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**Justification for Gregarious flowering, Removal of Dry Bamboo Material
in the TATR**

The main objective for removal of dead clumps over the proposed sites in the core is to prevent large scale intense forest fires. As stated before, some 40% of the TATR's area is occupied with bamboo—*Dendrocalamus strictus* which is now in a stage of synchronous flowering after a gap of some 40 years after the last such event during the 1980s. After synchronous flowering the clumps produce profuse seeds and then die. Tinder dry dead clumps occupying large tracts constitute a great fire hazard. The dead bamboo clumps as they get older tend to cant on one side and then may fall horizontally on the ground. The summer temperatures in Chandrapur district are very high and can peak at 47° C. High temperatures create thermals and strong winds. After catching fire the dead culms explode and rise on the thermals as firebrands. These can be carried over some distances to settle on the ground to start new locations of forest fires. The process is called 'spotting'. To fuel the fires further there is considerable leaf litter and larger woody debris on the forest floor to sustain fires at new locations. The situation can quickly get out of hand. Dousing such conflagrations under the given high ambient temperatures is extremely difficult and dangerous task since fire behaviour and intensities in bamboo occupied areas are unpredictable. The risk is eliminated during the rainy season and is reduced during the winter which is a temporary respite. The standard management strategy is to extract the dead clumps, and remove those from such sites for further disposal. Synchronous flowering of bamboo is slow and progresses to its full potential over a period of about three to four years, therefore the proposal to cut and remove the dying/dead bamboo clumps selectively from within the core that is mooted would need to be spread over such period, possibly two more summers or till such time by which the threat posed by dead bamboo clumps dissipates. As per the

prevailing law and decisions of the Supreme Court such cutting and removal is unacceptable from protected areas—the core area of TATR in this case. In the earlier chapters a case for cutting and removal of dead bamboo from selected compartments of the core area with new fire lines to arrest possible fires has been proposed. This does not involve sale of material which also has been stated. *This chapter is in support of removal of such dead clumps on the basis of ecological consequences of large scale fires and related imperatives.*

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Place:- Chandrapur


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