File No. FC-11/49/2026-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)
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Indira Parayavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi-110003
Dated: As per E-sign

To

The Additional Chief Secretary (Forests) / Principal Secretary (Forests),
All State Governments / Union Territory Administrations

Subject: Online module for creation of land bank for compensatory afforestation – reg.

Madam / Sir,

I am directed to refer to the subject cited above and to inform that, with a view to streamlining the processing of proposals seeking forest clearance, the Ministry has undertaken a comprehensive review of the process of identification of land for raising compensatory afforestation in lieu of forest land sought for diversion.

2. It has been observed that considerable time is being consumed in the process of identification of land for compensatory afforestation, which is one of the reasons for delays in the processing and approval of proposals submitted for prior approval of the Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

3. To facilitate the avilability of the land for compensatory afforestation, enabling provisions have been provided under Rule 14(4) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 for the States/UTs to create a land bank.

4. Accordingly, an a dedicated online Land Bank Module has been developed in the PARIVESH portal. The land bank module provides an interface for Divisional Forest Officers and Nodal Officers of States/UTs to upload land parcels identified for compensatory afforestation. The land parcels uploaded on PARIVESH can be accessed and utilized by user agencies to meet compensatory afforestation requirements for their projects.

5. The salient features of the land bank module are as under:

i. **Land Parcel Registration:** The module provides a mechanism for uploading land parcels identified for compensatory afforestation. The Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs) can upload the KML files of the identified land parcels and enter provide detailed information of each land parcel in a prescribed format.
ii. **Role of DFO and Nodal Officer: The** DFO is responsible for identification and submission of suitable land parcels in the portal as per the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023. The Nodal Officer should scrutinize and approve the land parcels.

iii. **Unique Land Bank Identification System:** Each land parcel registered in the system is assigned a unique Land Bank ID upon submission. This unique identifier facilitates easy tracking, referencing, and monitoring of individual land parcels throughout their lifecycle.

iv. **Geo-Spatial Integration:** The module integrates geo-spatial capabilities through mandatory submission and verification of KML files using Decision Support System tools. This ensures accurate geo-referencing of land parcels, enabling spatial validation and improving the reliability and authenticity of the land bank database.

v. **Online Scrutiny and Approval Workflow: T**he module enables seamless online processing, wherein land parcel entries submitted by the DFO are automatically forwarded to the Nodal Officer for review.

vi. **Dynamic Land Bank Dashboard:** Once the land parcels are approved by the Nodal Officer, they are automatically reflected in the centralised Land Bank Dashboard. This dashboard provides real-time visibility and serves as real-time repository of available land parcels, facilitating better planning and decision-making.

vii. **Utilization of land bank for compensatory afforestation:** The land parcels uploaded on PARIVESH can be accessed and utilized by user agencies to meet compensatory afforestation requirements for their projects.

6.To prevent duplication of land parcels, the PARIVESH Land Bank Module and the Green Credit Programme (GCP) Portal have been integrated through an API-based validation system. The system verifies KML files in real time and prevents the same land parcel from being registered or used on both portals. Accordingly, the concerned Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs) and Nodal Officers of the State shall ensure that no land parcel already uploaded on the PARIVESH Land Bank Module is uploaded on the GCP Portal, and vice versa. This will ensure the identification and availability of unencumbered land for Compensatory Afforestation (CA).

7. A detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for registration of land parcels in the land bank module in PARIVESH for compensatory afforestation is enclosed herewith.

8. All State Governments and Union Territory Administrations are requested to sensitize the concerned Nodal Officers, Conservator of Forests, Divisional Forest Officers to identify suitable land parcel and upload them on the land Bank module on PARIVESH for facilitating compensatory afforestation.

10. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Encl.: As above.

Digitally signed by
Charan Jeet Singh
Date: 12-07-2026
18:51:35

Yours faithfully,

(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'E'

Copy to:

1. The PCCF & HoFF, all State Governments and Union Territory

Administrations
2. The Deputy Director General of Forests (Central), all Regional Offices of MoEF&CC
3. The Nodal Officers dealing with matters connected with the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, all State Governments and Union Territory Administrations
4. Director, NIC, MoEF&CC, with a request to organise an online demonstration of the revised module for processing authorities in the States/UTs.

Copy for internal circulation to:
PSO to Secretary, EF&CC/PSO to DGF&SS/ Senior PPS to Additional DGF (FC)

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Land Bank Module of PARIVESH Portal for Compensatory Afforestation

1. Background: To facilitate identification, verification, and creation of a credible repository of land parcels for compensatory afforestation, the Land Bank Module has been provided in the PARIVESH. In order to ensure procedural clarity in the registration and approval process, the following Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is hereby prescribed for the Land Bank Module.

2. Registration of Land parcels

i. **Role of the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO):** The Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) shall be responsible for uploading the KML file of the land parcel on the Land Bank Module of the PARIVESH portal. All necessary details of the land parcel, including area, location, photographs, canopy density, etc., shall be submitted accurately in the prescribed online format.

ii. **Role of the Nodal Officer:** The land parcels uploaded by the DFO will be forwarded to the Nodal Officer automatically. The Nodal Officer shall be responsible for scrutiny and examination of the land parcels uploaded by the DFO. The Nodal Officer shall review the land parcels uploded in the Land Bank Module, including detailed examination of the land particulars and the associated geo-referenced KML file. The Nodal Office can use the EDS module for additional information, if any, required for review by the Nodal Officer. The Nodal Officer shall approve the land parcel if it is found to be complete and in order for compensatory afforestation.

iii. **Generation of Unique Land Bank ID:** After successful submission of land parcel details by the DFO, the system shall automatically generate a unique Land Bank ID. This ID shall serve as the permanent reference for tracking, monitoring, and managing the land parcel within the Land Bank Module.

iv. **Approval and Update in Dashboard:** Upon approval by the Nodal Officer, the land parcel shall be reflected in the Land Bank Dashboard. The parcel shall thereafter be deemed registered and shall form part of the verified Land Bank database available for use in compensatory afforestation planning.

v. **Selection of Land Parcels by User Agency:** The User Agency can view the land parcels available in the land bank uploaded on PARIVESH can be utilized by user agencies to meet compensatory afforestation requirements for their projects.

5. Validation of land parcels : To prevent duplication and overlap of land parcels,

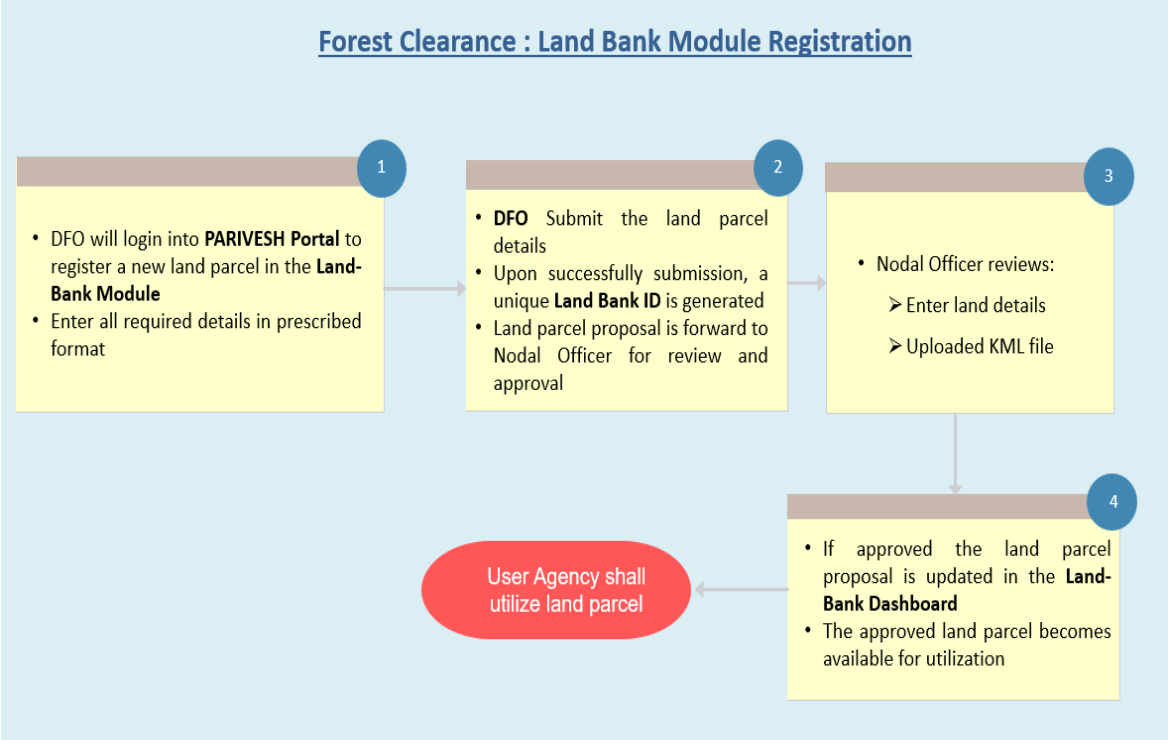
the PARIVESH Land Bank Module and the Green Credit Programme (GCP) Portal have been integrated through an API-enabled validation mechanism for real-time verification of KML files uploaded on either portal. The system automatically detects and restricts duplicate or overlapping land parcels, ensuring the integrity of land records and facilitating identification of unencumbered land for Compensatory Afforestation (CA). Accordingly, the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) and the Nodal Officer shall ensure strict compliance with these provisions.

6. Use of Decision Support System (DSS) tools: Decision Support System (DSS) has been embedded in the Land Bank Module to assist the concerned Divisional Forest Officer and the State Nodal Officer in analysing and assessing the suitability of land parcels identified for Compensatory Afforestation. The DSS facilitates informed decision-making by evaluating land parcels in terms of theri crown density and other relevant ecological and spatial parameters, thereby enabling the identification of suitable land for afforestation. Accordingly, all concerned authorities are requested to make effective use of the DSS tools while screening and finalising land parcels for Compensatory Afforestation.

7. Suitability of land parcel: The Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) and the Nodal Officer shall ensure that the degraded forest land identified for creation of land banks has a canopy density of up to 0.4 and is free from all encumbrances. In the case of non-forest land, land parcels may be identified for inclusion in the land bank irrespective of their canopy density. Accordingly, non-forest land parcels having a canopy density exceeding 0.4 may also be included in the land bank, provided such land is is free from all encumbrances and is suitable for compensatory afforestation in accordance with the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.

8. Compliance : All Divisional Forest Officers, Nodal Officers, and other concerned authorities shall strictly adhere to the provisions of this SOP to ensure uniformity, transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the implementation of the Registration Process in the Land Bank Module of PARIVESH portal.

9. Schematic Representation of the Registration Process Flow


Forest Clearance : Land Bank Module Registration
1
DFO will login into PARIVESH Portal to register a new land parcel in the Land-Bank Module
Enter all required details in prescribed format
2
DFO Submit the land parcel details
Upon successfully submission, a unique Land Bank ID is generated
Land parcel proposal is forward to Nodal Officer for review and approval
3
Nodal Officer reviews:
Enter land details
Uploaded KML file
4
If approved the land parcel proposal is updated in the Land-Bank Dashboard
The approved land parcel becomes available for utilization
User Agency shall utilize land parcel