal Officer shall ensure that all financial and project reports are accurate, timely, and compliant with both CSR/CER regulations and corporate requirements.
- **Coordinate Cross-Departmental Collaboration:** They will ensure seamless collaboration between the KFD divisions, corporate partners, and other stakeholders to ensure successful project outcomes.

The CSR Cell shall submit quarterly progress reports to the Executive Committee, detailing the Project lists/Charter of desirables, the status of ongoing projects, financial expenditures, and challenges encountered. These reports will be shared with corporate partners to keep them informed about the progress of their contributions. Additionally, the CSR Cell shall be responsible for preparing an Annual CSR Report that outlines the overall impact of CSR/CER projects, which will be submitted to the Executive Committee which would place it before the Governing Body and made publicly available.

7. Project Implementation

The Foundation shall adopt a systematic and transparent approach to project implementation to ensure that all initiatives deliver measurable environmental and social impacts. The following outlines the key stages of project implementation:

7.1 Project Identification and Planning

- **Needs Assessment:** Collaborating with stakeholders, including the Karnataka Forest Department, local communities, and corporate partners, to identify priority areas for intervention, such as afforestation, wildlife conservation, water restoration, climate change mitigation measures and community development.
- **Project Selection:** Projects will be aligned with the Foundation's core objectives and key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The selection process will ensure that initiatives meet the environmental and social priorities of Karnataka. The Projects, prepared and selected, shall be called as Charter of Desirables.
- **Feasibility Studies:** Conduct detailed assessments, including environmental impact analysis, to evaluate the feasibility of each project and its potential for long-term sustainability.

7.2 Detailed Project Reports (DPRs)

- **Project Scope:** Develop Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) outlining the project's scope, objectives, and deliverables.
- **Budgeting and Resource Allocation:** Provide a clear financial plan, including detailed cost estimates for project execution, ensuring effective resource allocation for each initiative.



- **Timelines and Milestones:** Define the timelines for project activities, setting clear milestones to track progress at different stages of implementation.

7.3 Partnership Agreements

- **Corporate Partnerships:** Engage with corporate partners through the CSR Cell to secure funding and technical support, aligning corporate sustainability goals with project needs.
- **Government and Community Engagement:** Establish formal agreements with local government bodies, forest departments, and community organizations to ensure coordinated project execution.
- **Tripartite MoUs:** Sign Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between KFWCCF, corporate partners, and implementing agencies, outlining roles, responsibilities, and funding commitments.

7.4 Project Execution

- **On-the-Ground Implementation:** Mobilize teams and resources for the execution of project activities, including Forest protection, afforestation drives, water body restoration, wildlife management and habitat improvement works, and community development programs.
- **Technology Integration:** Leverage innovative technologies such as GIS mapping, remote sensing, drones, and AI for enhanced monitoring, data collection, and project management.
- **Sustainable Practices:** Ensure that all projects incorporate sustainable practices that are environmentally sound and socially inclusive, promoting long-term ecological balance.

7.5 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

- **Progress Tracking:** Implement a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework to regularly track project progress. This will include field visits, data collection, and performance reviews against set milestones.
- **Impact Assessment:** Evaluate the environmental and social impact of projects, using data-driven metrics to assess success in areas such as carbon sequestration, biodiversity enhancement, water conservation, and community development.
- **Reporting:** Provide regular progress reports to the Executive Committee, corporate partners, and other stakeholders, ensuring transparency and accountability in the implementation process.

7.6 Financial Management and Accountability

- **Fund Disbursement:** Ensure the timely and efficient disbursement of CSR funds for project activities, adhering to the budgetary allocations in the DPRs.
- **Investment:** The funds of the Foundation shall be invested in the modes specified under the provisions of Section 13(1) (d) r.w.s.11 (5) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 as amended from time to time.
- **Utilization of the Funds:** The Funds and Income of the Foundation shall not be paid to the members by way of profits, interest, dividend etc.



- **Financial Auditing:** Conduct regular financial audits to maintain transparency in fund utilization. All financial activities will comply with regulatory frameworks and the Companies Act, 2013 CSR guidelines.

7.7 Capacity Building and Stakeholder Engagement

- **Community Involvement:** Engage local communities through training programs and awareness campaigns to build capacity and ensure community ownership of projects.
- **Workshops and Training:** Organize workshops for project teams, government officials, and corporate partners to ensure skill development and knowledge-sharing related to sustainable practices, climate resilience, and innovation.

7.8 Final Reporting and Documentation

- **Completion Report:** Prepare a final project report that includes detailed documentation of the project's outcomes, challenges, financial expenditures, and lessons learned.
- **Public Reporting:** Share the outcomes of the projects through the Foundation's Annual Report and make them accessible to the public via the Foundation's website to maintain transparency and demonstrate the impact of corporate contributions.

7.9 Scaling and Replication

- **Best Practices:** Identify successful projects that can be scaled or replicated across other regions in Karnataka or other states. Projects demonstrating high impact and sustainability will serve as models for future initiatives.
- **Scaling Partnerships:** Seek additional partnerships, both domestic and international, to scale successful projects and expand the reach of KFWCCF's initiatives.
- **Through a structured and transparent approach,** KFWCCF will ensure that each project is implemented effectively, with measurable outcomes that contribute to Karnataka's environmental sustainability, social development, and climate resilience.

8. The Government Oversight

The Government may review the functioning of the Foundation from time to time and issue such directions as may be considered necessary, in respect of the affairs of the Foundation.

The State Government will have powers to appoint the non-official members to the Governing Body and the Executive Committee. Besides, it can also appoint a Financial Advisor or any other officer or staff on deputation.

Any change in the Byelaw, approved by the Annual General Body meeting of the Governing Body shall be incorporated only after the approval of the Government subject to obtaining the prior approval of the Director of Income Tax/ Commissioner of Income Tax in respect of such amendment. The decisions of the Government shall be binding on the Foundation.



9. Funding Mechanisms

The Karnataka Forest, Wildlife & Climate Change Foundation (KFWCCF) will adopt a diverse range of funding mechanisms to ensure the sustainability and scalability of its projects. These mechanisms will leverage Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)/Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER) contributions, philanthropic donations, funds received as part of the Environment clearances for Wildlife Conservation Plans, Eco-tourism activities and innovative financial instruments such as carbon and green credits. The goal is to create a stable and transparent funding structure that enables long-term environmental and social impact while aligning with corporate, governmental, and global sustainability priorities.

For the effective administration, management, implementation of projects, monitoring and evaluations, Report generations, website maintenance, development of other IT tools, etc., by the CSR Cell, an amount equal to 5% of the CSR contributions, donations, etc., shall be ear-marked towards the administrative costs of the Foundation.

9.1 Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):

Primary Funding Source: CSR/ Engagement from corporate entities will serve as the primary funding source for the Foundation. These contributions shall be aligned with Clause (iv) Schedule VII, Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013, and enable companies to invest in well-defined, measurable projects.

- Project-Based CSR/CER Engagement: Companies will fund specific projects in areas such as afforestation, wildlife protection, and water conservation and community development with their contributions tied to Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) that outline financial needs, timelines, and expected outcomes.
- Corporate Partnerships: The Foundation will engage with corporate CSR/CER heads and industry associations such as FICCI, CII, Nasscom, and CREDAI to secure long-term commitments and foster strong partnerships for the long term.

9.2 Philanthropic Donations and Grants:

- Philanthropic Contributions: In addition to CSR/CER funds, the Foundation will attract philanthropic donations from individuals, trusts, and foundations committed to environmental sustainability and social impact. Such contributions may be received in cash or kind or combination of both. These contributions will allow for greater flexibility in funding projects that may not qualify for CSR funding but are essential for holistic environmental management.
- National and International Grants: The Foundation will actively pursue grants from national and international organizations, including UN agencies, development banks, and global environmental funds. These grants will enable the Foundation to scale successful projects, support research initiatives, and implement large-scale conservation efforts.



9.3 Carbon Credits and Green Credits:

- **Carbon Credit Trading:** The Foundation will develop carbon sequestration projects through afforestation, reforestation, and conservation initiatives, allowing corporations to offset their carbon emissions. These carbon credits will be tradeable in both domestic and international carbon markets, providing a sustainable revenue stream for the Foundation.
- **Green Credits:** The Foundation will explore the development of green credit systems, where companies earn credits for participating in environmentally sustainable activities. These credits can be monetized or used to meet ESG (Environmental Social and Governance) compliance requirements, incentivizing corporates to continue their investments in environmental projects.

9.4 Social Impact Investments:

- **Impact Funds:** The Foundation will seek social impact investors who are interested in funding projects that deliver both financial returns and social-environmental benefits. By demonstrating a measurable impact on climate resilience, biodiversity, and community development, the Foundation will attract investors looking for blended value returns.
- **Public-Private Partnerships (PPP):** Through strategic public-private partnerships, the Foundation will collaborate with government bodies and private investors co-fund large-scale initiatives. These partnerships will leverage public funds and private capital to expand the reach and impact of environmental sustainability projects.

9.5 Crowd Funding and Community Funding:

- **Crowd Funding Platforms:** The Foundation will explore crowdfunding as a means of raising funds from individuals and small businesses interested in contributing to specific environmental projects. This approach will help engage a wider audience, especially for localized projects such as water body restoration, tree planting, or wildlife protection.
- **Community Contributions:** Involving local communities in contributing financially or in-kind (e.g., labour or resources) to the projects will enhance their ownership and long-term sustainability. Community funding can be particularly impactful in rural development and conservation initiatives where local engagement is critical.

9.6 Government Schemes and Subsidies:

- **Government Schemes:** The Foundation will work closely with state and central government departments to leverage various government schemes and subsidies for environmental projects that align with national policies, such as climate action, biodiversity conservation, Wildlife Conservation Plans, and water resource management.
- **Subsidies for Renewable Energy:** To promote the adoption of renewable energy solutions such as solar and wind power in forest-fringe communities, the Foundation



will seek government subsidies and incentives under schemes like the KUSUM Scheme and other renewable energy promotion programs.

9.7 Sustainable Tourism Revenues:

- **Eco-Tourism Projects:** The Foundation will develop eco-tourism initiatives within forest areas, generating revenue from tourism activities while promoting conservation. Profits from eco-tourism will be reinvested into the Foundation's projects, ensuring a continuous funding stream that supports both environmental sustainability and local economic development.
- **Partnerships with Tour Operators:** Collaboration with tour operators and hospitality companies will help fund conservation efforts through a portion of the revenues generated from eco-friendly travel experiences.

9.8 Corporate Sponsorships for Research and Innovation:

- **Sponsorship for Research Programs:** Corporates interested in innovation and research can sponsor specific research initiatives related to climate resilience, sustainable technologies, forests and biodiversity management. Sponsorship will cover research grants, technology development, and pilot projects.
- **Innovation Hubs:** Establishing innovation hubs within the Foundation, on the themes further its objectives.
- **Access to Global Funds:** The Foundation will pursue funding opportunities from global environmental funds such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF), and Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN). These funds are designed to support large-scale environmental initiatives that contribute to global sustainability goals.
- **Partnership with International NGOs:** Partnering with international NGOs will open doors to joint funding opportunities, where projects can be co-funded to maximize impact and share resources effectively.

9.10 ESG Consulting Services:

Sustainability Consulting Services: The Foundation will offer **Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) consulting services** to corporations, helping them design and implement sustainability strategies that align with global best practices. This includes advising on corporate responsibility, carbon footprint reduction, and the integration of **sustainable business models**.



10. Transparency and Accountability

The Foundation will implement a robust system of checks and balances to ensure that its projects are managed ethically, efficiently, and in full compliance with regulatory and CSR guidelines.

Principles of Transparency and Accountability


10.1 Open Reporting Systems

- **Annual Reports:** The Foundation will publish comprehensive Annual Reports detailing all projects, financials, milestones, and outcomes. These reports will be accessible to all stakeholders, ensuring full transparency about how funds are utilized and what impact is being achieved.
- **Financial Transparency:** Detailed financial reports will be published regularly, including CSR/CER fund allocations, expenditures, and audit results. The use of funds will be tracked in line with the Companies Act, 2013, and all financial reports will be accessible to both donors and the public.

10.2 Real-Time Project Updates

- **Dedicated Website:** The Foundation will maintain a dedicated website that provides real-time updates on project progress, fund utilization, and key milestones. This online portal will serve as a central hub for all stakeholders to access project-related information, ensuring continuous engagement and visibility.
- **Project Dashboards:** Interactive project dashboards provide visual representations of progress on key projects, displaying timelines, deliverables, and financial tracking. Corporate partners and the public can monitor the status of their funded projects in real time.

10.3 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework

- **Continuous Monitoring:** The Foundation will implement a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework to track project progress and ensure goals are being met. The M&E system will include regular site visits, data collection, and the use of technological tools such as GIS mapping and remote sensing for environmental monitoring.
 - **Third-Party Evaluations:** Independent third-party evaluations will be conducted periodically to assess the effectiveness, impact, and sustainability of key projects. These evaluations will provide an unbiased review of the Foundation's work and ensure accountability at all levels of project execution.
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10.4 Accounts and Financial Audits

- **Accounts and Annual Financial Audits:** The accounts of the Foundation shall be maintained in double entry system and the Foundation's accounts shall undergo rigorous annual audits by CAG-empaneled independent Chartered Accountant. This ensures that all funds are being used appropriately and in alignment with the objectives set forth by the Governing Body and corporate partners.
- **Internal Audits:** Regular internal audits will be conducted to ensure that financial management processes are adhered to. These audits will assess compliance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act and other relevant financial regulations.

10.5 Governance Accountability

- **Board Oversight:** The Governing Body will play a key role in overseeing the Foundation's activities, ensuring that all decisions are made transparently and with the consent of all stakeholders. Half-yearly reviews will be conducted to evaluate the performance of the Foundation's initiatives.
- **Executive Committee Reporting:** The Executive Committee will report regularly to the Governing Body on project execution, fund utilization, and challenges encountered. This continuous oversight ensures alignment between operational activities and strategic goals.

10.6 Stakeholder Engagement

- **Corporate Partner Updates:** Regular reports will be provided to corporate partners detailing how their contributions are being utilized and what impact has been achieved. These updates will include financial summaries, project milestones, and performance against ESG targets.
- **Community Feedback Mechanism:** The Foundation will establish feedback channels with local communities and other key stakeholders to ensure that projects are being executed in a way that meets local needs and expectations. Community involvement will be integrated into the project evaluation process to assess social impact and effectiveness.

10.7 Public Access to Information

- **Open Data Policy:** The Foundation will adopt an Open Data Policy, making all non-sensitive project data available to the public. This will include environmental data, progress reports, financial summaries, and research findings.
- **Public Consultations:** Regular public consultations and stakeholder meetings will be held to ensure that all voices are heard in the decision-making process. This will enhance the Foundation's accountability to local communities and stakeholders.



10.8 Grievance Redressal Mechanism

- **Grievance Reporting System:** A Grievance Redressal system will be established, allowing stakeholders, including corporate partners, community members, and government agencies, to report concerns or complaints. The Foundation will commit to resolving grievances in a timely and transparent manner.
- **Anonymous Reporting:** An anonymous reporting mechanism will also be available to encourage accountability within the Foundation's internal operations, ensuring that employees and stakeholders can report unethical behavior or mismanagement without fear of retaliation.

10.9 Sustainability of Projects

- **Post-Project Evaluation:** After the completion of a project, the Foundation will conduct thorough post-project evaluations to ensure that the objectives have been met and that the project delivers sustained benefits to the environment and local communities.
- **Sustainability Plans:** The Foundation will create sustainability plans for all projects, ensuring long-term environmental and social impact. These plans will outline how projects will be maintained and funded beyond the initial implementation phase.

10.10 Public Disclosure of Partnerships and MoUs

Transparent MoUs: All Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and partnership agreements between the Foundation, corporate partners, and government bodies will be publicly disclosed. These documents will outline the roles, responsibilities, and financial commitments of each party involved, ensuring that there is clarity on how projects are executed and funded.

10.11 Bank Account of Foundation

The Foundation shall open a Savings Bank Account (with Flexi account) in any of the Nationalized or Scheduled Banks in the joint name of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee and Nodal officer of the CSR cell and it shall be jointly operated by both.

11. Legal Affairs:

A designated representative of the Executive Body shall represent the Foundation in all the legal proceedings involved in the Foundation. Also, he/she shall be empowered to initiate any legal action on any entity on behalf of the Foundation.

12. Other Provisions:

- **Amendment:** No amendment to the Bye Laws shall be made which may prove to be repugnant to the provisions of section 2(15), 11, 12 and 13 and 80 G of the Income Tax Act, 1961 as amended from time to time. Further, no amendment shall be carried out without prior approval of the Director of Income Tax/ Commissioner of the Income Tax.
- **Beneficiary:** The benefits of the Foundation shall be open to all irrespective of caste, religion or creed.





13. Dissolution of the Foundation:

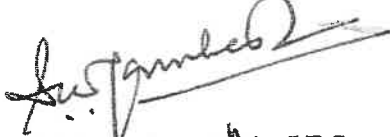
- In the event of the dissolution of the Foundation, the assets remaining as on the date of the dissolution shall under no circumstances be distributed among the members of the Executive Committee and Governing Body but the same shall be transferred to another Charitable Association whose objects are similar to that of this foundation and which enjoys recognition u/s 80G of the Income Tax Act 1961, as amended from time to time.
- The Foundation may be dissolved by a resolution of not less than three- fourth of the official members of the Foundation after obtaining the concurrence of the Government.
- The Foundation shall not be dissolved without the prior consent of the Government and on such dissolution, the assets of the Foundation shall be automatically transferred to the Government or shall be disposed of, as per the directions of the Government.

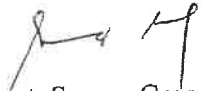
12. Certificate:


- i) Certified that there is no other registered Foundation in the same name and at the same place.
- ii) Certified that this is the true and correct copy of the byelaw of the Foundation
- iii) Certified that all the legal matters shall be guided under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960.

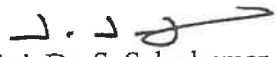

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)
Aranya Bhavan, Malleswaram,
BANGALORE-3, KARNATAKA



Shri. Eshwar B. Khandre
Hon'ble Minister, Forest Ecology
and Environment Dept.
Government of Karnataka



Shri. Subhash K Malkede, I.F.S
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Wildlife



Smt. Seema Garg, I.F.S
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Development

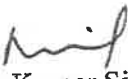

Shri. Vijay Mohan Raj V, I.F.S
Principal Secretary to Government
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Shri. Dr. S. Selvakumar, I.A.S
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(Evaluation, Working Plan, Research,
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