MOEFCC

Draft 1 km eco-sensitive zone for Bherjan-Borajan-Padumoni

Draft S.O. 5910(E) proposes a uniform 1 km eco-sensitive zone of 32.01 sq km around Bherjan-Borajan-Padumoni Wildlife Sanctuary in Tinsukia, Assam.

THE MINISTRY OF Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) published draft notification S.O. 5910(E), dated October 29, 2026, in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 5678, dated October 29, 2026 (CG-DL-E-04112026-277645). It is proposed under section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and published under rule 5(3) of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986. It is signed by Ved Prakash Mishra, Joint Secretary, under F. No. 25/111/2015-ESZ-RE.

KEY FACTS

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MoEFCC · October 29, 2026

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The draft would notify a uniform 1 km eco-sensitive zone around the Bherjan-Borajan-Padumoni Wildlife Sanctuary in Tinsukia district, Assam. The sanctuary covers 7.21 sq km in three separate Reserve Forests: Bherjan (1.06 sq km) and Padumoni (4.39 sq km) under Dibrugarh Division, and Borajan (1.76 sq km) under Digboi Division. The zone would cover 32.01 sq km: 8.48 sq km around Bherjan, 14.8 sq km around Borajan and 8.73 sq km around Padumoni. Annexure-V lists 16 villages and tea gardens inside it.

The draft would prohibit commercial mining, stone quarrying and crushing, new or expanding polluting industries, new major hydroelectric and irrigation projects, hazardous substances, discharge of untreated effluents and solid waste, new solid waste disposal sites and incineration facilities, new saw mills and brick kilns. It would regulate 21 activities, including hotels and resorts, construction, tree felling, roads, commercial extraction of surface and ground water and night traffic for commercial purposes. No new commercial hotels, resorts or commercial construction would be allowed within 1 km of the sanctuary boundary or up to the zone's extent, whichever is nearer, apart from temporary tourist accommodation for eco-friendly tourism and local people building on their own land for residential use. Ten activities, such as rain water harvesting and organic farming, would be promoted.

The State Government would prepare a Zonal Master Plan within two years of the final notification's publication, in consultation with local people and eleven State departments. A Monitoring Committee chaired by the District Commissioner, Tinsukia, with the Divisional Forest Officer, Tinsukia Wildlife Division, as Member-Secretary, would monitor compliance. Its tenure would be three years or until the State Government reconstitutes it. Activities listed in the schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006 (S.O. 1533(E)) would be scrutinized by the Committee and referred to MoEFCC for prior environmental clearance; others would go to the concerned regulator.

Anyone may send objections or suggestions in writing within sixty days from the date copies of the Gazette are made available to the public. They go to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi-110003, or to esz-mef@nic.in. The draft does not state the date the sixty days began; the Gazette copy is digitally signed November 4, 2026. The Central Government will consider the draft only after the period ends, so no final notification can have followed yet.

Issued by	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Document	Draft notification S.O. 5910(E)
Dated	October 29, 2026
Published	Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 5678, October 29, 2026 (CG-DL-E-04112026-277645)
Legal basis	Section 3(1), 3(2)(v), 3(2)(xiv) and 3(3), Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; rule 5(3), Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986
Applies to	A uniform 1 km zone around Bherjan-Borajan-Padumoni Wildlife Sanctuary, Tinsukia district, Assam
Sanctuary area	7.21 sq km: Bherjan 1.06, Borajan 1.76, Padumoni 4.39 sq km
Zone area	32.01 sq km: Bherjan 8.48, Borajan 14.8, Padumoni 8.73 sq km
Villages and tea gardens in the zone	16 (Annexure-V)
Activities	8 prohibited, 21 regulated, 10 promoted
Zonal Master Plan	By the State Government, within two years of the final notification's publication
Monitoring Committee	Chaired by the District Commissioner, Tinsukia; Member-Secretary the Divisional Forest Officer, Tinsukia Wildlife Division; tenure three years or until reconstituted by the State Government
Comments	Within 60 days of the Gazette being made available to the public, to the Secretary, MoEFCC, or esz-mef@nic.in
Takes effect	Not yet: a draft; the final notification will be considered after the comment period

Activities in the proposed eco-sensitive zone (paragraph 4)

Sl. No.	Activity	Category	What the draft says
1	Commercial mining, stone quarrying and crushing units	Prohibited	All new and existing mining (minor and major minerals), stone quarrying and crushing units prohibited, except digging of earth for the domestic needs of bona fide local residents
2	Setting of industries causing pollution	Prohibited	No new industries and no expansion of existing polluting industries; only non-polluting industries under the CPCB classification of January 2025

3	New major hydroelectric and irrigation projects	Prohibited	Prohibited
4	Use, production or processing of hazardous substances	Prohibited	Prohibited
5	Discharge of untreated effluents and solid waste in natural water bodies or land	Prohibited	Prohibited
6	Solid waste disposal sites and incineration facilities	Prohibited	No new solid waste disposal site or waste treatment or processing facility; no common or individual incineration facility for solid waste from industrial processes or health establishments
7	New saw mills	Prohibited	No new saw mills and no expansion of existing ones
8	Brick kilns	Prohibited	Prohibited
9	Commercial hotels and resorts	Regulated	None new within 1 km of the sanctuary boundary or up to the zone's extent, whichever is nearer, except temporary tourist accommodation for eco-friendly tourism; beyond 1 km, subject to the Zonal Master Plan
10	Construction activities	Regulated	No new commercial construction within 1 km or up to the zone's extent, whichever is nearer; local people may build on their land for residential use; beyond 1 km, as per the Zonal Master Plan
11	Small scale non-polluting industries	Regulated	Permitted by the Competent Authority under the CPCB classification of January 2025
12	Felling of trees	Regulated	Only with prior permission of the Competent Authority in the State Government
13	Collection of forest produce or non-timber forest produce	Regulated	As per the Forest Rights Act, 2006
14	Electrical cables and communication towers	Regulated	Under applicable laws; underground cabling to be promoted
15	Infrastructure including civic amenities	Regulated	With mitigation measures, under applicable laws and guidelines
16	Widening of existing roads and new roads	Regulated	With mitigation measures, under applicable laws and the EIA Notification, 2006
17	Overflying by hot air balloon, helicopter, drones, microlites	Regulated	Under applicable laws

18	Protection of hill slopes and river banks	Regulated	Under applicable laws
19	Night movement of vehicles	Regulated	For commercial purpose, under applicable laws
20	Ongoing farming, dairy, aquaculture and fisheries by local communities	Regulated	Permitted under applicable laws for use of locals
21	Large commercial livestock and poultry farms	Regulated	As per applicable laws, for local needs
22	Discharge of untreated waste water or effluents in natural water bodies or land	Regulated	To be kept out of water bodies; recycling and reuse of treated waste water encouraged; treated discharge regulated under applicable laws
23	Commercial extraction of surface and ground water	Regulated	Under applicable law
24	Open wells and bore wells	Regulated	Regulated and strictly monitored
25	Solid waste management	Regulated	Under applicable law
26	Introduction of exotic species	Regulated	Under applicable law
27	Eco-tourism	Regulated	Under applicable law
28	Use of polythene bags	Regulated	Permitted; may be regulated under applicable laws based on specific requirement
29	Commercial sign boards and hoardings	Regulated	Under applicable law
30 to 39	Rain water harvesting, organic farming, green technology, cottage industries, renewable energy, agro-forestry, eco-friendly transport, skill development, restoration of degraded land, environmental awareness	Promoted	Shall be actively promoted

The draft notification (PDF, 4.5 MB)

Source: Gazette of India, CG-DL-E-04112026-277645.

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