

Recommendation

(Proposal Name – New Keshwari station and Yard of DFCCIL at Sariya Khurd village)

1. The proposed construction of new Keshwari station and yard would be located adjacent to the DFCCIL railway line and the existing track. As such the nature of the project is not site-specific rather it should be seen as an extension of the existing/proposed railway line. The same has been accepted by UA too. Hence, the issues related to the present proposal has significant negative fallout on the local flora and wildlife along with the riverine ecology and hydrology.

It is noteworthy to mention that there are instances of damage caused by wild elephants to the level crossing adjacent to the proposed area. This is in addition with the area being frequented by wild elephants. In this regard, the issue was also raised vide letter no. 1498 dated 03.07.2018 with railway authorities to reduce the speed of trains to avoid collision-induced wild elephant mortality and potential derailment of trains.

As the aforementioned projects have considerable impact on wildlife particularly on wild elephants, the possibility of mortality/injury to wild elephant can not be ruled out without addressing adequate-human-wildlife mitigation measures like underpass with funneling effect, habitat improvement, early warning systems for speed reduction etc.

Thus, the issues raised on account of habitat fragmentation and distraction needs to be addressed exclusively and prominently.

2. The watershed/ catchment area of the nearby river (Barakar) shall be greatly affected by tree felling and consequent soil erosion. Therefore, extensive river side plantation needs to be carried out as per site conditions.
3. At various places, *Lantana camara* infestation was noticed during the site visit. Hence, a *Lantana* removal scheme need to be included for 10 years to check further infestation of this invasive species
4. It was noticed that the forest area has gentle to moderate slope. Therefore, a soil and moisture conservation plan have to be necessarily included to check incidental soil erosion caused by the proposed activities.
5. Furthermore, an avenue plantation scheme needs to be included for loss of flora in the area.

Overall, considering the nature importance of the project, the proposal is hereby recommended for acceptance subject to the addressal of the above observations.


Divisional Forest Officer,
Hazaribagh East Forest Division

SOUAMYA CHANDRA
I.F.S.
Divisional Forest Officer
Hazaribagh East Forest Division