



Requirements and Procedures for Category 'A' & 'B2' Environmental Clearances (EC) Proposals

New Delhi
20.03.2025

Dr. Vimal Kumar Hatwal
Member Secretary (Industry-2), IA Division
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
New Delhi

Presentation Outline

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), 2006
- ToR/EC Flowchart
- Provisions of EIA, 2006 related to Oil, Petroleum & Gas Sector
 - Exploratory Drilling
- Best practices to adopt for EC application on PARIVESH 2
- Required Documents for EC Transfer
- Analysis for EDS in Industry-2 Sector
- EC Granted since June, 2023

EIA Notification, 2006 – 14th Sep, 2006

38 categories of Projects (or) Activities requires prior Environment Clearance

Listed in the Schedule to the EIA, 2006.

- i. All new projects or activities
- ii. Expansion, modernization of existing projects
- iii. Any change in the product mix in existing projects
- iv. Any change in the raw material mix in existing projects

Threshold limit

- Spatial extent of potential impacts
- Potential impacts on human health and natural and man-made resources.

Below the lowest threshold limit exempted from EC.

Category 'A'

Scoping
Public Consultation
Appraisal

**Regulatory Authority:
MoEF&CC**

Expert Appraisal
Committees (EAC)

Category 'B'

Screening (Based on nature and location)

Category 'B1'

Scoping
Public Consultation
Appraisal

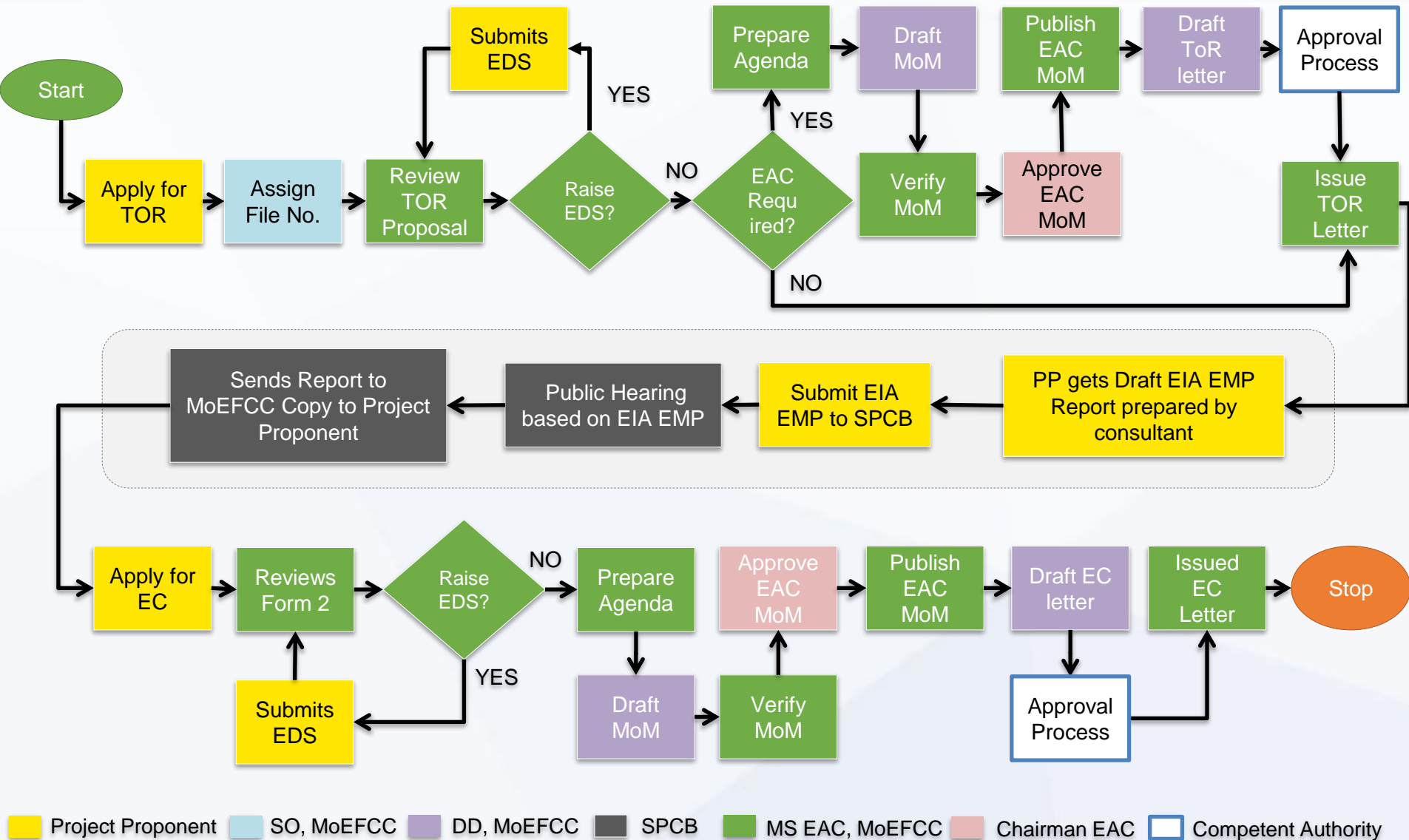
Category 'B2'

Direct appraisal based
on proponent
application with EMP

**Regulatory Authority: State Environment Impact Assessment
Authority (SEIAA).**

State Expert Appraisal Committees (SEAC)

ToR/EC Flowchart



Item1(b) of the Schedule

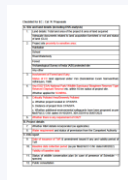
Project or Activity		Category with threshold limit		Conditions if any
		A (MoEF&CC)	B (SEIAA)	
1(b)	Off-shore and onshore oil and gas exploration, development and production	All projects in respect of off-shore and onshore oil and gas development and production except exploration		<p>Note 1: Seismic surveys which are part of Exploration Surveys are exempted provided the concession areas have got previous clearance for physical survey</p> <p>Note 2: All project in respect of off -shore and onshore oil and gas exploration are categorized as 'B2' projects"</p>

Exploratory Drilling

- Onshore and offshore oil and gas exploration activities are categorized as a Category 'B2' project.
- This categorization exempts these exploration activities from the requirement of:
 - Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
 - Public Hearing
 - Baseline Data
- **However, needed:**
 - State level appraisal
 - EMP
 - Risk Assessment
 - Other State Level Clearances

Best practices to adopt for EC application

- Information should be consistent in all the submitted documents (FR, FORM A & B, C etc.)
- **‘Know Your Approval’** should be checked beforehand
- Written representation received during the PH shall be included
- PP should come prepared with the consultant about the project
- EMP shall be comprehensive, addressing potential environmental impacts and outlining mitigation measures and monitoring plans
- Facts must not be **CONCEALED**
- **Checklist**



Required Documents for EC Transfer

Copy of the Original EC

- For the validity of the EC

EC implementation Status

- The compliance status of the original EC and Implementation of the project (whether partial or complete)

NOC from transferor

- NOC from the transferor (original EC holder) consenting to the transfer

Undertaking from transferee

- A declaration by the transferee to comply with all conditions of the original EC

Change in ownership (If applicable)

- Board resolution needed from company with date

CIN number

- Both the transferor and transferee in case of change in ownership else CIN copy of the company mentioning the change of company

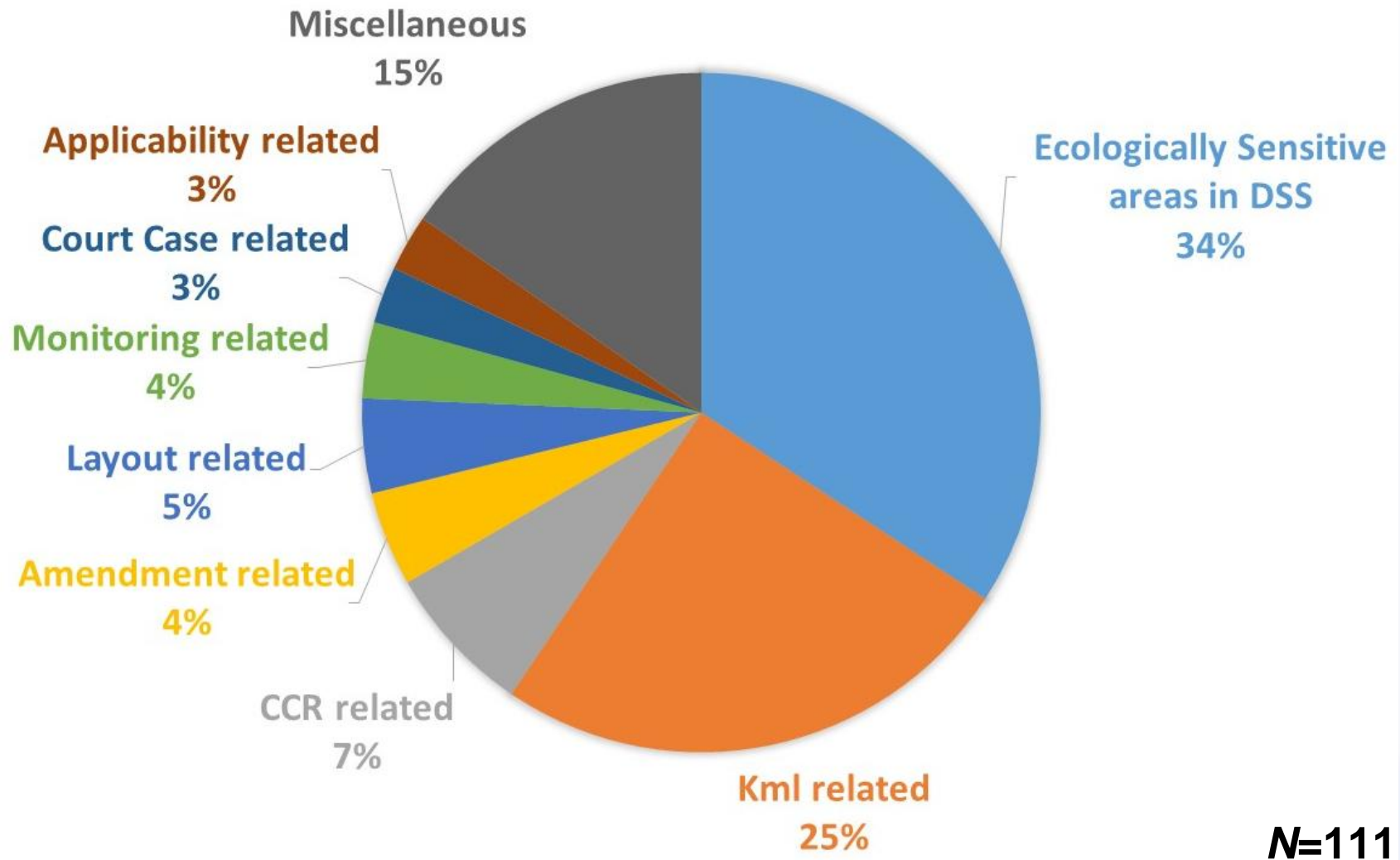
Name transfer of Stage I & II FC

- The same has been changed or not, if applicable.

CTE/CTO

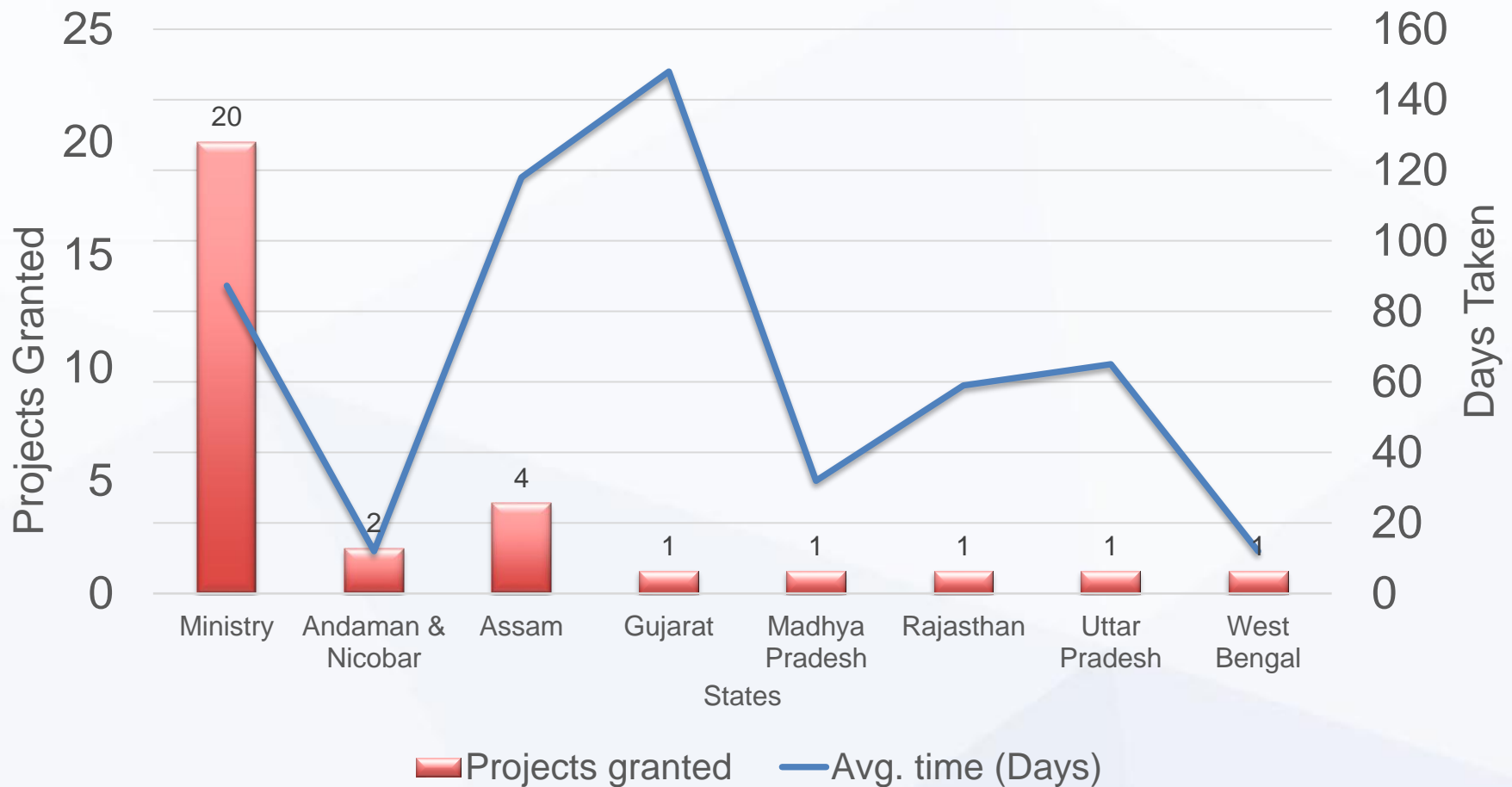
- Proof of submission of application to the concerned SPCB/PCCs for transfer of CTE/CTO as per MoEF&CC OM dated 03/11/2023

Analysis of EDS in the Sector



- Maximum EDS are related to .kml and DSS

Break up of EC Granted since June, 2023



- Maximum ECs are granted by MoEFCC, New Delhi with an average time of 87 days.

Example: Proposed CBM Exploratory Drilling (15 wells)



- Not a clear proposal
- Not possible to analyze the proposal in DSS
- EDS: Please upload the individual locations of proposed wells.

Example: Proposed CBM Exploratory Drilling (15 wells)



- Uploaded individual well. However, without using 'KYA' tool
- ADS: EAC noted that instant proposal attracts FC as some of the wells are falling in forest areas as per DSS. However, the PP has informed that drilling wells are not located in forest areas. In this regard, EAC suggested that PP may obtain authentication from DFO explicitly indicating the distance of the forest area from each drilling location.

Example: With Best Practices



- Clearly defined locations with a 500-meter buffer zone
- Sensitive areas around the proposed wells/activity can be identified and analyzed in DSS.

धन्यवाद
Thank you!



vk.hatwal@gov.in

Issues of Environmental Compliance

PML block KGBS was awarded to M/s. XYZ Ltd

MoEFCC grants EC to M/s. XYZ Ltd for 15 exploratory wells.

M/s. XYZ Ltd executes the project and able to drill 9 wells within the validity of EC. Four found HC bearing and rest 5 were dry wells. Part block BS was awarded to M/s. ABC containing one hydrocarbon-bearing well

M/s. ABC applies EC for four development wells in addition to workover operations of drilled well

Issues faced by the Ministry

1. Whether transfer has been obtained for HC bearing well.
2. Whether the dry drilling sites have been restored to their original condition.
3. No information of total wells that were already drilled.
4. Is M/s. ABC is going to take environmental responsibility of such wells?

EDS and ADS Raised since June 2023

E. EDS Raised:

1. MS, MoEFCC (EC): 15
2. MS, SEAC ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS: 2
3. MS, SEAC ASSAM: 3

F. ADS Raised:

1. MS, MoEFCC (EC): 7
2. MS, SEAC ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS: 2
3. MS, SEAC MADHYA PRADESH: 1
4. MS, SEAC UTTAR PRADESH: 1
5. MS, SEAC WEST BENGAL: 1