

## BIODIVERSITY POLICY, 2023

### 1. PREAMBLE

- 1.1. NHPC Limited as an organization believes in sustainable development through its business operations while giving equal emphasis on environment and society. Conservation of environment is one of the core values of the company.
- 1.2. NHPC's Biodiversity Policy aims at strengthening environmental ethics in its business operations vis-a-vis likely effects on ecosystem and biodiversity.

### 1.3. POLICY STATEMENT

*"NHPC Limited strives to provide clean energy by committing to compliance of environment safeguard measures, practices and consideration for conservation of biodiversity around all its projects, power stations and establishments."*

### 2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1. Survival and propagation of species in the ecosystem is one of the corner stones of the biodiversity management in any part of the world.
- 2.2. Habitat protection is the prerequisite for maintaining health of an ecosystem.
- 2.3. Developmental activities can potentially affect the habitats and the biodiversity of the area.
- 2.4. NHPC's Biodiversity Policy, 2023 is an extension of its Corporate Environment Policy, 2022, re-emphasizing NHPC's commitment to fulfil its responsibility towards protection of environment and contributing towards sustainable development of organization, people and the planet.

### 3. APPLICABILITY

- 3.1 This policy shall be applicable to all projects, power stations and establishments of NHPC.

### 4. OBJECTIVES

This policy is based on the following objectives:

- 4.1 To emphasize on protection of biodiversity by adopting best biodiversity management practices in all its strategic business development activities from planning stages of a project.
- 4.2 Strict compliances of all relevant Acts/ Guidelines/ Policies related to environment, forests and wildlife with due consideration to biodiversity conservation and management.
- 4.3 To adopt best modern practices to minimize adverse impacts on biodiversity due to project activities.
- 4.4 Biodiversity conservation measures of the company shall not remain limited to regulatory compliances but shall be oriented towards continuous efforts for enhancement of biodiversity of the area.

### 5. ORGANISATION FRAMEWORK

This policy prescribes three level structures in its organizational framework aligning with the Corporate Environment Policy, 2022:

- 5.1 **Corporate Level:** Planning, monitoring and assistance in biodiversity conservation, co-ordination with Central Government Agencies and suggesting measures for improvement in biodiversity conservation measures whenever required.
- 5.2 **Regional Level:** Monitoring and compliance of biodiversity conservation measures.

- 5.3 Project Level:** Obtaining necessary approvals related to environment, forest and wildlife aspects, co-ordination with stakeholders and Corporate Office for undertaking regulatory and voluntary biodiversity conservation measures, and keeping proper documentary records, photographs, video graph etc.

## **6. OUR POLICY**

- 6.1 To proactively include biodiversity conservation as one of its essential considerations in all business development and decision making processes.
- 6.2 To take initiatives for environmental protection with special emphasis on conservation of indigenous and endemic species of flora and fauna in and around area of its business operations.
- 6.3 To identify and mitigate environmental impacts so as to restore biodiversity in the proximity of its business operations.
- 6.4 To take special care to minimize impact on critical habitats located on proximity of its business operations.
- 6.5 Suitable budgetary provision for biodiversity conservation initiative to be allocated as and when required.
- 6.6 Projects/ Power stations/ will be encouraged to take up voluntary conservation initiatives beyond statutory requirement and obligation in all its present and prospective areas of operation in the larger interest of environment protection.
- 6.7 Projects/ Power Stations shall liaise with State Forest Department for effective implementation of Compensatory Afforestation, Reservoir Rim treatment and Catchment Area Treatment schemes to ensure implementation of erosion control and other vegetation cover improvement measures.
- 6.8 Other biodiversity conservation measures stipulated in Environment Management Plans/ Clearance/ Approvals are to be implemented in true spirit.
- 6.9 While undertaking plantation activities, selection of native plant species are to be given importance.
- 6.10 Muck dumping and other excavated sites shall be planted with local endemic/native species, suitable representations from trees, shrubs and herbs, to increase biodiversity in the area in consultation with State Forest Department and other expert organisations.
- 6.11 Ex-situ conservation strategies to be promoted like development of Parks (like Herbal Parks, Butterfly Parks etc.), Garden, , Nurseries, Orchidarium, Arboretum, Bambusetum, Breeding Centres, Hatcheries etc. for rehabilitation and propagation of Rare Endangered Threatened (RET) species and other flora and fauna species of importance in proximity of its business operations.
- 6.12 For sustenance of aquatic life, fishery management measures shall be taken up along with maintenance of environment flow as per rules/ guidelines.
- 6.13 Green belt shall be developed around the project area with fruit bearing trees and food plants to provide new habitat to local flora and fauna species.
- 6.14 Attempts to be made to help local communities to preserve traditional knowledge on use of local species in medicine/ fodder and other purposes.
- 6.15 To collaborate with stakeholders especially State Government departments for important conservation initiatives in and around business area of project operation.
- 6.16 Voluntary plantation and other activities shall be undertaken in all its area of operation during important days as Worlds Environment Day, Van Mahotsava or as per directions.

## **7. EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 The activities undertaken under this biodiversity policy will be evaluated as per the framework under Corporate Environment Policy, 2022.

## **8. COMMUNICATION TO STAKEHOLDERS**

- 8.1 Biodiversity Policy statement is placed as Annex-I.
- 8.2 Biodiversity Policy statement shall be displayed on NHPC's website.
- 8.3 NHPC Limited will communicate information on compliance on its Biodiversity Policy in a structured manner to all its stakeholders.
- 8.4 NHPC Limited being a listed company shall also give due consideration to the observation of institutional investors, vendors, Landers etc.

## **9. AWARENESS AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME**

- 9.1 Celebration of World Environment Day, Van Mahotsava and any other local events for environment awareness shall also include topics on biodiversity conservation and management.
- 9.2 Capacity building programs shall be organized periodically on various biodiversity conservation issues involving employees and other stakeholders.

## **10. APPLICABILITY TO SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES**

- 10.1 The Policy will be communicated to all its Joint Ventures, Subsidiaries and wholly owned companies of NHPC Limited for adoption of this policy as per their suitability.

## **11. RESPONSIBILITY**

- 11.1. Designated Nodal Department *i.e.*, Environment & Diversity Management Division shall ensure the policy is implemented throughout the Company.
- 11.2. Compliance will be ensured at the Projects/ Power Stations/ Regional Offices by their respective Heads and at the corporate level by the respective HoDs.

## **12. REVIEW OF BIODIVERSITY POLICY**

- 12.1 The policy shall be reviewed in every five years to incorporate suitable modification according to future needs. However, this policy can be reviewed earlier for its applicability and relevance taking into account any major changes in Environmental regulations.

This Policy has come in force from 28.03.2023.

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## जैव विविधता नीति पत्रक

## BIODIVERSITY POLICY STATEMENT

### हमारा लक्ष्य

- सक्षम, जिम्मेदार और अभिनव मान्यताओं के माध्यम से स्वच्छ ऊर्जा के सतत् विकास के लिए जैव विविधता संबंधी प्रयोजनों पर ध्यान आकर्षित करना।
- सभी रणनीतिक व्यावसायिक विकास गतिविधियों में सर्वोत्तम प्रबंधन प्रणालियों को अपनाकर, जैव विविधता के संरक्षण पर विशेष महत्व देना।

### हमारी प्रतिबद्धताएँ

- सभी व्यावसायिक विकास और निर्णय लेने की प्रक्रियाओं में आवश्यक महत्व देते हुए जैव विविधता संरक्षण को सक्रिय रूप से शामिल करना।
- स्वदेशी प्रजातियों की वनस्पतियों और जीवों के संरक्षण पर विशेष महत्व देते हुए पर्यावरण संरक्षण के लिए आवश्यक पहल करना।

### हमारे प्रयास

- परियोजना संचालन के क्षेत्र में और उसके आस-पास, महत्वपूर्ण संरक्षण पहलों के लिए हितधारकों, विशेषकर राज्य सरकार के विभागों के साथ मिलकर कार्य करना।
- परियोजनाओं/ पावर स्टेशनों को पर्यावरण संरक्षण के व्यापक हित में संचालन के अपने सभी वर्तमान और संभावित क्षेत्रों में वैधानिक आवश्यकता और दायित्व से परे स्वैच्छिक संरक्षण पहल करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करना।
- अपने व्यवसाय संचालन के आस-पास स्थित महत्वपूर्ण पर्यावासों पर नकारात्मक प्रभाव को नगण्य रखने पर विशेष ध्यान देना।

दिनांक: 28.03.2023

(आर. के. विश्रोई)  
(अध्यक्ष व प्रबंध निदेशक)

### OUR AIM

- To address biodiversity concerns for sustainable development of clean power through competent, responsible and innovative values.
- To emphasize on protection of biodiversity by adopting best management practices in all its strategic business development activities.

### OUR COMMITMENTS

- To proactively include biodiversity conservation as essential considerations in all business development and decision making processes.
- To take initiatives for environmental protection with special emphasis on conservation of indigenous species of flora and fauna.

### OUR ENDEAVOUR

- To collaborate with stakeholders especially State Government departments for important conservation initiatives in and around area of operation.
- Projects/ Power stations/ will be encouraged to take up voluntary conservation initiatives beyond statutory requirement and obligation in all its present and prospective areas of operation in the larger interest of environment protection.
- To take special care to minimize impact on critical habitats located on proximity of its business operations.

Dated: 28.03.2023

(R. K. Bishnoi)  
(Chairman & Managing Director)