

PART III

1. Date of receipt of the Part –II: 13.09.2018 at Wildlife Warden, RWLS cum DFO Nalanda.		
2. Total Area (Ha.) of National Park/Sanctuary: Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajgir, (RWLS) is a small sanctuary of 35.84 sq km. under the Nalanda Forest Division, Biharsharif.		
3. Total Area (Ha.) diverted from the NP/WLS so far for development purposes: 1.2348 ha. of forest land was diverted ever in the Nalanda Forest Division in Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary Wildlife Sanctuary for Rope way Construction..		
4. List the past projects and the area (Ha.) diverted		
Name of Project	Area Diverted	Year of Diversion
Construction of new rope way at Rajgir	1.2348 ha	2015 along with FC Clearance.
5. Positive impact(s) due to the diversion of area for the projects referred to in column 4 above		
Name of Project(s)	Positive Impact	Scientific Basis of Assessment
(Attach separate sheet, if required)		
Not Applicable.		
6. Negative impact's due to the diversion of area for the projects referred to in column 4 above		
Name of Project(s)	Negative Impact	Scientific Basis of Assessment
(Attach separate sheet, if required)		
The rope way construction work is under progress. No such impact study was carried out so far. After completion of the project it will be done.		
7. Management Plan Period:		
Management Plan has been prepared for the period of 2016-17 to 2025-26		
8. List Management actions taken/proposed to be taken in the whole Block/Zone in Which the proposed area is located.		
In the Management plan the following management actions has been proposed:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil and moisture conservation works. • Water hole management. • Control of invasive species. • Artificial Water holes will be considered where there is acute shortage of water for wildlife • Saltlicks maintenance will be proposed • Enrichment planting works and grassland development, protection , cultural operation • Ecodevelopment and Village level and eco tourism 		
9. Type of Forest in which the proposed area falls:		
The major forest type of the surrounding proposed area is 5/DS1 Dry Deciduous Scrub Forests and the predominant 5B/C2 Northern Dry Mixed Deciduous Forests.		
More recent data procured from FSI in March, 2015, however, classified the vegetation of Rajgir WLS into six types including Plantations/Trees outside Forest (TOF). This includes 1/E1 Cane breaks, 5B/C1 Dry Peninsular Sal Forest, scattered patches of 5/E2 <i>Boswellia</i> forest, 5/DS1 Dry Deciduous Scrub Forests and the predominant 5B/C2 Northern Dry Mixed Deciduous Forests. However, the cane breaks lie on the Western buffer of the sanctuary, in surrounding Reserve Forests rather than within the sanctuary limits.		
10. Location of the proposed area w.r.t the critical/intensive wildlife management areas/wildlife habitats (attach Map to scale): Attached		

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In Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary critical/intensive wildlife management areas/wildlife habitats was separately not declared but in the management plan the after delineation of Buffer, Ecotourism the area remaining portion of the sanctuary can remain as the Critical Conservation Zone where movement of tourists is restricted and the area is strictly protected for its ecological values. The area of this Critical Conservation Zone is 3148 ha.

- The Proposed project area is situated within Rajgir protected Forest notification C/F-7068-3438.R.O.No. CF17069/55-3966, DATED 19th DECEMBER 1955 in which the present proposal for total about 0.4938 ha is submitted for diversion. The proposed area is also part of Rajgir WLS was notified as Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) under section 18 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 vide S. O. No 727 dated 25.05.1978. This sanctuary was subsequently renamed 'Pant Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajgir' vide Forest and Environment Department, Government of Bihar Notification No. 4118 dated 13.09.1988. Final notification of this sanctuary has been carried out (No 181, 21/5/2010). The Department of Environment and Forests, Government of Bihar vide Resolution No. Vanya Prani-01/2010 177 (E)/ Patna-15 dated 29.03.2016 again renamed Pant Wildlife Sanctuary as Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The proposal forest land are notified as protected forest and falls within the Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary and 0.006069 ha was gov. land allotted to Gurunanak Sheetal Kund but part of Eco-sensitive zone of Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary. As per the final notification of the Eco sensitive Zone (S.O. 71(E) [10.01.2017] Final Notification declaring Eco Sensitive Zone around Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary, Bihar) an area up to 1 km in all villages and up to 100 m in Nagar Panchayat, Rajgir, from the boundary of the protected area of the Rajgir WLS, Rajgir has been notified as an Eco-sensitive Zone.

11. List the likely POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE impact's of the proposed project giving Scientific and technical justification for each impact.

Positive Impact:

(a) Positive impact to Forest and Wildlife

- No such direct positive impact except regularization of existing structure.

(b) Positive Impacts only for user agency (as provided by user agency)

- It is said Guru nanak Came here hundreds of years ago.
- It is Sikh Pilgrimage
- It is related to heartily religious manners..
- Here also a Natural Cold water Kund situated Called SRI Guru nank Kund.
- Here Constructed a Gurudwara since ancient Times.
- Many national & international tourist visit this place & worship here

Allowing the project will gain the confidence of the Rajgir locals who are all main stakeholders in this RWLS, in turn they will support the protection of the RWLS.

Negative Impact:

Because of the current project no major negative impact will be happened in the RWLS. The area of diversion of 0.4938 ha user agency requires forest/Sanctuary land does not proposed for felling of any tree species presence.

- The existing structures namely Gurudwara building, Park/ Land Scope, Guru Nanak Sheetal Kund, Langar Space - Open shade, Family House of sewadar/Rajgir, Guest Room, Toilets, Open

Area (Court yard etc.) and parking area will be renovated are developed by the Agency. It is Sikh Pilgrimage where it is said that Guru nank Came here is constructed a Gurudwara since 100 yrs. It is related to heartily religious manners. Many national & international Sikh & tourist come & visit this place.

12. Provide COMPREHENSIVE details of the impact of the proposal in terms of Sections 29 and/or section 35 (6) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 as the case may be.

The area of diversion of of 0.4938 ha user agency requires forest land does not proposed for felling of any tree species presence. Since the user agency proposed for development for existing structures, no need of damage if any Forest Land. No endangered and rare tree/ species found in the proposed area. In all places the weeds and grass of grazing height also person present and few ornamental plants and common trees like neem, Chakundi etc. present in the site. The undersigned is of opinion that the instant proposed project will no way affect the distribution or movement of any wild animal found in the areas where it is found. So far no such any cases of wildlife death reported in the in the proposed site.

In fact this location very close to main area of Rajgir town the movement of animals are not reported. Since the site is a heritage site of Sikh Community with shrine consisting of an old Gurudwara and a small tank - named Guru Nank Shital Kund. It is believed that the progenitor of Sikhism - Guru Nanak Dev had visited this place during his lifetime centuries ago. This site in close vicinity of Brahmkund hot springs, another famous tourist site of Rajgir and situated opposite to Brahmakund Park.

In This case there is no question of any possible alternative because this religious heritage destination of Sikh Community is existing at this location from historical times and is centuries old. Due to intense faith and sentimental attachment of the Sikh community, alternative site is not feasible.

13. Whether the project authorities have ever committed violation of the wild Life (Protection) Act. 1972 or Forest Conservation Act, 1980. If yes, provide the EXHAUSTIVE details of the offence and the personal 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):

The User Agency has not violated the prescribed provisions of the Act. There is no record available in this office to find out exact period during which the existing structures were constructed. But during the year 2013 some construction works as were initiated by some of the Gurudwara people against them Forest Case 15-P/2013 (offence report no. 100988 dated 23.10.2013) was initiated their after the construction work stopped. Necessary legal action has been initiated against the violation. The forest case has been registered against the person; the trail is underway in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Nalanda at Biharsharif.

The existing structures namely Gurudwara building, Park/ Land Scope, Guru Nanak Sheetal Kund, Langar Space - Open shade, Family House of sewadar/Rajgir, Guest Room, Toilets, Open Area (Court yard etc.) and parking area will be renovated are developed by the Agency. It is Sikh Pilgrimage where it is said that Guru nanak Came here is constructed a Gurudwara since 100 yrs. It is related to heartily religious manners. Many national & international Sikh & tourist come & visit this place.

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14. Have you examined the Project Appraisal document and the alternative as provided in PART – II?

- 0.4938 Ha land is mainly required by the user agency to complete the project. No other alternative to the user agency to avoid this bare minimum land.
- The alignment selected in this present project is situated within the Rajgir PF which is part of Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary and alongside the existing notified forest road i.e. Rajgir - Vanganga (Part of Rajgir - Gaya NH-82)
- So this present alignment is smallest and only available alignment for easy execution without any damage to forest area.
- The proposal forest land are notified as protected forest and falls within the Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary and 0.006069 ha was gov. land allotted to Gurunanak Sheetal Kund but part of Eco-sensitive zone of Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary. As per the final notification of the Eco sensitive Zone (S.O. 71(E) [10.01.2017] Final Notification declaring Eco Sensitive Zone around Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary, Bihar) an area up to 1 km in all villages and up to 100 m in Nagar Panchayat, Rajgir, from the boundary of the protected area of the Rajgir WLS, Rajgir has been notified as an Eco-sensitive Zone.
- The undersigned is of opinion that the instant proposed project will no way affect the distribution or movement of any wild animal found in the areas where it is found. So far no such any cases of wildlife death reported in the in the proposed site. Generally the project area vulnerable to medium soil erosion due to intrinsic geological features of the substrate during rainy season. The requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency is unavoidable and barest minimum of the project and only viable option.
- Re- alignment or alternative to avoid forest stretch is not a viable option this is the minimum forest area in Sanctuary and Eco – sensitive Zone as compared to any other alternative which involved more protected forest and sanctuary area for diversion.

15. Have you examined the Bio diversity Impact Assessment Report?
Not required

16. If yes, please give your comments on the recommendations given in the report?
Not applicable.

17. Dates and duration of your field visits to the proposed site.

The proposed site has been visited by the undersigned at various occasions as a part of the field visit. The undersigned inspected along with survey team to verify the facts on 13.09.2018 and 16.09.2018.

18. Do you agree that the present proposal of diversion of NP/WLS area is the best or the Only option is viable.

As per the justification regarding the present and alternate alignment of the user agency the undersigned have the opinion that with the growth of pilgrimage in recent times the use area of the Gurudwara has increased and the essential and incidental visitor facilities have to be provided and national interest the instant proposal may be agreed with condition. .

19. Any other information that you would like to bring to the notice of the State Board for Wildlife, National Board for Wildlife or its Standing Committee that may be Relevant and assist in decision making.

Nalanda is a Naxal affected district and is declared as one among the Naxal affected

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districts in the state among others. Rajgir also is of prime religious and cultural significance important to Buddhists, Jains and Hindus alike, and is dotted with numerous shrines, relics and monuments to the past. In addition, the influx of thousands of visitors every year to visit the many historical and religious monuments and shrines and Gurnanak Sheetal Kund Renovation and Development at Rajgir must for tourism development of Rajgir locals.

20. Do you recommend the project:

The site is a heritage site of Sikh Community with shrine consisting of an old Gurudwara and a small tank - named Guru Nank Shital Kund. It is believed that the progenitor of Sikhism - Guru Nanak Dev had visited this place during his lifetime centuries ago. This site in close vicinity of Brahmkund hot springs, another famous tourist site of Rajgir and situated opposite to Brahmakund Park.

In This case there is no question of any possible alternative because this religious heritage destination of Sikh Community is existing at this location from historical times and is centuries old. Due to intense faith and sentimental attachment of the Sikh community, alternative site is not feasible. The Sikh pilgrimage site is historical and already in use by Sikh community for centuries; in recent times, the Gurudwara building constructed believed to be approx 90 years ago with occasional extensions/expansions (No written proof available). State Government's Tourism department with support of the Sikh Community led by Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee, Takth Sri Harmandir Shahib, Patna city, Patna, is intends to develop and maintain the shrine with essential facilities etc. over an area of 0.4938 ha.

The proposal forest land are notified as protected forest and falls within the Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary and 0.006069 ha was gov. land allotted to Gurnanak Sheetal Kund but part of Eco-sensitive zone of Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary. As per the final notification of the Eco sensitive Zone (S.O. 71(E) [10.01.2017] Final Notification declaring Eco Sensitive Zone around Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary, Bihar) an area up to 1 km in all villages and up to 100 m in Nagar Panchayat, Rajgir, from the boundary of the protected area of the Rajgir WLS, Rajgir has been notified as an Eco-sensitive Zone.

The undersigned is of opinion that the instant proposed project will no way affect the distribution or movement of any wild animal found in the areas where it is found. So far no such any cases of wildlife death reported in the in the proposed road.

Surveys carried out by TERI (2015) indicated that the Sanctuary is endowed with a diversity and abundance of wildlife characteristic of the area. There are 28 species of larger mammals, over 183 species of birds, 39 species of reptiles, 11 species of amphibians, 13 species of fishes, 51 species of butterflies and 6 species of scorpions. Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*), Neelgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), Cheetal (*Axis axis*), Jungle fowl (*Gallus gallus murghi*), porcupine (*Hystrix indica*), Hare (*Lepus nigricollis*), Langur (*Semnopithecus entellus*), Monkey (*Macaca mulatta*), Jackal (*Canis aureus*) are the species of vital importance in Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajgir besides some of the endangered species like, Barking deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*), Python (*Python molurus molurus*) etc. are also found in the Sanctuary.

There is no negative impacts due to the diversion of the area. Already rajgir is a tourist Place & this project area is already a tourist place since a long time. It is Sikh Pilgrimage where it is believed to said that Guru nank Came here and he constructed a Gurudwara since 100 yrs. It is related to

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heartily religious manners. Many national & international Sikh & tourist come & visit this place. This project will attract & grow the Bihar Tourism.

With the growth of pilgrimage in recent times the use area of the Gurudwara has increased and the essential and incidental visitor facilities have to be provided as it is impractical to provide such facilities outside and at location separate and distant from this heritage site with which the deep faith and sentiments of the Sikh community is intensely associated. The project proposal consists of providing such facilities over minimum required area (0.4938 ha) in the Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary located just at its boundary, and also in the already tourism use zone of Rajgir town. In the light of the above mentioned facts and keeping the fact that as per the prescribed provisions I recommend positively for the approval of this instant proposal. Therefore this instant proposal may be approved with necessary conditions and directions. The user Agency has to obtain Forest Clearance also.

Signed by

U. Singh
Divisional Forest Officer
Nalanda Forest Division
Biharsharif

Date of Submission to the Chief Wild Life Warden or any other officer authorized by him in this regard (16.09.2018)

Annexure:-

1. Sanctuary Notification
2. PF Notification
3. Proposed area map.
4. Area breakup.
5. Critical Conservation Zone Map