

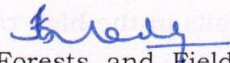
SITE INSPECTION REPORT

I, along with Assistant Conservator of Forests, Anashi Wildlife Sub-Division, Range Forest Officer, Castle Rock Wildlife Range and field staff of Kali Tiger Reserve and site engineer Sri. Naveen Paul, South Western Railway inspected the proposed forest area of 9.57 ha for diversion of Tinaighat-Castle Rock-Caranzol Railway line doubling in favour of the Chief Engineer, (Construction), Club Road, Keshwapur, Hubballi, Dharwad District on 05-11-2019. During the inspection following observations were made:

1. An extent of 9.57 ha in Kalambuli village sy no. 17 and sy no. 3/A/1/A/1/A/1 is being proposed for the Railway line doubling project.
2. There is already a line which passes through the same route which connects North Karnataka with the State of Goa.
3. The proposed area falls in the Castle Rock Wildlife Range which is part of Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary and which is under the administrative control of Kali Tiger Reserve.
4. The area is rich in Semi evergreen to evergreen forest interspersed with vast grasslands.
5. It harbours tigers, leopards, black panthers, gaur, sambur deers, chital, wild boars, reptiles, amphibians and rich bird life. It is also endemic to the Castle rock night frog. (*Nyctibatrachus petraeus*)
6. There are rare and endangered flora in the region which is also rich in medicinal value.
7. Kali Tiger Reserve is connected to Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka and Bhagwan Mahaveer Wild life Sanctuary in Goa State.
8. It falls in the high rainfall zone with the annual rainfall of 8142mm in 2019 as per the report of the Metrological Department.

9. There are already Alnavar-Londa Vasco and Londa-Khanapur railway lines in the region. Where many Wildlife casualties due to train accidents have happened. The issue was brought to the notice of Railway authorities but no mitigation measures had been taken to safeguard wild animals.
10. The doubling work is proposed to transport coal mines and also in the interest of tourists to visit Goa.
11. About 2097 trees are marked in the existing ROW of the present Railway line and 3316 trees are marked in the proposed diversion area. In total 5413 trees are marked for felling in Kali Tiger Reserve in the present proposal.
12. There are five tunnels which are proposed in KTR at five locations with the length of 200M, 520M, 180M, 200M and 160M. The muck which is generated has to be safely disposed without endangering the flora and fauna.
13. Proper Wildlife mitigation measures have not been planned. It is submitted that, the expert team should study the impact of railway doubling on wildlife and suitable mitigation measures may be planned to prevent wildlife casualties in the coming days. Once the project is completed, the User Agency may not take up mitigation measures. Hence, the approval should also include wildlife mitigation measures..
14. Hence, the present proposal of diversion of 9.57 ha of forest land in KTR will have negative impact on wildlife. Hence, the User Agency and takes up suitable mitigation measures.

The proposal of diversion of 9.57 ha of forest land in KTR for doubling of railway line from Tinaighat-Castle rock-Caranzol may be recommended with suitable wildlife mitigation measures.

 05.11.2019
Conservator of Forests, and Field Director,
Dandeli-Anashi Tiger Reserve, Dandeli.