## ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਕੂਲ ਸਿੱਖਿਆ ਬੋਰਡ (ਐਫੀਲੀਏਸ਼ਨ ਸ਼ਾਖਾ)

ਵੱਲ

ਪ੍ਰਿੰਸੀਪਲ / ਮੁੱਖ ਅਧਿਆਪਕ/ਅਧਿਆਪਿਕਾ, ਸਮੂਹ ਐਫੀਲੀਏਟਿਡ/ਐਸੋਸੀਏਟਿਡ ਸਕੂਲਜ਼, ਪੰਜਾਬ।

ਨੰਬਰ: (E-101587) ਪਸਸਬ-ਐਫੀ: 2025/2797 ਮਿਤੀ: 14/07/25

Subject:- Request for comments on the draft of "The Punjab Protection of Trees Act, 2025"

ਉਕਤ ਦਰਜ਼ ਪੱਤਰ Govt. of Punjab, Department of Forest and Wildlife Preservation, o/o Principal Chief Conservation of Forest's (HoFF), Punjab, Forest Complex, Mohali (ਕਾਪੀ ਨੱਥੀ) ਵੱਲੋਂ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋਇਆ ਹੈ ਜਿਸ ਦੇ ਲੜੀ ਨੰ: 5 ਅਤੇ 6 ਅਨੁਸਾਰ Trees Act-2025 ਦਾ ਖਰੜਾ ਤਿਆਰ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਣਾ ਹੈ ਜਿਸ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੇ ਐਫੀਲੀਏਟਿਡ/ਐਸੋਸੀਏਟਿਡ ਸਕੂਲਾਂ ਕੋਲੋਂ Trees Act-2025 ਬਾਰੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਮਿਤੀ 25 ਜੁਲਾਈ 2025 ਤੱਕ ਸਬੰਧਤ ਦਫਤਰ ਨੂੰ ਈਮੇਲ treeact2025@gmail.com ਤੇ ਭੇਜਣ ਬਾਰੇ ਦਰਜ਼ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਐਫੀਲੀਏਟਿਡ/ਐਸੋਸੀਏਟਿਡ ਸਕੂਲਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਲਿਖਿਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਆਪਣੇ-ਆਪਣੇ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਦੇਣੇ ਯਕੀਨੀ ਬਣਾਏ ਜਾਣ।

ਸੁਪਰਡੰਟ ਐਫੀਲੀਏਸ਼ਨ ਵਾ: ਸਕੱਤਰ, ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਕੂਲ ਸਿੱਖਿਆ ਬੋਰਡ

# Government of Punjab Department of Forest & Wildlife Preservation O/o Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Punjab Forest Complex, Sector: 68, SahibzadaAjit Singh Nagar (Mohali) (Email: pccfcomlex@gmail.com) (Forest Working-2 Branch)

To,

1.All Administrative Departments, Government of Punjab.2.All Head of Departments, Government of Punjab. (as per list attached)

No.FOREST-FW0FW-2(CC)/61/2023-FW/I/1141506/2025 Dated 03-07-2025

Subject: Request for Comments on the draft of "The Punjab Protection of Trees Act, 2025"

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Sir/Madam,

With reference to the above mentioned subject, it is informed that in compliance of the order dated 28.07.2023 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in MA No. 48/2023 in OA No. 200/2023 (Kuldeep Singh Khaira and others Vs State of Punjab and others) and order dated 31.04.2024 in OA No. 378/2022 (Sahil Garg Vs State of Punjab and others), the Department of Forests had issued the "Tree Preservation Policy for Non-Forest Government and Public Lands — 2024" after obtaining approval of the Hon'ble Cabinet, keeping in view the regulation and management of trees standing on non-forest public lands.

2. It is further informed that, as per the order dated 29.04.2025 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in MA No. 38/2024 in OA No.

257/2023 (Balbir Dass Vs State of Punjab), due to lack of clarity regarding the applicability of the said policy, directions have been issued to the Chief Secretary, Punjab to frame a comprehensive Act, in place of the policy.

- 3. Further, it is pertinent to mention that during the hearing held on 29.05.2025 in OA No. 1279/2024 (Tejaswi Minhas Vs State of Punjab), Chief Secretary, Punjab, assured the Hon'ble Tribunal that the State Government will initiate the necessary action to frame the said Act and present the required bill before the Punjab Legislative Assembly within six months. Therefore the compliance has to be made before November, 2025.
- 4. In compliance to above directions & Commitment, a draft of 'The Punjab Protection of Trees Act, 2025" intended for application to nonforest urban lands of whole of Punjab has been prepared by this Department. The objective of the Act is to strengthen tree conservation efforts, enhance green cover, and ensure ecological sustainability in urban areas outside notified forest regions.
- 5. You are requested to kindly circulate the draft Act widely among your department's stakeholders, including affiliated institutions, local bodies, public representatives, Farmers, Industrial Groups, Resident Associations and other connected parties. Their feedback is crucial to ensure the proposed legislation is comprehensive, practical, and inclusive.
- 6. In this regard, we request the following from your department:
  - Collect individual and institutional views from stakeholders under your jurisdiction.
  - Compile your department's collective views and specific comments on the draft Tree Protection Act.
  - 3. Submit your **final consolidated response in English** to this office on or before **25th July, 2025** for further action at email ID

treeact2025@gmail.com.

Your timely support and response in this matter are highly appreciated to ensure a participatory and transparent policy making process.

A copy of the draft Act is enclosed for reference. (Page No. 1 to 6)

DHARMINDER SHARMA
PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FOREST (HOFF)
03-07-2025

EndstNo.FOREST-FW0FW-2(CC)/61/2023-FW/I/1141506/2025

Dated 03-07-2025

A copy of the letter is forwarded to the Chief Conservator of Forests (IT) along with the Draft of The Punjab Protection of Trees Act, 2025, with the direction that the said Act be uploaded on the department's official website so that the general public can send their suggestions/comments regarding it to this office at email ID treeact2025@gmail.com . These suggestions/comments may be duly considered by the department at the time of finalization of the Act.

DHARMINDER SHARMA
PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FOREST (HOFF)
03-07-2025

EndstNo.FOREST-FW0FW-2(CC)/61/2023-FW/I/1141506/2025

Dated 03-07-2025

A copy of the letter is forwarded to Administrative Secretary, Government of Punjab, Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation for information and further necessary action in this regard.

DHARMINDER SHARMA
PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FOREST (HOFF)
03-07-2025

## The Punjab Protection of Trees Act, 2025 Act \_\_\_\_ of 2025

## The Punjab Protection of Trees Act, 2025

**Statement of Objects and Reasons**. - With a view to maintaining green cover for ensuring ecological balance, preventing pollution of environment and conserving the soil, it is considered necessary to regulate the felling and replanting of trees in the State of Punjab.

## 1. Short title, extent and commencement.

- (1) This Act may be called the Punjab Protection of Trees Act, 2025.
- (2) It extends to all the urban areas of Punjab.
- (3) It shall come into force at once.

## 2. Act not to apply to certain areas.

This Act shall not apply to-

- (a) All the trees situated in any forest or wildlife areas as recorded in the records of Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation hereinafter termed as Forest Department;
- (b) Trees situated in cantonments, paramilitary and defense agencies campuses and areas;
- (c) Trees situated in Lands notified under Punjab Land Preservation Act, 1900.

#### 3. Definitions.

In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the context-

- (i) "Appellate authority" means an authority appointed by the State Government for the purposes of this Act;
- (ii) **"Exempted area"** means areas included in the Schedule I of this Act
- (iii) **"Exempted trees"** means tree species included in the Schedule-II of this Act
- (iv) "Fell a tree", with its cognate expressions, means cutting, girdling, pollarding or damaging a tree in a way so as to cause its death/drying;
- (v) "Tree" means any woody plant whose branches spring from and are supported upon a trunk or body and whose trunk or body is not less than 'thirty five centimeters' in girth at the ground level;
- (vi) "Tree Officer" means an Executive Officer in Urban local bodies in Punjab or any other officer so notified by the State Government;
- (vii) "Urban area" means an area, which is included within the limits of a Nagar Council, Municipal Corporation, Notified Area Committee,

- Town Area Committee, or of any Urban Development Authority/Body mentioned in the Schedule III of this Act;
- (viii) Words and expressions used in this Act and defined in the Indian Forest Act, 1927, as amended in its application to Punjab, but not defined in this Act shall have the meaning respectively assigned to them in that Act.

## 4. Restriction on felling and removal of trees.

Except as provided in this Act or the rules made thereunder, no person shall-

- (a) fell any tree standing on any urban area;
- (b) cut, remove or otherwise dispose of any tree other than a tree which is completely dead or has fallen without the aid of human agency in any urban area.

#### 5. Permission to fell or remove trees.

The tree officer may, on the application of any owner or person entitled to fell a standing tree or to cut, remove or otherwise dispose of a fallen tree, after making such inquiry, as it thinks fit, grant permission to him to do so;

- a) Provided that such permission shall not be refused if the tree constitutes danger to a person or property;
- b) Provided further that such permission shall not be required for the felling of exempted trees mentioned in Schedule-II of this act in the urban areas;
- c) Provided also that in exigencies such as floods, storms, warlike situation or any other natural or manmade calamities, such immediate steps as are necessary to remove any obstruction or nuisance or to prevent any danger to public life and/or property such permission shall not be required for the felling of trees.

In the cases where permission of tree officer is not required, the concerned agency shall inform the details of felling/ removal of such trees to the tree officer within 24 hours of the same.

## 6. Procedure for obtaining permission to fell or remove trees.

- (1) Every application under *Section 5* shall be in writing and shall be made in such manner and shall contain such particulars as may be prescribed.
- (2) The Tree Officer shall give his decision in the case of an application in respect of tree felling within thirty days from the date of receipt of such application, and in the case of an application in respect of a dead or fallen tree within seven days from the date of receipt of such application..
- (3) Every permission granted under this Act shall be in such form and subject to such reasonable conditions, as may be prescribed by the tree officer.
- (4) If the tree officer fails to give his/ her decision within the stipulated time as allowed by sub-section (2), the permission referred to in Section 5 shall be deemed to have been granted.

(5) Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Tree Officer under subsection (2) may make a representation within thirty days from the date of such decision, to the Appellate Authority and the decision of appellate authority on such representation shall be final.

7. Obligation to plant trees.

Every person, to whom permission has been granted under this Act to fell, cut, remove or dispose of any tree, shall be bound to plant and tend two trees in lieu of every tree cut/ felled as far as possible in the same area, from where such tree has been felled, cut, removed or disposed of by him under such permission; Provided that in case of constraint of land for such plantation or any other constraints the Tree Officer may for reasons to be recorded in writing, permit lesser number of trees to be planted, or trees to be planted in any different area, or to deposit such sum of money in the State treasury as deemed appropriate for the purpose of such plantation.

## 8. Implementation of directions given under Section 7.

(1) Every person who is under an obligation to plant trees under Section 7 shall comply with the same and report within three months that all the conditions as stipulated in the felling permission of Tree Officer have been complied with;

In case of failing to do so the Tree Officer may impose a fine extending upto Rupees five thousand for the first offence and upto Fifty thousand if the non-compliance continues.

## Environmental cost (Penalty for felling or removal of trees in contravention of Section-4)

Whoever fells or causes to be felled any standing tree, or cuts, removes or otherwise disposes of any fallen tree, in contravention of the provisions of *Section 4*, or contravenes any condition of any permission granted under this Act, the tree officer shall impose environmental compensation as notified by the State Government under the rules notified under this Act and also penalty of upto Rupees ten thousand per tree.

## Award of penalty not to interfere with other punishment.

The award of penalty under this Act shall not prevent the inflicting of any punishment to which the person affected thereby is liable under any other law.

11. Officers to be public servants.

The officers exercising powers or discharging any duties or functions under this Act shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of Section 2(28) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

## 12. Execution of order for payment of money.

Any sum, including any amount for compounding of an offence, the payment of which has been directed to be made by any person under this Act shall, without prejudice to any other mode of recovery under any law for the time being in force, be recoverable from him as an arrears of land revenue.

#### 13. Indemnity for acts done in good faith.

No suit or proceedings shall lie against the State Government or against any person empowered to exercise power or to perform duties or discharge functions under this Act, for anything in good faith done or purporting to be done under this Act.

## 14. Power of State Government to exempt.

Subject to such conditions, if any, as may be imposed, the State Government may, if it is considered necessary to do so in the public interest by notification in the Official Gazette, exempt any more areas or any species of trees by amending the respective schedules from all or any of the provisions of this Act.

# 15. Provisions of this Act to be in addition to any other law for the time being in force.

The provisions of the Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of the provisions of any other law for the time being in force prohibiting or regulating the felling of trees.

#### 16. Power to make rules.

The State Government may by notification make rules to carry out the purposes of this Act.

### 17. Repeal and savings.

The Punjab Trees Preservation Policy, 2024 is hereby repealed.

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# EXEMPTED TREES SCHEDULE-I

## [Refer Section 3 (iii)]

- 1. Areas notified as Reserved and Protected forests under India Forest Act, 1927
- 2. Areas notified under Punjab Land Preservation Act-1900.
- 3. All Un-classed Forest in the records of Forest Department
- 4. All wildlife Protected Areas notified under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- 5. Areas of Cantonment, Paramilitary and Defense forces
- 6. Government research plots,
- 7. Nurseries managed by Government Departments
- 8.

(And any other land notified by State Govt from time to time)

# SCHEDULE-II [Refer Section 3 (iv)]

- 1. Bamboo (all species)
- 2. Burma Neem/Drek (Melia composita)
- 3. Eucalyptus (all species)
- 4. Horticultural species (all planted Fruit and ornamental trees)
- 5. Poplar (all species)
- 6. Subabul (Leucaena leucocephala)
- 7. Sandal ( Santalam album)
- 8.

(And any other species notified by State Govt from time to time)

## URBAN AREAS SCHEDULE-III [Refer Section 3 (v)]

	(Muni	cipal Corp		RBAN LOCA lunicipal Coun		gar Panchayats)
Region	District	Coperadan	Class-i	Clean-H	Class-ill	Nagar Parchayat
L. Amritsar	1. Amritsar	1. Armithair		un e alabect. f	1, Majitha 2. Ramidata	1. Ajrsola 2. Raju Sunai 4. Rajyya
	2. Gurdaspur		L Batala 2. Gurdaspur	2. Disatival 3. Dinane;ai	3 Dera Belie Nonek 4. Fatengath Churien 5. Quadian 6. Sri Hargabindaur	
	3. Pathankot	2. Marka akot		4. Sujamper		4. Norat Jalmai Singh(un-alecteri)
	4. Teran Taren			5. Para 6. Tarn Taran		4. Shikhwind 5. Khemiaran
2. Bathinda 3. Feroxepur	S. Bathinda	S. Rathiwia		1. Bhucha Mandi 2. Goriena 3. Meia 4. Raman 5. Kampura Phul 6. Telwanici Sabo	1. Kosfatta 2. Sangat	1 Ballian Well 2 Bhagta Bhos Re 3 Bhai Ripon 4 Chaoke 5 Kotha Kins 6 Koth Shoris 7 Telwardi 7 Telwardi Naba
	6. Mansa		1. Mansa		d. Harcto	1/1 Bhikhi 15. Goha 18. Ioga 17. Sardu baih
	7. Sri Muktser Sahib		2. Malaut	7. Gidderbatta		18. Dariwa w
	E. Faridkot		A. Muktuar L. Feridko.	1.2010		
	9. Fazilka		2. Ketkepura 3. Abahar	2. Ja alabad		1 Americala Shadkh Substan
			4. Fecilka	and the same of th		
	10. Ferosepur		5. Fernsepur	S. Guru, Har Valsat 4. Telwand Shel 5. Zira		/ Maicht. 3 Mellanweie Shies 4. Marridot 8 Marki
	11. Moge	4. Maga		G. Bagha Purana 7. Dhecemkot		is Bother Kalan 7 Kor Isse Kunn 8 Nihal Singh Wala 9 Fatebgath Parythor (un-elected)
4. Jalandhar	12. Hoshiarpur	5, Hoshlarpur		1. Basaya 2. Goch Shonkar 3. Mukertan 4. Urmur Tanda	1. Garbelisska 2. Hariana 3. Sham Churust	1. Mahilpar 2. Talwara
	13. Jálandhar	6. Jelendhar	1 reskeder upgraded or 27- 08-15	b. Adamaur upgraded on 27-08- 15 6. Bhogpur 7. Kortorpur 8. Nurmahal 9. Phillaur	4. Mawalpur	3. Goraya 4. Lohian Khas 5. Mehatpur 18. Shirikot. 7. Biga Newly Constituted, (unelected yet
	14. Kapurthala	/. Phagwara	Z. Kapurrhala	10. Sultamper Local		8 Begowal 9. Bhitisth 10. Dhilwan 11. Nadala[Court Case]
	15. Shaheed Bheget Singh Nagar		3. Newsky Shahar 07-08-15		5. Belar hear 5. Rehon	
S. Ludhiana	16. Fetehgarh Sahib		1. Gobindgeth	1. Sinhing Catebook	1. Amiloh 2. Hassi Fathora	1. Kharmerio
	17 Ludhiana	8, Ludhiana	2 lagracin 3. Khanna	2. Doraha 3. Mullangur Dakha 4. Kaikot 5. Sahnewal 6. Samrala	3 Marritona 4. Payal	2. Maloud
	18. Roop Nagar		4. Nargal	6. Morinda 7. Kopa Nager	5. Anandpur Sahib	Chemissur Sahib     Repur Sahib[unelected yet]
0. Partiala	19. Bamala		1. Barnala		1.9hadur 2.Chanaula 3. Tana	1. Hendiave
	20. Patiela	3. Patiala	2. Natem 3. Rajpura 4. Malarkosia	1 Petrari 2 Samana	4. Denur 5. Sanata	2 Bradson 3 Chagga 4 Chanase
	21. Sangrur		5.Sengrur 6.Sunam	3 Ahmedgarti 4.Dhuri 5. Lahragaga	6 Shawarigath 7 Longowel	S. Amergerh 6. Cheerns / Litha 6. Khansuri 9. Moonak
	22, S.A.S Nagar	1D.S.A.S Nogar	Albara Bassi 8 Kharar 9 Zirokpur 10 Falra 11 Naya Gapa	6 Kurali		
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- 1. Department of Agriculture
- 2. Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries
- 3. Department of Civil Aviation
- 4. Department of Cooperation
- 5. Department of Defence Services Welfare
- Department of Elections
- 7. Department of Employment Generation, Skill Development and Training
- 8. Department of Excise and Taxation
- 9. Department of Finance
- 10. Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs
- 11. Department of Forest and Wild Life Preservation
- 12. Department of General Administration
- 13. Department of Good Governance and Information Technology
- 14. Department of Health & Family Welfare
- 15. Department of Higher Education and Languages
- 16. Department of Home Affairs and Justice
- 17. Department of Horticulture
- 18. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- 19. Department of Industries and Commerce
- 20. Department of Information and Public Relation
- 21. Department of Promotion of Information Technology Industry
- 22. Department of Investment Promotion
- 23. Department of Labour
- 24. Department of Legal and Legislative Affairs
- 25. Department of Local Government
- 26. Department of Medical Education and Research
- 27. Department of New & Renewable Energy Sources
- 28. Department of NRI Affairs
- 29. Department of Parliamentary Affairs
- 30. Department of Personnel
- 31. Department of Planning
- 32. Department of Power
- 33. Department of Printing and Stationery
- 34. Department of Program Implementation
- 35. Department of Public Works
- 36. Department of Revenue, Rehabilitation & Disaster Management
- 37. Department of Rural Development and Panchayat
- 38. Department of School Education
- 39. Department of Science, Technology & Environment
- 40. Department of Social Justice, Empowerment and Minorities
- 41. Department of Social Security and Development of Women and Children
- 42. Department of Soil & Water Conservation
- 43. Department of Sports and Youth Services
- 44. Department of Technical Education and Industrial Training
- 45. Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs
- 46. Department of Transport
- 47. Department of Vigilance
- 48. Department of Water Resources
- 49. Department of Water Supply and Sanitation
- 50. Department of Welfare of Freedom Fighters
- 51. Departments of Punjab Prisons and Correctional Services