

## **PART-III (Site inspection Report as per format given)**

(To be completed by the Officer-in-charge of the National Park/ Sanctuary completed and submitted to the Chief Wild Life Warden of Officer authorized by him in this behalf within 30 days of the receipt of Part-III)

1.	Date of receipt of the Part-II	24.01.2022
2.	Total Area (Ha.) of National Park/ Sanctuary	Similipal Sanctuary 2306.61 Sq. km.
3.	Total Area (Ha.) diverted from the NP/ WLS so far for development purposes.	-----NIL-----
4.	List the past projects and the area (Ha.) diverted:  Name of the Project  Area diverted  Year of the diversion	-----NIL-----
5.	Positive impact/s due to the diversion of area of the projects referred to in column 4 above.  Name of the Project (s)  Positive impact  Scientific Basis of Assessment	-----NIL-----
6.	Negative impact/s due to the diversion of area for the projects referred to in column 4 above.  Name of the Project/s Positive impact Scientific Basis of Assessment (Attach separate document, if required)	-----NIL-----
7.	Management Plan period Attach copy of the Management Plan/ Management Scheme/ Recommendation of Chief Wildlife Warden.	Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan, will be prepared on the basis of acceptance of the Proposal.

**Contd.../P-2**

8.	List Management actions taken/ proposed to be taken in the whole Block/ Zone in which the proposed area is located.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The proposed site having area of 32.225 hec. is coming under Eco-sensitive Zone. The approximate aerial distance from the boundary of the Similipal Sanctuary to the proposed road site is about 8 km. The Project Road (229.00 km to 236.600 km) at a stretch of 7.6 km passed through Buffer Zone of STR is coming under Eco-sensitive Zone having aerial distance of approximately (8 km). As per champion &amp; seth classification the whole proposed site wherein the forest type i.e., 3C / C2 e (ii) moist peninsular low-level Sal Forest. As per Tiger Conservation Plan the Buffer area of Similipal Tiger Reserve extent over 1555.25 Sqr. km which includes the part of Similipal RF and surrounding contiguous area of Reserve Forest, proposed reserve forest, 57 villages inside Similipal RF (Now in Simillipal North Division after reorganization) 5 villages inside Satokosia RF (Now in Karanja Division), 3 Villages inside Tunguru RF (Now in Rairangpur Division). Out of the total area of 2750sqkm of Similipal tiger Reserve the Tunguru reserve forest, Kanapat Reserve Forest, Sarali RF, Mahubhandar RF and Bidubhandar PRF constitute 199.7 Sqr. km or 19970 hec. to the buffer zone of the Similipal Tiger Reserve. The proposed area of 32.225 hec. proposed to be diverted is coming under Bidubhandar PRF. As per the Tiger Conservation Plan the wild fauna and the habitats in the buffer area is largely as same that of core area but presently the concentration of wild animals is more in core than buffer as because of more biotic interference, there is hardly any wild life movement noticed across the NH-6 due to heavy vehicular traffic and as the habitats is prone to biotic interference, the open forest species like wolf, hyena, Indian fox, are found confined to this buffer areas including forest fringe village areas, but their presence is sparsely observed, mainly prevalence of wild animals like Bear, Spotted Deer, Wild Pig, Leopard, Elephants are there, but their sighting also is rarely seen due to existing heavy traffic. But despite of this, possibility of Wild Life movement across the road cannot be overlooked. So, in order to make the smooth passes across the road retro reflective signage's with proper dimension should be fixed in appropriate interval (50 to 100 mtrs. intervals) each for presence of elephant movement path and other wild animal. The two times nos. of trees to be cut on both side of the road due to widening of NH, will be planted and the required funds will be deposited by the U/A as per existing circular in force. With regards to the Wildlife Management Plan, the plan will be implemented by the forest department at the cost of U/A. It is pertinent to mention here that, originally the U/A applied over 85.104 forest land for rehabilitation and upgradation (existing to Four lean) from Baharagora (Jharkhand) to Singhra Section K.M.199.20 to KM 310.806 (with the total stretch of 111.606 Km) out of this 67.309ha. was accorded stage-I &amp; Stage-II in the favour User Agency (PD, NHAI) while processing the original Diversion of 85.104ha. the two times extent of area equal to 178.328ha. of forest land identified at Rourkela Division for Compensatory Afforestation over 4 nos of patches (1. Karada DP 44.843ha. under Banki Range, 2. Dalimbadihi Revenue Forest 54.407ha. under Banki Range, 3. Barpani RF. 55.126ha. under Biramitrapur Range, 4.Jatia RF 23.952ha. under Biramitrapur Range.) Here the 43.71ha. of Forest land has been identified</li></ol>
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		<p>as extra land which would be compensated in lieu of present diverted area of 17.796ha. It is pertinent to mention here that, within this 67.309 ha. the existing road 14.433ha. though diverted initially but could not be widened into four lanes as because in condition no. 2(IX) as stipulated in the stage-I condition where in the NTCA has recommended that, the 7.6 Km. of road in the forest area coming under buffer zone of Simipal Tiger Reserve should not be widen however the NTCA has agreed and the curves land improved wherever necessary the state gov. shall inform the NTCA the forest area being used and diverted for improvement of the curves. But as on date the User Agency (i.e., Project Director HN-6) has not taken of the work in any manner for improvement of the curves nor any of the piece of forest land has been diverted for the propose so far. The Compensatory Afforestation equivalent two times forest area will be taken up to complete the diversion of forest land at the cost of U/A. As per guideline issued vide <u>F.no,6-30/2019-WL</u> dated <u>06.May,2022</u>.for seeking recommendation of standing committee of National Board for wildlife and adhering to the condition <b>no-5&amp;6</b>, some of the free passes is to be constructed across the slope of the road which has been jointly verified by the Forest officials and NHAI officials in order to make the free passes of the wild animals mainly the Mega herbivores like elephants, I propose for the under pass of elephants and other animals at this following chainage point as detailed below.</p>
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**Elephant Under Pass**

Sl. No.	Chainage	Description
1	229 + 175	25 m x 2 span with minimum 6 m height & 10 m width
2	233 + 435	-do-
3	234 + 855	-do-
4	236 + 920	-do-

**Animal Under Pass**

Sl. No.	Chainage	Proposed Size (m)	Type of Culvert
1	229+277	6 x 3	Box Culvert
2	229+523	6 x 3	Box Culvert
3	230+003	6 x 3	Box Culvert
4	230+517	6 x 3	Box Culvert
5	231+163	6 x 3	Box Culvert
6	231+507	6 x 3	Box Culvert
7	232+004	6 x 3	Box Culvert
8	232+446	6 x 3	Box Culvert
9	233+074	6 x 3	Box Culvert
10	233+534	6 x 3	Box Culvert
11	233+812	6 x 3	Box Culvert
12	234+093	6 x 3	Box Culvert
13	234+333	6 x 3	Box Culvert
14	235+239	6 x 3	Box Culvert
15	236+468	6 x 3	Box Culvert

It is pertinent to mention here that, the proposal with respect to elephant underpass submitted earlier by the NHAI was further requested to reduce the height of elephant under pass to 6 mtr. vide Memo No.4820 dt.17.09.2021 to the FD, STR -Cum- RCCF, Bpd and endorsing the Addl. PCCF, Nodal O/o the PCCF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar. Accordingly, the joint verification was conducted regarding its feasibility of reduction of height and forwarded to higher Authority which is now approved by the PCCF, Wildlife vide his Memo No. 4202 dt.13<sup>th</sup> May 2022 considering the proposal submitted by the NHAI and judgement of NGT passed 24.02.2022(OA no 61/2021/EZ).

9.	Type of forest in which the proposed area falls.	Total 32.225 ha. Area falls in Rairangpur Forest Division i.e., Bidubhandar P.R.F.
10.	Location of the proposed area w.r.t. the critical/ intensive wildlife management area / wildlife habitats.	The proposed project area of 32.225 ha at a stretch of 7.6KM fall under buffer area of Similipal Tiger Reserve and also Eco-sensitive zone. As per the approved Tiger conservation plan the proposed diverted area is completely free from critical/intensive wildlife management area/wild life Habitat.
11	List the likely POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE impact/s of the proposed project giving scientific and technical justification for each impact.	<p><b><u>Positive impact: -</u></b> On widening of the NH-6 the transportation system i.e., transport of goods and traffic will be significantly improved and vehicular accidents would also substantially be reduced, also widening to four lanes, the width of the carriage way will be improved with required gradients for smoothed traffic.</p> <p><b><u>Negative impact: -</u></b> Altogether about 11,142 nos. trees will be felled due to widening of the NH-6. This will be compensated through compensatory afforestation and will have little effect on Climate Change.....</p>

12	Provide COMPREHENSIVE details of the impact of the proposal in terms of section 29 and / or Section 35 (6) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act. 1972 as the case may be.	(The project is outside Similipal Sanctuary & National Park)
13	Whether the project authorities have ever committed violations of the Wild Life (Protection) Act. 1972 or Forest Conservation Act. 1980. If yes, provide the EXHAUSTIVE details of the offence and the present status of the case. (Concealing or misrepresenting the facts will lead to rejection of the case in addition to any other penalty as prescribed under Law)	No violation of Wildlife (protection) Act, 1972 and Forest Conservation Act, 1980 is committed by the Project Authorities (User Agency).
14	Have you examined the project Appraisal document and the alternatives as provided in Part-II	<p>Yes, I have examined the Project Appraisal document and the alternatives as provided in Part-II, which is analyzed as alternative given below. It is pertinent to mention here that, while scrutinizing the proposal as submitted with respect to slope and gradient including its impact on flora and fauna and overall landscape, for this the joint verification was also conducted on dt. 17.03.2022 &amp; subsequently on dt. 07.04.2022 and dt. 02.06.2022 to this effect, wherein a fly over structure was proposed by the DFO, Rairangpur in the presence of PD, NHAI, Balasore and the Chief General Manager, (Tech) and RO Odisha, accordingly the user agency was requested to present the technical feasibility of the fly over before the RCCF in his office on 19.05.2022, the user agency along with their technical expertise presented the all the drawing, design including the points where the elephant under pass and other animal passage to be constructed. The fly over structure as proposed is not technically feasible because of level difference between two chainage point and exit and entry. So, in order to further smoothening of curve alternative options has been explored and presented as follows. The user agency has given three options basing on their survey.</p> <p>Option:-(1)-while opting the option1 for widening, the length would be 8.247Km and it involves diversion of forest land of 35.1 ha and it leads to felling of 26000 nos of trees approximately.</p> <p>Option:-(2)-Likewise, the length would be 7.6 km and it involves diversion of forest land of 32.225 Ha and it leads to felling of 11,452 nos.</p> <p>Option:-(3) Likewise, the length of 10.215 and it involves diversion of 44.154 ha which may lead to felling of 30,000 nos of trees. Out of these three option the option -2 is suitable as it involves less area and less number of trees to be felled, there by minimum interaction between traffic and wild animal would occur in future course.</p>
15	Have you examined the Bio Diversity Impact Assessment Report.	In accordance with the guideline issued MoEF (Wildlife division) for seeking recommendation of standing committee of NBWL as per the stipulation in the point no. (8), Bio-diversity impact assessment is not required.
16	If yes, please give your comments on the recommendations given the report.	Not applicable
17	Dates and duration of your field visits to the proposed site.	Site inspected by Divisional Forest Officer, Rairangpur Division on dt. 17.03.2022 and dt. 07.04.2022 with RCCF, and NHAI officials, subsequently another joint verification held on dt. 02.06.2022 with RCCF, DFO & NHAI officials.

18	Do you agree that the present proposal of diversion of NP/WLS area is the best or only option and is viable.	There will be no diversion of forest from the Similipal Sanctuary / National Park. The present proposal of diversion of forest land is outside Similipal Sanctuary and Similpal National Park. Thus, the present proposal of diversion is the best or only option and is viable.
19	Any other information that you would bring to the notice of the State Board, National Board or its Committee that may be relevant and assist in decision making.	I would like to apprise the Hon'ble body for State Board for Wildlife that during the joint inspection on dt. 07.04.2022 the alternative / feasibilities of fly over structure was discussed with the Regional officer & PD, NHAI and the concerned officer from NHAI presented the design and structure of the existing curve and stated that the option the fly over is not possible due to Geo-situation. However, I would recommend for the high-level expert committee of technical domain to enquire further into the existing curve and to devise the alternative for interest of wildlife.
20	Do you recommend the project. (Please provide full justification to support your recommendations)	I strongly recommended the project as it is essential to widening and improve the Ghat portion of 7.6 km to minimize the number of accidents in the area. As it is the most important NH connecting Kolkata to Mumbai, the road should be improved and widened to boost surface transport of goods and passenger. The public of Odisha, West Bengal, Jharkhand and other neighboring states will be benefitted by the project.

Signature by

The Officer In-Charge of the N.P./ WLS Office Seal.

Date of submission to the Chief Wild Life Warden of any other Officer Authorized by him in this regard.