



Haryana Proposes Fresh Delineation of Eco-Sensitive Zone

Why in News?

Recently, the Haryana government has proposed that an area of **1,000 metres around the Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary** on the Haryana side be delineated as an [Eco-Sensitive Zone \(ESZ\)](#).

Key Points

- The proposal was sent in **January 2024** to the [Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change \(MoEFCC\)](#) for issuing a final notification delineating the eco-sensitive zone on the Haryana side.
- The Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary, spread over 25.98 square km (about 6420 acres), is under the **administrative control of union territory of Chandigarh** and **shares its boundaries with Haryana and Punjab**.
 - The protected area, being rich with diverse flora and fauna, contains a variety of topographical features and was **declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1988 by the Chandigarh administration**.
- As per the draft proposal sent to the MoEFCC:
 - The total area of the proposed eco-sensitive zone will be 2,460 hectares (about 6,078 acres).
 - 10 villages - Prempura, Sukhomajri, Damala, Lohgarh, Manakpur Thakardas, Surajpur, Chandimandir Kotla, Darra Kharauni, Rampur and Saketri/Mahadevpur fall within the proposed ESZ.
 - The state government has proposed to divide the ESZ into four zones:
 - The extent of **zone 1** will be 100 meters from the boundary of Sukhna wildlife sanctuary.
 - **Zone 2** will be 100 metres to 300 metres from the boundary of the protected area.
 - **Zone 3** will comprise of area falling in 300-700 metres from the boundary of the protected area.
 - The rest of the area that is 700 to 1,000 metres from the boundary in the protected area shall be in **zone 4**.
 - All activities other than the activities prescribed for conservation and protection of its habitat are prohibited.
 - Eco-sensitive zones act as shock absorbers and insulate the protected area from the likely adverse impact of the activities in the adjacent areas.
- In the revised draft the state government has also incorporated the suggestions of [Wildlife Institute of India](#) that the eco-sensitive zone be extended till the reserve forest boundary.

Eco Sensitive Zones

- The **National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016)** of the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** stipulated that state governments should declare land falling **within 10 km of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries** as eco-fragile zones or **Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs)** under the **Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- While the **10-km rule is implemented as a general principle**, the extent of its application can vary. **Areas beyond 10 km can also be notified by the Union government as ESZs**, if they hold larger ecologically important “sensitive corridors”.

Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary

- It is located in **Chandigarh**.
- It forms the part of **Sukhna Lake catchment area falling in Shivalik hills**.
- **Fauna:** Sambar deer, Barking deer, and wild boar, as well as several species of birds, reptiles, and amphibians.
- **Flora:** The sanctuary is characterized by a mix of forests, grasslands, and wetlands, with the Sukhna Lake forming an important part of the ecosystem.



