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IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA: CUTTACK

W.P.(C) NO.14706 OF 2022

GITA ROUT ... Petitioner

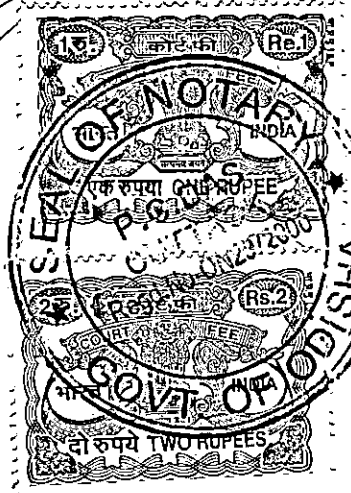
-VERSUS-

STATE OF ODISHA & OTHERS ... Opp. Parties

AFFIDAVIT FILED BY CHAIRMAN CUM  
CONVENOR, JOINT TASK FORCE IN  
COMPLIANCE OF ORDER DATED  
20.10.2022

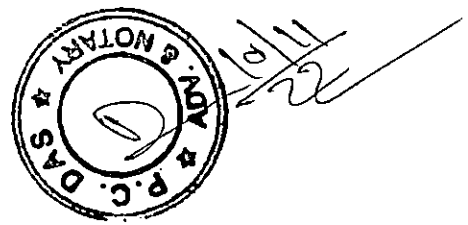
I, Dr. Manoj V. Nair, aged about 48 years,  
S/o N. Vasudevan Nair working as Chief  
Conservator of Forests O/o Principal Chief  
Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife  
Warden, Odisha, Bhubaneswar and also Chairman,  
Joint Task Force do hereby solemnly affirm and  
state as under:

1. That the aforementioned Writ Petition was listed for hearing before this Hon'ble Court on 20.10.2022. In Paragraph – 1 and 3 of the order the Court has been pleased to direct as follows:



Manoj V Nair

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"1. It is stated that the Joint Task Force (JTF) held a meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2022. The Convener of the JTF will file an affidavit placing on record the minutes of its deliberation and specific action points"

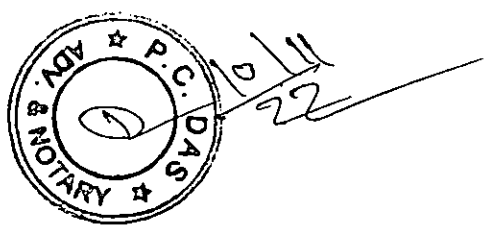
"3.....The members of the JTF are requested to remain present virtually on the next date to answer the queries of the court. The comprehensive action plan also to be presented in court."

- 2. That with regards to the directions at para 1 of the aforementioned order, the minutes of the meeting held on 19-10-2022 with specific action points is submitted herewith and annexed hereto and marked as Annexure M/I. In the mean time third in person meeting of Joint Task Force was held on 03-11-2022 at 3.30 PM. The minutes of the said meeting is also submitted herewith and annexed hereto and marked as Annexure N/I
- 3. That with regards to the directions at Para 3 of the aforementioned order, it is humbly submitted that the draft Framework according to which the Comprehensive Action Plan will be prepared,

Mamj V Nair

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has been finalized after detailed discussions by the JTF. As the task involves collecting site-specific field data from the divisions, taking inputs from subject matter specialists, civil society organizations and local people, the PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW vide affidavit dated 22.09.2022 prayed this Hon'ble Court duly intimating that the plan would be completed by the end of December, 2022. The draft framework of the Comprehensive Action Plan is submitted herewith and annexed hereto and marked as Annexure 0/1.

Mang V Nair

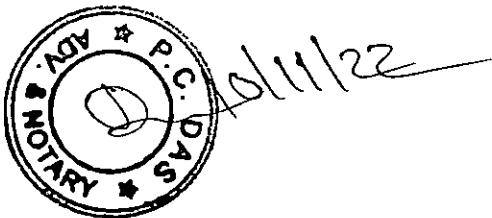
4. That the humble Opposite Parties crave leave of this Hon'ble Court to make further submissions and file further affidavits, in the interest of justice and effective adjudication by this Hon'ble Court.
5. That the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge, belief and based on available records.

Identified by:

Chaturbhej Swain

AC-  
Asst. A.G's Office

Mang V Nair  
10.11.22  
Chief Conservator of Forests (WL)  
O/o the PCCF(WL) & CWLW  
Odisha, Bhubaneswar  
DEPONENT



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Place: Cuttack

Date: 10.11.2022

Certified that Cartridge papers are not available

ADDL STANDING COUNSEL

The above named deponent

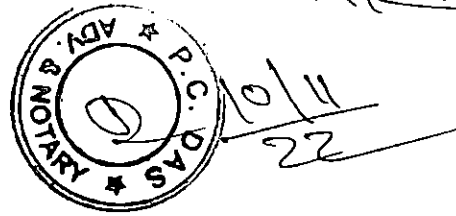
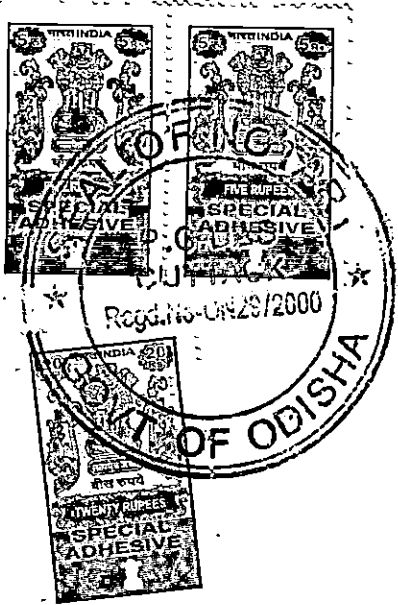
M. V. Nair

Solemnly affirm on.....

10-11-22

.....being identified

by..... Swain At Acs Office



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Annexure - M/1

**Minutes of the Second Meeting of Joint Task force (JTF) on 19-10-2022 at 05.00 PM through hybrid mode in the O/o Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha**

The second meeting of the Joint Task force (JTF), constituted vide Government Order No. 16368/FE&CC dated 13-09-2022 was held on 19-10-2022 at 05.00 PM under the chairmanship of Dr. Manoj V. Nair, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), O/o Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha.

The list of participants present is annexed herewith as Annexure A1.

At the outset the Chairman welcomed all the participants and requested Dy.C.F. JTF to highlight the activities taken up by JTF in brief.

1. Opening the proceedings. Sri Himanshu Sekhar Mohanty, Dy.C.F. JTF, briefed about the activities taken up by JTF in the last month as follows:

- a. J.T.F. has made spot visits in the two different cases of unnatural death of elephants and has provided necessary handholding to field staff which has led to clearcut identification of the cause of death. Brief note on the cases are as below:

**Case : I** -JTF on 08-10-2022 visited Tileimal village, Sarada Beat, Bhutel Section of Bamara Wildlife Division to enquire into the death of one sub-adult male one adult female elephant. On spot enquiry, prima facie evidence of death of elephants was found to be due to electrocution. JTF could give valuable leads to the field staff for investigation of the case. Subsequently the UD case no. 12<sup>Bd</sup> of Badrama Wildlife Range of 2022-23 booked was converted to OR case no. 72<sup>Bd</sup> of 2022-23 and three persons have been arrested by the Range staff.

**Case -II** -JTF team on 17-10-2022 visited Kurumtangar Beat of Baladiabandha Section of Dhenkanal Sadar Range- Dhenkanal Forest Division on 16-10-2022 to enquire into the death of one male sub-adult elephant found with one tusk missing. One tusk was recovered by the staff of Dhenkanal Division during post-mortem. An UD case has been booked vide No. UD 18<sup>D</sup> of 2022-23 of Dhenkanal Range. Basing upon the spot verification and preliminary investigation, it was ascertained that the death of elephant was due to infighting.

*Manoj V Nair*  
Chief Conservator of Forests (WL)  
O/o the PCCF(WL) & CWLW  
Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Investigation to nab the offenders responsible for removing and taking off the tusk is ongoing.

- b. A detailed Wildlife Offence Database is under progress for four Schedule- I species (Elephant, Tiger, Leopard & Pangolin) from the year 2000-2001. It is expected to be completed in a fortnight's time.
- c. Regarding the preparation of a dossier of habitual offenders, required data has been asked from all the Divisions in a given format. The data received from the field and is being compiled and vetted with the offender list available in the Wildlife Offence Database. An independent intelligence network is also being developed.
- d. Further, elephant movement data is being monitored by the team J.T.F. on daily basis through iWLMS and Whatsapp group data. Both the data (iWLMS & Whatsapp) and data from Control Room Register are compared with each other and in the case of any discrepancy/ mismatch the relevant entry is being cross-checked from the field units for taking appropriate action so that identified herds are not lost track of.

2. On request of Chairman, JTF, Shri Jitasatru Mohanty briefed about the book co-authored by him regarding the elephant corridors of Odisha and the arduous field work undertaken by the team. He emphasized on the linking of the Mahanadi and Sambalpur Elephant Reserve for smooth movement of the elephants in that landscape and also notification of more such elephant reserves. He suggested capacity building programmes to enhance the investigating capacity of field staff by conducting training programmes.

3. Shri Aditya Chandra Panda highlighted the increasing number of electrocution cases, both of humans and elephants and stated that it has become a major menace to public safety and a law and order issue which needs active intervention from all concerned – police department, forest department, the DISCOMS and district administration. He suggested that to the extent possible, there should be presence of JTF personnel on the spot before disposal of the carcass in case of important species such as elephant. He also suggested that the JTF should provide handholding support to the field staff on prevention control and investigation of the Wildlife related offences.

4. Shri Lalit Mohan Sahu highlighted about the nuisance created by public in cases of strayed elephants and also during driving out operations during the crop season. The elephants are

*Mang V Nani*

Chief Conservator of Forests (WL)  
O/o the PCCF(WL) & CWLW  
Odisha, Bhubaneswar

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harassed by the public during driving them away from the crop fields and this has resulted in increased aggression of elephants and consequent escalation of Man-Elephant Conflict. He suggested giving away incentives or prize money for public for helping the Forest staff in driving the elephants or giving information about the elephants and advised that interested local Sarpanchs and PRI members must be taken into confidence for getting information in detection and investigation of Wildlife cases.

5. Dr. Prajna Panda spoke on the importance of focusing on two aspects viz. managing Human Wildlife Conflict and tackling Wildlife crimes. She suggested the mapping of Human elephant Conflict areas into Zones like i) Less Conflict Region- Green Zone. ii) Medium Conflict Region- Yellow Zone and iii) High Conflict Region- Red Zone. The fund and resource distribution should be done accordingly. She also stressed about strengthening of Inter-state Coordination in elephant monitoring and more involvement of police department during the mob/ crowd management during conflict situations. She emphasized on capacity building of frontline staff in the field to get an increase in conviction rate in wildlife crimes.

6. Chairman, JTF clarified that overall mapping of conflict zones in Odisha has been carried out through GIS domain and allocation of funds/ resources is also being done accordingly. Interstate coordination meetings are also conducted periodically with neighboring states of West Bengal and Jharkhand. While elaborating on conflict mitigation measures, he specifically mentioned installation of hanging solar fencing, which has been initiated in Keonjhar Division along the railway tracks to minimize the elephant death due to train hit. He also stated that more tranquilizing technique trainings will be conducted in all the circles for capacity enhancement of staff. He highlighted the importance of addressing the issue of electrocution deaths of elephants and emphasized the need to conduct regular co-ordination meetings with electricity transmission companies and also joint patrolling in areas susceptible for electrocution. The last such meeting was held on 17-10-2022. The meeting was chaired by P.C.C.F. (Wildlife) & CWLW, Odisha and attended by C.E.O. TPCODL, Bhubaneswar & C.E.O. TPNODL, Balasore and the minutes of the meeting is annexed herewith as Annexure A2.

7. At the end Prof. Raman Sukumar gave his valuable feedbacks. He stated that for capacity building of frontline staff, help from states like Assam, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka should be taken as they have good resource persons in this regard. He added his views in mapping of

*Marij V Nani*  
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O/o the PCCF(WL) & CWLW  
Odisha, Bhubaneswar

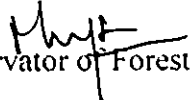
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Conflict Zones and stated that it should be done scientifically incorporating data such as forest cover, types of vegetation and distribution of villages. He then suggested circulating the book 'Techniques & Procedure for Post Mortem of Elephants' by Dr. Jacob V. Cheeran and Dr. N. Diwakaran Nair among all the field level staff such as Range Officers and Field Veterinarians for reference. He again suggested that the cases of electrocution of elephants can be minimized by joint patrolling of Forest Staffs, Electricity Department staffs and Police regularly. As a concluding remark, he emphasized on the linking of Mahanadi & Sambalpur Elephant Reserve and finding potential areas between the above two for taking up habitat management and improvement measures. He also advised to study the feasibility and viability of the above connectivity and to work systematically for conservation of elephants of Odisha and suggested to conduct an in-person meeting of the JTF after the festival season.

After detailed deliberations, the following action points were decided upon:

1. DFOs to be asked to conduct regular co-ordination meetings with electricity distribution companies and also conduct joint patrolling in areas susceptible for electrocution. Every division needs to have an action plan in place to prevent instances of illegal hooking. JTF to closely monitor the progress in this regard.
2. Preparation of the Crime Dossier to be expedited and completed soon.
3. The JTF shall provide hand-holding in the field on selected cases of death of elephants and other designated Schedule I species under its ToR and shall closely track the progress of investigation of cases and prosecution.
4. Members shall provide inputs for preparation of the Comprehensive Action Plan which is under progress.
5. The book 'Techniques & Procedure for Post Mortem of Elephants' to be circulated among all the field level staff such as Range Officers and Field Veterinarians for reference.
6. An in-person meeting will be scheduled on 03.11.2022 to take stock of the progress of activities of JTF and deliberate upon preparation of the Comprehensive Action Plan.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chair and all members.

  
Chief Conservator of Forests (WL)  
Chairman, Joint Task Force

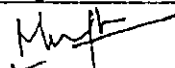
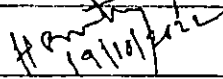
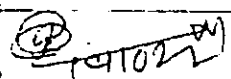
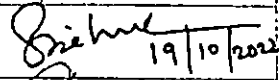
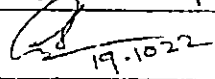
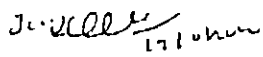
  
Chief Conservator of Forests (WL)  
O/o the PCCF(WL) & CWLW  
Odisha, Bhubaneswar



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Annexure - 31

SECOND MEETING OF JOINT TASK FORCE ON 19-10-2022

Sl No.	Name	Designation	Signature
1	Dr. Manoj V Nair, IFS	CCF(Wildlife) Chairman, JTF	
2	Sri Himanshu Sekhar Mohanty, OFS	DCF Member JTF	 19/10/2022
3	Prof Raman Sukumar	Scientist, ANCF Co-opted member (Wildlife expert)	Attended virtually
4	Sri Jitendra Mohanty, IFS (retd.)	Trustee, S.E.I Co-opted member (Wildlife expert)	Attended virtually
5	Dr Prajna Panda	National Coordinator, Elephant Cell Co-opted member Wildlife expert)	Attended virtually
6	Sri Aditya Chandra Panda	Honorary Wildlife Warden, Angul Member (Wildlife expert)	Attended virtually
7	Sri Lalit Mohan Sahu	Honorary Wildlife Warden, Deogarh Member (Wildlife expert)	Attended virtually
8	Sri Bikash Ranjan Dash IFS, CF	C.F. (Wildlife) (Special Invitee)	 19/10/22
9	Sadhana Behera	A.C.F., J.T.F.	 19/10/2022
10	Dr. Subhashree Dash	RC, JTF	 19.10.22
11	Jayanta K. Dash	RC JTF	 19/10/2022

Manoj V Nair  
Chief Conservator of Forests (WL)  
O/o the PCCF(WL) & CWLW  
Odisha, Bhubaneswar



**STATE WILDLIFE HEADQUARTERS, ODISHA**  
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (WILDLIFE) & CHIEF WILDLIFE WARDEN, ODISHA  
FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

Memo No. 9743 / 10WL-CC-41/2021 dated 29/10/2022.

To  
The Divisional Forest Officers  
Dhenkanal / Angul / Athagarh / Athmallik /  
Satkosia (Wildlife) / Keonjhar Division

Sub: Proceeding of the coordination meeting on prevention of electrocution of elephants held on 17.10.2022 at 4.00PM with TPCODL and TPNODL under the chairmanship of CCF (Wildlife) & CWLW, Odisha.

Ref:- This office memo No.9367 dated 15.10.2022

Apropos to the above, I am directed to enclose herewith the proceedings of the coordination meeting on prevention of electrocution to elephants held on 17.10.2022 for information and necessary follow up action at your end.

Encl:- As above.

Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)

Memo No. 9744 date 29/10/2022

Copy along with copy of enclosure forwarded to all Divisional Forest Officers for information and similar necessary action.

Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)

Memo No. 9745 date 29/10/2022

Copy along with copy of enclosure forwarded to all Regional Chief Conservator of Forests for information and necessary action.

Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)

PRAKRUTI BHAWAN, PLOT NO.1459, SAHEED NAGAR, BHUBANESWAR-751007,  
Website: [www.wildlife.odisha.gov.in](http://www.wildlife.odisha.gov.in)

*Manoj V. Panigrahi*  
Chief Conservator of Forests (WL)  
O/o the PCCF(WL) & CWLW  
Odisha, Bhubaneswar

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Proceeding of the coordination meeting on prevention of electrocution of elephants held on 17.10.2022 at 4.00PM with TATA Power Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL) and TATA Power Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL) under the chairmanship of PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW, Odisha

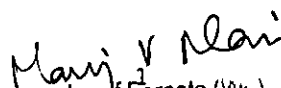
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The coordination meeting was held on 17.10.2022 at 4.00PM under the Chairmanship of PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW, Odisha through VC mode on prevention of electrocution of elephants.

The meeting was attended by CCF (WL) & CF (WL) of State wildlife headquarters, CEO, TPCODL & officials of TPNODL, RCCF Angul, RCCF, Rourkela, DFOs, Dhenkanal, Angul, Athgarh, Athmallik, Satkosia WL & Keonjhar Division.

At the outset PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW, Odisha welcomed the participants and initiated the discussion impressing upon the urgency for strengthening of electrical infrastructure in the elephant movement areas. He highlighted the need for expediting the work in areas identified by the respective DFOs and stressed for joint inspection of electric lines passing in and around elephant movement areas on regular basis.

The DFOs informed about prompt action by the DISCOMs in rectifying the sagging lines and that whatsapp group has also been created for sharing of informations. They further outlined the priority areas for cabling and locations for rectification of identified weak points in such elephant movement areas. The DFO, Keonjhar pointed out that the cases of death of elephants electrocuted are also enquired into by the Electrical Inspectors but they are not sharing their findings which would be of help in wildlife investigation. He further informed that fuse wires in transformers are not of specified ratings for which electrocution cases are not prevented. And that, notices issued to the field officials of DISCOMs by the investigating officers are not being attended to.

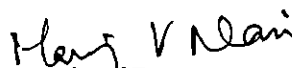
  
Chief Conservator of Forests (WL)  
O/o the PCCF(WL) & CWLW  
Odisha, Bhubaneswar

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The DISCOMs authorities assured to look into these matters and take all possible steps to complete the work in stipulated time besides rectifications as required.

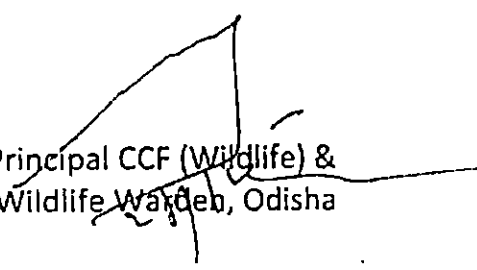
After detailed discussion and deliberations, the following decisions were taken.

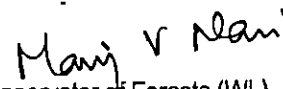
1. Two additional staff will be provided by TPCODL in Dhenkanal Division to be part of patrolling squads for joint patrolling of electrical lines/ installations particularly in Hindol area.
2. CEO, TPCODL assured to go for fencing of open transformers (300 plus) on priority in Hindol, Angul, Sadangi areas followed with other places as pointed out by the DFOs from available CAPEX funds.
3. Cabling work in Jagannathpur area of Bantala section and further that change of locations of about 5-6 kms in cabling in Talcher/ Chhendipada area will be attended to on priority. Similarly, works in Satkosia Division including fixing of spikes will be over by November, 2022. Balance cabling and rectification work including interposing poles in Athagarh Division will be over by November, 2022. And cabling works in Dhenkanal Division will be expedited and works be over latest by December, 2022.
4. The issues of slow progress of cabling and rectification work by TPNODL shall be resolved at the earliest to complete cabling work on priority in Keonjhar and Joda sections of Keonjhar Division.
5. DISCOMs are requested to attend to the balance work of cabling/ rectifications in other Divisions as well on priority as requested under Letter No. 8676/WL dated 26.09.2022.
6. Change in location of earlier identified points for strengthening of infrastructure, particularly cabling as proposed by the DFOs shall be considered by DISCOMs since movement pattern of elephants is fast changing.

  
Chief Conservator of Forests (WL)  
O/o the PCCF(WL) & CWLW  
Odisha, Bhubaneswar

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7. Joint verification of weak transmission lines shall be conducted on regular basis duly even ensuring compliance of the Advisory dated 31.08.2022 of Central Electricity Authority regarding implementation of measures to mitigate the impact of power transmission lines and other power infrastructure on elephant/ other wildlife.
  8. DISCOM officials are requested to invite the field forest officials to participate in the safety meetings being conducted by them at District level for better coordination.
  9. On sharing of enquiry report of the Electrical Inspector with the I.O. of the Forest Department in the cases of electrocution deaths of elephants, the matter will be taken up with the Principal Chief Electrical Inspector by the PCCF, Wildlife.
  10. The proposal submitted for additional work of cabling and rectification of electrical points vide Memo No. 8676/WL dated 26.09.2022 may also be taken up by the DISCOMs and, any issue thereof concerning execution of such works may be reported for resolution by the competent authority.
  11. Proposal of CEO, TPCODL for conducting a half-day workshop with DFOs and DISCOM officials on the study carried out by an NGO on prevention of electrocution is a welcome suggestion, and the State wildlife headquarters shall do the needful for organising the workshop once the said study report is shared by TPCODL.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair and all the participants.

  
Principal CCF (Wildlife) &  
Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha

  
Chief Conservator of Forests (WL)  
O/o the PCCF(WL) & CWLW  
Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Minutes of the First In person Meeting of Joint Task force (JTF) on 03-11-2022 at  
03.30 PM in the Conference Hall of O/o Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha

The third meeting and first in-person meeting of Joint Task force (JTF), constituted vide Government Order No. 16368/FE&CC dated 13-09-2022 was held on 03-11-2022 at 03.30 PM under the chairmanship of Dr. Manoj V. Nair, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) in the Conference hall of O/o Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha.

The list of participants present is annexed herewith.

At the outset the Chairman welcomed all the participants followed by a round of introductions. He also mentioned that the main objective of the meeting is to discuss about the preparation of Comprehensive Action Plan and to review the activities taken up by JTF during last month. After that, the Chairman requested Dy.C.F, JTF to highlight the overall activities taken up by team JTF till date.

Opening the proceedings, Sri Himanshu Sekhar Mohanty, Dy.C.F, JTF, briefed about the involvement of team JTF in the monitoring of past elephant death cases and intervention of team JTF in the investigation of those cases. The important case where team JTF along with the Chairman, JTF had made field visits and remained present during postmortem is follows-

**Case: I** - JTF members visited the spot following the death of one male adult elephant in Gachhapatra Beat of Patia Section of Tangi Range- Khordha Forest Division on 24-10-2022 and remained present during the Postmortem conducted by BVO, Ranpur. On preliminary observation it was found that there was a deep cut mark of size approximately 3 cm and a charred mark present on ventral proboscis. From the sign it was ascertained that the cause of death might be due to electrocution. Also, the team detected two nos. of wooden pegs used for electrocution from the nearby field and the electric pole was found to have naked wire in that area. The team JTF shared sufficient clues and lead to the Range Officer, Tangi to investigate in the direction of electrocution as the cause of death of the elephant and two persons were arrested

*Manoj V Nair*  
Chief Conservator of Forests (WL)  
O/o the PCCF(WL) & CWLW  
Odisha, Bhubaneswar

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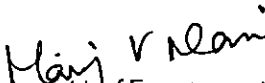
by the staff of Tangi Range and an OR case was booked subsequently vide No. OR 08<sup>T</sup> of 2022-23 and 2b cc No. 14/2022

Sri Ramapada Aranbinda Mishra, A.C.F, JTF shared his experiences of collecting data from various sources and interaction with field staffs, PRI members & local people during his spot visit in different elephant cases.

Chairman, JTF added some more points on the activities of the JTF. These activities are-

1. The preparation of Wildlife Offence Database from the year 2000-2001 is fast progressing for four Schedule-I species (Elephant, Tiger, Leopard & pangolin). The information is asked from all the Divisions and compiling is done by team JTF. It will be completed by 15th of December, 2022.
2. It was further decided that last five year information from all the Divisions will be asked for the preparation of a dossier of habitual offenders. The process of preparation of dossier has been initiated and will be completed by end of December, 2022.
3. The movement of elephant data is being monitored regularly by the team J.T.F. and any discrepancy/ mismatch of report found is being reported for and cross checked from concern field units.
4. Also, the team JTF is monitoring and analyzing the other Wildlife offence Cases of Schedule I animals (tiger, Leopard & Pangolin) as mentioned in ToR. The cases are analyzed by the team and by liaising with staff of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, Kolkata and Jabalpur for finding out forward linkages for cases dealing with leopard skin/pangolin scales.

Dr. Prajna Panda expressed her concern about the electrocution cases of elephant death and stated that it accounted for about 45% of the total elephant death cases. She also added that convergence of line departments for crop damage by taking the advantage of Pradhanmantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

  
Chief Conservator of Forests (VVL)  
O/o the PCCF(WL) & CWLW<sub>2</sub>  
Odisha, Bhubaneswar

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Sri Aditya Chandra Panda and Sri Jitasatru Mohanty. Member JTF both gave same views on the root cause of these deliberate electrocution cases as being hunting of wild boars for bush meat and also for safeguarding the crops from depredation of wild boars.

Prof. Raman Sukumar also highlighted the above problem and stated that the population of wild boars is now a concern for the Forest Department. He also added that the interspersed nature of forests of Odisha and the scattered nature of habitations in forested landscapes throughout the state is a major challenge in managing Human-Elephant conflict.

Shri Lalit Mohan Sahu described about his experience in dealing with public of forest fringe villages of Deogarh, Jharsuguda and Sundergarh Divisions. He told that in case of deliberate electrocution cases, only a few miscreants of a particular area or village are involved. He emphasized that the coordination among the departments of Electricity, Forest and Police is the key to control such cases.

Sri Jitasatru Mohanty, also spoke on the need of increasing the amount of compassionate payment in crop damage by wildlife. He mentioned that the "Compassionate payment" should be changed into "Compensation Payment". He also emphasized on "Mission Zero Casualty" for both wildlife and people. He mentioned that the total involvement of local volunteers (Gajasathi) in elephant conflict areas will be the best solution for managing man-elephant conflict.

#### **Preparation of Comprehensive Action Plan-**

Chairman, JTF requested all the members to share their suggestions in framing the Comprehensive Action Plan.

Sri Jitasatru Mohanty, presented his view that the Action Plan should include- 1. Emergent Action 2. Short Term Action and 3. Long Term Action to minimize the death of the elephants in Odisha.

Prof. Raman Sukumar again emphasized on the inclusion of strengthening of Sambalpur and Mahanadi Elephant Reserves in the upcoming Action Plan. He also suggested taking technical input from some external agencies for required information for the Plan.

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Dr. Prajna Panda suggested that the action plan should be concise and not verbose containing bullet points for action and timeline so that it can be implemented quickly and effectively.

Thereafter a detailed discussion was done regarding the contents of the Action Plan and a draft Framework was drawn up. The work of preparation of Comprehensive Action Plan was distributed among all the members of JTF and the progress of the work done will be monitored on regular basis by the Chairman, JTF. It was decided to complete the Action Plan by 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2022.

Also, the Chairman, JTF requested all the members to remain virtually present in the next date of hearing on 11-11-2022 to answer the queries of the Hon'ble Court.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chair and all members.

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Chairman, Joint Task Force

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## ATTENDANCE SHEET

Participants attended the third meeting of the Joint Task Force (JTF) at the Conference Hall O/o Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & CWLW, Odisha, Prkruti Bhawan, Bhubaneswar on Dt. 03-11-2022 at 3.30 PM

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Signature
1	Dr. Manoj V. Nair, IFS	CCF (Wildlife) Chairman, JTF	<i>Manoj V. Nair</i> 03/11/22
2	Shri Himanshu Sekhar Mohanty	Dy. CF Member, JTF	<i>Himanshu Mohanty</i> 03/11/2022
3	Prof. Raman Sukumar	Scientist, AICF Co-opted Member (Wildlife expert)	<i>Raman Sukumar</i> 3/11/22
4	Shri Jitasatru Mohanty, IFS (Retd.)	Trustee, SEFT Co-opted Member (Wildlife expert)	<i>Jitasatru Mohanty</i> 03/11/2022
5	Dr. Prajna Panda Program Manager IUCN SSC, AsESG.	National Coordinator, Elephant Cell Co-opted Member (Wildlife expert)	<i>Prajna Panda</i>
6	Shri Aditya Chandra Panda	Honorary Wildlife Warden, Angul Member (Engaged Voluntarily on Wildlife issues)	<i>Aditya Chandra Panda</i>
7	Shri Lalit Mohan Sahu	Honorary Wildlife Warden, Deogarh Member (Engaged Voluntarily on Wildlife issues)	<i>Lalit Mohan Sahu</i> 3-11-2022
	Renubala Sahoo	Inspr. JTF	<i>Renubala Sahoo</i> 03-11-22
	Dr. Subashree Das	RO JTF	<i>Subashree Das</i> 3/11/22
	Ramayant Arachinda Mishra	Asst JTF	<i>Ramayant Arachinda Mishra</i> 03/11/2022

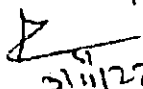
Jayantika Mishra R.O JTF

*Jayantika Mishra*

*Manoj V Nair*  
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Radhama Behera	A.C.F., Member, J.T.F	Jachin 3/11/22
Sudhanshu Singh.	Sub-Inspector J.T.F	 3/11/22

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Annexure - 0/1

FRAMEWORK OF THE DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE ACTION PLAN

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CHAPTER - I

- 1.1: Background
- 1.2: Elephants of Odisha
  - 1.2.1. History of Elephants in Odisha
  - 1.2.2. Population of Elephants in Odisha
  - 1.2.3. Distribution of Elephants in Odisha
- 1.3: Human-Elephant Conflict
  - 1.3.1. Reasons of Conflict
  - 1.3.2. Negative Impacts on Human beings
  - 1.3.3. Negative Impacts on Elephants
  - 1.3.4. High conflict areas
    - 1.3.4.1. Divisions with high conflict
    - 1.3.4.2. High conflict Areas of Each Division
    - 1.3.4.3. Ranges, Sections & Beats with High Conflict Areas
- 1.4: Elephant Mortality: Causes
  - 1.4.1. Natural Death
  - 1.4.2. Unnatural Death
    - 1.4.2.1. Threats due to electrical infrastructure

Mapping of LT and HT lines of each Division

Areas affected by deliberate electrocution and measures to be taken

Areas affected by accidental electrocution and measures to be taken

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## CHAPTER- II

### VISION PLAN

- 2.1. Carrying Capacity
- 2.2. Classifying Elephant Habitats
- 2.3. Managing key populations
- 2.4. Managing scattered populations

## CHAPTER- III

### STRATEGIES

#### A. Protection

1. Control Rooms & Response Mechanism
  - 1.1. Setting up of Control Room and helpline Number at Headquarters Level, Circle Level & Division Level
  - 1.2. Guidelines for Coordinated action at field level
2. Crime Prevention
  - 2.1. Intelligence gathering and Crime Database
  - 2.2. Preparation of Crime Database, Crime Dossier, Surveillance of Habitual Offenders
  - 2.3. Setting of Crime Cell at Division level
  - 2.4. Protection Mechanism including preventive steps
  - 2.5. Intensive patrolling mechanism
  - 2.6. Engagement of Anti-poaching Squads & Elephant trackers
  - 2.7. Infrastructure Development
  - 2.8. Set up of Protection Camps & Watch Towers
  - 2.9. Requirement of Vehicles
3. Crime Detection, Enquiry and Prosecution
  - 3.1. Vigilant over habitual offender
  - 3.2. Crack down of illegal arms manufacturing unit
  - 3.3. Prosecution through fast-track courts

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3.4.Exclusive standing counsels for wildlife cases trial in every District /  
subdivision level

B. Monitoring

1. Periodic census
2. Collaring
3. Tusker profile
4. Intensive monitoring- iWLMS, Early Warning System
5. Capture & Translocation of Problematic Elephants
6. Rescue Centres-
  - 6.1 Need of Rescue Centres
  - 6.2. Models/ designs
  - 6.3. Probable Locations
7. Management & training of captive elephants-
  - 7.1. Management of Captive elephants
  - 7.2. Training of elephants to function as Kunkis
  - 7.3. Training of mahouts

C. Management of HEC

1. RRTs and Anti-depredation Units
2. Compassionate Payment-
  - 2.1. Quick disbursal system
  - 2.2. Enhancement in the amount

D. People's Participation

1. Education & Awareness-
  - 1.1. Use of social media
  - 1.2. Radio messages
  - 1.3. Street plays
  - 1.4. Road signs
2. Gaja Sathi
3. Gaja Rakhya Jeevan Surakhya

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E. Inter-departmental co-ordination

1. Police
2. Preventing electrocution deaths- Coordination with DISCOMS
3. Railway
4. Roads- NHAI & others

F. Alternative crops

1. Introduction of unpalatable crops
2. New Cropping patterns
3. Provisions of harvesters
4. Concept of steel bins and Community storage bins/ houses

G. Human Resource Management

- Staff strength

H. Habitat Development

1. Fodder & Fruit species plantation-

Areas Suitable for Fodder/Fruit Species Plantation - Range wise Location with details & Details of Sections/ Beats and GPS location

2. Meadow development-

Areas Suitable for Meadow development- Range wise Location with details & Details of Sections/ Beats and GPS location

3. Bamboo plantation-

Areas Suitable for Bamboo Plantation- Range wise Location with details & Details of Sections/ Beats and GPS location

4. Weed Clearance & Habitat Restoration- Range wise Location with details & Details of Sections/ Beats and GPS location

I. Corridors & connectivity

1. Rationalising corridors

- 1.1. Assessment of regular movement path of elephants

- 1.2. Problems in continuity of movement paths

2. Inter-state corridors

3. Mitigation Measures for linear infrastructure projects

- 3.1.1. Railway Lines and required mitigation measures with Range wise Location (Details of Sections/ Beats with GPS location)

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3.1.2. Irrigation Channels and required mitigation measures with Range wise Location (Details of Sections/ Beats with GPS location)

3.1.3. Road Networks and required mitigation measures with Range wise Location (Details of Sections/ Beats with GPS location)

**J. Disease Control**

1. Surveillance-

1.1. Control measures of Anthrax, Herpes & other diseases

1.2. Health care Support System

1.3. Veterinarians at selected Circle Level

1.4. Sanitation of Water bodies

2. Vaccination drives

**K. Research**

Use of technology

Collaring

Camera Traps

Drones

Sensor-based technologies

**L. Capacity building**

a. Frontline Staff & others-

Capacity Building Needs of staffs and training Modules

Capacity Building Needs of Elephant squads and training Modules

Capacity Building Needs of Civil Society (VSS members/ Community Groups) and training Modules

b. Veterinarians-

**CHAPTER-IV**

**BUDGETARY OUTLAY**

Division wise, year wise, activity wise

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CHAPTER-V

CONCLUSION

Appendices

- I. All SOPs and Executive Instructions Issued by the Office of CWLW
- II.

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