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ensure that the rights of the Onge are publicly acknowledged and respected and also steps to ensure that the Onge are the major recipients of the benefits arising from the use of the plants

29 The long term measures needed to be taken include reserving major area of the Little Andamans islands for the exclusive use of the Onge, reversal of the policy of making them dependent on welfare doles and encouragement of the nomadic and hunting gathering way of life

30 National Forest Policy

The National Forest Policy 1983 was enacted in the background of serious depletion of the forest due to increased logging and diversion of forest land to non-forest use and the tendencies to look upon forest as a revenue earning resource. The preamble to the policy states "Over the years forest in the country have suffered serious depletion. This is attributable to inadequacy of protection measures, diversion of forest lands to non-forest resources and the tendency to look upon forest as revenue earning resources."

31. The basic objectives of the policy is.

"preservation of, and ... restoration of the ecological balance that has been adversely disturbed by the serious depletion of the forest"

"Preserving the remaining natural forest"

"Increasing substantial forest / tree cover"

32 In para 4.3.1. of the policy it is stated that the projects which interfere with the forest particularly in areas like Andaman and Nicobar islands should be totally safeguarded

33 Clause 4.3.2 of the policy states