

As per the PAT, the tribals have their rights on their lands and hence the NTFP distribution does not arise in Nicobar group of islands and tribal reserves. But the Nicobarese settled in Little Andamans be treated at par with other settlers in the distribution of NTFP on payment.

However, the issue of distribution of NTFP to all bonafide agriculturists in possession of agricultural land residing outside municipal area on a long term basis may be reviewed, keeping in view the population size, and resource availability and its sustainability.

6. Evaluation of ecosystem services rendered by forests ecosystems should be carried out on the pattern of Millennium Ecosystem Assessment for their effective management and conservation.

7. Taking into account the fragility of forests ecosystems, the fact that the landscapes represent the peaks of submerged mountain ranges and have poor soils, commercial forestry cannot be sustained and hence be prohibited.

8. The status of the worked out areas and plantations be assessed in terms of availability and harvestability of species that yield wood. The local demand for wood be met from the worked out areas and plantations only; and no extraction of wood be allowed from the unworked out areas. The extraction of timber from these forests need to be carried out in a way that natural regeneration of the original communities occur leading to the ecosystem development. In areas where natural regeneration is not successful, ecological restoration using local assemblage of species be practiced. To evolve a sustainable harvest models, a long-term regeneration studies using permanent plots should be initiated by the Forest Department.

9. In areas where there is an acute shortage of revenue land for developmental activities including defense purpose and health care due to subsidence of land and relocation of settlements in the elevated areas, and where there are no deemed forests, diversion of forest land supporting degraded forests (less than 20% canopy closure) may