

Opinion of Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW).

Part-I

7 (i) Brief History of the Protected Area: Hazaribag Wildlife Sanctuary

The Project Area (PA), named as Hazaribag Wild Life Sanctuary, is situated in the district of Hazaribag, Jharkhand. It is a roughly rectangular block of forest covering a length of about 26 Km. from East to West and a breadth of about 7 Kms. from North to South, occupying an area of 186.25 Sq. Km. between $85^{\circ}13'$ to $85^{\circ}32'$ East longitude and $24^{\circ} 1'$ to $24^{\circ} 12'$ North latitude.

The Sanctuary is under the administrative control of Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Division, Hazaribag. Notified boundaries of the sanctuary, extending over 72 villages fall under Revenue Thanas of Katkamsandi, Ichak and Padma.

The Whole Sanctuary Area, once belonging to the Raja of the Erstwhile Ramgarh Estate, was earlier used to cater to the privilege of the royal family such as shooting, sports and other types of entertainment, came under state ambit after enactment of Bihar under Bihar Private Forest Act 1948. In 1952-53 it was finally acquired by the state under Bihar Land Reforms Act 1950 and was subsequently constituted as Protected Forest under Indian Forest Act 1927. In 1954 the area was for the first time accorded the status of a Sanctuary vides Revenue Department, Government of Bihar Letter No. C/F-704/54-1896, dated 07-08-1954. However, consequent to the enactment of Wild Life Protection Act 1972, these forests were notified as a Wild Life Sanctuary under section 18 of the said act by the State Government vide its notification No. 55/956 dated 24.05.1976.

Legally, the total area of the sanctuary (186.25 sq. Km.) comprises 52 Sq. Km. of the Ex Reserve Forests, being free from the rights of local people and 134 Sq. Km. of Protected Forest, being highly burdened with local rights. The sanctuary is surrounded by a number of thickly populated villages with cultivation and settlements within, which account for the increasingly undesirable biotic pressure, rendering the area susceptible to degradation.


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7 (ii) Current Status of Wildlife:

As per the census carried out in the past, the marked downward trend in status of wildlife has been observed due to anthropogenic pressure. As per the census a few of them are being mentioned here.

1. Sambhar
2. Barking Deer
3. Spotted Deer
4. Blue bull
5. Wild boar
6. Wild dog
7. Wolf
8. Monkey
9. Elephant
10. Bear
11. Hyena
12. Peacock

7 (iii) Current Status of pressures on Protected Area:

The following, perceived to be the main threats for the wildlife of the protected area.

1. **Ever intensifying biotic pressure on the PA:** due to increasing populations, both human and cattle, in and around the Sanctuary and rampant poverty and unemployment among them result in habitat degradation for the Wildlife.

Within 5 km. from the boundary of Hazaribagh Wildlife Sanctuary, in the villages of Sijua, Pandra & Jihu of Ichak Block, many stone crushers and stone mining leases are situated. The State Mining Department has granted many mining leases for stone crushers in the northern and southern part of the proposed Zone, particularly in Sijua, Jihu, Suji and Dumroun. Mining leases have also been granted in G.M. land around sanctuary area and even in the Daita river bed which passes through Jihu and Pandra villages of Hazaribagh Wildlife Sanctuary. These mining sites are situated just beside the sanctuary area.


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2. **Shortage of food, cover and water base of wild fauna:** - The entire sanctuary area including core zone is being heavily grazed by domestic cattle. Right of grazing in sanctuary area has adversely affected the available fodder resource for the wild life.
3. **Illicit felling & fuel wood collection:** The illicit felling by villagers residing in core as well as buffer zone for their requirement and for selling the same in the local market. The hundreds of head loads are being collected by women residing inside forest or in fringe villages.
4. **Availability of water:** The water becomes an important threat to wild animals immediately after March. The condition remains same up to July. During this period water is localized at few places.
5. **Fire:** The area has been subjected to annual fire which are mostly man made. These fires adversely affect the ground flora and the vegetation of this area.
6. **Encroachment:** The boundary areas of the sanctuary are always under threat of encroachment by the people of fringe village.
7. **Poaching:** Poaching and man-animal conflict are the major challenges of protection of the Sanctuary.
8. **Inadequate manpower:** This is one of the greatest problems for management of the sanctuary.
9. **Wild Life Disease:** The occurrence of 70 villages with huge no of cattle population within sanctuary area and on fringes pose threat of disease like foot & mouth, anthrax, rinderpest, canine distemper rabies etc.

7 (IV) Projected impacts of projects on wildlife habitat management and access/use of resource by various stakeholders: NA.

7 (v) Contiguous wildlife areas which would benefit if added to National park/ Sanctuary: NIL.

7 (VI) Other areas in the State which have been recommended by State Government, Wildlife Institute of India, BNHS, SACON, IISC, IUCN or other body for inclusion in protected area network. NA.


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