

(To be attached to part I)

Opinion of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra State

["Development of Sonwade – (1 x 2.50 MW) HPP at warana LBC escape at Village – Chandoli Budruk, Tal. Shirala, Dist. Sangli, infavor of Executive Engineer, Kolhapur Irrigation Division (North) Kolhapur"]

i) Brief history of the Protected Area:

Government of Maharashtra vide its Gazette Notification No. WLP – 1008/C.R.232/F-1 dated 5th January, 2010 accorded approval to the in-principle notification of the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve comprising the area of Chandoli National Park admeasuring 317.67 sq.km. and Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary admeasuring 423.55 sq.km. The Government of Maharashtra vide its Notification dated 21st August, 2012 declared the area of 600.12 sq.km. as critical tiger habitat or core area and 565.45 sq.km. as the buffer or peripheral area of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, with its total area of 1165.57 sq.km.

ii) Current status of wildlife:

Tiger, Wild dogs, Gaur, Sambar, Barking deer, Mouse deer, Giant Squirrels, Porcupines, Crocodiles are found in the protected area. Snakes such as Python, Cobra, Viper, Krait, Vine snake, Rat snake and monitor lizards are found in the protected area. The avifauna like grey jungle fowls, parakeets, eagles, cormorants, partridges, common pea fowls, green pigeons, Indian jungle nightjar, king fishers, Indian roller, hoopoe, Great pied hornbills, Malabar pied Hornbill, Niligiri wood pigeon, wood peckers, fly catchers, owls, sunbirds etc. are found.

iii) Current status of pressures on Protected Areas :

Low scale grazing is noticed.

iv) Projected Impacts of project on wildlife, habitat management and access/use of resource by various stakeholders :

Positive Impact : The hydroelectric project is a renewable energy source whereby the natural flow of rivers may be harnessed to produce clean, reliable electricity. The project has a considerably lower output of greenhouse gases than fossil fuel powered energy plants. It will play a critical role in improving overall energy scenario in the region & power shortage will be greatly reduced. Also, the project shall generate employment opportunities for the local people.

Negative Impact : There is no significant negative impact.

v) Contiguous wildlife areas, which would benefit wildlife if added to National Parks/ Sanctuary :

Not proposed.

vi) Other areas in the State, which have been recommended by State Government, Wildlife Institute of India, BNHS, SACON, IISC, IUCN or other expert body for inclusion in Protected Area Network :

The following Protected Areas have been notified :

Umred-Karandla WLS in Nagpur and Bhandara district (area 189.29 Sq.Kms) notified in June, 2012 , Kolamarka Conservation Reserve in Gadchiroli district area (180.73 sq.kms) notified on 08/01/2013, Tamhini Sanctuary in Pune / Thane district (49.62 sq.kms) notified on dated 03/05/2013, Koka Wildlife Sanctuary in

Bhandara District (100.13 Sq.km.) has been notified on 18th July, 2013, Sudhagarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Raigarh / Pune District (77.12 Sq.Kms.) notified on 27/08/2014, Pranhita Wildlife Sanctuary in Gadchiroli District (420.06 Sq.Kms.) notified on 27/08/2014, Isapur (Bird) Wildlife Sanctuary in Yavatmal/Hingoli District (37.80 Sq.Kms.) notified on 27/08/2014, Thane Creek Flemingo Sanctuary in Mumbai Suburban District (16.90 Sq.Kms.) notified on 06/08/2015. Toranmal Conservation Reserve in Nandurbar District (93.42 Sq.Kms.) notified on 11/07/2016. Anjaneri Conservation Reserve in Nashik District (05.69 Sq.Kms.) notified on 31/01/2017. Ghodazari Wildlife Sanctuary in Chandrapur District (153.31 Sq.Kms.) notified on 23/03/2018. Proposals for setting up following new Protected Areas are being examined :

Sr. No.	Name of WLS /Cons. Reserve	District	Approx. Area (sq.kms)
1	2	3	4
1	Rajmachi WLS	Thane, Pune, Alibag (Raigad)	122.96
2	Kanhargaon WLS	Chandarapur	265.01
3	Pohara-Malkhed Conservation Reserve,	Amravati	144.16
4	Mahendri Conservation Reserve,	Amravati	70.00
Total			602.13

Nagpur

Dated :- 10/10/2019



(N.H. Kakodkar)

Chief Wildlife Warden &

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)

Maharashtra State

Handwritten signatures and dates:
 08/2/2020
 01/10/2019
 10/10/19