

National Legislation on Plants under Wild Life Protection (WPA) Act-1972 -Meeting convened under the Chairmanship of Dr V.K. Bahuguna, DG, ICFRE

3rd Meeting of Expert Committee on Wildlife Protection (WPA) Act - 1972 (Plant Committee) was held on 7th September, 2012 in FRI, Dehradun under the Chairmanship of Dr V K Bahuguna, Director General, ICFRE. MoEF has nominated the Director General, ICFRE, Dehra Dun as the Coordinator for periodic review and scheduling of wild plants, and ICFRE, Dehra Dun as the coordinating agency to carry out this activity and submit, every fourth year, a report based on detailed consultations among concerned organizations and subject experts to the MoEF for the purpose of reviewing the schedule of Wildlife Protection Act - 1972 and recommending inclusion/exclusion of plant species based on the consultations and deliberations. In his opening remarks, Dr VK Bahuguna, Director General, ICFRE and Coordinator of Expert Committee on Wildlife Protection Act (Plant Committee) apprised the members regarding the importance of the subject and requested them to keep in view the parameters viz. *Conservation Value/Occurrence Status; Biological Status; Socio-economic Use and Threat Perception*. Shri B.S.S Reddy, Addl PCCF, Andhra Pradesh, Shri Vinod Kumar, Addl PCCF Tamil Nadu, Dr D.K Singh, Addl. Director Botanical Survey of India, Shri P.V Chalapathi Rao, CF, Wild Life Management Circle, Tripati, Retired Forest Officers and taxon experts and Expert members from ICFRE and BSI attended the meeting. Shri Sandeep Tripathi, DDG (Research) coordinated deliberations in the meeting. Extensive and intensive deliberations took place to build consensus on selection of *Pterocarpus sandalinus* (Red Sander) and *Santalum albam* (Sandal wood) which are mostly grown in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, of plant species for inclusion/exclusion in the Wildlife Protection Act Schedule VI and to revise WPA Schedule VI for inclusion/exclusion of plant species in consultative manner. The recommendations of today's meeting will be sent to Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) for final decision.



The Scientific body at ICFRE of today's meeting came to a common consensus that *Pterocarpus sandalinus* (Red Sander) and *Santalum albam* (Sandal wood) should not be included in the Schedule VI of Wild Life (Protection) - Act because its regeneration is not a serious problem but its management is a problem. Including it in Schedule VI of Wild Life (Protection) - Act or keeping in the negative list would only discourage its cultivation by farmers but would also act as incentive for smugglers because of non availability of legal timber. However MoEF should make a sustainable Management plan for the entire country for taking up a detailed inventory of plantation of red sanders existing outside natural occurrence and may put a regulatory mechanism for movement of Red sander from one state to another. The committee recommended special efforts for conservation of wild population of red sanders by demarcating and fencing such areas to facilitate effective protection.







