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**IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA: CUTLACK**

**W.P.(C) No. 14706 of 2022**

**Gita Rout**

..... **Petitioner**

**Versus**

**State of Odisha and others .....Respondent**

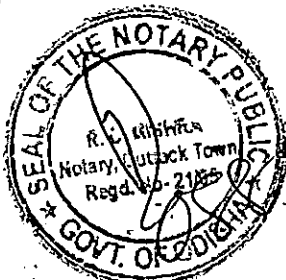
**Most Respectfully Shweth**

I, Purabi Patra aged about 37 years D/O D. Patra At Patra Pada Bhubaneswar-751019 P.O/P.S- Khandagiri do solemnly affirm and state here as follows:-

1. That I have gone through the affidavit filed Principal Chief Conservator of Forest(Wildlife) after which this Hon'ble Court passed following order on dated 25.07.2022

*"The Court finds the above paragraph to be a vague in its particulars. The Court accordingly directs the PCCF*

*(Adw)*



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(Wildlife) to

himself file an affidavit in which he will provide the details of each

of the instances of illegal poaching of elephants in the last five years including

- the place/region where the incident took place,

- the actual action taken i.e., in form of registering an FIR

(with the

case number),

- listing of the suspects/accused persons,

- arrest of the accused persons,

- filing of charge sheet with the details of the Court where the case

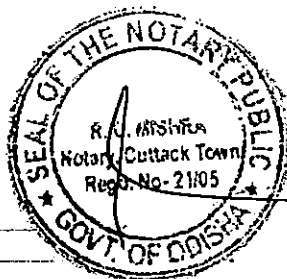
is pending,

- the status of the trial and

whether there had been any conviction in any of those cases.

4. Mr. Mohanty, learned ASC, drew attention to an order dated 16th

(Ad)



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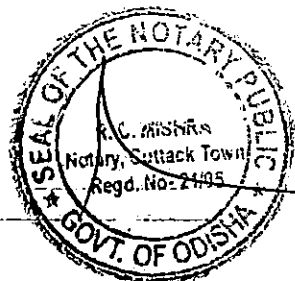
*October, 2015 of the Forest & Environment Department,  
Government of Odisha constituting a 'Wildlife Crime Cell'  
created*

*in the CID, Crime Branch. The above affidavit of the PCCF  
(Wildlife) will also indicate:*

- the present composition of such Wildlife Crime Cell and*
- the actual number of cases it has itself investigated which  
have  
resulted in a trial and conviction of the offenders.*

*5. The affidavit be filed within two weeks. The PCCF  
(Wildlife)  
will also remain present in virtual mode on the next date to  
answer  
the queries of the Court "*

2. That it is worthwhile to mention in many cases the respondents have declared particular death of elephant as anthrax death. By citing anthrax as cause of death the respondents eliminated the need to carry out a proper post



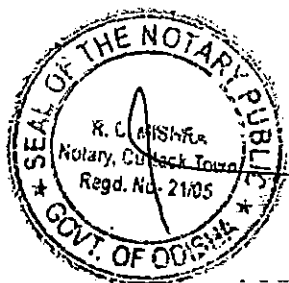
4-28

mortem and investigation for any other cause of death. The bodies were either cremated or deep burials were carried out on the basis of suspicious anthrax death without even waiting for preliminary report.

That it is worthwhile to mention here that in a RTI reply by Animal Disease Research Institute, Phulnakhra it stated that out of all the deaths that happened between 1.04.2017 to 25.06.2020 only two deaths were anthrax positive and remaining eighteen deaths were not anthrax positive. True copy of RTI reply by ADRI has been annexed here as **Annexure 1**.

3. That it is worthwhile to mention here ere have been four cases where the elephant bodies were cremated or deep burial was carried out suspecting Anthrax, but the samples to test for Anthrax were neither received by ADRI nor to OUAT. These are :

ADW



5/29

(1) On 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2019, an adult male elephant's body was cremated on suspicion of Anthrax in the Badmal Forest Range of Rairakhol Division.

(2) On 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2020, a juvenile male elephant's body was once again cremated on suspicion of Anthrax in the Badmal Forest Range of Rairakhol Division.

(3) On 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2020, deep burial was done of a juvenile male elephant's body on suspicion of Anthrax in the Bhuyan Juang Pirha Forest Range of Keonjhar Division.

(4) On 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2020, deep burial was done of an adult Makhana male elephant's body on suspicion of Anthrax in the Chhendipada Forest Range of Angul Division.

That it is worthwhile to mention here that to that regard a representation was filed before PCCF(wildlife) but till date no steps has been taken to

*[Handwritten signature]*  
19/02/20

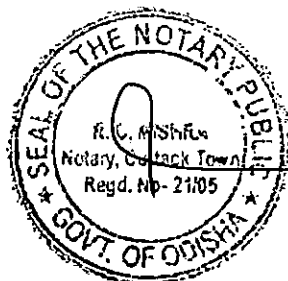



that representation. True copy of representation has been annexed here as **Annexure 2.**

4. That it is worthwhile to mention here that Forest and Environment Department vide notification dated 16/10/2015 has constituted a cell namely "Wildlife Crime Cell" which will work under the preview of CID Crime Branch. That it is worthwhile to mention here that the said team shall constitute one Assistant Conservator of Forest (ACF). But in said violation of its own notification there has been no single ACF appointed under the said department from last three years. The post of ACF is still vacant as of now. True copy of notification dated 16/10/2015 has been annexed here as **Annexure 3.**

5. That it is worthwhile to mention here that Principal Chief Conservator of Forest vide notification dated January 2009 has decided in point (iv) to launch a Special Striking Force (SSF) with adequate staff, vehicles and arms at 50 locations whose job will be specially to manage and stop wildlife poaching. But the said notification is yet to be implemented which is

*Handwritten signature/initials*





causing rise in wildlife related poaching. True copy of notification of PPCF has been annexed here as **Annexure 4**.

6. That it is worthwhile to mention here that the respondents have limited to meaning of “wildlife poaching” as they have only considered those cases where animal was shot dead and its tuckers were taken away as elephant poaching. It has not considered or accepted many instances where animal was poisoned or electrocuted. Below are the list of instance along with photographs of poisoning and electrocution related deaths where no complaint has been lodged as of yet:-

- I. In 22/11/2019 an elephant was poisoned with help of phosphorous mixed in sugarcane which caused the death of elephant in Rameswar in district of Khurda. The post-mortem was done by Dr Susanta Kumar Patra who was professor on head of OUAT. True copy of photos along with post mortem has been annexed here as **Annexure 5/A**.



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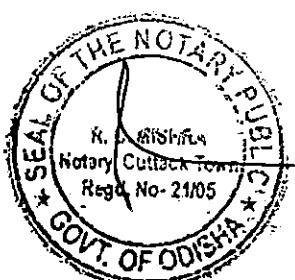
II. In June 3, 2022 bones of dead male elephant was recovered from Jenapala Badamba in Cuttack district. The body was decomposed with help of chemicals to decompose the body. True copy of bones has been annexed here as **Annexure 5/B**

III. In Febuary 8, 2022 bones of dead male elephant were recovered from Barasingha beat, Narasinghpur west range of Athgarh forest division in Cuttack district. True copy of bones has been annexed here as **Annexure 5/C**.

IV. That it is worthwhile to mention here that in July 24 bones of dead elephant were recovered from Dhamarang range in Sambalpur district. True copy of photos were annexed here as **Annexure 5/D**.

V. In another case Regional Chief Conservator of Forest suspended three persons namely Aisha AKhtari, Ashok

1/3  
ACW



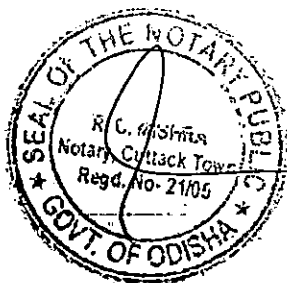




Behera and Suresh Sarangi. An elephant was found dead in Subasi reserve forest. Though a post-mortem was carried out on the jumbo, the carcass was buried without informing the Athagarh forest division. Even subhash Sarangi was earlier suspended and reinstated for similar offences earlier.

7. That it is worthwhile to mention here that there are list of suspected deaths of elephant due to poaching which has been prepared where investigation was never conducted properly or steps were taken to cover up the said poaching. The list of suspected elephant death has been annexed here as **Annexure 6**.

8. That it is worthwhile to mention here that in the cases where tuckers were recovered whether the tusks belonged to the said fourteen poached elephant or not which has been listed has not been done. There has been no DNA test of the said tusks.



(ADW)

40 8/22

That the facts stated above are true to best of my knowledge and belief:-

Cuttack

Date 8/8/22

*Purabi Patra*  
Deponent

Identified By

*Afraaz Suhail*  
Advocate

*Afraaz Suhail*

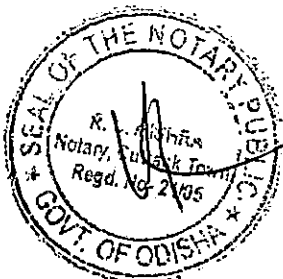
*0-367-17*

*M-9040535655*



Solemnly affirm on oath by the Deponent at Cuttack on *08/8/22* being identified by *A. Suhail* Advocate/Adv. for P. & S. O, A.S.'s office/Notary Personally, that the facts stated above are true to the best of his/her knowledge.

*Rama Chandra Mishra*  
RAMA CHANDRA MISHRA, NOTARY  
CUTTACK TOWN, Regd. No-21/05.



Annexure 1 - 11-89

ANNEXURE-1  
By E-mail

OFFICE OF THE JOINT DIRECTOR, ANIMAL DISEASE RESEARCH INSTITUTE,  
PHULNAKHARA, CUTTACK, ODISHA  
FAX No.0671-2356130, E-mail- [adri.odisha@gmail.com](mailto:adri.odisha@gmail.com)

No. 1420 //ADRI Dated 14.7. 2020

To

Sri Biswajit Mohanty,  
S/o. Biswanath Mohanty,  
Shanti Kunja, Link Road, Cuttack - 12.

Sub:- Information under RTI Act.

Ref:- Your application dt.25.06.2020.

Sir,

With reference to your application date 25.06.2020, I am enclosing herewith informations about Anthrax outbreak in elephants for the period from 01.04.2017 to 25.06.2020.

Yours Faithfully,

Encl:- As above

*Lalendra Bis Mohanty*  
14.7.20  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER  
O/o. JOINT DIRECTOR,  
A.D.R.I. PHULANAKHARA, CUTTACK

*T.C attest ed*

*Dr (A.D.V.)*

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**INFORMATION ABOUT LIST OF SAMPLES RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS FOREST AND WILDLIFE DIVISIONS DURING PERIOD 01.04.2017 TO 25.06.2020 FOR TESTING FOR ANTHRAX INFECTION IN ELEPHANTS**

Sl. No	NAME OF FOREST/WILDLIFE DIVISION	DATE OF DESPATCH TO LAB OUTSIDE ODISHA	POSITIVE / NEGATIVE ( BY NIVEDI, BENGALURU)
<b>For Year 2017-18</b>			
1	Gadachandi Hills, Wild Life Division, Hadagada, Keonjhar	28.8.17	Negative
2	Gadachandi Hills, Wild Life Division, Hadagada, Keonjhar	28.8.17	Negative
3	Similipal Tiger Reserve (Udara Range Forest) Mayurbhanja	21.10.17	Negative
4	Similipal Tiger Reserve (Jenabil Range Forest) Mayurbhanja	21.10.17	Negative
5	Similipal Tiger Reserve (Kaptipada Range Forest) Mayurbhanja	22.11.17	Negative
<b>For Year 2018-19</b>			
1	Wild Life Division, Hadagada, Keonjhar	10.05.18	POSITIVE
2	Wild Life Division, Hadagada, Keonjhar	10.05.18	POSITIVE
3	Similipal Tiger Reserve (Jenabil Range Forest) Mayurbhanja	22.05.18	Negative
4	Similipal Tiger Reserve (Jenabil Range Forest) Mayurbhanja	22.05.18	Negative
5	Bishnupur Forest Range, Sundergarh	1.07.18	Negative
6	Similipal Tiger Reserve, Kendrapada Forest Range, Mayurbhanja	25.07.18	Negative

*(Signature)*

*(Date)*

-13/87

7	Similipal Tiger Reserve Kendumundi Forest Range, Jamchua Forest, Mayurbhanja	25.01.19	Negative
8	Similipal Tiger Reserve (Gurandia Section, Jenabil) Mayurbhanja	05.02.19	Negative
9	Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary under Balasore Division, Balasore	13.03.19	Negative
10	Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary under Balasore Division, Balasore	13.03.19	Negative
11	Similipal Tiger Reserve (Asanbani Forest Range) Mayurbhanja	30.03.19	Negative
<b>For Year 2019-20</b>			
1	Ghatgaon Forest Range, Keonjhar	12.04.19	Negative
2	Muruda Forest Range, Mayurbhanja	04.10.19	Negative
3	Similipal Tiger Reserve (Kolipal Beat, Jenabil Range Forest) Mayurbhanja	24.12.19	Negative
4	Similipal Tiger Reserve (Gurandia Beat, Jenabil Range Forest) Mayurbhanja	24.12.19	Negative
From January 2020 to 25.06.2020		No elephant samples received for Anthrax detection from any wildlife /forest division.	

AB  
(Add)

By - E Mail.  
~~By Road Post~~

OFFICE OF THE JOINT DIRECTOR, ANIMAL DISEASE RESEARCH INSTITUTE,  
PHULNAKHARA, CUTTACK, ODISHA  
FAX No.0671-2356130, E-mail- adri.odisha@gmail.com

No. 2607 //ADRI Dated 04.12.2017

To

Sri Biswajit Mohanty  
S/o. Biswanath Mohanty. Sankhona, Linkroad Cuttack.

Sub:- Information of Anthrax outbreak in elephants for the period from 16.12.2016 to 21.11.2017 under RTI Act.

Ref:- Your application dated 21.11.2017 received on 23.11.2017..

Sir,

With reference to your application date 21.11.2017, I am enclosing herewith informations of Anthrax outbreak in elephants for the period from 16.12.2016 to 21.11.2017.

Yours Faithfully,

Encl:- As above.

12/4.12.2017  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER  
A.D.R.I.PHULANAKHARA, CUTTACK

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4/12/17

INFORMATION ABOUT TISSUE SAMPLES OF DEAD ELEPHANTS RECEIVED FROM THE ODISHA FOREST DEPARTMENT TO TEST FOR SUSPECTED ANTHRAX INFECTION (16.12.16 to 21.11.17)

A.

Forest Division from whom sample was received	Date of Test in our Lab	Positive/Negative
	---Nil---	

B.

Forest Division from whom sample was received	Date of Despatch to Lab outside Odisha	Positive/Negative
Wild Life Division, Hadagada, Keonjhar	28.8.17	Negative
Wild Life Division, Hadagada, Keonjhar	28.8.17	Negative
Similipal Tiger Reserve (Udala Range Forest) Mayurbhanja	21.10.17	Negative
Similipal Tiger Reserve (Jenabil Range Forest) Mayurbhanja	21.10.17	Negative
Similipal Tiger Reserve (Kaptipada Range Forest) Mayurbhanja	22.11.17	Report yet to come

10/12  
4-12-17  
1/2  
A.D.R.  
B.S.  
04.12.17  
1/2 Pathology division  
A.D.R.

1/2  
1A-24

BY EMAIL

OFFICE OF THE JOINT DIRECTOR, ANIMAL DISEASE RESEARCH INSTITUTE,  
PHULNAKHARA, CUTTACK, ODISHA  
FAX No.0671-2356130, E-mail- adri.odisha@gmail.com

No. 1526 IIIADRI Dated 26/08/ 2021

To

Sri Biswajit Mohanty,  
S/o. Biswanath Mohanty,  
Shanti Kunja, Link Road, Cuttack - 12.

Sub:- Information under RTI Act.

Ref:- Your application dt.23.08.2021.

Sir,

With reference to your application date 23.08.2021, I am enclosing herewith informations about Anthrax outbreak in elephants for the period from 26.06.2020 TO 25.08.2021.

Encl:- As above

Yours Faithfully,

*B.M. Mohanty*  
*26.8.2021*  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER  
O/o. JOINT DIRECTOR,  
A.D.R.I.PHULANAKHARA, CUTTACK

*B.M. Mohanty*  
*26.8.2021*

*AK*  
*(Adv)*



17 Recd M26 R 2021 91

**INFORMATION ABOUT LIST OF SAMPLES RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS FOREST AND WILDLIFE DIVISIONS DURING PERIOD 26.06.2020 TO 25.08.2021 FOR TESTING FOR ANTHRAX INFECTION IN ELEPHANTS**

Sl. No	NAME OF FOREST/WILDLIFE DIVISION	DATE OF DESPATCH TO LAB OUTSIDE ODISHA	POSITIVE / NEGATIVE
1	Badamakabadi Beat of Lengedekacha section of Range Nawana(South) inside Similipal Tiger Reserve.	28.08.2020	Negative ( BY NIVEDI, BENGALURU)
2	Jodidanda beat of Range Nawana(south) inside Similipal Tiger Reserve.	28.08.2020	Negative ( BY NIVEDI, BENGALURU)
3	Similipal Tiger Reserve (Barehipani wildlife Range, Jamuani Section, Jamuani Beat of Similipal Tiger Reserve ) Mayurbhanja	16.09.2020	Negative ( BY RDDDL, KOLKATA)
4	From 17.9.2020 to 25.08.2021	No elephant samples received for Anthrax detection from any wildlife /forest division.	

C.B.N  
26/8/2021  
**RESEARCH OFFICER**  
**ADRI, PHULNAKHARA**  
**CUTTACK, ODISHA**

*(Signature)*  
**(A.W.)**



-18-  
ag

ANNEXURE-2

Afraaz Suhail <afraazsuhail9040@gmail.com>

**Fwd: Cover up of elephant deaths by claiming Anthrax as cause- Need for re opening and investigation**

1 message

Animal Welfare Trust, Ekamra Bhubaneswar <awtekamra@gmail.com>  
To: afraazsuhail9040@gmail.com

Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 8:45 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Biswajit Mohanty <kachhapa@gmail.com>  
Date: Sun, Aug 7, 2022, 18:49  
Subject: Fwd: Cover up of elephant deaths by claiming Anthrax as cause- Need for re opening and investigation  
To: <awtekamra@gmail.com>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Biswajit Mohanty <kachhapa@gmail.com>  
Date: 7 August 2022 at 4:36:31 PM IST  
To: Purabi Patra <purabi.patra@gmail.com>  
Subject: Fwd: Cover up of elephant deaths by claiming Anthrax as cause- Need for re opening and investigation

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Biswajit Mohanty <kachhapa@gmail.com>  
Date: 18 August 2020 at 1.42:11 PM IST  
To: odisha wildlife <odishawildlife@gmail.com>, igf.fp-mef@gov.in, n.thomas15@gov.in, fsec.or@nic.in  
Subject: Cover up of elephant deaths by claiming Anthrax as cause- Need for re opening and investigation  
Reply-To: kachhapa@gmail.com

Ref. No: WC /44 / 2020

Dated: 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2020

By Email

The Principal Chief Conservator of  
Forests (Wildlife) &  
Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha,  
Prakruti Bhawan, Plot No. 1459,  
Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007

T.C  
attested  
[Signature]

Dear Sir,

**Re : Cover up of Elephant deaths by claiming Anthrax as the reason -  
- Need to reopen and investigate all elephant deaths which were claimed -**

to

be due to Anthrax – Need to fix accountability for misreporting

19 9 3

**Ref : (1) RTI response from Animal Disease Research Institute, Phulnakhra – letter no. 1420 dated 14.07.2020.**

Please refer to the enclosed information obtained from Animal Disease Research Institute (ADRI) which states that of twenty tissue samples of elephants received by them from various forest & wildlife divisions during the period 01.04.2017 to 25.06.2020, only two cases tested positive. Thus 90 % cases were negative .

We have been repeatedly raising concerns that some of your field officials cover up unnatural deaths by not identifying the real cause of death which could be due to unnatural reasons like poaching or electrocution too. Anthrax has been cited in a number of cases by the Department since the last 3 years 2 months i.e. the period covered during which tissue samples were tested by the ADRI.

By citing Anthrax as the cause, the department officials eliminated the need to carry out a proper post-mortem and investigation for any other cause of death. The bodies were either cremated or deep burials were carried out on the basis of suspicion of Anthrax without even waiting for a preliminary test report. Anthrax has therefore become a convenient reason to cover up foul play or unnatural cause of death.

We would also like to bring to your notice that in the last 10 months, there have been four cases where the elephant bodies were cremated or deep burial was carried out suspecting Anthrax, but the samples to test for Anthrax were neither received by ADRI nor to OUAT. These are :

- (1) On 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2019, an adult male elephant's body was cremated on suspicion of Anthrax in the Badmal Forest Range of Rairakhol Division.
- (2) On 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2020, a juvenile male elephant's body was once again cremated on suspicion of Anthrax in the Badmal Forest Range of Rairakhol Division.
- (3) On 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2020, deep burial was done of a juvenile male elephant's body on suspicion of Anthrax in the Bhuyan Juang Pirha Forest Range of Keonjhar Division.
- (4) On 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2020, deep burial was done of an adult Makhana male elephant's body on suspicion of Anthrax in the Chhendipada Forest Range of Angul Division.

We are surprised that the tissue samples in these four cases were not sent to the ADRI, Phulnakhara or to the OUAT, Bhubaneswar for testing of Anthrax. There exists reasonable grounds to believe that these four cases were due to unnatural cause but yet no case was registered or proper post mortem done or investigation carried out .

We are also surprised that State Wildlife HQ missed the fact that despite reports filed by the field Divisions about elephants deaths due to Anthrax, no other wildlife species or even cattle had died in the last three years due to the highly infectious Anthrax disease.

It is needless to say that unless there is proper and truthful reporting of cause of deaths of elephants, the protection of our National Heritage Animal in Odisha is seriously imperilled.

We urge you to -

- (1) Investigate all the 18 Anthrax Negative cases reported by ADRI, determine the actual

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cause of death and take action against officials responsible for misreporting or covering up unnatural cause of death ;

(2) Ascertain reasons for not sending the samples of the four elephant death cases in Angul, Rairakhol and Keonjhar Forest Divisions for testing to laboratories to confirm Anthrax; and

(3) Circulate an advisory to all Divisions to properly examine dead elephants for identifying physical symptoms and signs of Anthrax and get the tissue sample tested before disposing the body as per guidelines . A case of unnatural death should be ordinarily registered unless the test report reveals positive status for Anthrax.

We request you form an independent team to carry out a thorough probe by investigating all aspects of the 22 elephant deaths which were ascribed to Anthrax, examine all photographs, view related media reports and discuss with local villagers to arrive at actual cause of death.

It is also very important to fix accountability on senior field officers for claiming these deaths as due to Anthrax since in 18 cases negative report was confirmed by ADRI.

With kind regards,  
Yours sincerely,

*Biswajit Mohanty, Ph.D., Secretary,*  
**Wildlife Society of Orissa**

**Encl :** (1) RTI response from ADRI , Phulnakhara dated 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2020  
C.C.: **The Additional Chief Secretary**, Forest and Environment Department, Government of Odisha, State Secretariat, Bhubaneswar for kind information about the true status of unnatural deaths of 18 elephants which various forest divisions had wrongly claimed as due to Anthrax and with a request to seek suitable explanations.

C.C. : The IGF & Director (Project Elephant), Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jorbag, New Delhi for kind information about true status of unnatural deaths of 18 elephants in Odisha which had been wrongly reported as due to Anthrax.

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 Anthrax RTI Info from ADRI 3.7.2020.PDF  
223K

*(Adv)*

Annexure 3 - 19. 21. 95



WCC

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# The Odisha Gazette



EXTRAORDINARY  
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No. 1485 CUTTACK, MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2015/KARTIKA 4, 1937

FOREST & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

ORDER

The 16th October 2015

No. 18141—FE-WL-WLF-0031/2014-F&E.—Government after careful consideration have been pleased to constitute a "Wildlife Crime Cell" which will function in the office of the Additional Director General of Police, Criminal Investigation Department, Crime Branch, Odisha, Cuttack to take up investigation and to file complaint under Notification under Section 55 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The Cell shall have Statewide jurisdiction and empowered to perform the following functions :—

- (a) Collect and collate intelligence related to Wildlife Crime Activities and to disseminate the same to field units for enforcement action.
- (b) Establishment Wildlife Crime Databank
- (c) Prevent, investigate and prosecute organized Wildlife Crime cases having wider ramifications.
- (d) Act as nodal point for Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, MoEF & CC, Govt on Wildlife Crime related issues.
- (e) Co-ordinate Inter-agency Wildlife Crime Enforcement actions in the State/UT.
- (f) Advise the State Government on issues relating to Wildlife Crime and related laws.

The Wildlife Crime Cell is created in CID Crime Branch consisting of a dedicated team of four to six Officers with an Additional SP/Dy. SP as in-charge and two Inspectors as Investigators with two BIASI as assisting staff diverted from existing strength of CID/CB, one ACF from Forest & Environment Department and one Forest Ranger from Forest & Environment Department on deputation basis.

T. C. attested  
M (Adv)

By order of the Governor  
U. N. BEHERA  
Additional Chief Secretary to Government

Printed and published by the Director, Directorate of Printing, Stationery and Publication, Odisha, Cuttack-10  
Ex. Gaz. 070—173+300

Conservator of Forests  
Of the PCCF (WL) & CWLW  
Odisha, Bhubaneswar

FOREST HEADQUARTERS, ORISSA  
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS  
ARABYA BHAWAN, LANDRAS KIHARPUR, BITHUANESWAR

158 20 (NG) 36/08 Dated: Bhubaneswar, the 22 January, 2009

From

S.C. Mohanty,  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests

To

The Principal Secretary to Government of Orissa,  
Forest and Environment Department,  
Bhubaneswar.

Sub

Proceedings of the Executive Committee Meeting dated 21.12.2008 of  
the Orissa Non-Gazetted Forest Service Association.

Sr

The Orissa Non-Gazetted Forest Service Association has communicated its Executive Body decision vide its Memo No.113 dated 21.12.2008 (copy enclosed) resolving that the Forest Guards and the Foresters will not accept their revised salary based on the Pay Scale applied to them on the Sixth Pay Commission recommendation. Their grievance is that their long standing demand for pay parity with Police officials of equivalent ranks (Constables & ASIs) has not been accepted by Government so far in spite of announcement of a package in their favour earlier by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 03.4.2008. The Executive Body of the Association has further resolved that the Forest Guards and Foresters will proceed on mass leave in case the package of measures announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Orissa on 3.4.2008 are not fully implemented by 7.1.2009.

I have personally discussed with the office bearers of this Association and appealed to them not to agitate matters by resorting to mass leave.

2. The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Orissa has announced the following package of measures to benefit the members of the Subordinate Forest Service (SFS).

T. C. A. H. S. T. S.  
18/1/09

23 97

- (i) Considering the nature of their duty, it has been decided to fill up all the vacancies at different levels through regular recruitment as is being done in case of the police.
- (ii) The Forest subordinate cadre has certain bottlenecks due to which promotions are getting delayed. This cadre will be reorganized in order to rationalize the structure. As an interim measure, it is decided to increase the sanctioned strength of Deputy Ranger from 62 to 168.
- (iii) The Forest personnel in Naxal affected areas have in the recent past been exposed to extremist attacks. It has been decided that the insurance cover should also be extended to the Forest personnel working in Naxal affected districts as is being done in the case of police. They will also be entitled to the compassionate grant in case of death and injury, special pension as well as a special family pension at par with the police.
- (iv) In order to take coordinated action against the notorious offenders, it has been decided to set up Special Striking Force (SSF) with adequate staff, vehicles, arms etc. at 50 locations.
- (v) It has also been decided to sanction the following allowances to the Forest personnel:
  - (a) Motor cycle allowance @ Rs.350/- per month for Forest Rangers, Deputy Rangers and Foresters.
  - (b) Special Diet Allowance @ Rs.350/- per month for Forest Guards.
  - (c) Cycle Allowance @ Rs.75/- per month for Forest Guards.
- (vi) The Forest Rangers have been demanding that they may be elevated to Class-II rank. The Forest Deputy Rangers, Foresters and Forest Guards have also been demanding parity with Sub-Inspectors, ASI and Constables, respectively. These demands will be considered by the Fitment Committee to be formed following the recommendation of the Sixth Pay Commission.

For implementation of the pertinent relevant proposal with necessary details submitted to Govt. vide this office letter no. 767 dt. 19.4.08; followed by letter no. 6127.B 08

3 Out of the above mentioned measures announced for the consideration of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Government have taken decision to implement the same.

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Annexure 5A



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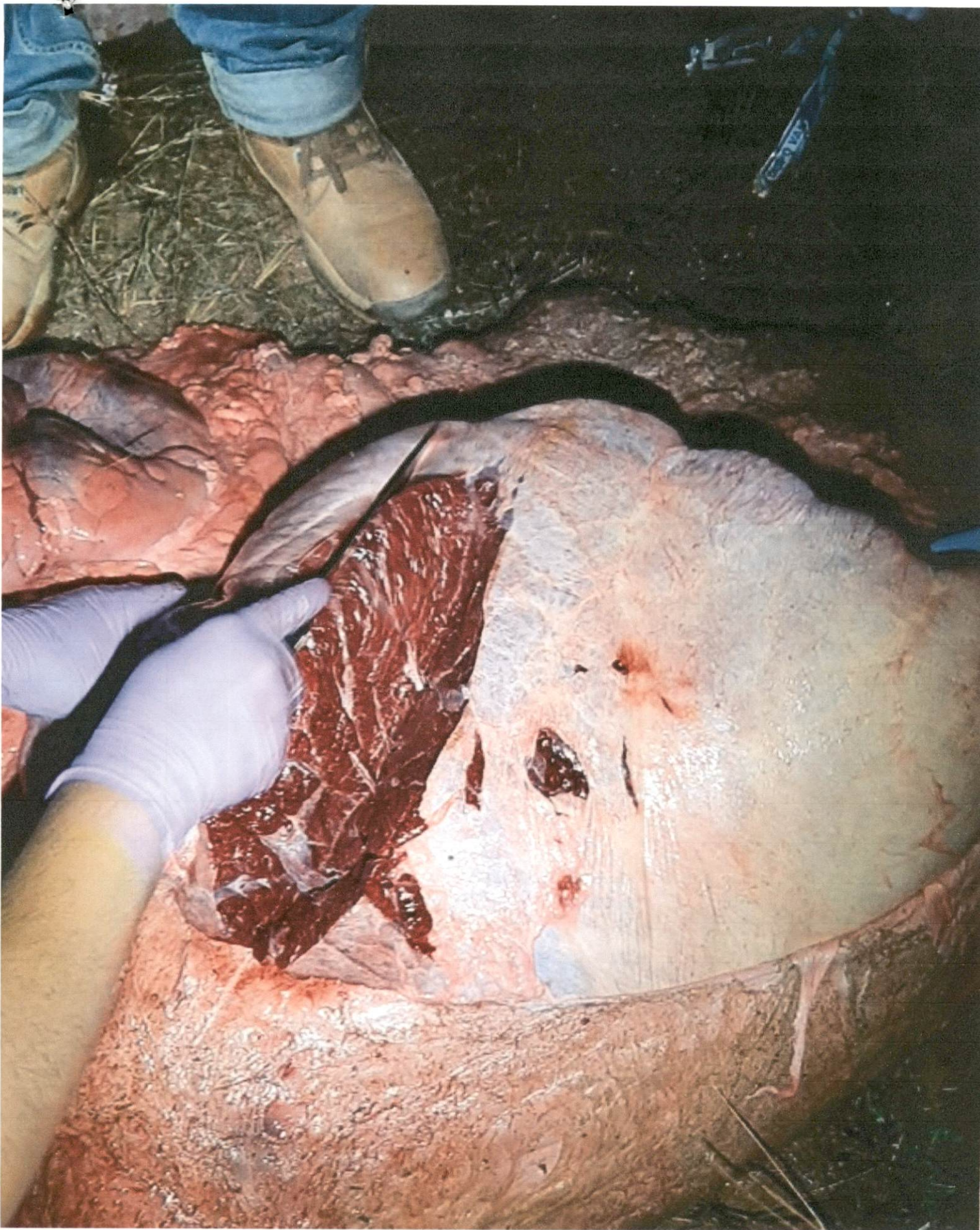
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Annexure 5/B

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**Elephant Poaching data - April, 2017 to 8th July, 2022**

Sl. No.	Date when reported	Actual / Probable day of Death	No. of deaths	Adult / Juvenile / Calf	Sex & Age	Location	District	Cause / Suspected Cause	Description	Remarks & Updates
1	12th April'17	3-4 weeks ago - around 15th March'17	1	Adult	Male of about 25 years	Khulamunda Forest / Biritailla-Petrimunda Forest, Near Guruganguli village, Pangatira section, Mahabiroc Forest Range	Dhenkanal	Poaching for Ivory	The body was found in a highly decomposed state, down to skin and bones. The Tusks were removed confirming poaching.	The FD which resulted in recovery of both the Tusks (weighing 2.2 & 2.3 kgs) and arrest of two men - Ramesh Nayak, 40 of Jangu village & Kartik Nayak, 38 of Dashipur village.
2	23rd April'17	12.30 AM on 22nd April'17	1	Adult	Male of about 40 years	Samal Sahl. near Udaypur village, Markachua Sidheswar PRF, Bimala Section, Telkol Forest Range.	Kecjhar	Poaching - Pressure Bomb	The Veterinarlan who began treatment explored the wound in the mouth and removed handfull of maggots confirming the Injury. Post-mortem next day found the reason for the wound in the mouth to be a 'pressure bomb' which is normally used to kill wild boars as their mouth blows up when the animal bites on the bomb.	Though the elephant may not have survived as it was too late already, since the ailing male had been seen several days ago, tracking and treatment should have started many days ago.
3	17th Sept'17	13th/14th Sept'17	1	Adult	Male of about 20-25 years	Kunjara RF, Solo Forest Range, Bonei Division, Rourkela Circle	Sundargarh	Poaching for Ivory	The head had been hacked off to get at most of the tusks, the job of a professional poaching gang. T Update on 3rd Oct'17 - As per Tol : Three men Khatu Naik, 45, Sinus Soren, 60 & Masidas Lugus 60 were arrested from Kunjara village and a piece of tusk weighing about 1 kg was recovered from Khatu's house. Two country made pistols were also seized. Postmortem report is still awaited. An Independent enquiry has been ordered under IFS probationer M.Adituan	This being the handiwork of professional poaching gang, it is quite possible that they may have poached more males as such professional gangs come to all the way only when there are more than one. The link could be to Jharkhand, Bengal & Nepal as per reports.
4	15th Dec'17	Atleast two months ago	1	Adult	Male (most likely as per skull). Update on 19th Dec'17 - a matured adult Male whose tusks have been removed.	Similijora Forest, Putiputigad'ra RF, Kantamal Forest Range	Boudh	Poaching for Ivory - Cover up case	As per news reports, what was remaining were skeletal remains of an elephant which could have died atleast two months ago. It has been alleged by the reporters that the elephant's tusks had been removed while the DFO had not confirmed this saying the investigation is on.	On 14th Nov'17 two elephant poachers had been held while eight others had escaped in Matakupa RF of the same Kantamal range when they were attempting to take the tusks weighing 5.9 kgs to sell. Most likely this elephant could be the source of those tusks.
5	21st Feb'18	10th/12th Feb'18	1	Adult	Male of about 40 years	Compartment No. 8, Haldiaseni FF, Badamba Forest Range, Athagarh Forest Division	Cuttack	Poaching for Ivory	The decomposed body was found on 21st after 2-3 days of search as per reliable sources. The tusks had been hacked away by the poachers after shooting down the male.	Discovery of the body after so many days and the fact that there is absolute lack of vigilance and intelligence.

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 Annexure 6

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6	27th Feb'18	17th/18th Feb'18	1	Adult	Male of about 20 years	Gopapara Beat, Nagatota Forest / Kalima RF, Badamba Forest range, Athagarh Forest Division.	Cuttack	Poaching for Ivory	This is the second case of poaching for tusks detected within just 6 days. The body found in a decomposed state was seen with the head hacked off and the trunk lying nearby indicating the handiwork of a professional gang of poachers.	The finding of the two bodies in a similar state in quick succession should mean that a elephant poaching gang is operating in this area.
7	28th Sept'18	22nd/23rd Sept'18	1	Adult	Male of about 25 years	Niranjanhuli, Prabhasuni RF, Tilabani Beat & Section, Deogarh Forest Range	Deogarh	Poaching for Ivory	The decomposing body was found with the head hacked off to get at the maximum ivory. The trunk was found nearby. Clearly the handiwork of professional poachers. Poachers from Arunachal Pradesh are regular visitors to Badrama sanctuary which is about 35 to 40 Kms away.	The Forester & Forest Guard were promptly suspended for dereliction of duties. Update on 15th Nov'18 - Isadhara Lakra of Dudhapasi village was arrested for poaching the Tusker.
8	3rd Oct'18	29th/30th Sep'18	1	Adult	Female of about 35 years	Choto Nala, Mahajan Taila village forest, Near Asanbahali, Dadraghati Section, Mahabirod Forest Range	Dhenkanal	Poaching - either retaliation against crop loss or mistaken for male due to unusually large tusches	The body was detected by villagers and informed to the FD. At first there was suspicion of electrocution but during post-mortem the Vet found several wounds and on opening one of them behind the ear, a country made pellet was found lodged in the skull. Other pellets could not be retrieved as they had entered deep into the body. The female may have been shot about a 4-5 days ago and had succumbed to excessive bleeding two days later. The heavy mammary glands indicated that she had a suckling calf.	Either farmers had tried to kill due to crop depredation or poachers may have mistaken this one for a male owing to her size and slightly protruding tusches measuring about 20 cms long.
9	18th Oct'18	17th Oct'18	1	Adult	Male of about 40 years	Near Mahulamara, Chandragiri RF, Guptamanik Beat, Marsinghpur. East Range, Athagarh Forst Division	Cuttack	Poaching for Ivory (Tusks intact as Tusker managed to escape)	On 17th Oct morning the adult male was found lying on the road near Mahulamara. The hole on the head near the ear was infected and puss was seen oozing out. Going by the emaciated body, it looked like he was hit by a bullet about a week or more ago. Treatment by local Vet was started but he died after 6 to 8 hours. Post-mortem the next day revealed that there was another hole on the other side of the head which indicated that the bullet may have entered from one side exited from the other. The bullet possibly missed the brain but the infection to the hole may have gradually spread.	Since there was no other injury on the body, and the hole was narrow and high on the head, this should be a clear cut case of gun shot by poachers and not infighting. The poachers may have failed to collect the tusks as he escaped from the area and wandered around for several days.

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10	11th Nov'18 Update on 14th Nov'18	6th/7th Nov'18	1	Adult	Male of about 25 to 30 years	Bahata Revenue Forest, Paunsia Beat, Khamar Section, Badakhunturi Forest, Khamar Forest Range, Deogarh Forest Division.	Angul	Poaching for Ivory - Electrocuted - Hooking of Live Wire for Poaching (tusks taken away). Bullet was also recovered	The 2-3 days old body was found with tusks missing on 9th morning. Investigations have revealed that men from one village had laid live wire to poach wild boar in which the adult male got electrocuted. Some men from another village - Badagunda poured petrol, burnt the skin and flesh to remove the tusks. After interrogation of the six suspected culprits one of them confessed to have hidden the tusks in the forest but it was missing from the spot as another person from the group may have taken it away.	Forester - Dibyalochan Patra & Forest Guard - Kamalini Sahu have been suspended for dereliction of duties. Update on 14th Nov'18 - A country made bullet was also found during post-mortem when the head was being cut up. This could have been fired earlier or just after the electrocution.
11	13th Dec'18	12th Dec'18	1	Sub Adult	Female of about eight years.	Sabara Taila village near Rajnagar, Athagarh Forest Division	Cuttack	Poaching - Pressure Bomb meant for Wild Boar	The body was found with profuse bleeding from the mouth. Post mortem carried out by wildlife experts from QUAT revealed that a blast in the mouth had torn the tongue and broken the jaw bone. This could have happened when a pressure bomb meant to hunt wild boar was bitten by the elephant. The owner of the farm - Prasanna Dehury was arrested and forwarded to the court.	Update on 2nd Jan'19 - Another person Deba Dehury of Rajnagar was arrested who has confessed to the crime. His bail please was rejected.
12	3rd March'19	2nd March'19	1	Adult	Male of about 35 years	Toradanali - Jhili, Mahabired Forest Range	Dhenkanal	Poaching for Ivory or retaliation - Country made Bullets recovered	The adult male in his prime was found limping and in pain around 2nd week of Jan'19 but he slowed down only in the 1st week of Feb'19. He was tranquilized, the wound on one of his fore leg was cleaned and required medicines were administered. Unfortunately the male slowed down once again after two weeks and was seen in a emaciated condition struggling to move but until he fell on 27th Feb'19. Wounds were detected on the other fore leg too and at other spots. He breathed his last in the early hours of 2nd March'19.	A piece of country made bullet which had broken the leg bone was also found. Earlier the other wounds were not detected since the attention was on the main wound and the sedated male was standing and moving all the time making it difficult to go too close to him. The male may have been shot at with a country made gun about 8 weeks ago.

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13	9th May'19	2nd/3rd May'19	1	Adult or Sub Adult or even Juvenile	Male (age not specified) - As per CWW office - Male of 5-6 years	Cheredunguri, Near Utei river, Urladani RF, Sripat Beat, Belgaon section, Narla Forest Range, Kalahandi North Division.	Kalahandi	Poaching - Tusks Missing	The decomposing body with tusks hacked off the head was found by the FD on 7th May'19 after getting reports from the local villagers. Though it looked like a clear case of poaching for Ivory, there are no reports of any bullet or arrow injury in the body. Update on 16th May'19 - The Tusks were recovered, hidden in the forests and three men - Iswar Bhoi of Jarakhman village, Samela Majhi & Sindura Majhi of Shaliamunda village were arrested on 14th May'19 and forwarded to the court on 15th.	It is possible that the Tusks were either extracted after the body was found by local poachers or professional poachers were following him after injuring him by gun or arrow shot. Update on 16th May'19 - From the picture on the news report the tusks appear to be bit too small for the size of the elephant and raise some suspicion. As per RTI received from CWW office - Poaching case.	75
14	5th June'19	30th / 31st May'19	1	Adult	Male of about 40 years	Near Bhalubasa, Totachall Road, Tenda Beat, Nilgiri FR, Kuldiha Sanctuary	Balasure	Poaching for Ivory	The decomposing body with missing tusks lying just a Km from human habitation was detected by locals and informed to the FD indicates lack of patrolling. Update on 7th June'19 - Forest Guard - Lal Mohan Singh & Forester - Kishor Chandra Bhuyana were suspended for dereliction of duties after it was confirmed by the DFO after due investigation that the Tusker had been poached.	Update on 7th June'19 - A show cause notice has been served on the ACF - Laxman Pradhan. As per RTI received from CWW office the case had been handed over to the Crime Branch - Confirmed Poaching case.	
15	12th Nov'19	10th Nov'19	1	Adult / Sub Adult	Male of about 15 years	Barasingha RF, Narsinghpur West Forest range, Athagarh Division	Cuttack	Poaching - attempt to get Ivory may have failed - covered up	The report of death, the post-mortem and the burial was carried out in a hush hush manner. Two tusks measuring 1.5 feet each were recovered. The FD officers and staff are tight lipped about it though a case has been registered but with some disease as the cause.	A Tusker with injuries, bleeding profusely was seen and tracked in the Hindol range of Dhenkanal for nearly a week. It is being suspected that this could be the same elephant though the distance is quite a lot.	
16	23rd Nov'19	22nd Nov'19	1	Adult	Male of about 35 years	Akhua Sankha, beside Malaguni river, close to Rameswar Square on National Highway -16, Nalsingh Beat, Tangi Forest Range	Khurda	Poaching - Poisoning	The Bull, in the prime of his life, was found dead by locals and informed to the FD. Prima facie it appeared to be a case of poaching in retaliation due to large scale crop depredation by a herd of elephants and the human kill by possibly the same. Due to the protruding penis it was initially suspected that the Tusker may have been electrocuted but a team of QUAT veterinarians from Bhubaneswar found no burn injuries on him during post-mortem and suspected Poisoning to be the cause. When the body was cut open, a strong smell resembling jaggery was felt and there was haemorrhage in most of the vital organs and intestines.	There was bleeding too from the mouth. This led the Vets to believe that he had been poisoned. The killers had probably fed poison mixed with jaggery or liquor to the Tusker. Update on 24th Nov'19 - QUAT - HoD of Pathology confirmed poisoning. There were Gross lesions of the alimentary canal which points to agro or some other kind of chemicals. To get toxicological report, the samples have been sent to the Indian Veterinary Research Institute at Bareilly.	

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17	28th Dec'19	26th Dec'19	1	Juvenile	Male of about 4-5 years	Baradanali village, Palsama Section, Reamal Forest Range	Deogarh	Poaching - Shot in retaliation	The body of the Juvenile female was found in the backyard of one - Babuli Garnaik, house. During post-mortem, the Vet found a small sized bullet (8 mm) which had hit the chest and entered the liver. Going by the size of the bullet, it appeared to have been shot from a Pistol. It looked like a retaliation against crop damage or human kills in the recent past.	A local man - Dinabandhu Pradhan has been detained and is being interrogated. The FD still wants to be sure whether the bullet killed the elephant and are waiting for final outcome of the test results. Update on 31st Dec'19 - One Dukhabandhu Sahu, 37 was arrested for shooting the elephants and his gun was seized.
18	13th June'20	10th June'20	1	Calf	Female of about 4 to 6 months	Near Sanatolakudar, Rutukepedi RF, Balanda Beat, Kalunga Section, Kuanramunda Forest Range, Rourkela Division	Sundargarh	Poaching - Snared by poachers	Villagers found the body inside the pond and informed the FD. After the body was taken out a cut mark around the neck was found raising suspicion that she could have fallen prey to a snare set for wild boars. The snare could have been removed by the poachers and dumped the body inside the pond. Rare case of Poaching by Snare.	Update on 14th June'20- Forest Guard has been suspended and show cause notice has been served on the Forester & Range Officer. Update on 26th June'20 - The Poacher who had laid the snare - Rupu Barla, 36 was caught along with different types of Snares, Bow & Arrows, Nets, Catapults etc.
19	18th June'20	15th June'20	1	Adult	Male of about 25 years	Buddhunimati Nullah, Mundeswar RF, Near Dakapadara & Gandapaju Beat, Talagaon Section, Madhapur Forest Range	Boudh	Poaching for Ivory - poachers failed to take the Ivory	Local women from nearby villages had entered the forest to collect mushrooms saw the body and through their sarpanch informed the FD. The DFO confirmed that the Tusker had been shot at several times (8 to 10 bullet wounds found) but said he may have been shot in Kushanga, Hatidhara forest of Angul district from where he struggled to come here. The Tusks were intact and measured about 78 cms each. Update on 20th June'20 - 5 villagers of Talagaan, Pankala Sahl have been detained and are being interrogated. Update on 23rd June'20 - Four out of the five detained men - Arun Kanhar, 35, Sadanand Guru, 50, Durmamani Bag, 32 & Arjun Kanhar, 29 were arrested and court forward yesterday.	The Tusker must have died two days before the body was found indicating that the poachers were not chasing him after shooting him. It is presumed that the Tusker was shot at for the tusks but the poachers failed to collect the same as the elephant ran away and probably came close to human habitation. Apropos to a letter to CM by Sarpanch & Ward members submitted to the Boudh Collector, the CWW has handed over the case to the CB of Police.
20	2nd Oct'20 Update on 5th, 6th & 10th Oct'20	27th/28th Sept	1	Adult	Male of about 25 years	Near Taptajharan village, Jamera Beat, Kantala Section, Malyagiri RF, Pallahara Forest Range, Deogarh Forest Division	Angul	Poaching - Electrocutted - Hooking of Live Wire for Poaching - Tusks hacked off	The body was found on 1st Sept'20 with the missing Tusks which had been hacked away by cutting open the head. TA habitual poacher of Taptajharan village has been detained but his two accomplices are absconding. Update on 6th Oct'20 - The Keonjhar DFO has confirmed Live Wire Poaching and arrested Dasara Nayak, 35, Kaliya Nayak, 50, Baisakhi Nayak, 27 of Tipajharan. The Tusks have not been retrieved yet.	It looks like local poachers who hunt wild boars etc, on finding the Tusker's body took away the Tusks. Update on 10th Oct'20 - The DFO in a press conference claimed to have finally recovered the Tusks which they said was hidden - buried in the forest. Two more persons were arrested - Suresh Sabar, Murali Mahanta

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21	Cover up exposed in Nov'21 Update on 11th Nov'21	No specific date yet	1	Adult	Male of about 15 years	Kulallo Beat, Subasi RF, Athagarh Forest Range, Athagarh Forest Division	Cuttack	Suspected Poaching - Foul play by FD exposed a year later	A viral video of the disposal of a Tusker's body in the night and not handing over the recovered Tusks came to light about 14 months later on 1st Nov'21 leading to an enquiry by the RCCF, Angul Circle. The Investigation has revealed that though the post-mortem and burial was officially carried out in the presence of range officials and staff, the death of the elephant was not registered in the Range office or DFO's office and the Tusks were kept in the Range office instead of the treasury of the DFO's office. It meant that the elephant death was suppressed at the Range and DFO office.	The RCCF in his report has recommended action against the erring staff & officials which could include the then DFO. Though the current DFO has denied that the elephant had been shot as per media reports, the way the case was concealed, it appears otherwise. It is possible that the officials tried to cover up the death taking advantage of the Covid lockdown when offices were not fully functional. Incidentally, the Range Officer has handed over the Tusks to the current DFO only after the video went viral and an enquiry was initiated. Update on 11th Nov'21 - The Range Officer was suspended following the enquiry as she had unofficially kept the Tusks in her office.
22	8th Jan'21	1st/2nd Jan'21	1	Adult	Male of about 45 years	Ramakunda forest, Sukuapata RF, Sarisua Beat, Kalamgadia Panchayat, Kaptipada Forest Range, Baripada Division	Mayurbhanj	Poaching for Ivory	The decomposed body was found by locals with Tusks missing. A media report says that the head had also been hacked for the tusks but photos released to the media only showed the posterior or the side. The Tusker could have been poached about a week ago. Update on 10th Jan'21 - Forester Chintamani Mohapatra, Forest Guard Pramilla Sen were suspended and Range Officer Maheswar Singh was served show-cause notice. Update on 12th Jan'21 - as per a media report, a photo has gone viral showing the hacked head and the DFO has admitted to poaching for Ivory by professional poachers.	Update on 25th Feb'21 - Two men - Fagu Prasad Hansdah & Pitho Soren were arrested by FD while they were trying to sell the Ivory in Nuadihi in Udala FR and the Tusks weighing over 44 Kgs which were cut into eight pieces were seized. The two accused said that they had chanced upon the body and took away the Tusks.

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23	11th Feb'21	9th Feb'21	1	Adult	Male of about 35 to 40 years	Kandhara RF, Bhejia, Kanaka - A section, Hindol Forest Range	Chenkanal	Poaching for Ivory	Professional poachers shot down the Tusker, hacked off the head to reach for the maximum ivory. Several rounds of firing could be heard by the FD staff camping some distance away but it took them several hours to locate the body, long after the poachers had left. The poachers had ripped open the torso possibly to ensure quicker putrefaction or scavenging by wild boars etc. so that the body cannot be detected for many days. Such an act has not been recorded in the past.	The location - Bhejia, borders Narsinghpur forests of Athagarh division is a haven for poachers as accessibility is difficult except by foot and hence no anti-poaching camp was set-up except for about a year in 2014-15.
24	12th Aug'21	10th Aug'21	1	Adult	Male of about 20 to 25 years	Gahalamuda Mundia, Sunahara hill, Near Kutipal / Ekul Sekul, Ranjagada RF, Rekuti Beat, Dadraghati section, Kamakhyanagar East Forest Range	Dhenkanal	Poaching for Ivory	The male had been shot at by Poachers possibly from a machan from close range. The attempt to poach for ivory could have happened about 15 days ago but the Tusker had survived the lethal shots and somehow managed to escape from the area denying the ivory to the poachers. The very badly injured Tusker was first seen in Keranga area, Kalahata section, Kalapat RF of Telkoi forest range, Keonjhar on 8th August and attempts to treat him with support of WTI, Similipal Vet began on 9th August but even though in great pain the Tusker crossed over to adjoining range of Dhenkanal district. The team led by the Satkosia sanctuary specialist Veterinarian tranquilized the Tusker and began treatment but it was too late. In the late afternoon of 10th August he breathed his last. He had to be cremated as the spot was up the hill.	Post-mortem revealed that the Tusker had deep injuries on the Hip joint of left Hind leg and another on Shoulder joint in the right front leg. On digging deep two blunt chisel shaped 4 inch long iron rods were recovered. The impact was so powerful that the chisel like rod had pierced through the femur bones and one of them had also reached the rib bone. According to the FD the weapon used was a Bow but such rods have been fired using a muzzle loader gun by professional poachers of Narsinghpur. The Dhenkanal DFO believes that farmers may have done it due to crop depredation but it is clear from the circumstances that it was the work of professional Ivory hunters.
25	9th Sept'21	Around 20th Aug'21	1	Adult	Male (age unknown)	Khuliachuan RF, Bhutel section, Jamankira Forst Range bordering Badrama Forest Range, Badrama - Ushakothi Sanctuary, Bamra Wildlife Division	Sambalpur	Suspected to be Poaching for Ivory	The news about this case came in atleast a fortnight after the poaching when a particular local newspaper broke it on 6th Sept'21. An adult male had been poached and his tusks were removed by hacking the head and removing the trunk, handiwork of professional poachers. The body had been later burnt to remove any traces but it came to light on 2nd Sept'21 due to foul smell. The body was putrefied to such an extent that post-mortem could not be carried out.	Two Forest Department staff have been suspended possibly because they could have been aware and may have tried to destroy evidence of poaching. The tusks seized by adjoining Deogarh Forest Division staff on 14th Aug'21 belonged to the first Tusker.

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26	25th May'22	13th/14th May'22	1	Adult	Male of over 20 years	Bhurkipada RF, Bhagiapada Section, Boudh Forest Range	Boudh	Poached for Ivory - Bullet shots found	The two weeks old decomposed body of the adult male with missing tusks was found by local villagers and informed to FD. The DFO who visited the spot confirmed that the Tusker was shot several times and the tusks had been removed. Photos published in newspapers are not clear but it looks like the trunk and head were hacked to get the ivory.	It is very unlikely that the poachers would ever be caught as they got two weeks time to get away or dispose the ivory. Update on 28th & 29th May'22 - Forester-Sushil Hota, Forest Guard of Beredabari Beat - Sarat Chandra Nayak & Forest Guard of Jarnukhol Beat - Jyoti Ranjan Barik were suspended following finding of another decomposed body the next day.
27	31st May'22 Update on 5th, 10th June'22 & 17th June'22	13th/14th May'22	1	Body remains buried to cover up - suspected to be Adult Male	Body remains buried to conceal - Adult Male	Compartment No. 8, Bankamundi RF, Bhagiapada Section, Boudh Forest Range	Boudh	Poaching for Ivory - Decomposed body buried to conceal - another male had been poached for Ivory around the same time in the same section.	On 26th May'22, a day after the poaching case reported from the same section in adjacent Bhurkipada RF, overnight, the FD staff hurriedly buried the decomposed body remains of another elephant which had died around the same time as the first case. An attempt was apparently made to completely conceal the case as the burial spot was made to appear like a forest road construction. Locals however foiled the bid and informed the local reporters who found some body parts, phenyl bottle and salt at the spot. Once the concealing attempt was exposed, the DFO admitted to another elephant death. Some media reports however said that the skull had been hacked which pointed to this being a male. Update on 17th June'22 - Range Officer Pradeep Behera was suspended four days ago for the two elephant poaching cases.	Two men from Birigada village and one from Tutumasing village were arrested on suspicion following which villagers protested, threw stones and gheroad the range office. The locals relented only after the Collector assured them that the accused would be released within a day if they were found not guilty. Update on 5th & 10th June'22 - Three men from Birigada village were arrested under suspicion leading to protest by locals who gheroad the range office. Five days later another man from the same village was apprehended.
28	15th June'22	14th June'22	1	Sub Adult	Male of about 12 years	Tamera Nullah, Jaipur Beat, Narsinghpur West Forest Range, Athagarh Division	Cuttack	Poaching - Bullets / Pellets found	The injured male was wandering around for 2-3 weeks before the FD sprang into action following a facebook post on 7th June by the local MLA tagging the Forest Minister, Collector etc. The male's treatment began after he fell near a Nullah by Veterinarians from Satkosia, Nandan Kanan zoo as well as OUAT. The PCCF & CWW who visited the spot claimed that the male was shot several times with a pellet gun by someone in defence and that he would recover in 3-4 day but it was not to be. This appeared to be another instance of attempt to cover up the possibility of poaching.	Six pellets were recovered and Septicaemia had set in due to delay in treatment. Poaching for Ivory cannot be ruled out as the elephant was not yet an adult and may have prompted the poacher to kill using a pellet gun. Several adults falling to pellet guns have been recorded in the past.

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29	22nd June'22	21st June'22	1	Sub Adult	Male of about 12-14 years	Sapalahara village, Badasahi section, Padiabahal Forest Range	Sambalpur	Poaching for Ivory - earlier suspected to be infighting	<p>On 2nd June'22, the male had been treated for an injured fore leg by Dr. Indramani Nath of OUAT in Murgabari forest. Dr. Nath had said then that the injury had been caused during an infighting. The male had not recovered fully and there was apparently no follow-up treatment as he limped around for days before entering into a pond where he stayed put for 4 days. The OUAT team arrived again and treatment resumed inside the pond but it was too late. Dr. Nath feared that the male may have sprained and twisted the injured leg and hence could not stand. The male died soon after he was lifted out of the pond. Update on 24th June'22 - Post-mortem had revealed that an arrow like object was recovered from his body. This message was kept away from media and would not have come to light but for an activist who used facebook to inform the media. Couple of newspapers carried the news yesterday 23rd June. This compelled the DFO to admit that a country made bullet was indeed retrieved from deep inside the wound, lodged inside a bone.</p>	<p>There was no follow-up treatment after 2nd June and apparently no tracking and safety measures were taken in the intervening period though the media had reported how he was hardly able to walk with a swollen leg. It was probably already late by the time the male got into the pond possibly due to high fever or need for buoyancy. This is yet another case of casual approach and dilly dallying by the FD to save the elephant. Update on 24th June'22 - Some damage control was done by the FD detaining three habitual poachers in the area and seizing several weapons including a gun. Update on 25th July'22 - One of the main accused and absconding poacher - Sunil Lugun has been nabbed.</p>
30	8th July'22	2nd/3rd July'22	1	Adult	Male of about 25 years	Dadralunda-Kanagunda road, Kanabindha /Darpankia/ Bandhagocha forest, Gunduribadi Beat, Mujhegada Forest Range, Ghumsur North Division	Ganjam	Poaching for Ivory	<p>On 7th July afternoon, due to foul smell the body was located by locals and by the time the FD came to know and found the body it was already dark. Update on 10th July'22 - Though bullets were not recovered the FD has confirmed that the two bullet wounds were found - one in the back and another on the head /trunk and both the tusks had been hacked off. Some remaining portion of the tusk were recovered indicating that the tusks were cut crudely unlike what we have seen professional poachers doing. Update on 22nd July'22 - Forester - Sukanta Nayak &amp; Forest Guard Sriman Pradhan were suspended for dereliction of duties.</p>	<p>The head and trunk were not hacked for the tusks removing chances of professional poaching for ivory. Update on 15th July'22 - The three men - Runa Diga, Dipak Diga &amp; Yuvraj Diga of Belatun village of Dadarlunda panchayat confessed to have taken away the tusks which were buried close to the spot where the Tusker had died. The recovered tusks weighing 2.5 Kgs &amp; 2.2 Kgs were matched with the portion of tusks remaining in the body to confirm that it was from this elephant.</p>

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2nd March 20	Media	1	Sub Adult	Male of about 12 years	Near Icchapal village, Dakara Panchayat  Jujumora block, Basiapada Section, Sadar Forest Range, Sambaipu Division	Sambaipu Forest Range Sambaipu Division	was found by Icchapal villagers on getting the rotting smell. Initially it looked like the male fell prey to hooking of live for poaching wild boar but post- mortem revealed that he had been shot couple of weeks ago and Septicaem	Tusks, measuring about two feet in length were intact and a country made gun was used, it is being speculate d that some local poachers and not profession al Ivory poachers had shot at him. This could also be a retaliation by villagers
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10/11/2011  
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