

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
FOREST & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

No.FE-DIV-FLD-0063-2020- 3847 /F&E, Date 23-02-2021
10F (Cons) 91/2020

From

Sri Lingaraj Otta, IFS
Special Secretary to Government

To

The Deputy Director General of Forests (Central),
Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,
Integrated Regional Office, A/3, Chandrasekharapur, Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Diversion of 26.444 ha of forest land for construction of Khairibhandhan Barrage Project at Anlabeni in Jashipur Block under Karanjia Forest Division in Mayurbhanj District, Odisha.

Sir,

I am directed to invite a reference to your office letter No.5-ORC419/2020-BHU dtd.03.11.2020 on the subject cited above and to say that after receipt of the letter of DIG of Forests (C), the PCCF, Odisha was requested vide Forest & Environment Deptt. Letter No.18565/F&E dtd.19.11.2020 to take steps for constitution of an Expert Committee on the matter and furnish the findings and recommendation of the Committee. Thereafter, the PCCF & HoFF, Odisha vide his Letter No.21288 dtd.7.12.2020 has proposed for constitution of an expert committee comprising the following members and requested to convey the approval of State Government to arrange for the site visit of the Committee members and submission of their report.

1. Dr. Anup Kumar Nayak, IFS (Retd.), Ex-Member Secretary - Member
National Tiger Conservation Authority, MoEF &CC, Govt. of India
2. Sri S.N. Patro, President, Odisha Environment Society, Bhubaneswar - Member
3. Sri Amitav Brahma, IFS , CF(Nodal), O/o PCCF & HoFF, Odisha - Member
4. Representative of Collector & District , Magistrate, Mayurbhanj - Member
5. Executive Engineer, Mayurbhanj Investigation Division, Udala, Mayurbhanj - Member
6. Field Director-cum-RCCF, Baripada Circle, Mayurbhanj - Member Secretary

(PTO)

The State Govt. in Forest & Environment Deptt. vide Letter No.19998/F&E dtd.10.12.2020 communicated the approval order for formation of expert committee to study the impact of project as proposed by the of the PCCF & HoFF, Odisha and the PCCF, Odisha was also requested to take steps for arrangement of site visit of the committee members and submission of their report as desired by MoEF & CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act, O/o the PCCF, Odisha vide his letter No.2110 dtd.02.02.2021 has intimated that Dr. Anup Kumar Nayak, IFS (Retd.), Member of the Expert Committee and Sri Amitav Brahma, IFS, CF(Nodal), Member & others have furnished their views on 23.12.2020 and 06.01.2021 respectively. He has also intimated that Sri S.N. Patra one of the members expressed his inability to attend the assignment on his health issues. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act, O/o the PCCF, Odisha vide his aforesaid Letter has furnished the observation submitted by Dr. Anup Kumar Nayak and by other members of the committee.

The copy of letter No.2110 dtd.02.02.2021 of PCCF (FD&NO), FC Act, O/o the PCCF, Odisha, along with the enclosures as received is sent herewith for your kind information and necessary consideration.

Yours faithfully

[Handwritten Signature]

Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 3848 /F&E, Date 23-02-2021

Copy forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Odisha/Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha for information & necessary action.

[Handwritten Signature]

Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 3849 /F&E, Date 23-02-2021

Copy forwarded to the Field Director, Similipal Tiger Reserve-cum-RCCF, Baripada Circle / Divisional Forest Officer, Karanjia Forest Division for information and necessary action.

[Handwritten Signature]

Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 3850 /F&E, Date 23-02-2021

Copy forwarded to the Water Resources Department/ Collector, Mayurbhanj for information and necessary action.

[Handwritten Signature]

Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 3851 /F&E, Date 23-02-2021

Copy forwarded to the Executive Engineer, Mayurbhanj Investigation Division, Udala, Dist-Mayurbhanj for information and necessary action.

[Handwritten Signature]

Special Secretary to Government



By 2500 Hr
3-2-2021

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, ODISHA,
BHUBANESWAR

Letter No. 2110 /9F (Irrg)-398 /2019
Dated, Bhubaneswar, the 0270 February, 2021

To

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Forest & Environment Department,
Government of Odisha

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 26.444 ha of forest land for construction of Khairibhandan Barrage Project at Anlabeni in Jashipur Block of Karanjia Forest Division under Mayurbhanj District-Constitution of Expert Committee as per observation of Govt. of India, MoEF & CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar

Madam,

In inviting reference to Government in F&E Department letter No.10F(Cons)91/2020-19998/F&E dated 10.12.2020 on the captioned subject, it is to inform that the Field Director, STR-Cum-RCCF Baripada Circle has submitted the comments/ views of members of the committee after their site inspection, pertaining to the above project vide his memo No.64 dated 08.01.2021 (copy enclosed). The detail comments regarding diversion of 26.444 ha of forest land for construction of Khairibhandan Barrage Project of Dr. Anup Kumar Nayak, IFS (Retd.) Member of the Expert Committee and Shri Amitav Brahma, IFS (CF, Nodal) Member & others have furnished their views on 23.12.2020 and 06.01.2021 respectively are furnished below. Sri S.N. Patro, one of the members expressed his inability to attend the assignment on his health issues.

Observation submitted by Dr. Anup Kumar Nayak:

Observation-1: Construction of the barrage will create danger for eco-tourism centre & crocodile breeding centre. Footprints of Lord Rama will be submerged.

Comments: Barrage length-171.5m
Pond level-394 m
Eco-tourism centre level- 398.3 m
Temple level-399 m

Since, both Ramatirtha centre and temple are at a higher level than the highest pond level, apparently, there is no threat. However, the approach road leading to the barrage need to be constructed in consultation with Irrigation Department and RCCF Baripada in a manner, which would facilitate the activities of the eco-tourism centre rather than obstructing it. Shifting of footprints and sitting place of Lord Rama without losing their significance is feasible.

Observation-2 : Due to construction of the barrage, the shiva temple and the scenic beauty will be lost forever.

Comments: Back waters of the barrage will provide an excellent opportunity to develop eco-tourism activity, if properly planned and executed will be an added attraction to the existing eco-tourism centre at Ramatirtha. Crocodile breeding centre, medicinal garden, Interpretation centre,

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picnic spots, Shiva temple, boating facility in the impounding water etc can make the place more attractive than what it is today. It appears the barrage will straight open into the temple, which may make entry into the temple from the existing end a little difficult. This needs to be taken care of by the Irrigation Department.

Observation-3: Construction of a road over the barrage will make a thoroughfare.

Comments: This can easily be taken care of by placing an access control system along the approach road to the barrage which can be jointly operated by both DowR and Forest Department. So the concerns that Ramatirtha ecotourism centre will lose revenue with unhindered entry of visitors is not well-founded.

Observation-4: Pondage of water will not be sufficient to irrigate such huge command area proposed. Anlabani Irrigation Project is already existing.

Comments: The State president of All india Majdoor Sangathan Mr Raghunath Das and Ex-MLA of local area Mr Sambhunath Naik were present at the time of field visit. Both of them spoke strongly in favour of the project, which will benefit huge numbers of farmers in this backward district. Irrigation officials present, vouched for the technical feasibility of the project. We accept their point of view.

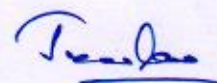
Observation-5: Deo Medium Irrigation Project is already under construction. Hence another new irrigation project in the same area will only increase man-animal conflict.

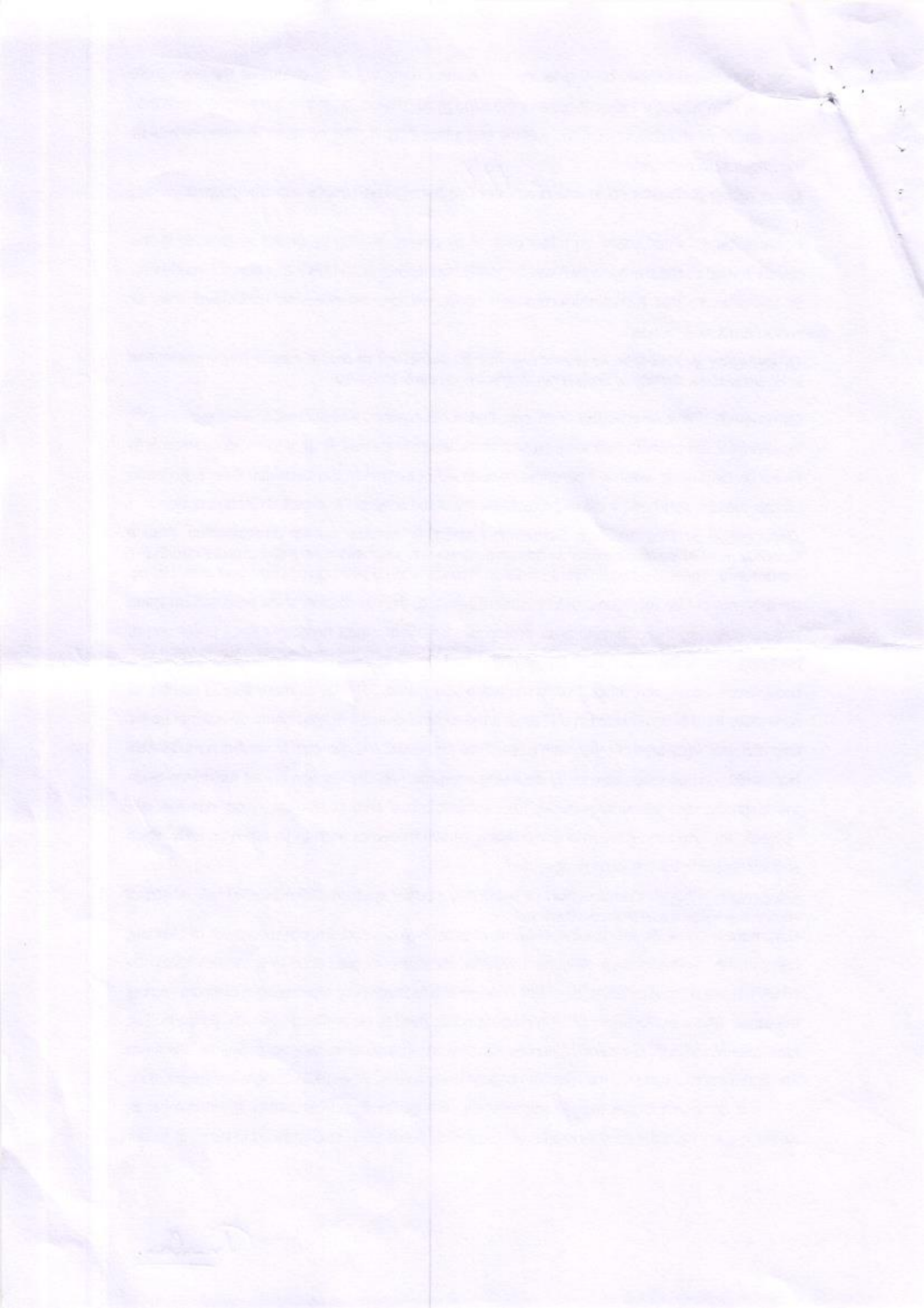
Comments: These are two different Irrigation Projects with no overlapping command area. Hence, the existence of Deo Irrigation project has no relevance to the commission of the proposed Irrigation Project. However, the command area of proposed irrigation project harbour a small population of elephants historically, which keep on moving in and out to Jharkhand. These elephants often raid paddy crops leading to conflict. During the last 6 years since 2014-15, as many as 233 number of such cases have been reported in and around the command area involving about 50 acres of paddy crop and very small area of other cash crops. Thus at present, the quantum of conflict is moderately high, which can be taken care of by deploying adequate Anti-Depredation Squad for driving away the elephants and disbursing quickly the compassionate amount towards crop damage etc. However, for long term solution of the problem, certain measures need to be taken up early which are deliberated in the following paragraph.

Observation-6 & 7: Construction of such huge canal system (10m width) will obstruct migratory elephants from Jharkhand.

Comments: Concerns are genuine. Network of canals will obstruct smooth movement of elephant herds in the command area. However mitigation measures as prescribed in guidelines issued by NTCA/WII will be able to take care of that concern and facilitate easy movement of elephants across the canals. The exact locations of such crossing points need to be provided by RCCF, Baripada. The ideal case would be the network of underground pipes instead of canals, which will be a win-win situation for both. However, the feasibility of such adventure may be studied before implementation.

It is suggested that the existing elephant corridor between Dobhaobhin and Badampahar, although away from the command area of the project, needs to be strengthened in terms of fodder





quality and forest quality. This corridor is degraded due to excessive biotic Interference like collection of NTFP by locals and grazing by huge number of cattle Activities like stall feeding of cattle and incentives to local villagers for not letting their cattle go inside as well as non-collection of NTFP from the corridor area, needs to be taken up seriously for which the user agency may be asked to provide funds.

It is also suggested that crop pattern around the migration path of elephants within the command area need to be decided in consultation with Agriculture Department so that growing paddy cultivation does not become a point of increasing conflict with elephants. Similarly, all the areas within the command area need not be cultivated for paddy alone as it is one of the major attraction for elephants.

Apart from above, sufficient fund need to be made available with RCCF Baripada for deployment of additional Anti-Depredation Squads, quick payment of Compassionate amounts and trying Innovating methods of detecting the presence of elephants using modern technique and for taking confident building measures among the villagers.

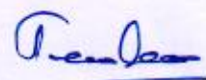
Observation-8: Some good patches of Sal forests at Khudarbidingha RF and a good plantation at Bhramarposi RF will be diverted

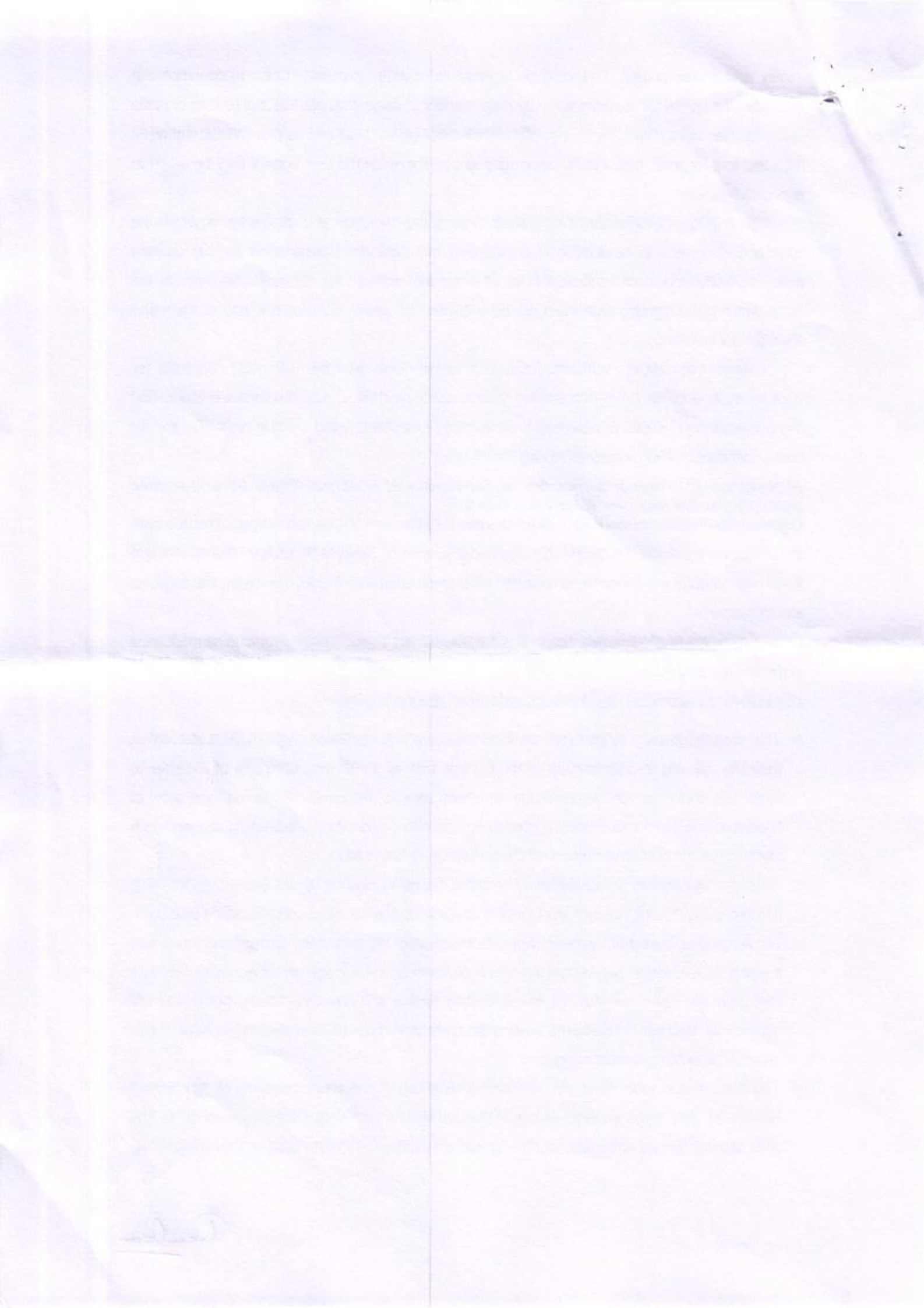
Comments: Forest area involved in these RFs are 1.738 ha and 301 ha respectively. That too both these areas are outside the protected areas and ESZ area of Similipal Sanctuary. The FC Act and Rules have enough provisions to compensate for such diverted forest area. Therefore, the concerns are not genuine.

Thus, we find the project proposal is feasible subject to adequate safeguards as mentioned in the above paragraphs.

Observation submitted by other members of the committee:

- a. The representatives of Project Proponent on the day of site inspection on 06.01.2021 stated that they are planning to shift location of the barrage axis by 45-48 mtrs upstream of the river to avoid the threat of causing damage to Shiva temple, Hanuman statue on one side of Khairibhandan River and Medicinal garden on the other side while constructing the approach roads to link the operating platform of the barrage from both ends.
- b. Further, they revealed before the committee that it is being planned by WR Dept. to go for UGPL (Underground Pipeline) system, in place of open canal system to avoid land acquisition problem.
- c. The committee inspected the tentative revised location of the axis of the barrage and found that the approach roads to be constructed to the platform of the barrage on its axis from the right bank may not cause any damage to the existing temple and Hanuman statue, but on the left bank it may land very close to the existing structure of Ramatirtha crocodile project in particular close to the existing Breeding pools.
- d. Further, it was elaborated by Directors of Planning (the representatives of the Project Proponent) that if the barrage axis is shifted up-stream by 45-48 mtrs , the-end sill of the proposed barrage (ie. the apron along river bed downstream from the base of the barrage-axis)





will terminate just before the original location of barrage axis , which is very close to the footprint of Lord Ram on the rock. But, for clear passage of designed flood, DoWR shall safely extract and preserve the stone bearing the foot signs of manly venerated footprints of Lord Rama to a shrine on a river bank for the devotees to see and worship. This shall provide better and all weather access to the footprints preferably for elderly people. On this issue, Sub-Collector, Panchpir , the representative of Collector, Mayurbhanj ,stated that in that case the WR Dept. will have to follow the statutory procedural requirement of consulting the local people and get their consent to avoid future unpleasant situation

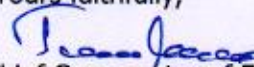
Under these circumstances narrated above it is inferred by the members of the committee after inspection of the site on 06.1.2020 that that,

- a. If the provision of UGPL system is implemented in place of open canal system proposed earlier both on left and right canal systems, then the issue of movement of migratory elephants across the canal system as observed by Dy. IGF Central will be addressed.
- b. Regarding other issues like impact of the proposed Irrigation Project to existing Siva temple, Hanuman statue and threat to the Ramathirtha Ecotourism complex more or less can be avoided by proposed shift of barrage axis up-stream as mentioned above, however the exact extent of impact of the Project can only be assessed after the change of location of axis is finalized and the location of approach roads to the platform from both sides is decided and the records, Plans, Maps, Sketches of the axis and alignment of roads are produced by the User agency with changed location of the barrage axis. Further under this scenario user agency will have to furnish all the relevant documents projecting the change of their project plan to DFO Karanjia, for its further processing. Both the Director of Planning, WR Dept have given their consent for the furnishing the said documents.
- c. Further, the members reported that, after change of location of the barrage axis upstream by 48 mtrs, the existing structures i.e. the pump house of the Ramathirtha Ecotourism complex will be inundated. In that case WR Dept will have to take up the suggestions made by Dr. Anup Nayak, IFS Retd, Ex- MS NTCA, by the WR Dept at project cost along with the mitigating and up gradation measures like bank beautification, up gradation of Crocodile Breeding pools, picnic spots and modernization of Interpretation centre at the Ramthirtha Ecotourism complex,

This is submitted for kind information of Government.

Encl: As above

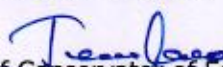
Yours faithfully,


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, F.C. Act

Memo No.

/Dt.

Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of forest, Bhubaneswar Circle for information and necessary action with reference to his memo No.4844 dt.30.12.2020.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

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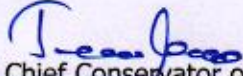
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Memo No.

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Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Mangrove (WL) Division, Rajnagar for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No.4845 dt.30.12.2020 of RCCF Bhubaneswar Circle to his address.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act
01/2/21

Memo No.

Dt.

Copy forwarded to the Chief General Manager (Land) IDCO, IDCO Tower, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act
01/2/21

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OFFICE OF THE FIELD DIRECTOR, SIMILIPAL TIGER RESERVE
-CUM- REGIONAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, BARIPADA

Phone No-06792-259126, FAX- 06792 - 256705 E-mail : rccfbaripada@gmail.com

Memo No 64 / 3F-33/2021
Dated, Baripada the 08th January, 2021.

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act),
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

Sub:- Proposal for diversion of 26.444 ha. of forest land for construction of Khairibhandan Barrage Project at Anlabeni in Jashipur Block of Karanjia Forest Division under Mayurbhanj District-Constitution of Expert Committee as per observation of Govt. of India, MoEF &CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar.

Ref:- Your Memo No.22095/9F(Irrg)-398/2019,dt.17.12.2020.

In inviting a kind reference to your aforesaid memo on the captioned subject, it is to inform you that the members of Expert Committee visited the proposed site of Khairibhandan Barrage on dt.23.12.2020 and 06.01.2021. Copies of their comments/ views are sent herewith for favour of your information and necessary action.

Encl.:- As above.

MC
Field Director, Similipal Tiger Reserve,
-Cum- Regional CCF, Baripada.

Memo No. 65 /Dt 08.01.2021

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Karanjia Division for information and necessary action with reference to this office memo no.4341, dt.22.12.2020.

MC
Field Director, Similipal Tiger Reserve,
-Cum- Regional CCF, Baripada.

Memo No. 66 /Dt 08.01.2021

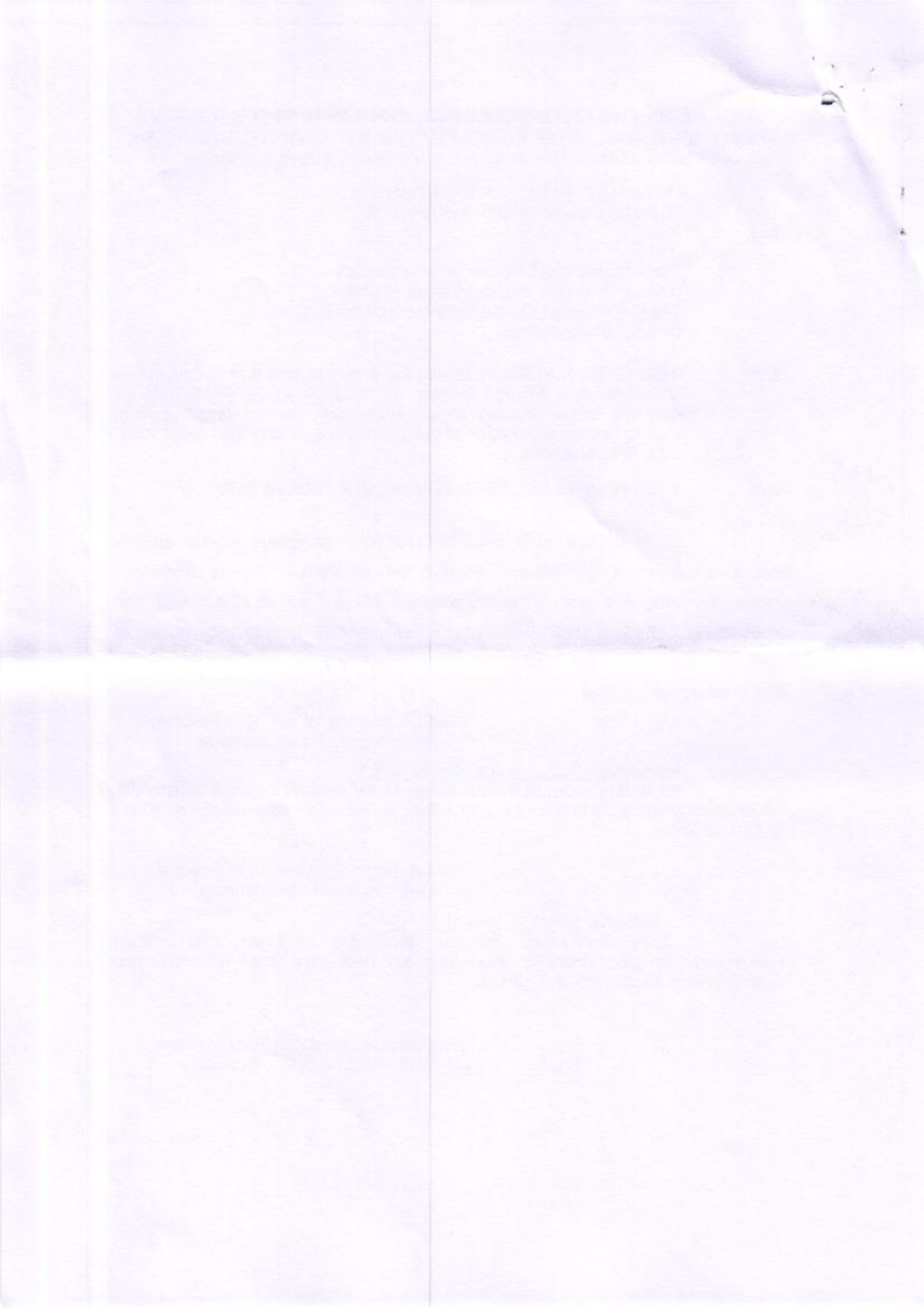
Copy forwarded to the Executive Engineer, Mayurbhanj Investigation Division, Udala for information and necessary action with reference to this office no.4337, dt.22.12.2020.

MC
Field Director, Similipal Tiger Reserve,
-Cum- Regional CCF, Baripada.

CFR

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Proposal for diversion of 26.44 ha of forest land for construction of Khairi-Bandhan barrage project

Reference- PCCF letter no 22093 dt 17-12-2020

Project details-

Date of visit to the site- 23-12-2020

observation no-1

Construction of the barrage will create danger for eco-tourism centre & crocodile breeding centre. Footprints of Lord Rama will be submerged

Comments

Barrage length- 171.5m

Pond level-394 m

Eco-tourism centre level- 398.3 m

Temple level-399 m

Since, both Ramatirtha centre and temple are at a higher level than the highest pond level, apparently, there is no threat. However, the approach road leading to the barrage need to be constructed in consultation with Irrigation Department and RCCF Baripada in a manner, which facilitates the activities of the eco-tourism centre rather than obstructing it. Shifting of footprints and sitting place of Lord Rama without losing their significance is feasible.

Observation no-2

Due to construction of the barrage, the shiva temple and the scenic beauty will be lost for ever.

Comments

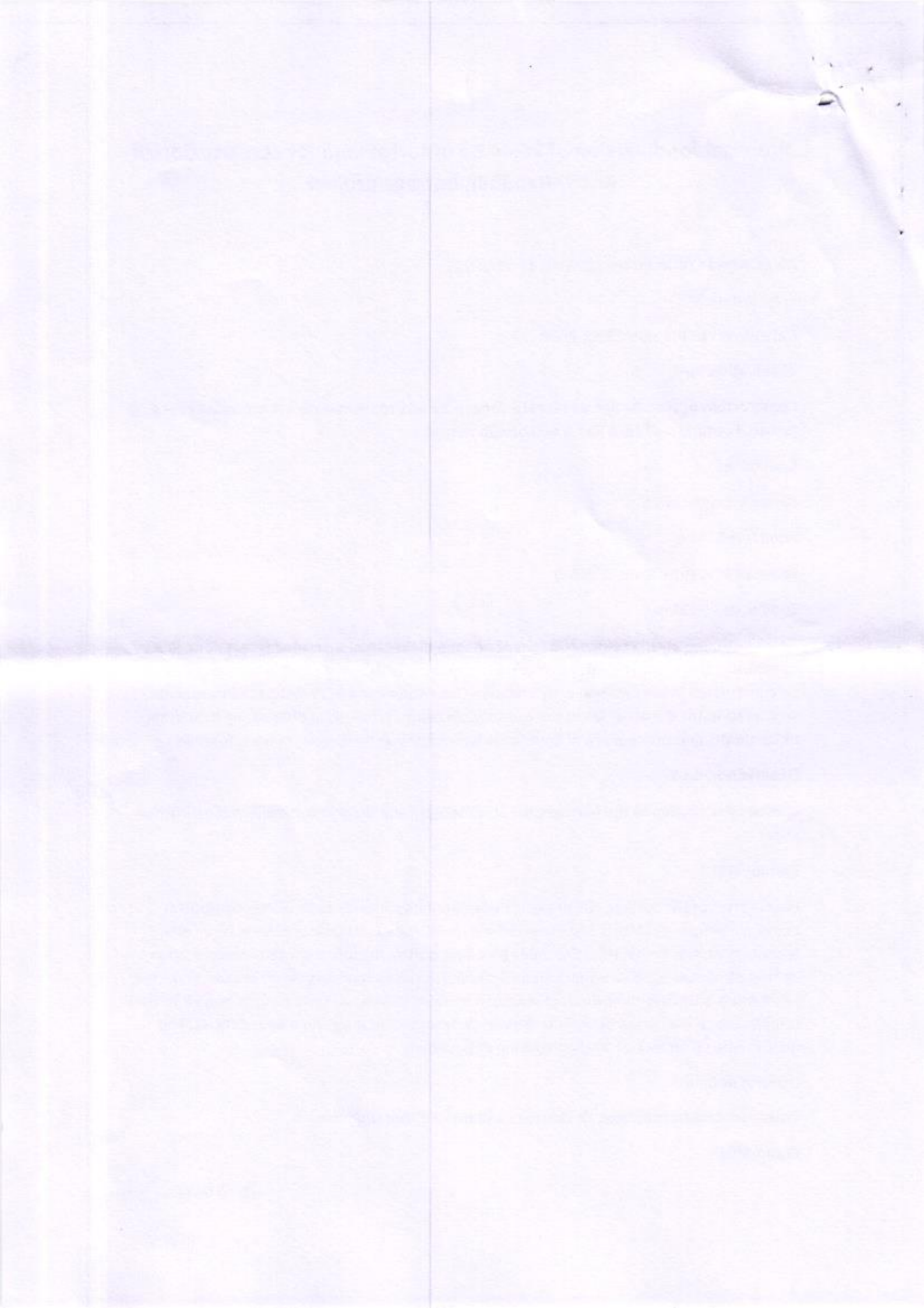
Back waters of the barrage will provide an excellent opportunity to develop eco-tourism activity, if properly planned and executed will be an added attraction to the existing eco-tourism centre at Ramatirtha. Crocodile breeding centre, medicinal garden, Interpretation centre, picnic spots, Shiva temple, boating facility in the impounding water etc can make the place more attractive than what it is today. It appears the barrage will straight open into the temple, which may make entry into the temple from the existing end a little difficult. This needs to be taken care of by the Irrigation Department.

Observation no-3

Construction of a road over the barrage will make a thoroughfare

Comments





This can easily be taken care of by placing an access control system along the approach road to the barrage which can be jointly operated by both DoWR and Forest Department. So the concerns that Ramatirtha ecotourism centre will lose revenue with unhindered entry of visitors is not well-founded.

Observation no-4

Pondage of water will not be sufficient to irrigate such huge command area proposed. Anlabani Irrigation Project is already existing

Comments

The State president of All India Majdoor Sangathan Mr Raghunath Das and Ex- MLA of local area Mr Sambhunath Naik were present at the time of field visit. Both of them spoke strongly in favour of the project, which will benefit huge numbers of farmers in this backward district. Irrigation officials present, vouched for the technical feasibility of the project. We accept their point of view.

Observation no- 5

Deo Medium Irrigation Project is already under construction. Hence another new irrigation project in the same area will only increase man-animal conflict.

Comments

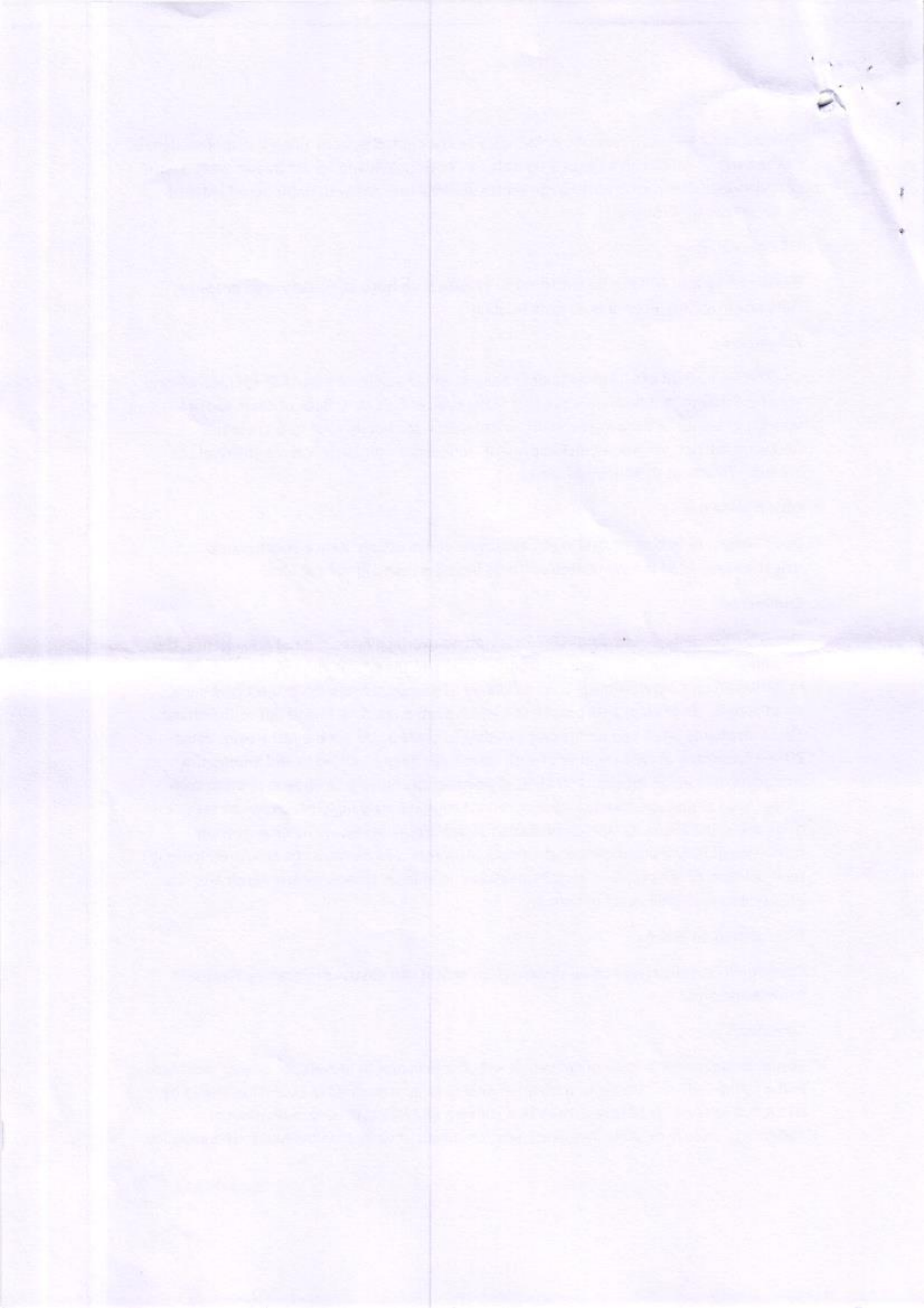
These are two different Irrigation Projects with no overlapping command area. Hence, the existence of Deo Irrigation project has no relevance to the commission of the proposed Irrigation Project. However, the command area of proposed irrigation project harbour a small population of elephants historically, which keep on moving in and out to Jharkhand. These elephants often raid paddy crops leading to conflict. During the last 6 years since 2014-15, as many as 233 number of such cases have been reported in and around the command area involving about 50 acres of paddy crop and very small area of other cash crops . Thus at present, the quantum of conflict is moderately high, which can be taken care of by deploying adequate Anti-Depredation Squad for driving away the elephants and disbursing quickly the compassionate amount towards crop damage etc. However, for long term solution of the problem, certain measures need to be taken up early which are deliberated in the following paragraph.

Observation no-6 & 7

Construction of such huge canal system (10m width) will obstruct migratory elephants from Jharkhand.

Comments

Concerns are genuine. Network of canals will obstruct smooth movement of elephant herds in the command area. However mitigation measures as prescribed in guidelines issued by NTCA/WII will be able to take care of that concern and facilitate easy movement of elephants across the canals. The exact locations of such crossing points need to be provided



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by RCCF, Baripada. The ideal case would be the network of underground pipes instead of canals, which will be a win-win situation for both. However, the feasibility of such adventure may be studied before implementation.

It is suggested that the existing elephant corridor between Dobhdobhin and Badampahar, although away from the command area of the project, needs to be strengthened in terms of fodder quality and forest quality. This corridor is degraded due to excessive biotic interference like collection of NTFP by locals and grazing by huge number of cattle. Activities like stall feeding of cattle and incentives to local villagers for not letting their cattle go inside as well as non-collection of NTFP from the corridor area, needs to be taken up seriously for which the user agency may be asked to provide funds

It is also suggested that crop pattern around the migration path of elephants within the command area need to be decided in consultation with Agriculture Department so that growing paddy cultivation does not become a point of increasing conflict with elephants. Similarly, all the areas within the command area need not be cultivated for paddy alone as it is one of the major attraction for elephants.

Apart from above, sufficient fund need to be made available with RCCF Baripada for deployment of additional Anti-Depredation Squads, quick payment of Compassionate amounts and trying innovating methods of detecting the presence of elephants using modern technique and for taking confident building measures among the villagers.

Observation no-8

Some good patches of Sal forests at Khudarbidingha RF and a good plantation at Bhramarposi RF will be diverted

Comments

Forest area involved in these RFs are 1.738 ha and 3.01 ha respectively. That too both these areas are outside the protected areas and ESZ area of Similipal Sanctuary. The FC Act and Rules have enough provisions to compensate for such diverted forest area. Therefore, the concerns are not genuine.

Thus, we find the project proposal is feasible subject to adequate safeguards as mentioned in the above paragraphs.

Sd/-

Anup Kumar Nayak



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**Proceeding of the meeting of expert committee constituted vide Memo No .22093 dtd
17/12/2020 of PCCF & HoFF, Odisha held on 06.01.2021 after site inspection of
proposed site of Khairi-Bhandan barrage project.**

Members Present

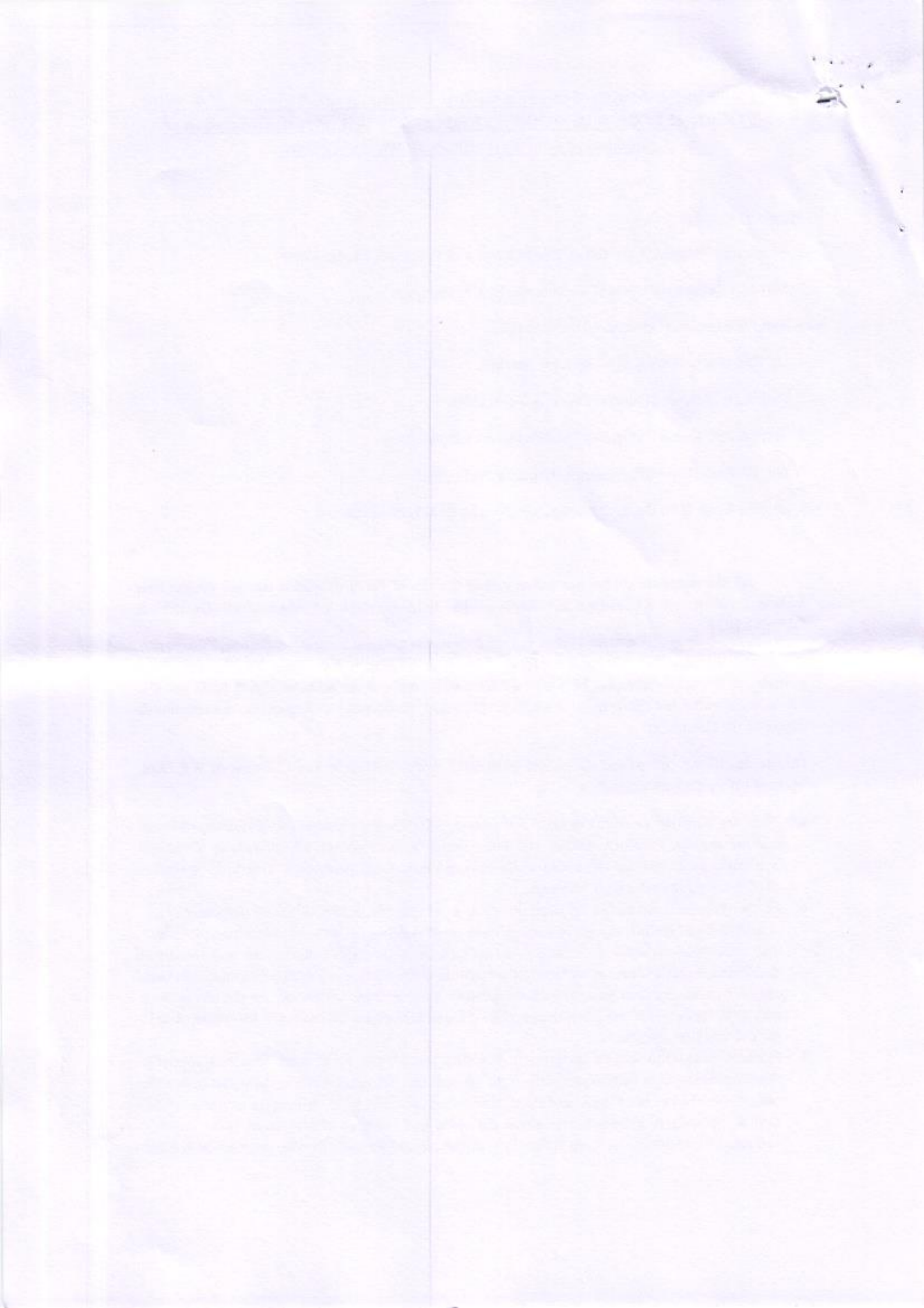
1. Shri Amitav Brahma, CF (Nodal), O/o PCCF & HoFF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar
2. Shri M.Yogajayanand, Field Director-cum-RCCF, Baripada
3. Shri Lade Gajanan Dayanand, DFO Karanjia
4. Dr. Rajinikanta Biswal, Sub Collector Panchpir
5. Shri Sagar Mohanty, Director Planning I, WR Dept.
6. Shri Santosh Kumar Panigrahi, Director Planning II, WR Dept.
7. Shri Bajinath Hembram, Executive Engineer, MID, Udala
8. Shri Sai Kiran D N, Deputy Director, Similipal North WL Division.

All the members of the committee visited the site of Khairi-Bhandan Barrage project near Anlabeni village on Khairi-Bhandan River under Jashipur block of Mayurbhanj District on dtd.06.01.2021.

All the members have gone through the views offered by Dr. Anup Nayak, one of the members of the committee after his visit on 23.12.2020, on the observation of Shri R K Samal, Dy. IGF (Central) after his site inspection on 22.06.2020 and unanimously consented on the contents & suggestions of his report.

On the day of the visit to the site on dtd.06.01.2021, both the Directors of Planning of WR Dept. reported before the committee that,

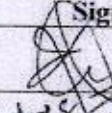
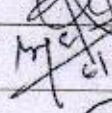
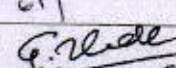
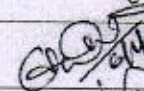
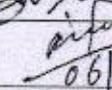
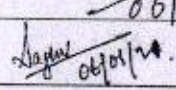
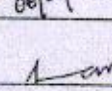
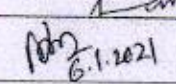
- a. They are planning to shift the axis of the barrage by 45-48m upstream to avoid the threat of causing damage to Shiva temple, Hanuman statue on one side of Khairibhandan River and Medicinal garden on the other side while constructing the approach roads to link the operating platform of the barrage from both ends.
- b. Further they revealed before the committee that it is being mooted by WR Dept. to go for UGPL (Underground Pipeline) system in place of open canal system to avoid land acquisition problem.
- c. The committee inspected the tentative revised location of the axis of the barrage and found that the approach roads to be constructed to the platform of the barrage on its axis from the right bank may not cause any damage to the existing temple and Hanuman statue, but on the left bank it may land very close to the existing structure of Ramatirtha crocodile project in particular close to the existing Breeding pools.
- d. Further it was elaborated by Directors of Planning, that the end sill of the proposed barrage (i.e. the apron along river bed downstream of the barrage from its base) will terminate just before the old axis just before the footprint of Lord Ram on the rock, but for clear passage of design flood, DoWR shall safely extract and preserve the stone foot signs of manly creatures on the rock venerated as footprints of Lord Rama in a shrine on a river bank for the devotees to see and



worship. This shall provide better and all weather access to the footprints preferably for elderly people. On this issue, Sub-Collector, Panchpir mentioned that in that case the WR Dept. will have to follow the statutory procedural requirement of consulting the local people and get their consent to avoid future unpleasant situation.

Under these circumstances narrated above it is inferred by the committee that,

- a. If the provision of UGPL system is implemented in place of open canal system proposed earlier both on left and right canal systems, then the issue of movement of migratory elephants across the canal system as observed by Dy.IGF Central will be addressed.
- b. Regarding other issues like impact to existing temple, Hanuman statue and threat to the Ramathirtha Ecotourism complex more or less can be avoided by proposed shift of barrage axis as mentioned above, however to know the exact extent of impact of the Project after the proposed change of location of axis can only be assessed once the location of approach road to the platform, changed location of the barrage axis is planned correctly and the records, Plans, Maps, Sketches, are produced by the User agency. Further under this scenario user agency has to furnish all the relevant documents projecting the change of their project plan to DFO Karanjia for its further processing. Both the Director of Planning, WR Dept have given their consent for the furnishing the said documents.
- c. Even after change of location of the barrage axis upstream, the existing structures i.e. the pump house of the Ramathirtha Ecotourism complex will be inundated. In that case WR Dept will have to take up the suggestions made by Dr. Anup Nayak, IFS Retd, Ex- MS NTCA, by the WR Dept at project cost along with the mitigating and up gradation measures like Bank beautification, up gradation of Crocodile Breeding pools, picnic spots and modernisation of Interpretation centre at the Ramthirtha Ecotourism complex.

Name	Signature
Shri Amitav Brahma, CF (Nodal), O/o PCCF & HoFF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar	 6/1/21
Shri M. Yogajayanand, Field Director-cum-RCCF, Baripada	 6/1/21
Shri Lade Gajanan Dayanand, DFO Karanjia	 6/1/21
Shri Sai Kiran D N, Deputy Director, Similipal North WL Division.	 6/1/21
Dr. Rajinikanta Biswal, Sub Collector Panchpir	 06/01/2021
Shri Sagar Mohanty, Director Planning I, WR Dept.	 06/01/21
Shri Santosh Kumar Panigrahi, Director Planning II, WR Dept.	 6/1/21
Shri Bajinath Hembram, Executive Engineer, MID, Udala	 6.1.2021

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