SITE INSPECTION REPORT IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSAL FOR DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND FOR DIVERSION OF 1.5278 HA. FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ADIT-1, SIVOK – RANGPO NEW BROAD GAUGE RAIL LINE IN FAVOUR OF THE NORTH EAST FRONTIER RAILWAY, JALPAIGURI UNDER MAHANANDA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, DARJEELING WILDLIFE DIVISION.

The proposed diversion site was inspected by the undersigned on 08/11/2019. The following officers and representatives of user agency were present during the inspection. (i) Sri Jayanta Mandal, WBFS, Assistant Wildlife Warden, Darjeeling Wildlife Division (ii) Sri N M Pradhan, FR, Range Officer, MWLS-North Range (iii) Sri A P Singh, Gen. Manager, IRCON (iv) Sri Dulal Saha, Asst. Gen Manager, IRCON & (v) Sri Dhiraj Raghubanshi, Geologist. The proposed diversion site is an adit proposal to the already aligned Sivok – Rangpo Broad Gauge Rail Line passing through the reserve forest areas of Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary under Darjeeling Wildlife Division.

The site has a close canopy vegetation with significant undergrowth of Bamboos. The proposed site lies in Andheri block under Kalijhora Beat, MWLS (North) Range between River Teesta and NH-10. No signs of movement of mega herbivore like Elephant and Gaur were noticed. The proposed site, if diverted for the purpose mentioned above would cause minimum interference to wildlife habitat and movement of wildlife.

(Ujjal Ghosh, IFS) Chief Conservator of Forests

Wildlife North, West Bengal