



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान  
Wildlife Institute of India

296/C

No. A/2-1/2007-WII (Vol. IX: 2015-16)

Dated 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015

To,

Dr. Nitin Pandey  
Chief Coordinator  
Citizens for Green Doon  
Shivam Vihar, Jakhan  
Dehradun-248001

Sub.: Information under Right to Information Act, 2005- reg.

Ref.: Your RTI Application dated 22.06.2015.

Sir,

Please refer to your RTI application cited above regarding the information asked by you under RTI Act, 2005. In this connection, the required parawise information as asked under your above RTI application has been collected from the concerned officer of the Institute and is attached herewith in 7 pages.

In case you are not satisfied with this reply and want to appeal as per the provisions of RTI Act, 2005, the address of Appellate Authority is being given as follows:

Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director & Appellate Authority, Wildlife Institute of India,  
Chandrabani, Dehradun – 248 001, Ph.: 0135-2640910.

Thanking you,

*Dear Sir,*

Yours faithfully,

(Aseem Shrivastava)  
CPIO

Encl.: As above (7 pages).

*Spand*  
14/7/15

1-312 \* WFF / ESM / BR / 18 / 2017  
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**Note**

**Subject:** Reinforcement of Song River bank in Rajaji National Park -- case matter in National Green Tribunal regarding.

The undersigned walked along the entire stretch of Song River flowing through Rajaji National Park to see the river bank reinforcement work on 24 and 28 October 2014. The undersigned was accompanied by Shri S P Sharma, wildlife warden of Rajaji National Park and range forest officer of Mothichur Range during the visits.

River Ganga bisects Rajaji National Park in to eastern and western parts. Both these parts of Rajaji NP are connected with each other through the narrow Chilla Motichur corridor (along Motichur rau) and Song River corridor (along Song River). There still exists feeble forest connectivity along Motichur rau in Chilla-Motichur corridor. However, the forest connectivity along the Song River has totally been lost due to the Gohri Mafi village (see attached google image - 'A'). Animal movement along the Song River corridor is minimal and most animal movements primarily take place along the right bank of Song River. Animals largely avoid Gohri Mafi village (located on west bank of Ganga, near the confluence of Song with Ganga) and only follow the course of Song river.

The right bank of Song River is subjected to frequent erosion. The left bank of Song river (flowing through Rajaji NP) has already been reinforced in the past and has large scale human settlements. Considering the frequent erosion along the right bank as well as movement of animals, the approved management plan of Rajaji NP has rightfully prescribed the river bank stabilization work along this stretch ('B').

Couple of channels flow out of Song River in to Gohri Mafi settlement within Rajaji NP. These channels have been blocked in the past (1992-1994) to prevent ingress of flood water in to Gohri Mafi village (yellow portion marked on the google image - 'C'). This embarkment, constructed in the past has no way prevented the access of animals to Song River. During the site visit the undersigned came across movement signs of leopard and elephant along this stretch of the river.

These channels keep changing their course and as a result the Gohri Mafi village is still subjected to ingress of flood water during monsoon. Keeping this in view, the present river bank reinforcement work was initiated along a larger stretch on the right bank of Song River. The ongoing river bank reinforcement work if executed as per the plan, will not hinder animal's access to the river. River bank reinforcement will not only prevent erosion, but help in building up a strip of mosaic of grassland and riverine vegetation that will facilitate animal movement along Song River. This is all the more important considering the fact that the forest connectivity along this corridor has totally been lost.

AA' || The reinforcement along right bank of Song River confirms with the prescribed management plan of Rajaji National Park and in the long run will only facilitate

1035  
07/11

animal movement along this corridor. Based on these observations, a suitable response may please be drafted to MoEF and CC.

Bivash Pandav  
03/11/2014  
(Bivash Pandav)

'AA' recommended  
For kind consideration please

Dean FWS

P.K. Mathur  
3/11/2014

Diary Section (Receipt)  
No. 1444  
Date 3/11/14

~~D/WII~~

Based on site visit report submitted by Dr. Bivash Pandav, review of the Management Plan of RNP (2012-13 to 2021-22) and discussion with subject matter specialists, W/ response has been prepared and sent to Sh. H.C. Chaudhary, Director, MoEFCC and ~~sent~~ in a letter (copy enclosed). Since the matter is linked with NAT, the file may be kept in such a way that it is available to Dean and Director at a short notice.

Dean

PKM  
8/9/2014

DIVISION OFFICE  
REPLY NO.: 1035  
10/11

Thanks, Sir. It is suggested that a soft pdf file of letter/response sent alongwith its enclosures can be sent to all concerned. Original file has originated from Dr. B. Pandav and carries relevant number. It can be sent back to ~~the~~ him for record ~~or~~ retained in AFWII's office if so felt.

P.K. Mathur

Dean  
(over)  
10/11/2014

Always  
To be retained in Div  
Date: 20/11/2014  
PKM

# Report based on site visit to Song River corridor, Rajaji National Park

River Ganga bisects Rajaji National Park in to eastern (250 sq km) and western (570 sq km) parts. Both these parts of Rajaji NP are connected with each other through the narrow ChillaMotichur corridor (along Motichurrau) and Song River corridor (along Song River). There still exists feeble forest connectivity along Motichurrau in Chilla-Motichur corridor. However, the forest connectivity along the Song River has totally been lost due to the GohriMafi village (Figure 1). Animal movement along the Song River corridor is minimal and most animal movements primarily take place along the right bank of Song River. Animals largely avoid GohriMafi village (located on west bank of Ganga, near the confluence of Song with Ganga) and only follow the course of Song river.



Figure 1. The forest from Motichur range near Satyanarayan extends along the right bank of Song River. However, the forest connectivity with eastern part of Rajaji NP gets totally severed due to the presence of GohriMafi village on the west bank of river Ganga near the confluence of Song and Ganga.

I walked along the entire stretch of Song River flowing through Rajaji National Park to see the riverbank reinforcement work on 24 and 28 October 2014. The undersigned was accompanied by Shri S P Sharma, wildlife warden of Rajaji National Park and range forest officer of Motichur Range during the visits.

The right bank of Song River is subjected to frequent erosion. The left bank of Song river (flowing through Rajaji NP) has already been reinforced in the past and has large-scale human settlements. Considering the frequent erosion along the right bank as well as movement of animals, the approved management plan of Rajaji NP has rightfully prescribed



the riverbank stabilization work along this stretch (Management Plan of Rajaji National Park - 2012-13 to 2021-2022, Page 429-430).

Couple of channels flow out of Song River in to GohriMafi settlement within Rajaji NP. These channels have been blocked in the past (1992-1994) to prevent ingress of floodwater in to GohriMafi village (Figure 2). This embarkment, constructed in the past has no way prevented the access of animals to Song River. During the site visit the undersigned came across movement signs of leopard and elephant along this stretch of the river.

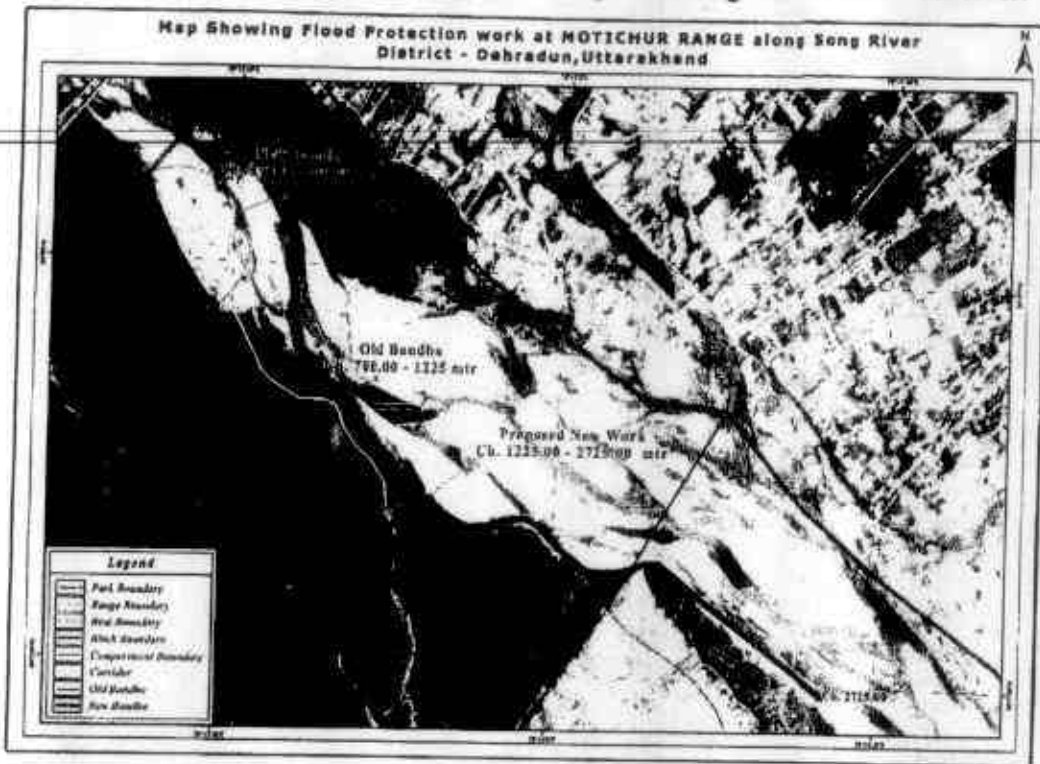


Figure 2. The yellow portion highlighted on the image depicts the stretch of reinforcement along Song River that was carried out in 1992-93. Construction of this embarkment has actually facilitated land accretion leading to a strip of riverine vegetation as evident in the map. The portion indicated in red shows the proposed stretch of reinforcement between the railway bridge till the confluence of Song River with Ganga.

These channels keep changing their course and as a result the GohriMafi village is still subjected to ingress of floodwater during monsoon. Keeping this in view, the present riverbank reinforcement work was initiated along a larger stretch on the right bank of Song River. The ongoing riverbank reinforcement work if executed as per the plan, will not hinder animal's access to the river. River bank reinforcement will not only prevent erosion, but help in building up a strip of mosaic of grassland and riverine vegetation that will facilitate animal movement along Song River. This is all the more important considering the fact that the forest connectivity along this corridor has totally been lost.

The reinforcement along right bank of Song River confirms with the prescribed management plan of Rajaji National Park and in the long run will only facilitate animal movement along this corridor.



Bivash Pandav  
(Bivash Pandav)

Gohri corridor as reflected in Rajaji Management plan



The Google earth images with song river corridor

Ghori corridor map as reported by Will report



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30 अक्टूबर 2019

**WILDLIFE INSTITUTE OF INDIA, DEHRADUN**  
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Date	Time		Meter Reading Km.		Fuel & Oil (Lit) at Kilometer reading	PLACES VISITED	Purpose	Name of the Official using the Vehicle	Signature		
	From	To	Open	Closed					Driver	Official	
1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	
13/10/2019	08:00 AM	12:00 PM	095564	095566	16 km	डीएनडी डी.डी. मोरि वन्यजीव संरक्षण अभ्युत्थन क्षेत्र	वसुधा	F TO	[Signature]	[Signature]	
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14/10/2019	08:00 AM	05:00 PM	095564	095566	50 km	आठवां संरक्षण क्षेत्र, आठवां संरक्षण क्षेत्र, आठवां संरक्षण क्षेत्र, आठवां संरक्षण क्षेत्र, आठवां संरक्षण क्षेत्र	डीएनडी संरक्षण अभ्युत्थन	आठवां संरक्षण क्षेत्र	आठवां संरक्षण क्षेत्र	[Signature]	[Signature]
14/10/2019	08:00 AM	05:00 PM	095564	095566	20 km	डीएनडी संरक्षण क्षेत्र, आठवां संरक्षण क्षेत्र, आठवां संरक्षण क्षेत्र, आठवां संरक्षण क्षेत्र, आठवां संरक्षण क्षेत्र	F.A.	Dr. V. K. UNIVAL, I.I.P.S.	[Signature]	[Signature]	
14/10/2019	08:00 AM	05:00 PM	095564	095566	42 km	आठवां संरक्षण क्षेत्र, आठवां संरक्षण क्षेत्र, आठवां संरक्षण क्षेत्र, आठवां संरक्षण क्षेत्र, आठवां संरक्षण क्षेत्र	आठवां संरक्षण क्षेत्र	आठवां संरक्षण क्षेत्र	[Signature]	[Signature]	

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