

Date:25/04/2010 URL:**<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/04/25/stories/2010042552590300.htm>**

[Back](#)[Other States](#) - [Orissa](#)

State's proposal to harvest bamboo from sanctuary turned down

Staff Reporter

BHUBANESWAR: National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has declined to give permission to the State government to collect bamboo from Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary and Tiger Reserve.

A standing committee of NBWL turned down the proposal of the State government as the latter did not obtain approval of its own State Board for Wildlife which was a statutory requirement.

The committee advised the State to seek approval of State Board for Wildlife before getting final recommendation of NBWL. The standing committee, however, put conditions for felling and removal of bamboo from the sanctuary limit. Only Eco Development Committees and the Van Surakshya Samitis located within the protected areas and those located in the immediate vicinity could be engaged in the felling of bamboo tree. The material so felled will be kept in small decentralised depots, it said

“The felled bamboo will be distributed to the villagers located within the Protected Area and in the immediate vicinity free of cost based on a plan to be prepared in this regard by the Orissa Forest Department. No commercial exploitation or sale to industry will be permissible,” the NBWL made it clear. It further said rigid fire prevention measures, tending operations and soil and moisture conservation measures would have to be taken to ensure the establishment of regeneration and to prevent accelerated soil erosion and moisture loss. “No labour camp will be established close to any water hole or stream used by the wild animals. Adequate precautions will be taken so that the wildlife habitat is not disturbed by the people involved in the felling of bamboo,” the committee said.

Bamboo harvesting plays an important role in strengthening economy of sanctuary fringe villages whose residents were dependant on forest resources. However, meeting of State Board for Wildlife are rarely convened to discuss issues regarding sanctuaries.

© Copyright 2000 - 2009 The Hindu