MOEFCC

# Draft 1 to 4 km eco-sensitive zone for Badalkhol sanctuary

Draft S.O. 5909(E) proposes an eco-sensitive zone of 1 to 4 km, 110.08 sq km in all, around Badalkhol Wildlife Sanctuary in Jashpur, Chhattisgarh.

THE MINISTRY OF Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) published draft notification S.O. 5909(E), dated October 29, 2026, in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 5677, dated October 29, 2026 (CG-DL-E-04112026-277652). 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. 25/149/2015-ESZ-RE.

KEY FACTS

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Draft notification S.O. 5909(E)



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The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) published draft notification S.O. 5909(E), dated October 29, 2026, in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 5677, dated October 29, 2026 (CG-DL-E-04112026-277652). 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. 25/149/2015-ESZ-RE.

The draft would notify an eco-sensitive zone around the Badalkhol Wildlife Sanctuary in Bagicha Tehsil, Jashpur district, Chhattisgarh. The sanctuary covers 104.454 sq km. The zone would run from 1 km to 4 km beyond the sanctuary boundary: 1 to 4 km to the north, north-east and south, 1 to 2.5 km to the east and south-east, 1 to 3.6 km to the south-west, 1 to 2.7 km to the west and 1 to 3.5 km to the north-west. It would cover 110.08 sq km, of which 45.03 sq km is reserve and protected forest and 65.045 sq km is revenue area. Annexure-IV lists 24 villages inside it.

The draft would prohibit commercial mining, stone quarrying and crushing, new or expanding polluting industries, major hydroelectric projects, hazardous substances, discharge of untreated effluents, new saw mills, brick kilns and commercial use of firewood. It would regulate 24 activities, including hotels and resorts, construction, tree felling, roads, groundwater extraction 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. Eleven activities, such as rain water harvesting and organic farming, would be promoted. Only non-polluting industries under the Central Pollution Control Board's classification of February 2016 would be allowed in the zone.

The State Government would prepare a Zonal Master Plan within two years of the final notification's publication, in consultation with local people and twelve State departments and bodies. A Monitoring Committee chaired by the District Collector, Jashpur, with the Deputy Director, Elephant Reserve Surguja, as Member Secretary, would check compliance. Activities listed in the schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006 (S.O. 1533(E)) would be scrutinized by the Committee and referred to MoEFCC or the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority for prior environmental clearance; others would go to the concerned regulator. The draft does not set a term for the Committee.

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.

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| Issued by | Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change |
| Document | Draft notification S.O. 5909(E) |
| Dated | October 29, 2026 |
| Published | Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 5677, October 29, 2026 (CG-DL-E-04112026-277652) |
| 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 zone of 1 to 4 km around Badalkhol Wildlife Sanctuary, Bagicha Tehsil, Jashpur district, Chhattisgarh |
| Sanctuary area | 104.454 sq km |
| Zone area | 110.08 sq km: 45.03 sq km reserve and protected forest, 65.045 sq km revenue area |
| Villages in the zone | 24 (Annexure-IV) |
| Activities | 8 prohibited, 24 regulated, 11 promoted |
| Zonal Master Plan | By the State Government, within two years of the final notification's publication |
| Monitoring Committee | Chaired by the District Collector, Jashpur; Member Secretary: Deputy Director, Elephant Reserve Surguja |
| 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)

| S. No. | Activity | Category | What the draft says |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Commercial mining, stone quarrying and crushing units | Prohibited | All new and existing (minor and major minerals), stone quarrying and crushing units prohibited with immediate effect, except for the domestic needs of bona fide local residents, including digging of earth to build or repair houses in the zone |

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| 2 | Setting of industries causing pollution | Prohibited | No new polluting industries and no expansion of existing ones; existing industries should install pollution prevention technologies and noise barriers |
| 3 | Establishment of major hydroelectric project | Prohibited | Prohibited |
| 4 | Use, production or processing of any hazardous substances | Prohibited | Prohibited |
| 5 | Discharge of untreated effluents in natural water bodies or land area | Prohibited | Prohibited |
| 6 | Setting of new saw mills | Prohibited | No new saw mills and no expansion of existing ones |
| 7 | Setting up of brick kilns | Prohibited | Prohibited |
| 8 | Commercial use of firewood | Prohibited | Prohibited |
| 9 | Commercial establishment of hotels and resorts | Regulated | None new within 1 km of the sanctuary boundary or up to the zone's extent, whichever is nearer, except small temporary structures for eco-tourism; beyond that, in line with the Tourism Master Plan and guidelines |
| 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 their use as per building bye-laws; 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 February 2016 |
| 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 (NTFP) | Regulated | Under applicable laws |
| 14 | Electrical and communication towers, cables and other infrastructure | Regulated | Under applicable law; underground cabling may be promoted |
| 15 | Infrastructure including civic amenities | Regulated | With mitigation measures, under applicable laws, rules, regulations and guidelines |
| 16 | Widening and strengthening of existing roads and new roads | Regulated | With mitigation measures, under applicable laws, rules, regulations and guidelines |

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| 17 | Overflying the zone by hot air balloon, helicopter, drones, microlites | Regulated | Under applicable laws |
| 18 | Protection of hill slopes and river banks | Regulated | Under applicable laws |
| 19 | Movement of vehicular traffic at night | Regulated | For commercial purpose, under applicable laws |
| 20 | Ongoing agriculture, horticulture, dairies, aquaculture and fisheries by local communities | Regulated | Permitted under applicable laws for use of locals |
| 21 | Large-scale commercial livestock and poultry farms by firms, corporates and companies | Regulated | As per applicable laws, except for meeting local needs |
| 22 | Discharge of treated waste water or effluents in natural water bodies or land | Regulated | To be avoided; recycling and reuse to be tried; otherwise regulated under applicable laws |
| 23 to 32 | Commercial extraction of surface and ground water, open and bore wells, solid waste management, exotic species, eco-tourism, sign boards and hoardings, drastic change of agriculture systems, polythene bags, fencing of hotels and lodges, air, vehicular and noise pollution | Regulated | Under applicable laws |
| 33 to 43 | Rain water harvesting, organic farming, green technology, cottage industries, renewable energy, agro-forestry, horticulture and herbal plantation, eco-friendly transport, skill development, restoration of degraded land, environmental awareness | Promoted | Shall be actively promoted |

The draft notification (PDF, 3.9 MB)

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