EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

a) VISION STATEMENT: -

The Bhandara Forest Project Division was originally formed in the year 1969 with headquarter at Bhandara. This management plan of Bhandara for division covers the entire forest area, which have been transferred to F.D.C.M. Ltd. for management purposes vide Government Resolution No. FDC/1074/64746/F-5 dated 27 June 1978. This management plan replaces the management plan by Shri. D.S. Ingole, the Divisional Manager, Bhandara Forest Project Division which was written for the period from 2016-17 to 2025-26. The scientific management of the forest areas of Bhandara Forest Division has been proposed in the management plan for a period of ten years from 2026-27 to 2035-36. There are 37 compartments of Reserve Forest and 01 compartment of Protected Forest i.e., total 38 compartments are considered for present management plan (2026-27 to 2035-36). The forest area occurs in compact block as well as in scattered patches within the civil territory of Bhandara District of the state of Maharashtra. The area lies in between the parallels of latitude 20°-39' to 21°-38' North and longitude 79°-25' to 80°-42' East.

This management plan shares the National vision of sustainable Management of Forest to meet the needs of present and future generation. The concept of sustainability in forest management implies not only sustainability productive function but also environmental functions (soil and water conservation, carbon sequestration etc.) and socio- economic benefits (meeting livelihood and basic needs) to forest dwellers and other forest dependent communities. Environment of forest fringe communities in the protection and management of forest resources through micro plans and eco-development plans has become imperative and must find linkages to management plan.

In the light of the above, the revised code called "National Working Plan Code 2023" for sustainable Management of Forest and biodiversity was enforced. This Management plan for Bhandara Forest Project Division has been prepared as per the guidelines of the Government of India contained in the National Working plan Code 2023 and broadly follows the National Forest Policy of 1988 and Maharashtra state Forest policy 2008 with emphasis of on conservation, preservation and protection of forest, wildlife and environment.

b) GOAL AND OBJECTIVES OF MANAGEMENT: -

The following are the goal and objectives of management.

(i) To enhance the productivity of the area by converting low value forests into a valuable teak stand.

(ii) To increase the productivity of forests by using improved plantation technology and to maintain the same on sustained yield basis.

(iii) To stop further degradation of the area to restore the vegetation cover of the degraded area by site protection and tending of Natural Regeneration, supplementing it with plantation of desire species wherever necessary.

(iv) To protect, conserve and enhance the wildlife and its habitat in managed forest.

(v) To enhance the productivity of Bamboo area.

(vi) To promote and increase the production of NTFP and to manage the same scientifically to utilize the potential to the maximum possible extent on sustained basis.

(vii) To meet the requirement of small timber, fuel wood, fodder and minor forest produce of the rural and tribal population on top priority.

(viii) To conserve Soil and Water Resources for ecological and environment stability by effective monitoring.

(ix) To preserve forest cover on steep hill slopes, along the Nala banks and water courses and to prevent soil erosion.

c) SWOT ANALYSIS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOAL AND OBJECTIVES OF MANAGEMENT:

The Strengths are: -

1. Land bank of scientifically managed forest.
2. Assured rainfall area.
3. Scope for wasteland development.
4. Annually about 150 ha. is available for production forestry.
5. Series of successful teak plantation for intermediate revenue.
6. Huge employment generation in rural areas through forestry operations.
7. Balanced wildlife habitat management resulted in abandon population of wildlife in the forests.
8. Efficient and young dynamic trained staff.
9. Awareness of modern tools and technology.

The Weaknesses are: -

1. Predominantly the forest is of site quality III/IV.
2. Heavy biotic pressure on regeneration of forest and natural resources.
3. Out of total, area about 20% area is degraded where Natural Regeneration is very poor.
4. Labour shortage due to industrialization and seasonal migration.
5. Increasing withdrawals from forest for livelihoods.
6. A break in recruitment of front-line staff for a long time.

The Opportunities are: -

1. Fresh recruitments in front line staff during past plan period.
2. Streamlined forest management practices.
3. Providing livelihood opportunities through forestry activities.
4. Developing ecotourism destinations to involve local communities.
5. Marginal forests area under production systems.
6. Financial monitoring making administration stronger and transparent.
7. Scope for ecotourism.

The Treats are: -

1. Increasing population pressure on forest.
2. Forest and wildlife may be harmed by organized gangs.
3. Lack of funds to nourish opportunities.
4. Fire, grazing, encroachment, illicit felling etc.in forest area.
5. Soil erosion and Damage by Insects, Parasites and climbers.
6. Migration of laborer to urban area

d) <u>EXPECTED OUTCOME</u>: -

1. Production forestry with biodiversity conservation.
2. Productivity enhancement of forest through enrichment plantations, generation of higher biomass and better protection
3. Expansion and development of tree cover outside forest area through turnkey plantation.
4. Conservation of environment and the ecological stability through soil and moisture conservation works.
5. Wildlife and its habitat conservation, protection and development works.
6. Consolidation of boundaries.
7. Village development activities through FDCM CSR fund.

e) PERIOD OF THE PLAN: -

This plan is prepared for a period of ten years i.e. from 2026-27 to 2035-36.

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