

Site Inspection Report

Name of the Project : Construction of Moreh Bypass from NH-102 near Indo- Myanmar Border to Land Custom Port of India to Bypass Moreh Town, Manipur (Area : 6.552 ha.)

The undersigned, Divisional Forest Officer/Wildlife accompanied by NHIDCL representatives inspected the proposed Moreh Bypass site on 18th January, 2017. The Project envisages construction of Moreh Bypass from NH-102 near Indo-Myanmar Border to Land Custom Port of India to bypass Moreh Town, Manipur by diverting 6.552 Ha of forest land from the Yangoupokpi Lokchao Wildlife Sanctuary. The project includes construction of Moreh Bypass to meet development demand of the region. The improvement proposal for the project road will be on the existing road alignment with improvement of curves at some locations. The area to be diverted is from the Yangoupokpi Lokchao Wildlife Sanctuary near the habited area of Moreh Town.

The Forest Type encountered here is Tropical Moist Mixed Deciduous Forests which is classified as Eco Class-I in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India's order dated 28/3/2008 passed in WP (C) 202/1995. Forest along the proposed area is a mixture of open and moderately dense in patches forest. The average crown density is less than 40%.

Though Hoolok gibbon, Golden cats, Leopard, Elephants, Slow loris, Scrow, Malayan, Pangolin, Macaques, Mrs. Humes bar backed pheasant, Hornbills, Burmese peafowl among birds and animals and reptiles like Python, Cobra, Krait, Monitor lizard, Tokay gekko are major species found in the sanctuary, they seldom venture out in the proposed area as the site is near to human habitation.

There is no protected archaeological or heritage site in the proposed area.

The present proposed site, a little away from the existing National Highway No.102 is the best option for the Bypass to pass through and since the proposed site is at the existing road the trees to be clear-felled will be minimal and if all remedial measures are taken up the negative impact on the wildlife and habitat of the Sanctuary will be reduced to a minimum level.

There is no case for violation of Forest Conservation Act,1980 and Wildlife (Protection) Act,1972 with regard to the Project proposal as there is no sign of commencement of work on the day of inspection.

A survey of the habitat to be affected by the Project was conducted during the field inspection and a later survey including total enumeration of the number of trees to be affected along with the species of the trees was conducted by the staffs of Yangoupokpi Lokchao Wildlife Sanctuary Range staff. It is suggested that the User Agency may extract the trees under the supervision of State Forest Department. The extraction cost from the site including short transportation upto the nearby villages will have to be borne by the User Agency. The extracted timber and firewood shall be used for meeting the personal *bona fide* needs of the local people living near the Sanctuary as per Section 29 of Wildlife (Protection) Act,1972.

Date: 10th Feb.,2017

Place: Mantripukhri, Imphal



(K. Shital Meetei)

Divisional Forest Officer/Wildlife Division
Government of Manipur

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