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उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे
North Western Railway

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Sub: Eco-Friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Rail Projects on Wild life.

Development of new Railway tracks and other facilities have become a pervasive component of the natural landscapes that invariably include the tiger habitats across the country and their rapid expansion has the potential to radically transform these landscapes and ecosystem in large. This assures more significance because many of our forest areas are becoming increasingly fragmented by Railways and other forms of linear developments. The paradox of socio-economic benefits from Railways and the deterioration of natural systems at a still greater pace have compounded the complexities of issues for Indian Railways and wildlife managers. There needs to be a balance between development and conservation of nature including forest ecosystems.

'Development without Destruction' has been the key facet of working of Indian Railways and to forge it further we must accept this big challenge of promoting efficient and green infrastructure that facilitates economic growth and development, minimizing environmental impacts and protection of biodiversity and ecosystem functions. Environmental protection, mitigation and sustainability have become the major concerns of Indian Railways and necessitate encouraging better, greener and more sustainable rail systems across the expanses of our country.

Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change (MoEFCC), Govt. of India; has come up with the publish of guidelines on the subject which may serve as an excellent resource for Indian Railways in building efficient and wildlife friendly Rail networks. The document may be referred at <http://www.wii.gov.in>. It is also advised to work in conjunction with conservation agencies like "MoEFCC" to ensure minimize environmental impacts and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services by promoting the development of green infrastructure.


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