



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

Dated 30th 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 appeal No. CFGD/RTI/04/05, dated 16.7.2014.

Sir,

Please refer to your RTI appeal cited above regarding the information asked by you under RTI Act, 2005. In this connection, as directed by Appellate Authority/Director of the Institute, the required parawise information, as per details given below, is attached herewith in 9 pages.

Para 2a	-	Annexure -1
Para 2b	-	Annexure -2
Para 2c	-	Annexure-3
Para 3a	-	Annexure-4

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(Aseem Shrivastava)
CPIO

Handwritten signature and date: 30/7/15

Encl.: As above (9 pages)

Copy to: Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director and Appellate Authority, WII, Dehradun for information.

Handwritten signature and date: 30/7/15



कार्यालय प्रभागीय वनाधिकारी, मसूरी वन प्रभाग, मसूरी

पत्रांक 5026/12-1 मसूरी दिनांक 27 मई, 2014.

सेवा में,

निदेशक,
भारतीय वन्य जीव संस्थान,
चन्द्रबनी, देहरादून।

विषय:-

जनपद देहरादून में मसूरी वन प्रभाग के रायपुर रेंज अन्तर्गत आरक्षित भोपालपानी क0सं0-8 में विधान भवन, सचिवालय भवन एवं अन्य आधारभूत सुविधाओं के निर्माण हेतु अपेक्षित 65.976 हे0 वन भूमि को गैर वानिकी कार्यों हेतु वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम 1980 व तहत राज्य सम्पत्ति विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड शासन, देहरादून को प्रत्यावर्तन के सम्बन्ध में।

सन्दर्भ:-

प्रमुख वन संरक्षक(वन्य जीव)/मुख्य वन्य जीव प्रतिपालक, उत्तराखण्ड, देहरादून का पत्रांक 2839/12-1 दिनांक 16-05-2014।

माहीदय,

उपरोक्त सन्दर्भित पत्र (संलग्नक-1) के सम्बन्ध में अनुरोध करना है कि विषयांकित वन भूमि प्रत्यावर्तन प्रस्ताव के बिन्दु सं0 4 में अधोहरताक्षरी के स्तर से टिप्पणी दी गई है कि वन्यजन्तु स्थल में विगत वर्षों में जंगली हाथियों का आवागमन देखा गया है। यह टिप्पणी विगत वर्षों में जंगली हाथियों द्वारा किये गये आवागमन की सूचनाओं के आधार पर दी गई है। जिसके अनुसार वन्यजन्तु क्षेत्र में प्रमुखतया भूपालपानी / सोडासरोली से मालदेवता तक जंगली हाथियों का आवागमन रहता है (क्षेत्र के मूल मानचित्र में हाथियों के सम्भावित विवरण क्षेत्र को प्रदर्शित किया गया है। (संलग्नक-2) जिसमें उनके द्वारा क्षेत्र में फसलों/सम्पत्ति को नुकसान पहुंचाने की घटनाएँ घटित होती रहती हैं तथा विभाग द्वारा प्रभावित पक्ष को मुआवजा दिया जाता रहा है। इस सम्बन्ध में अवगत करना है कि उप प्रभागीय वनाधिकारी (देहरादून) द्वारा शासन स्तर पर अपर मुख्य सचिव, उत्तराखण्ड की अध्यक्षता में दिनांक 28-04-2014 को हुई बैठक में प्रश्नगत क्षेत्र के सम्बन्ध में निर्णय लिया गया था कि हाथियों के आवागमन हेतु एक पैसेज छोड़ा जाय तथा सुरक्षात्मक दिकोण से कार्यवाही संस्था द्वारा एक रिटेनिंग वाल का निर्माण कराया जायेगा।

उक्त बैठक में भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान, देहरादून के नामित प्रतिनिधि एक्सपर्ट के रूप में डा0 विभास पाण्डेय भी उपस्थित थे। अतः कृपया प्रश्नगत भूमि हस्तान्तरण होने से भोपालपानी - सोडा सरोली-मालदेवता क्षेत्र में जंगली हाथियों के आवागमन तथा उनके वास स्थल पर पड़ने वाले प्रभाव का आकलन एवं इसके निराकरण हेतु किये जाने वाले उपायों के सम्बन्ध में अध्ययन करवाकर आख्या सीधे प्रमुख वन संरक्षक, वन्य जीव/मुख्य वन्य जीव प्रतिपालक उत्तराखण्ड को प्रेषित करने की कृपा करें। ताकि तदनुसार भूमि प्रत्यावर्तन प्रस्ताव में अग्रिम कार्यवाही की जा सकें। रिपोर्ट की एक प्रति इस कार्यालय को भी अधिलेख हेतु प्रेषित करने की कृपा करें। उक्त प्रकरण की समीक्षा शासन स्तर पर निरन्तर की जा रही है। अतः आपसे अनुरोध है कि प्रकरण के समयवद्ध निरन्तरण हेतु आवश्यक कार्यवाही करने का कष्ट करें।

भवदीय

(Signature)

(डा0 धीरज पाण्डेय)
प्रभागीय वनाधिकारी,
मसूरी वन प्रभाग, मसूरी।

DEAN OFFICE	
DIARY NO. :	141
DATE:	28/05/2014

e-mail: dfo_mussoorie@rediffmail.com

Telex: 0135-2631763

ATTESTED

CPIO, Wildlife Institute of India

DWII OFFICE	12/2
DIARY NO. :	12/2
DATE:	28/5

डा. विभास पाण्डेय
(Signature)
28/5

पत्राक 5026/121 तददिनांकित।

प्रतिलिपि:- प्रमुख वन संरक्षक, वन्य जीव/मुख्य वन्य जीव प्रतिपालक उत्तराखण्ड को उनके सम्बन्धित पत्र के कग में सूचनार्थ प्रेषित।

प्रतिलिपि:- वन संरक्षक, यगुना वृत्त उत्तराखण्ड, देहरादून को सूचनार्थ प्रेषित।

(डा० धीरज पाण्डेय)
प्रभागीय वनाधिकारी,
मसूरी वन प्रभाग, मसूरी।

ATTESTED


CPIO, Wildlife Institute of India

As instructed by Director, WTI the undersigned intends to attend the meeting convened by Director Nandankanan zoological Park on 15.05.13. Following meeting the undersigned intends to visit Satkosia TR from 16-17 May & return back to headquarters on 18 May. The enclosed program may kindly be approved.

Bivark Pandav

13/05/2013

Dean, FWS

Approved
expenses covered by,
Forest Dept.

J. Thakur
13/5/13
for Dean FWS

The DFO Mussourie vide his letter No. 5026/12-1 dated 27.05.2014 (Page 45/c) had requested Director WTI to suggest mitigation measures to reduce human elephant conflict in view of the proposed construction of Uttarakhand vidhansabha - secretariat at Bhupalpuri RF of Raipur range, Mussourie F.S. The undersigned paid three visits to the proposed site and its adjoining area in order to gain understanding of the human elephant conflict in the area.

ATTESTED

CPIC, Wildlife Institute of India

- 2 -

It is desired to have detailed information on extent of human-~~wildlife~~^{elephant} conflict in the area as well as precise movement path of elephants in order to draw an appropriate conservation action plan. A report based on the site visits along with the draft letter is enclosed for approval and further communication to concerned authority. Soft copy of the letter & the report are sent to Sh. R. K. Sagan.

Bhavish Pandey
01.12.2014

~~Dean PWS~~

ATTESTED
CPIO, Wildlife Institute of India

The file was received in Dean's office on 2.12.2014 at 3pm. However the matter was tackled and discussed with D/WIT on the basis of soft copy of report forwarded by Dr. D. Mohan, CCF, UK. According to response to DFO, Mussoorie with copies marked to all concerned was made effect by vide email.

D/WIT may like to amend/forward hard copy of letter to C/WI, if so desired.

P.K. Math

DEAN OFFICE	1633
DIARY NO.:	2-12-14
DATE:	

1093
02/12

~~D/WIT~~

Reply sent on 3/12/14
Copy enclosed
(M)



Annexure-3

भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India

No. DWII/Misc./03/2014

Date: 3 December 2014

To,

The PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden,
Govt. of Uttarakhand,
Wildlife Institute 5,
Chandrabhani, Mohabewla,
Dehradun-248001
Email: cwlwua@yahoo.co.in

Sub: Report on 'Elephant use of Song River with respect to proposed construction site of State Assembly and Secretariat, Uttarakhand' - reg.

Ref: Your letter No.5026/12/1 dated 27th May, 2014.

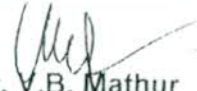
Sir,

With reference to the above, I am pleased to inform you that Dr. Bivash Pandav, Scientist 'E' of this Institute had been deputed to visit the proposed Construction Site of State Assembly and Secretariat, Uttarakhand.

Based on his field level assessments and consultations/interactions with villagers and forest staff, a report on 'Elephant use of Song River' is enclosed for your kind perusal and needful action, please.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,


Dr. V.B. Mathur
Director

Encl: as above

Cc:

1. Dr. Dheeraj Pandey, DFO Mussoorie, Government of Uttarakhand,
email: reachtodp@rediffmail.com

ATTESTED


CPIO, Wildlife Institute of India

पत्रपेटी सं० 18, चन्द्रबनी, देहरादून - 248001, उत्तराखण्ड, भारत
Post Box No. 18, Chandrabani, Dehradun - 248001, Uttarakhand, INDIA
ई.पी.ए.बी.एक्स : +91-135-2640111 से 2640115 फॉक्स : 0135-2640111
EPABX : +91-135-2640111 to 2640115; Fax : 0135-2640111
ई-मेल / E-mail: wii@wii.gov.in, वेब : website: www.wii.gov.in

Elephant use of Song River with respect to proposed construction site of State Assembly and Secretariat, Uttarakhand

Background

The Song River flows along the eastern edge of Doon valley. Before its confluence with river Ganga, Song river flows through Rajaji National Park (a stretch of 4km). Rajaji National Park supports a healthy population of Asian elephant and forms the north-western distribution limit of the species. Elephants extensively use the stretch of Song River that flows through Rajaji NP. Extensive elephant use has been observed along Suswa River in Rajaji NP, which is a major tributary of Song River. Although, no scientific data is available on the exact movement pattern of elephants along the upstream of Song River, it is believed that the elephant population of Rajaji seasonally forays in to upstream areas along Song River up to Maldevta through the forest along Chiddarwala-Barkot-Thano region. Incidentally, the Rishikesh-Barkot region along the far eastern end of Doon valley has recently been subjected to intense elephant related conflicts. Past studies on elephants of the region do not speak much about the elephant use of this area with specific reference to elephant movement along upstream of Song River. The elephant movement along Song River at the moment is seasonal and appears to be of recent origin. Elephants regularly raid crops along the northern boundary of Rajaji NP. However, recent years have witnessed rapid urbanization along the northern boundary of Rajaji NP, specifically in the stretch between Doiwala and Mothronwala. These areas were crop fields in the past and were being regularly raided by elephants. Owing to the loss of these areas due to urbanization, elephants are now possibly moving to newer areas of which the Song valley close to Raipur and Maldevta is one.

Along the Song River, near Raipur, 65.97ha of reserved forest in the Bhopalpani block (compartment 8) of Raipur range of Mussorie Forest Division has been earmarked as the proposed site for construction of Vidhansabha and Secretariat of Uttarakhand. Citing recent reports of elephant movements in this region, the DFO Mussourie vide his letter no. 5026/12-1 dated 27 May 2014 had requested the Wildlife Institute of India to submit a report on the impact of this proposed construction on elephant movement along Song River and mitigation measures that need to be taken.

Forests of the proposed Vidhansabha-Secretariat site

The proposed site is currently under the administrative control of Raipur Range of Mussourie Forest Division and is located along the right bank of Song River, adjoining the Maharana Pratap sports complex. The forest comprising species belonging to early stages of riverine succession is dominated by *Dalbergia sissoo*, *Acacia catechu* and *Bombax ceiba*. Tree species such as *Moringa oleifera*, *Holoptelea integrifolia* and *Cassia fistula* area also present in the area. *Eucalyptus*



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important to understand the details of elephant movement in the area and identify sites for safe passage of elephants as well as creation of barriers.

Elephant proof wall

This will be the primary barrier to channelize the movement of elephants to ensure that they do not come in conflict with local people. The design of elephant proof wall along the forest boundary between Kotdwar and Saneh in Kotdwar range of Lansdowne forest division acts as an effective barrier and this can be replicated in the proposed site.

Electric fence

Well-designed and properly maintained power fences are known to be effective in controlling elephant movement. Some of the best examples of electric fencing in Uttarakhand are found inside Corbett Tiger Reserve, where well maintained fences are still acting as effective barriers for elephants as well as a host of other wild animals for more than a decade. It is proposed to follow the same Corbett model and erect power fences along the proposed boundary wall.

Remote camera based surveillance

Electronic camera based surveillance is being effectively used along southern boundary of Corbett Tiger Reserve to monitor incursion of people in to forest as well as movement of wild animals. A camera with visible spectrum and thermal sensors can sense the presence of animals round the clock and will act as an advance warning system.

Monitoring elephant movement

In order to keep a tab on the elephant movement in this region, it is proposed to radio collar the elephant herd as well as the lone bull elephants visiting this area. Radio collars once fitted on elephants will provide precise information on movement of elephants in this region. This is essential in developing appropriate conservation and mitigation strategies. Besides, updated information on movement of radio collared elephants will act as an advance warning system, helping the tracking team in predicting possible movement of elephants in the vicinity of proposed construction site. It is proposed to fit GPS radio collars on elephants in order to obtain fine scale as well as real time movement data.

Dr. V.B. Mathur
Director
Wildlife Institute of India
Dehradun



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CPIO, Wildlife Institute of India

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has been planted in the area. The forest in this patch are very open in nature with the ground cover dominated by *Lantana*.

Elephant use of the area

Three site visits were made during July-September 2014. Owing to the high dung decomposition rate during monsoon, it was difficult to find evidences of elephants such as dung or tracks during the visits. As a result much of the information regarding the elephant use of the area has been collected through secondary sources - primarily through interaction with forest staff and local people.

Local people and forest staff present in the area clearly indicated that elephant movement in this region is rather recent and a small herd of 6-7 elephants are frequenting the area particularly during monsoon in the past 7-8 years only. Locals also informed that the area is rather frequented by solitary bull elephants. Although, no signs of elephant movement was noticed in the proposed site during the visits, a house under construction belonging to Shri Mehnder Singh Panwar of Saura Patiyun village in Dwara beat of Ladpur section, Raipur Range, Mussourie FD was damaged by a bull elephant on 22 July 2014. This village is located on the left bank of Song River and less than 1km (aerial distance) away from the proposed site for Vidhansabha-Secretariat. Virendra Rawat and Sailendra Singh Rawat of Saura Patiyun village informed about regular movement of a bull elephant during monsoon in this area. Interview with forest staff revealed that the elephants move along the Song River up to Maldevta. The staff also informed about an elephant calf that was rescued after falling in to a canal in Raipur in 2010.

Mitigation measures

From the evidences gathered from the forest staff as well as the local villagers the elephant movement in the area does not appear to be very high. Even though the elephant use of the area is not very high at the moment, it may increase in the future as more and more areas along the northern boundary of Rajaji NP would change from agriculture to urban settlements. Besides, expansion of urbanization through the establishment of Vidhansabha-Secretariat and developments associated with it will bring humans in more contact with elephant. This will certainly give rise to an increased human-elephant conflict in the area. Appropriate mitigation measures need to be taken in order to reduce the level of human-elephant conflict in this area. At the same time it is important to ensure that the elephants have a proper passage available for their unhindered movement. It is also important that the elephants do not come in conflict with local people in the region, which can be ensured only if they are not allowed to move into the agricultural fields or habitations. Consequently, a number of barriers have to be erected in the region with the twin objectives of providing a safe passage to elephants along the Song river corridor and protecting the local inhabitants and their crops as well as the proposed Vidhansabha complex from them. However, before erecting the barriers, it is



ATTESTED
↓
CPIO, Wildlife Institute of India

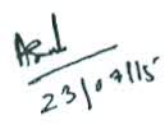
23rd July 2015

An appeal is received (P-69/c) from Dr. Nitin Pandey, Dehradun in continuation to his RTI application dated 22.6.2015 (P-68/c) and reply thereon (P60-67/c).

This is for your kind information.


(Neeraj Gupta)


DWI OFFICE
DIARY NO.: 5379
DATE: 23/07

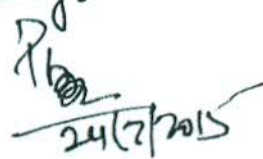
CP/O

23/07/15

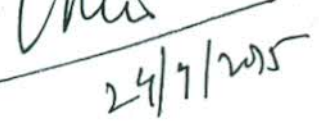
~~DWI~~

Pls - comment and/or provide information available in respect of letter at P 69/c

DEAN, FWS OFFICE
DIARY NO.: 973
DATE: 24-7-15

 Pls. do the needful urgently.


24/7/2015


24/7/2015

~~Dilwanthanda~~

The undersigned visited the site twice. Two visits were made by the undersigned on 23.06.2014 and 26.07.2014, while proceeding on to Lansdowne P.D. ~~Subseq~~ On both occasions the undersigned had used personal vehicle. On the third occasion, the undersigned visited the

ATTESTED
CP/O, Wildlife Institute of India

Site with Dr. Dharmraj Mohan in his official vehicle in August 2014.

- (i) Copy of the notesheet on concerned file
- (ii) copy of the report submitted to PCCF (WL) & GLOW, Govt. of Uttarakhand
- & (iii) copy of the letter of DFO, Mussonia to Director, WZZ has been enclosed for further communication.

Details of the people interviewed and location of the interview sites are mentioned in the report submitted by DWZZ.

Submitted for necessary action.

Bhavish Pandey
28/07/15

DEAN, FWS OFFICE
DIARY NO.: 991
DATE: 28-7-15

~~Dean, FWS~~
[Signature]
28/7/2015

DWII OFFICE
DIARY NO.: 0401
DATE: 29/07

~~D/WII~~
[Signature]
29/7

~~CPD (K. Azeem Farooq)~~

ATTESTED

Please prepare draft letter to provide information to the applicant as provided in the file and put up.