

19. Shekhar Singh's recommendation 13 is contrary to SC order 8 and is not economically viable, and hence SC order 8 be implemented

20. Regarding SC order 11 and first part of Shekhar Singh's recommendation of 13, it may be noted that wood already extracted from some species has been rotting because there is no demand for this wood by locals. It is necessary to explore the possibility of alternate use of this wood within islands; in case it is not to put to use locally, it may be exported to Chennai/Kolkata under supervision of the Forest Department. There should not be any harvests from these species from the worked out areas unless their removal is essential for successful natural regeneration of worked out forests.

21. There is an urgent need to pretreat wood, bamboo and cane before use for construction of houses as recommended by Shekhar Singh (Recommendation 15); however, there is no SC order on this matter. It may be noted that the chemicals used and the treatment processes employed should be such that they do not cause soil and marine pollution.

22. The network of protected areas (PA) and management guidelines proposed by the Wildlife Institute of India be implemented with modifications wherever necessary. The forest department be strengthened for the effective management of protected areas both in terms of manpower and infrastructure. Consequently, there is no need to prepare another Action Plan as has been recommended by Shekhar Singh (Recommendation 28), but there is a need for effective monitoring and protection of the biodiversity by trained manpower.

Since a substantial part of the area (23.87 % of total geographical area) is already notified as PAs, and since WII already formulated a sound spatial framework for PAs, it is not necessary to make unworked out forest areas as a National Parks, as has been recommended by Shekhar Singh (recommendation 28)