REPORT
ON
ACTIVITIES OF FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT(2004-05)

1. ***INTRODUCTION***

1.1 Forest and Environment Department are responsible for conservation and sustainable management of forests and wildlife, afforestation and regeneration of degraded forest lands, control and abatement of pollution and administration of environmental laws and promotion of environmental awareness among the public.

1.2 Forests have an important role in the economy of the State, particularly, amongst rural S.C. and Tribal masses. Forestry activities contribute a lot to their food security and day-to-day livelihood. Forests also sustain the large sized livestock of about 22.7 million. The pressure of human population and livestock on forests for fuel wood, small timber and grazing in most places is much more and beyond the carrying capacity of existing forests and these forests are under continuous threat of degradation. The rapid degradation of forests has created serious problems for the overall eco-system and livelihood of forest dependant population.

2***. ADMINISTRATIVE SET UP:***

2.1. The Forest and Environment Department in the State operates through a number of departmental formations and autonomous bodies. The field formations under the forestry set up are organized under the Forest, Wildlife and Kendu leaf Wings. The Orissa Forest Development Corporation (O.F.D.C.) Ltd. acts as the commercial wing of the Department and discharges the function of disposing of various forest produce, viz, Kendu leaf, salvaged timber, bamboo and sal seed. It also supplies timber, bamboo and firewood to the public through over 168 depots run by it.

2.2. Restructuring of the forest field formations with a view to improving efficiency and integrating all forestry functions at the Divisional level to facilitate forestry extension activities and promotion of participatory forest management, has been effected from 1.10.2003 vide F&E Department Resolution No.1F (A)-100/2003/13228/F&E dt.08.08.2003. After reorganization, the State has 7 Forest Circles and 37 Forest Divisions under the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, 1 circle and 12 Wildlife Divisions with territorial jurisdiction and Nandan Kanan Zoological Park under the

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden. Besides, there are 3 circles and 19 Kenduleaf Divisions under Additionl Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Kendu Leaf) engaged in collection and processing of Kendu leaves There are 221 Forest Ranges and 60 Wildlife Ranges. For collection and processing of Kendu leaf, there are 165 KL Ranges. Further, there are 8 working plan divisions, one Forest Resources Survey division , and two Silviculture divisions looking into preparation of working plans, resource inventory and forest research respectively. There are five training institutions, viz. one Forest Rangers' Training College, one Forester Training School, two Forest Guards Training Schools, and Social Forestry Training & Research Institute, Bhubaneswar.

2.3 The Environment Wing – The Environment Wing of the erstwhile Science, Technology and Environment Department became part of the Forest and Environment Department in October 1990. The Environment Wing does not have any field formation. Besides the Directorate of Environment, the State Pollution Control Board constitutes the main agency of the Government. Chilika Development Authority has been set up for the eco-restoration of Chilika Lake. The Regional Plant Resources Center (R.P.R.C.) is a unique institution devoted to *ex-situ* preservation and development of plant genetic resources of the State and development and application of micro propagation technologies. A Center for Environment Studies(CES) has been created during 2000-2001 by the State Government with the objective of disseminating environmental-linked information, creation of environmental awareness, and taking up need based studies and consultancy assignments in the field of environmental impact assessment and environmental management plans.

3. ***STATE OF THE FORESTS***

3.1 The State has a recorded forest area of about 58,136.23 Sq.Kms. with the following classifications:-

Reserved Forests	26,329.12 Sq.Kms.
Demarcated Protected Forest	11,686.44 Sq.Kms.
Undemarcated Protected Forest	3,838.78 Sq.Kms.
Unclassed forest	20.55 Sq.Kms.
Village Forests, Khesra Forest and Others.	16,261.34 Sq.Kms.
Total:	58,136.23 Sq.Kms.

3.2 According to the State of Forests Report, 2001 published by the Forest Survey of India, the actual forest cover is 48,838 Sq.Km. including 219 Sq.Km. of mangrove forests. The forest cover break up is given below.

Dense Forest (with crown density above 40%	27,972 Sq.Km
Open Forest (with crown density of 10%to 40%)	20,866 Sq.Km
Total forest cover	48,838 Sq Km
Mangrove Forest (included in two above forests)	219 Sq.Km
Scrub area (with crown density below 10 %)	5,782 Sq Km

3.3. Thus, while the recorded forest area constitutes about 37.34% of the total geographical area of the State, actual forest cover exists over only 31.36 % of the geographical area, and out this 13.40 % is open degraded forests. National Forest Policy stipulates that 33% of the geographical area should be under forest cover. The Department has been constantly endeavouring to protect the forest areas and regenerate the degraded forests. According to the 2001 State of the Forest Report of the Forest Survey of India, the decline in forest cover has been arrested and there has been actually an increase in the total forest cover in the State by 1805 Sq.Kms. This is attributed to both protection and successful Joint Forest Management efforts.

4. *FOREST PROTECTION*

4.1 With growing population there has been tremendous pressure on the forests both for forest produce as well as for forest lands. Consequent upon reorganization during ;the year the State is divided into 281 (221 Forest and 60 Wildlife) Ranges, 1001 Sections and 3674 Beats. The average forest area per Beat comes to 15.82 Sq. Kms. for a Forest Section, 58.07 Sq. Kms. and for a Range 206.88 Sq.Kms. which is considered to be quite high from the management point of view. Besides, the Forest Staff are responsible for developmental activities and protection of trees in all other classified type of forests, not within their administrative control.

4.2 Illegal removal of forest produces is largely confined to some vulnerable areas, such as the forests in the basin of River Mahanadi spread over Sambalpur, Angul, Cuttack, Nayagarh and Boudh districts; Similipal Forests in Mayurbhanj district; the forests of Rayagada, Koraput & Malkangiri Districts on Orissa- Andhra Pradesh border

and the forest corridors on the Inter State Orissa- Jharkhand and Orissa- Chhatishgarh border.

4.3 The Forest Department has been keeping a close vigil over forest offences and taking action to bring the offenders to book. During 2004-05, as per the figures reported, the forest offence cases booked offenders involved, timber and forest produce seized and cases booked under Section 56 and put to confiscation proceedings in the state are as follows:

1.	Total Number of forest offence cases booked	-	38,753
2.	Number of offenders involved	-	29,543
3.	Quantity of timber seized	-	5,319
4.	Value of all forest produce seized	-	2,97,20,245
5.	Number of cases booked under Section 56	-	1,613

4.4. 19 Units of APR Force have been deployed in different Forest & Wildlife Divisions of the State for the purpose of Forest protection in vulnerable areas. These 19 units comprise 260 Nos. of Police Personnel including 20 S.Is., 14 A.S.Is, 19 Havildars and 207 Constables. In addition, the Central Reserve Police Force (C.R.P.F.) has been deployed in the Dhuanali and Barbara of Reserve Forest area of Khurda Forest Division, which is a patch of rich and unique Forest with Teak Plantations from the pre-independence times. The experience has been encouraging. A proposal for constitution of Orissa States Forests Protection Force in selected vulnerable areas is under consideration in Government level.

4.5. 265 Forest Check gates have been established in the State to regulate the transit of forest produce. 739 VHF sets have been installed in different territorial Ranges, Sections and other vulnerable areas. Besides, 408 guns and 104 revolvers have also been supplied to the field staff. Further Draft Rules for use of fire arms by Forest Officers is under consideration.

4.6 In addition to the above measures, the State has also adopted the policy of Joint Forest Management (JFM) and has involved the local villagers in protection and management of the degraded forests. A scheme to reward villagers as well as departmental personnel for confiscating stolen property and preventing theft has been introduced.

5. *JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT:*

5.1. One of the salient features of the National Forest Policy (1988) is to actively associate the people in the protection, conservation and management of forests. The State Government is wedded to a policy of promoting participation of local village communities in protection and management of degraded forests. In August 1988, the State Government brought out a resolution to formally introduce a scheme of protection of peripheral reserved forests with participation of the people of adjoining villages. These guidelines have been fine-tuned from time to time, ending with September 1996 Resolution.

5.2. In accordance with the 1993 JFM Resolution of the Government, 7,002 Vana Samrakshana Samities (VSS) were formed in the State up to 31.03.2004 and were assigned 6689 Sq. Km. of forest area for protection through Joint Force Management. During 2004-2005 (upto September 2004), additional 356 VSS have been formed with assignment of 1350 Sq. Km. of forest area. Thus, the total number of VSS formed in the State stands at 7358, and 8039 Sq. Km. of forest area is covered under protection of these Vana Samrakshana Samities. All the families of 7646 villages are members of 7358 VSS so far constituted.

6. *PLANTATION PROGRAMME:*

6.1. According to the Forest Survey of India. present forest cover in the State is 31.36% as against 33% of the total geographical area stipulated by the National Forest Policy, 1988. There is thus an imperative need to accelerate efforts for afforestation and regeneration of the degraded forests for achieving 33% forest cover and also to reforest the degraded forests with less than 10% crown density in the entire recorded forest area measuring 5,782 Sq.Kms.

6.2. During 2004-2005, afforestation programme has been implemented in the State under State Plan and Central Plan over a total area of 24,605 ha. Out of this 13,130 ha. has been covered under Revised Long Term Action Plan (RLTAP), 10946 ha under National Afforestation Programme (NAP) and 349 ha under Economic Plantation. The Forest & Wildlife Wing have implemented the afforestation works. Bulk of plantation carried out is in KBK Districts under RLTAP.

6.3. The Department has been implementing afforestation programmes in K.B.K. districts under the Revised Long Term Action Plan (RLTAP) since last four years. During the current year, 8035 ha have been covered under block plantation, another 5000 ha have been covered by rehabilitation of degraded forests and 95 ha under medicinal plantation. Fruit bearing and N.T.F.P. species as well as fuel wood, economic Species and bamboo have been planted under the Scheme. At all plantation sites Vana Samrakshana Samities have been formed and people's participation ensured.

6.4 The Forest & Wildlife Wings have also taken up 210 ha of plantation under Jagannath Vana Prakalpa and 211 ha of mixed plantations with DRDA funding. Further 6622 ha plantation under compensatory afforestation has also been taken up during the current year out of fund deposited by User Agencies for the purpose. Flowering trees including 2000 Frangipani seedlings have been planted at Lalitagiri Heritage Site.

6.5 Forest Development Agency:-

During the 10th Plan period the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India have adopted an integrated approach to Forest Conservation and the community, living in the forest fringes by converging the flow of funds under various central sector and centrally sponsored schemes through Forest Development Agencies (FDA) constituted in every forest division. Accordingly, F.D.As have been constituted in 27 forest and one wild life division with total number of 1140 VSS prior to reorganization in October, 2003. Micro-plans for development of areas assigned to each V.S.S have been prepared. MoEF, Government of India had cleared all the 28 proposals and sanctioned funds to the tune of Rs. 60.65 crores. 15681 ha of plantation was taken up during 2003-04. During 2003-04, Rs. 14.56 crores were sanctioned in favour of these F.D.As. 10946 ha. of plantations have been taken up under NAP (National Afforestation Programme) in the current year.

6.6 Besides, the Forest & Wildlife Wing have also raised and distributed 11 lakh seedlings to the farmers for growing trees in their own lands under the Decentralized Nursery Programme as part of the E.A.S. implemented by the D.R.D.As.

6.7 Compensatory Afforestation:-

Development activities in different sectors like Irrigation, Mining, Railways Roads, etc involve large scale diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes. In the state of Orissa, since 1980 up to December' 2004, 269 Nos. of project proposals under different sectors have been approved by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 involving diversion of 29362 ha of forest land. The Government of India while giving their permission, have stipulated compensatory afforestation in lieu of forest areas diverted for non-forestry purpose. For this purpose, various agencies have deposited Rs.63.06 crores with the State Government. Till September 2004, Compensatory Afforestation has been done over an area of 23,364 ha. in forest and non-forest land with an expenditure of Rs.19.8 crores.

6.8 Medicinal Plants :

State Medicinal Plants Board is functioning since August, 2002 for promoting cultivation of medicinal plants in the State. During 2004-05, 43 commercial projects and 31 promotional projects, which include 11 projects of Government agencies, have been recommended by State Medicinal Plants Board for financial assistance. So far during 2004-05, National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) has sanctioned 5 promotional projects, at an estimated cost of Rs. 64.00 lakhs and 41 commercial projects of farmers for cultivation and marketing of medicinal plants for assistance of Rs. 52.64 lakhs over 3 years. A Scheme on Vanaspati Van with financial outlay of Rs. 5.00 crores is under implementation in Gandhamardhan Hill Range in Bolangir and Bargarh Forest Divisions.

7. KENDU LEAF TRADE:

7.1 Kendu Leaf (KL) trade offers one of the largest employment opportunities in rural Orissa. The Kendu Leaf Organization has opened 7,806 nos. of Phadis in 23 districts of the state for purchase of the kendu leaf collected by the villagers. 993 numbers of K.L. Central Godowns have been constructed for storage of the processed and phal kendu leaf bags.

7.2 During 2004-05 (2004 crop year), 4.53 lakh quintals of KL were produced, out of which 3.41 lakh quintals were in Processed form and 1.12 lakh quintals were Phal leaves. About 10 lakh pluckers have been benefited in collection. Other works of KL operation

like bush cutting, phadi repair, processing and binding of K.L. etc. have generated wage labour in the order of 45 lakh person days. 660 M.T. of food commodities of World Food Programme have been issued as an incentive to the binding labourers during the year. For enhanced transparency in the operations at all stages, Phadi Committees have been organized and activated for each of the 7,806 collection centers. The procurement price offered to primary collectors of kendu leaf has been revised to 21.5 paise per 20 leaves for 2005 crop. Besides, steps are being taken to supply 'Chappal' to pluckers.

7.3 The O.F.D.C. Ltd finances the entire operational cost of production of K.L. and carries out marketing of KL as an Agent of the State Government.

8. *SETTLEMENT IN FORESTS AND DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND FOR DIFFERENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS:*

8.1 For diversion of forest land for different non-forest purpose, prior approval of Government of India under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is mandatory. Since inception of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, 276 nos. of projects belonging to Irrigation, Industry, Mining, Transmission Line, Roads, Railways and Defense Sectors have been cleared by Government of India under provisions of the Act diverting 29362.5 ha of forest area in total till December, 2004.

8.2 Out of this, during the year 2003-04, 22 Nos. of projects have been cleared by Government of India involving diversion of 1493.711 ha of forest land.

8.3 Pursuant to commitment of the State Government to regularize the Pre-1980 encroachment/forest villages in favour of the eligible encroachers, complete proposals in respect of 17 districts involving the case of 3,754 families for 3328.415 ha. of forest land to be settled in their favour have been sent to Government of India for their approval under the provision of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The proposals are pending at GOI level after the Apex Court vide their order dated 23.11.2001 had restrained GOI from regularization and settlement of encroachments on forest land. The State Government have moved Hon'ble Supreme Court during November, 2004 again for giving direction to the Government of India for regularization of Pre-1980 eligible encroachment cases in the State. Orders of the Apex Court are awaited.

9. **WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ACTIVITY:**

9.1. Management of Wildlife, maintenance and development of Sanctuaries, National Parks, Biosphere Reserves and Zoological Parks are the responsibility of the Wildlife Wing of the department headed by the Chief Wildlife Warden. The State Board for Wildlife has been reconstituted under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister. The Board has already held its first meeting and taken some important decisions regarding conservation of wildlife.

9.2. In order to protect and conserve wildlife in their habitats, a total No. of 18 Sanctuaries and two National Parks, have been constituted. Besides three elephant reserves namely (i) Mayurbhanj (ii) Sambalpur (Badarama-Khalasuni), (iii) Mahanadi have also been constituted. These protected areas constitute 10.73% of the total forest and 4.1% of the total geographical area of the state.

9.3. As per the census of Tigers conducted during January 2004, there were 192 tigers and 457 leopards in the wild in the State, including 101 tigers and 127 leopards in the Similipal Forests. As per Elephant census of 2002, there are 1,841 elephants in the State. The number of crocodiles in Bhitarkanika as per January'2004 census is 1,358. During 2004, by 2nd week of March, 2,17,091 Olive Ridley sea turtle laid their eggs at Gahirmatha sea coast and another 2,01,315 sea turtles mass nested at Rushikulya river mouth. In the current season, mass nesting of Olive Ridley sea turtle in Februray 2005 has been observed at Rusikulya mouth and Gahirmatha in March, 2005.

9.4. Nandankanan Zoological Park has the distinction of having 48 species of mammals, 69 species of birds and 22 species of reptiles. Many new and well designed animal enclosures were put up in the Nandankanan Zoo during the year.

9.5 The State has been implementing several research and conservation projects in Wildlife, viz- the Project Tiger (1972-73), Integrated Crocodile and Sea Turtle Project (1975-76), Project Elephant (1991-92), Aquatic Bird Project (1992-93), Black Buck Project (1994-95) and GOI-UNDP Sea Turtle Project (2000-2002), Dolphin Project (2002-2003) etc.

9.6 In the Winter of 2003-04, about 8.66 lakh migratory birds belonging to 137 families visited Chilika Lake, as per the census made by Bird experts. There was a

higher congregation of migratory water-fowl of 9.58 lakhs in the Chilika lake during this year also due to the protection afforded to bird species in the lake.

9.7 Compasionate payment on account of human deaths and injuries caused by Tiger, Leopard, Elephant, Crocodile, Sloth Bear, Indian Wolf Boar, Gaur and Wild Dog attacks within a forest area or within a belt of five kilometers from the limit of forests is being made.

10. **ORISSA FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:**

10.1 During the year 2004-05, the Corporation has taken up supply of fuel wood, bamboo and house building materials to the public through 168 Retail Sale Depots located all over the State. During the year, the corporation has sold about 11,983 cum. of timber and 17,877 MT of firewood at a sale value of Rs. 15.35 crore approximately to meet the demand of people. At present, OFDC is operating 7 Saw Mills by the corporation and 2 hired saw mills. The Corporation has paid Rs. 5.00 crore towards royalty on timber to the Government during the current year.

10.2 Due to the ban on felling of trees, the traditional business activities of the Corporation have been severely curtailed. Industrial Bamboo of 15,000 sale units to Paper Mills of Orissa and commercial long bamboo of 75,000 number had been sold by OFDC in the previous season. The Orissa Forest Development Corporation Ltd. received about 4.54 lakh quintals of Kendu Leaves from the Forest Department in 2004-05 for marketing**.** During 2004-05 about 4.40 lakh quintals of K.L. (including unsold previous years stock) have been targeted to be sold fetching a sale value of Rs.140.00 crores (approx.).

10.3 The Corporation is over burdened with a large work force. It has 4,300 regular staff on its pay roll. Its normal revenue earnings are not sufficient to meet the cost of this establishment. Hence the Corporation has been incurring losses. Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and CRS was introduced in the Corporation during 2001-02 with the co-operation of Public Enterprises Department of State Government and is continuing.

11. **WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME PROJECT:**

11.1 A project for providing subsidized food ration to labourers engaged in forestry activities for improving their nutritional status is being implemented by the Department by availing food aid from the World Food Programme of the United Nations. The food commodities are received free at the ports and transported to various work sites at the cost of the State Government.

11.2 The food commodities are utilized in predominantly tribal areas of the State in the activities like affforestation, bamboo operations and Kendu Leaf binding and processing operations. To avail of food ration a labourer is required to voluntarily contribute at the rate of Rs. 9.00 per ration from his daily wage. The generated funds are utilized for meeting needs of the local communities by implementing locally relevant micro projects such as drinking water, tank renovation, health care etc through collaboration between the Forest Department field staff and local communities.

11.3 The programme continued during 2004-05. Till end of December 2004, 2866.06 MTs of rice and 193.46 MTs of Pulses were utilized under the project. Welfare funds to the tune of Rs. 2,83,07,623 were utilized for execution of micro projects approved by S.L.C.C.

12. NATIONAL FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAMME(NFFWP):

12.1 National Food for Work Programme(NFFWP) has been launched in 18 districts of Orissa. It is learnt that so far, 359 forest projects costing Rs. 604.83 lakhs have been included in the districts plans.

13. ACTIVITIES OF THE ENVIRONMENT WING:

The Environment Department has following four organizations under its administrative control.

(a) State Pollution Control Board.

(b) Chilika Development Authority

(c) Regional Plant Resources Centre

(d) Centre for Environmental Studies.

13.1 The following important activities were undertaken under the environment wing

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(i) The State Government have banned use of polythene of less than 20 microns with effect from 26th January, 2004.

(ii) Exemption of IT industries from taking NoC/ Clearance of the State Pollution Control Board.

(iii) Monitoring implementation of the National River Conservation Programme(NRCP) for pollution abatement of Rivers as accorded by Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India. Housing & Urban Development Department is the Nodal Department and Orissa Water Supply and Sewerage Board is the executing agency for this programme.

(iv) The Orissa State Coastal Zone Management Authority constituted by Government of India to enforce the Coastal Zone Management Plan and the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) has recommended 9 (nine) Projects including Ports, National High Way, Air strip, crude oil pipeline, Fish Landing Centre, and Light House etc. to Government of India for CRZ clearance.

(v) In order to promote awareness for environmental protection and conservation, District Environment Societies have been constituted in each district under the Chairmanship of District Collectors. State Government conferred 16 'Prakruti Mitra' and 18 'Prakruti Bandhu' Awards on the World Environment Day, 2004 to voluntary organizations/ villages/ institutions and individuals.

(vi) National Green Corps programme has been introduced by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India. Under this programme 150 Eco-clubs have been constituted in schools in each of the 30 districts of the State. The Eco clubs are pioneer teams creating environmental awareness among the local inhabitants.

(vii) National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) is an important environmental awareness programme that is taken up by the Environment Department through the CES which has been declared as the Regional Resource Agency (RRA) under the NEAC Programme by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India. Small NGOs are funded for environmental awareness activities.

13.2. Apart from the above, following important issues relating to Pollution Control and Environmental Conservation have been addressed:

(i) Consent fees under Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, for Urban Local Bodies have been prescribed.

(ii) 2nd Phase expansion project of NALCO was recommended to the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India, for grant of Environmental clearance. Subsequently EC was granted by MoEF.

(iii) Report on implementation of Noise Pollution (Control and Regulation) Rule has been submitted to MoEF.

(iv) Report on implementation of Fly Ash Utilization and Hazardous waste management in the State have been submitted to MoEF, Government of India.

(v) Views of the State on the MoEF's proposed amendment of Environment Impact Assessment Notification have been submitted to Government of India.

(vi) Views of the State Government on the National Environment Policy, 2004 have been submitted to Government of India.

14. STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

14.1. The State Pollution Control Board is responsible for enforcement of the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Water (Prevention &

Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, and the following Rules framed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(a) The Hazardous Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989.
(b) The Bio-Medical Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998
(c) The Municipal Solid Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 2000.
(d) The Recycled Plastics Manufacture & Usage Rules, 1999
(e) The Batteries (Management & Handling) Rules, 2001.
(f) The Manufacture, Storage & Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989.

Within the framework of the above Acts and Rules, the Board carried out activities during 2004-05.

14.2. Industrial Pollution, Abatement and Control through consent administration for establishment and before operation of the industry:

(i) Granted consent with stipulations for appropriate pollution control measures, to 310 industries for establishment and 504 industries for operation.
(ii) Conducted 21 public hearings for major industrial/mining/development projects.
(iii) To address the air pollution problems created by a large number of brick kilns operating in the State, the Board has taken initiative to close a large number (about 210) of moving chimney type brick kilns.

14.3 Regulation of Hazardous Wastes Management:- Granted authorization to 191 units for management and handling of Hazardous Wastes.

14.4 Management of Bio-Medical Wastes: Granted authorization to 160 Health Care Units for appropriate management, handling, treatment and disposal of biomedical wastes.

14.5 Management of Municipal Solid Wastes:- For environment friendly management of municipal solid wastes, the Board has granted authorization to 11 nos. of Municipalities/ NACs, under the Municipal Solid Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 2000.

14.6 Planning & Monitoring:- To plan a comprehensive programme for prevention and control of Pollution, the Board has undertaken the following activities during 2004-05.

(i)Monitoring of water Quality of 6 major rivers.

(ii)Monitoring of ambient air quality of important towns and industrial areas like, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Balasore, Sambalpur, Berhampur, Rayagada, Angul and Rourkela.

(iii)Monitoring of Noise Pollution Level on occasions like 'Dussehra', 'Dipabali', 'Ratha Yatra' and 'Bali Yatra'.

(iv) Preparation of draft guidelines for siting of industries for the districts of Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Deogarh, Kendrapara, Jharsuguda, Jajpur, Puri, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar.

(v) Acting as a facilitator for the implementation of the Eco-city programme for Puri town.

14.7. Awareness Programmes:

(a) Organized three seminars/ workshops for public awareness regarding environmental protection.

(b) Sponsored an Eco-tourism project under "Generation of Conservation awareness around Chandaka Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary through D.F.O., Chandaka Wildlife Division'

(c) The Board undertakes periodical orientation programmes like imparting training to police personnel in respect of monitoring and control of vehicular and noise pollution.

(d) Published three issues of newsletter 'Paribesh Samachar' for dissemination of environment related information to general public.

(e) Published a popular book titled 'Noise Pollution'.

(f) Celebrated World Environment Day, Ozone Day and the National Pollution Prevention Day on 5th June, 16th September and 2nd December, 2004 respectively, for creating public awareness.

15 CHILIKA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA):

15.1 Eco-restortion of Chilika Lagoon has been the main activity of Chilika Development Authority. CDA is implementing an integrated management plan

for restoration of Chilika Lagoon as per the guidelines of Ramsar convention. The success of restoration measures taken are evident from the increase in the fish landing to an extent of more than 28% in case of prawn and 10% in case of crab.

15.2 The restoration of Chilika is emerging as a global model. Twenty wetland managers and experts including Governors of 2 provinces from Thailand visited Chilika on a 7 day learning-trip. UNEP sponsored a lessons learnt workshop for 4 days in which 19 participants from 10 countries participated. Asian Wetland symposium, 2005 was organized from 6-9 February, 2005 at Bhubaneswar and more than 200 delegates from 32 countries participated in the symposium.

15.3 An innovative participatory watershed management programme is being implemented in the catchments of Chilika with financial support from Government of India with the objective of enhancing the productivity in the Micro-watershed. Under this programme, 1050 ha of plantations and 150 ha of rehabilitation of degraded forest were carried out.

15.4 CDA has been conferred with the prestigious 'Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Award, 2002' during 2004 for the outstanding work on Eco-restoration of Chilika Lagoon.

16. REGIONAL PLANT RESOURCE CENTRE:

16.1 Regional Plant Resource Centre (RPRC) has received recognition as a plant science resource institute as well as a Centre for conservation of Biological diversity of plants in India through Field Gene Bank(s), seed banks and in-situ conservation. RPRC has been invited by His Excellency the President of India for raising a cactus garden in the Rashtrapati Bhawan.

16.2 A Medicinal germ plasm garden housing 206 species of medicinal plants collected from all over India has been developed for sensitization of public in general and researchers in particular. Apart from 106 rose varieties available at the center, some 13,500 plants were added during this year.

16.3 The Centre has initiated evaluation of plant genetic diversity and phylogentic relationship in different groups of plants like, Albizzia, Dalbergia, ginger, turmeric and

rose through modern technique of molecular biology. 443 strains of bacteria and 134 strains of fungi from Bhitarkanika man-groves eco-system are maintained here.

16.4 RPRC is providing the following services to various user agencies.

(i) Production and sale of quality planting materials like horticultural and forestry species including medicinal plants.

(ii) Production and sale of 3 lakh tissue cultured banana plants for farmers.

(iii) Training of personnel on Tissue culture, Cacti culture, nursery techniques, landscaping etc.

(iv) Providing consultancy services on landscaping, establishment of cactus garden etc.

(v) Opening the eco-garden for the benefit of public, school and college students and botanists.

16.5 Nine Research projects at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.51 crore have been bagged and several new projects submitted to various funding agencies for an estimated cost of Rs. 3.71 crores.

17 CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (CES):

17.1. The CES was formed in 2000 as an autonomous registered society under Forest & Environment Department. It has undertaken Government of India sponsored projects during 2004-05.

17.2. It has been declared as the Regional Resource Agency(RRA) for the National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) of Government of India. Under this programme, application forms from 1690 NGOs and other organization have been received for NEAC 2004-05. The proposals are now being screened by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India.

17.3 As a Nodal Agency for National Green Corps programme of Government of India, the CES is coordinating the activities of 4500 Eco-Clubs formed in the schools of the state for spreading environmental awareness among school children and to involve them in environment related activities.

17.4 The Centre has been maintaining a database on "State of Environment" under Environment Information System (ENVIS) programme of Government of India. It has a website: www.cesorissa.org.

18. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ENVIRONMENT:

18.1 Ecology and Environment

1. Orissa State Coastal Zone Management Authority:-

The Orissa State Coastal Zone Management Authority has been constituted by Government of India to enforce the Coastal Zone Management Plan and to monitor violations of coastal zone regulation. The office of the Director Environment has been designated as the office of the State Coastal Zone Management Authority. A technical cell has been constituted to assist the Authority in matters of preparation and modification of CRZ maps and to scrutinize the cases of CRZ violations by conducting field visits. It has recommended two Projects for establishment of Light Houses to Government of India for CRZ clearance. The State Government has brought out a Resolution introducing scrutiny fee for the projects that need clearance/ recommendation from the Authority.

For sustainable use, development and protection of coastal and marine area resources, a proposal for preparation of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan for identified stretches of Orissa coast viz. Konark, Puri and Bhitarkanika in association with the Institute for Ocean Management, Anna University, Chennai, has been submitted to Government of India.

2. Ecotourism:-

The Task Force constituted for promotion of Ecotourism in Orissa had several rounds of interactions with the stakeholders and has decided that it would be initially restricted to Chandaka, Chilika, Bhitarkanika and Similipal.