

Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HOFF), Maharashtra State

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Before The National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi

By E-mail

No.D-23(6)/WL/CR.No.43(20-21)/ 2554
Nagpur, Dated - 21/01/2021

To,
The Chairperson,
Principal Bench,
National Green Tribunal, New Delhi.

Sub :- Submission of joint report of Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra and Assistant Inspector General, NTCA (Central Zone) Nagpur in OA No.77/2020(WZ) Sachin Rangari Vrs State of Maharashtra & Others.

Ref.:- Order Dated 09/11/2020 in OA No.77/2020(WZ)

...

Sir,

With reference to above subject it is submitted that Hon. National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi had ordered Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra and Assistant Inspector General, NTCA, (Central Zone) at Nagpur to verify the facts and submit a joint report vide order referred above.

As per order the joint report of Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra and Assistant Inspector General, NTCA, (Central Zone) is submitted herewith for further necessary action.

Encl.: 1) Joint Report

2) Annexure I to XII

Sachin

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL)
And Chief Wildlife Warden
Government of Maharashtra

**JOINT REPORT OF PCCF (WILDLIFE),
MAHARASHTRA STATE AND AIG, NTCA, NAGPUR
on Original Application No.77/2020 (WZ) Sachin Rangari V/S State
of Maharashtra and Others**

1. The Original Application 77/2020 was filed by Shri. Sachin Rangari in Hon'ble National Green Tribunal against the State of Maharashtra and Others. The grievance in the application was against felling of trees and digging/excavation of murum sand in Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve, Gondia and Bhandara districts of Maharashtra. The hearing of the matter was conducted on 09.11.2020 through video-conferencing. After the submissions by the Learned counsel for the applicant and submissions made by the Conservator of Forests and Field Director, Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve, The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal Principal Bench, New Delhi in Original Application No.77/2020 has ordered to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (Central Zone), Nagpur and the Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra to verify the facts and submit a joint report on this matter within two months.

2. The Assistant Inspector General, National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Central Region, Nagpur and Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra verified the complaints made by Shri. Sachin Rangari since June, 2020 and also scrutinized the various findings of various reports regarding the allegations made in the complaints. Four such reports are examined and analysed by the undersigned viz. the report of Field Director, NNTR dt.08.06.2020, the report of Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(Wildlife) East, Nagpur dt.09.06.2020, the report of Assistant Inspector General, National Tiger Conservation Authority,

Central region, Nagpur and the report of the independent committee formed under the chairmanship of District Collector, Gondia. Dt.01.08.2020 submitted directly to the State Government.

3. On 1.06.2020, Shri.Sachin Rangari, District Secretary, People for Animals, Bhandara made a complaint to Smt. Maneka Gandhi, National Chairperson, People for Animals, alleging that illegal activities were taking place in Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary of Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve. The allegations made in the complaint were as follows:

- i) Hundreds of trees were felled in Compartment no. 96,98,109,120,121,125 & 126 of Nagzira range
- ii) New roads were illegally constructed.
- iii) Murum was excavated from the core zone using JCB from 20th March 2020 to 23rd April 2020.

The Complainant alleged that the various provisions of Forest laws were violated. The complainant held Range Forest Officer, Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary, Deputy Director and Field Director, NNTR responsible for all illegal activities alleged to have taken place in Nagzira Sanctuary. Copy of the complaint was sent to NTCA, PCCF (WL), Maharashtra, Collectors of Districts Gondia and Bhandara (Annexure I).

4. The Conservator of Forests and Field Director, NNTR conducted enquiry in this matter and submitted the report on 08.06.2020 (Annexure II)

Major findings in the enquiry report are as follows:

- i) No tree was illicitly felled. During enquiry, trees fallen due to heavy winds on 31st May 2020, numbering 157 were recorded. Most of the wind fallen trees were found belonging to the species Dhawda (*Anogeissus latifolia*), which is a low value and gum yielding tree.
- ii) No new roads were constructed.
- iii) JCB machines were used for sanctioned desilting works and regular annual road repair works which are used for protection purpose. The entries of JCB machines were made in the Registers maintained for this purpose at various gates of NNTR.

5. On the instructions from PCCF (Wildlife), Maharashtra, APCCF (Wildlife) East, Nagpur visited Nagzira Wild life sanctuary on 08.06.2020 to enquire into the allegations made in the complaint. Accordingly APCCF (Wildlife) East, Nagpur has submitted a report on 9.06.2020 to PCCF (WL) (Annexure III). In this report he had stated that machinery was used in road repair works, desilting works, the murum excavated was used in repairing the roads, no trees were felled to excavate the murum and was in consonance with the enquiry report submitted by Field Director, NNTR on 08.06.2020. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) vide letter no 356, dated 10.06.2020 endorsed the findings of both reports and forwarded it to Government of Maharashtra (Annexure IV).

6. Since a copy of the complaint was sent to Additional Director General, National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), New Delhi an independent field visit and enquiry was conducted by Assistant Inspector General, Nagpur, NTCA on date 10.06.2020 and 11.06.2020. The site visit

and enquiry report of Assistant Inspector General, Nagpur, NTCA is given in Annexure V. The findings of the report submitted by AIG, NTCA are as follows:

- i) Road repairing works was noticed at several places with criss cross drainage structures but no new/bituminous/RCC road construction was observed.
- ii) Numerous wind fallen trees were seen of different species, girth and height. No JCB or intentional felling marks were found on the trunks of the trees. However, *Cassia siamia* (exotic) trees which were on grassland were uprooted as a part of meadow management.
- iii) Excavation of murum was observed which were used for road repairs and murum was not taken outside tiger reserve.
- iv) Mechanized habitat management works was done in *Chital maidan* Grassland.

7. After the submission of the above three reports to the competent authorities, Shri. Sachin Rangari sent another complaint to PCCF (Wild life) on 13.6.2020 through email. He stated that the reports of APCCF (wildlife) East, Nagpur and Field director, NNTR were misleading. In addition fresh allegations were made regarding ploughing inside Nagzira sanctuary (Annexure VI). The Complainant requested PCCF (Wild life) to set up an independent investigation team (not involving any official of NNTR) to enquire into the allegations in his complaint. He also made a demand that he should also be allowed during inspection by the enquiry team members and mentioned that he would file a PIL if his demands were not met. Copy of the same letter was sent to Smt. Maneka Gandhi, Chairperson, PFA, Additional Director General, NTCA, New Delhi,

MoEF & CC, New Delhi and Additional Chief Secretary (Forests), Maharashtra. Government of Maharashtra vide letter 15.07.2020 constituted an independent five member committee with District Collector, Gondia as Chairman of the committee along with office bearers from three local NGOs and Deputy Conservator of Forests, Gondia Forest Division. (Annexure VII) to enquire the complaints.

8. The enquiry committee, under the Chairmanship of District collector, Gondia conducted meetings with the officers from NNTR and the complainant and gave an opportunity to them to submit their version with supporting documents. The enquiry committee visited Nagzira Sanctuary on 24.07.2020 to verify the allegations made in the complaint. During field visit, complainant was also taken along with the enquiry committee. On the same day, complainant requested Collector to visit Nagzira Sanctuary once again for enquiry to visit the remaining areas. The District Collector, Gondia considered his request and agreed to visit once again so as to maintain transparency and impartiality of the enquiry, even though she was very busy in dealing with Covid-19 related issues. As per the request the enquiry committee again visited Nagzira Sanctuary on 30.07.2020 for the second time. After field visit, considering the documents submitted by the officers of NNTR and the complainant, the legal provisions given to carry out the various works in the Protected Area, the enquiry committee under the Chairmanship of District Collector, Gondia submitted the enquiry report to Maharashtra Government on 01.08.2020 (Annexure VIII).

The salient findings of the enquiry report are as follows:

- i) Murum had been excavated for repairing the roads in Nagzira sanctuary which are listed in the approved Management plan (2010-11 to 2019-20). Murum was excavated only from those spots where it was available. The murrum excavated from the reserve has been used in existing road repair work within the Nagzira wildlife sanctuary. The road repair work is done every year, for patrolling and management activities of the Nagzira wildlife sanctuary. JCB machines were used in excavation of murrum needed for road repairs. No trees were observed to be felled while excavating murrum. Repairing of roads is done for protection purpose and hence there is no violation under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- ii) There was no evidence of any new construction of roads as all the sites visited were road repair works.
- iii) Illicit Felling of 400-500 trees as alleged in the complaint was not observed.
- iv) Activities of desilting, road repairs and meadow development were carried out using financial powers to approve/sanction works conferred upon respective officials under financial rules and as per the prescriptions of approved management plan of Nagzira Sanctuary.

9. In October 2020, Shri. Sachin Rangari made a fresh and similar complaint in Koka Wildlife Sanctuary (it is part of NNTR in Bhandara District) to Superintendent of Police, Bhandara against RFO, Koka Wildlife Sanctuary, ACF, Koka Wildlife Sanctuary, Deputy Director, NNTR, Field Director, NNTR, all Round Officers and Forest Guards of Koka Wildlife Sanctuary (Annexure IX). Copy of the complaint was

given to PCCF (Wild life), Smt. Maneka Gandhi, Chairperson, PFA, Divisional Commissioner, Nagpur Division, District Collector, Bhandara and Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bhandara. Accordingly PCCF (Wild life) vide letter no 162 dated 29.10.2020 instructed APCCF (Wild life) East, Nagpur to conduct enquiry and submit report.

Allegations in the complaint were:

- i) 10000 trees were felled in Koka Wildlife Sanctuary and transported outside using the vehicle MH 35 D 423.
- ii) Murum was excavated in various compartments in Koka Wildlife Sanctuary.

10. The Conservator of Forest and Field Director, NNTR conducted enquiry and submitted the enquiry report (Annexure X) wherein it was found that

- i) No such massive illicit felling of trees has taken place in Koka wildlife sanctuary. Only in three compartments (C. No 384,168 and 169) 17 illicit stumps were recorded. Even those trees were not found felled during the said period December 2019 to May 2020.
- ii) Murum excavated in few locations was used only for road repair works which are used for protection of forest and wildlife in Koka Wild life sanctuary.

11. The Conservator of Forests and Field Director, NNTR vide letter no 1988 dated 23/12/2020 had reported to PCCF (WL) that Shri. Sachin Rangari was arrested and a case is registerd (*FIR No.0330, dt.*

06.12.2020) by Kardha Police Station, District Bhandara for trying to extort money from RFO, Koka, in response to a complaint lodged by RFO Koka in Police station, Kardha, Bhandara. (Annexure XI).

According to the report of the Field director, NNTR:

“For about 2 weeks, Mr. Sachin Rangari negotiated with RFO, Koka through a mediator and threatened that if the extortion amount quoted by him was not given to him, he will file a writ petition in the Honble High court. Hence, RFO Koka filed a complaint against Mr.Sachin Rangari in Kardha Police Station, Bhandara district. On 6th December 2020, Mr.Sachin Rangari deputed Mr.Rahul Ganvir to accept extortion money on his behalf from Mr.Sachin Jadhav, Koka RFO. After he accepted money from Koka RFO he was arrested by the police and FIR (No.0330, dt. 06.12.2020, Kardha Police Station, District Bhandara) was also filed against both Mr.Rahul Ganvir and Mr.Sachin Rangari on 6th December 2020. On 7th December Mr.Sachin Rangari was also arrested and produced before the hon'ble court of JMFC, Bhandara. Both of them were given bail on same day and the investigation is on.”

12. Shri. Sachin Rangari had repeatedly made allegations about the works in NNTR since June 2020 till he got arrested in the extortion case. In view of this the Field Director, NNTR vide letter no. 1733 dt. 12.11.2020 (Annexure XII) expressed his views and the status of the field staff wherein he has stated that:

“It seems one among his malafide intentions is to defame the Maharashtra forest department, especially wildlife wing.

Complainant seems to have no basic knowledge of FCA, WLPA and principles of wildlife management, especially meadow development. This is what the officers and staff working in NNTR realised from the allegations made by the complainant against the officers and staffs from Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary and Koka Wildlife Sanctuary. Enquiring into such baseless wild allegations results in unnecessary wastage of time and energy of the officers and staff. When he was told that tractor was used to plough the land in chital maidan for meadow development works, he responded by saying that FCA was violated by breaking and ploughing the forest land.

Number of tigers has increased from 190 to 312 in Maharashtra state. Maharashtra state is widely appreciated both in India and World for doing excellent job in the field of tiger conservation. It seems that malafide intention of the complainant is to tarnish the image of the Maharashtra State, projecting that so many illegal things are taking place in NNTR and state government is not taking any action against the officers.

Few press reporters who contacted officers from NNTR were also complaining that the complainant is continuously pestering them with the request to publish the press note issued by him. It shows the malafide intention of the complainant.

In the latest MEE (Management Effectiveness Evaluation) exercise conducted by NTCA, New Delhi, NNTR secured 12th position among all 50 tiger reserves in India and 1st position among all the tiger reserves in Maharashtra. But the complainant is trying to project that officers and staff in NNTR are indulging in illegal activities, which in turn demoralize the staffs and officers working in NNTR, which is located in tribal

dominated, naxal affected and remotest part of Maharashtra. Now conducting meetings with the field officers and boosting their morale has become the regular duty of higher officials in addition to the regular duty. Around 50% of the field staffs in Nagzira sanctuary, who promised that they will work for one more year had applied for transfer and got transferred out of Nagzira sanctuary.

After making baseless allegations in his complaint dated 1st June 2020, he went along with two persons on 4th June 2020 with camera and threatened Mr. Mahesh Bopche, JCB driver to say that he felled trees using JCB while working in Nagzira sanctuary. A complainant in this regard has been filed by Mr. Mahesh Bopche, JCB driver in Goregaon Police station, District Gondia on 6th June 2020. This incident also shows the malafide intention of the complainant. He is ready to go any extent to defame the officers and the department.

Just by making baseless frivolous allegations and sending it to higher officials, complainant is harassing the officers and staff and gets them engaged in unproductive work. “

13. Since June 2020, Shri. Sachin Rangari has made several allegations against NNTR management from Field director to frontline staff. The allegations in the complaints were not proved in any reports of Field Director NNTR, APCCF (WL) East Nagpur, AIG, NTCA and independent committee report under District collector, Gondia. Despite above reports, he continued to make allegations regarding other protected areas of NNTR and has filed petition in National Green Tribunal for the same allegations.

14. The PCCF (WL) and AIG NTCA, Central Region, Nagpur have carefully ascertained truth in the allegations and other documents and concluded that the allegations as given in the complaint by Shri.Sachin Rangari is frivolous, not based on facts and intentionally done with other ulterior motives and hence it is requested to be dismissed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

Submitted for further consideration of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

N.H.Kakodkar
PCCF (WL) Maharashtra

Hemant Kamdi
AIG NTCA, Central Region
Nagpur

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PEOPLE FOR ANIMALS

Chairperson
Mrs. MANEKA GANDHI
Bhandara Distt. Unit

SACHIN RANGARI
Secretary

Date : 01/06/2020

To,
Smt. Maneka Gandhi,
National Chairperson, PFA India &
Member of Parliament, India

Sub: taking action against illegal road construction work and cutting of trees inside the core zone of Navegaon- Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR)

Respected Madam,

Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR) in Bhandara & Gondia Districts of Maharashtra is an important place for tigers and other animals.

We found that, illegal construction of roads have been taking place in the core zone of NNTR. Cutting of trees and excavation of muroom is also taking place with JCB machine for the construction of road.

About 55 to 60 trees (which are 25 to 50 years old) have been cut with JCB machine in Compartment No. 97. This compartment is a part of core zone of NNTR. Tigers (namely- T9, T4, T8) and their cubs reside in Compartment No. 97. About 700 to 800 deers and sambar reside in Compartment No. 97, which is the part of core zone of NNTR.

Muroom excavation have been taking place with JCB in Compartments No. 96,98, 109, 120, 121, 125 & 126. These compartments are also the part of core zone. Tree cutting have been taken place in these compartments of core zone of the Tiger Reserve. About 400 trees were cut down in Compartments No. 125 & 126. The tigers road runs along Compartments No. 125 & 126.

The species of trees that have been cut down include: Lendi, Tendu, Sihna, Surya, Zudpi Kudwa. These trees are 10 to 25 meters in length. Their age was between 25 to 70 years.

JCB No. MH35G5921 had entered through Pongezara Gate of NNTR Core Zone on 20 March 2020 and same JCB took exit on 23 April 2020 from the same gate. Again, same JCB entered into core zone through Mangezari Gate of NNTR and this JCB is still inside the core zone.

These activities of illegal construction, cutting of trees and excavation of muroom in core zone of NNTR have been disturbing the natural habitat of tigers and other animals. This is the violation of laws related to Tiger Conservation and Forest Conservation. These activities in core zone of tiger reserve are violating the provisions of Forest Act, 1927, Forest Conservation Act, 1972 (amended in 2006). The Authorities which are responsible for all these illegal activities must be suspended immediately. And a committee for investigation should be formed for investigation. This committee formed for the investigation should have one member from PFA Bhandara.

The compartments mentioned above are the part of Nagzira Sanctuary Range of NNTR. Mr. Sachin Shinde is the R. F. O. in charge of this Range. Additionally, Field Directors and Deputy Field Directors of NNTR are also involved in these illegal activities.

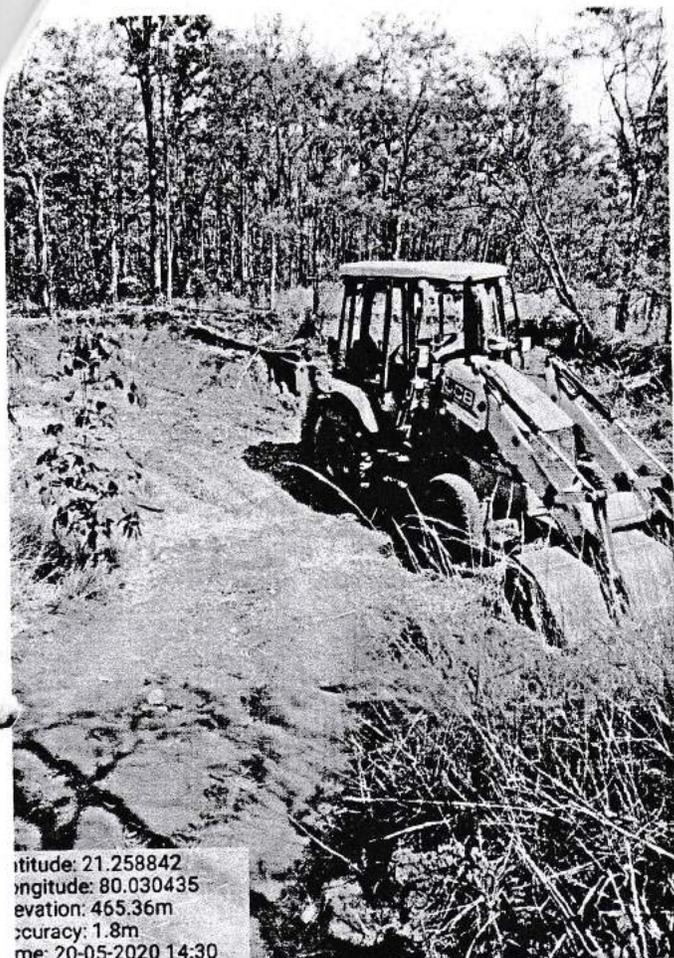
We request you to communicate to higher authorities at state level and central level to look into this matter so that immediate action would be taken against these activities.


Your Faithfully,

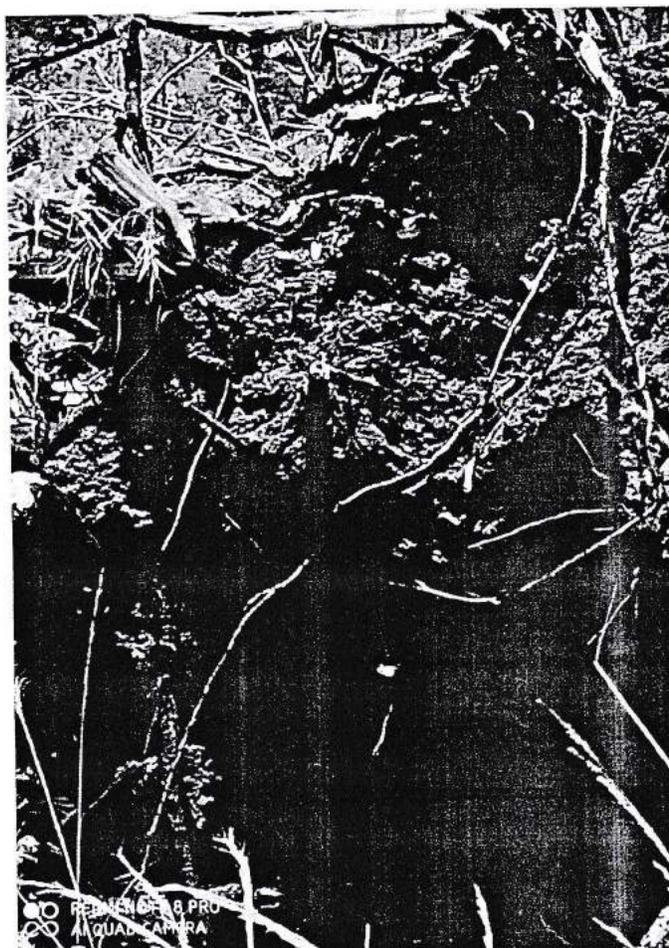
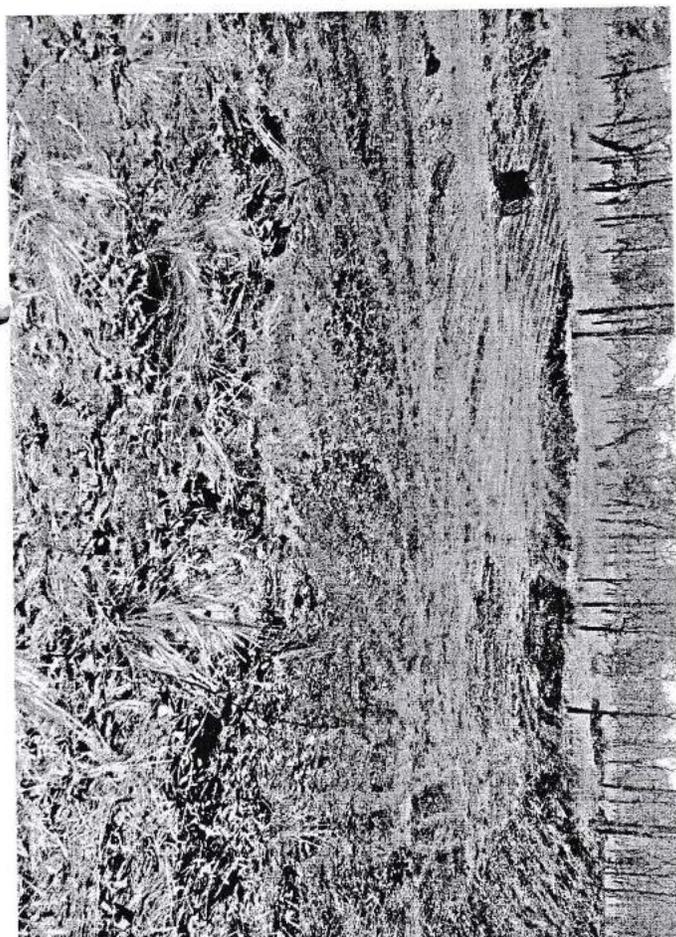
Sachin M Rangari,
SECRETARY
Secretary, PFA Bhandara
BHANDARA DIST. UNIT
AT. SAKOLI

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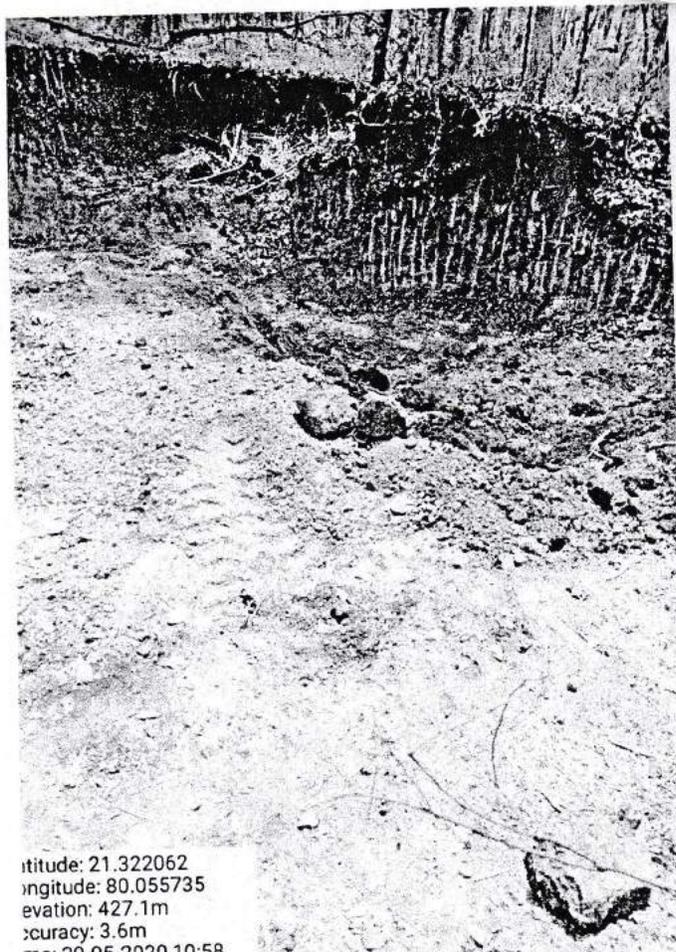
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3. District Collector, Bhandara
4. District Collector, Gondia



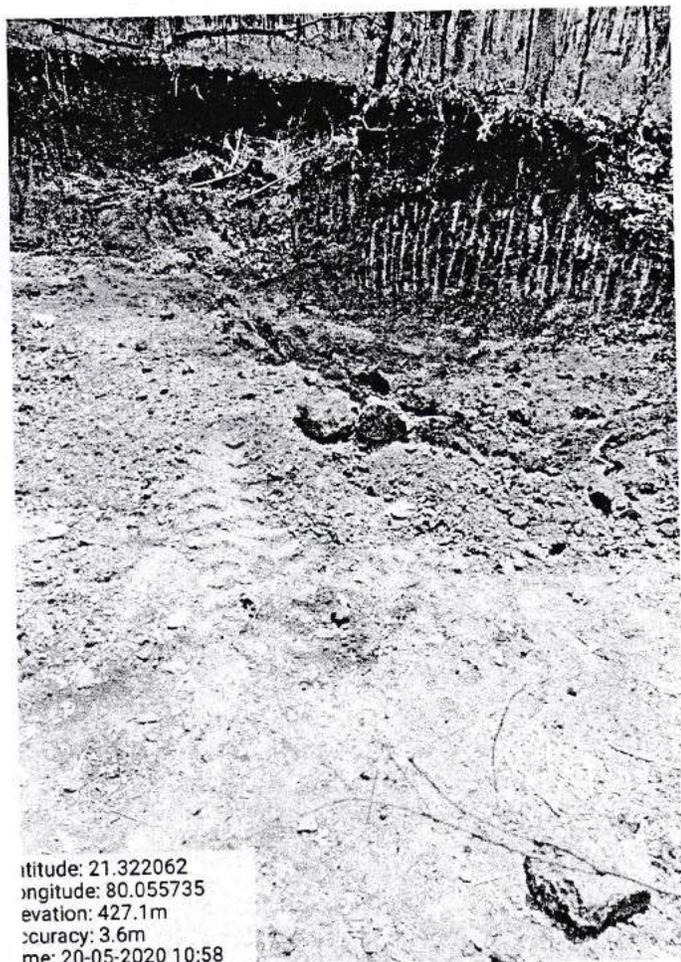
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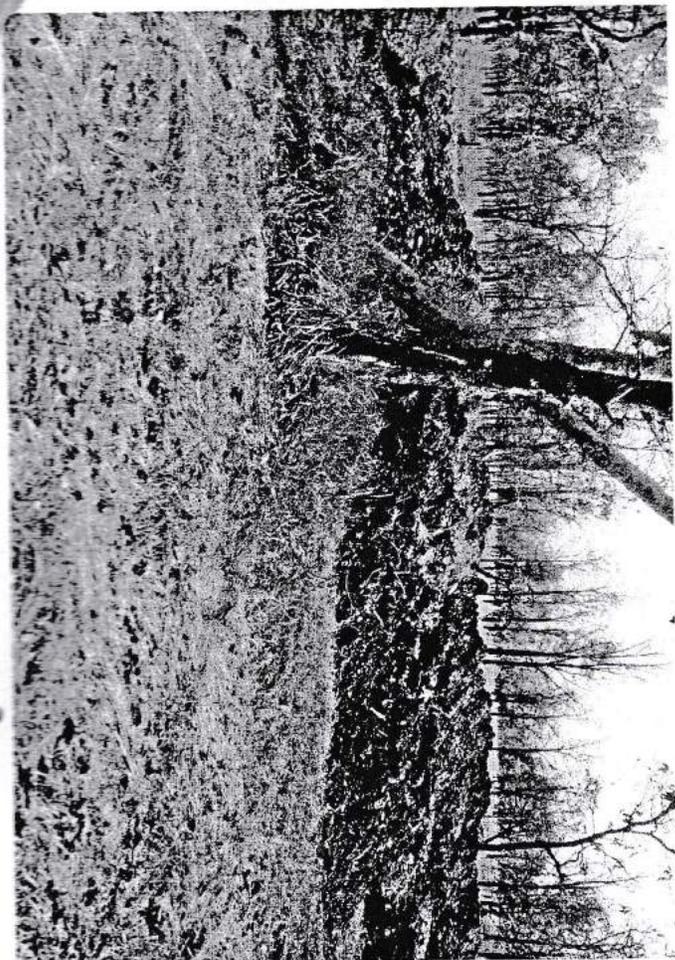


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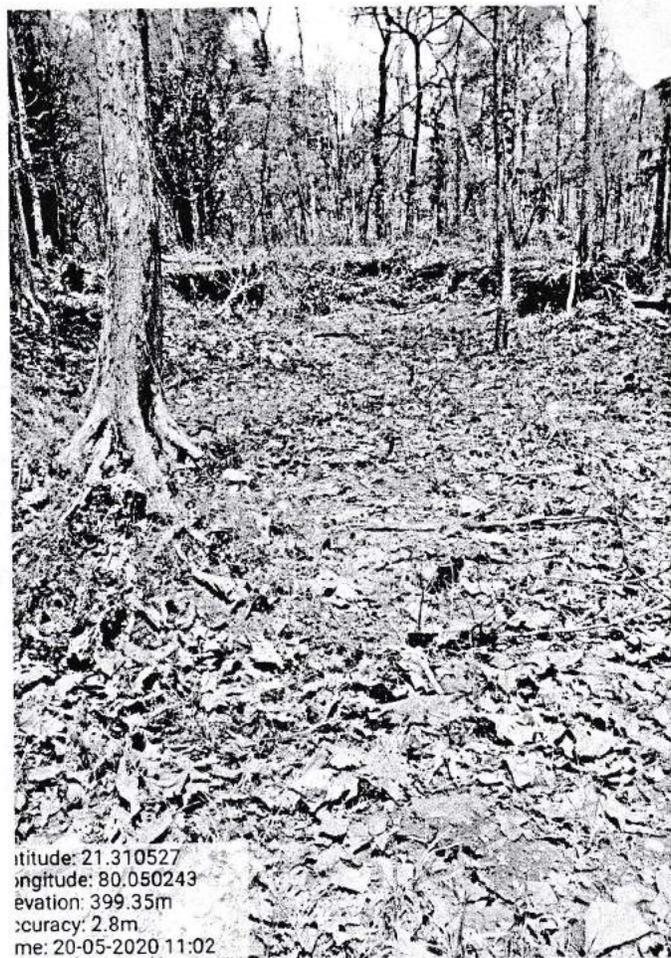


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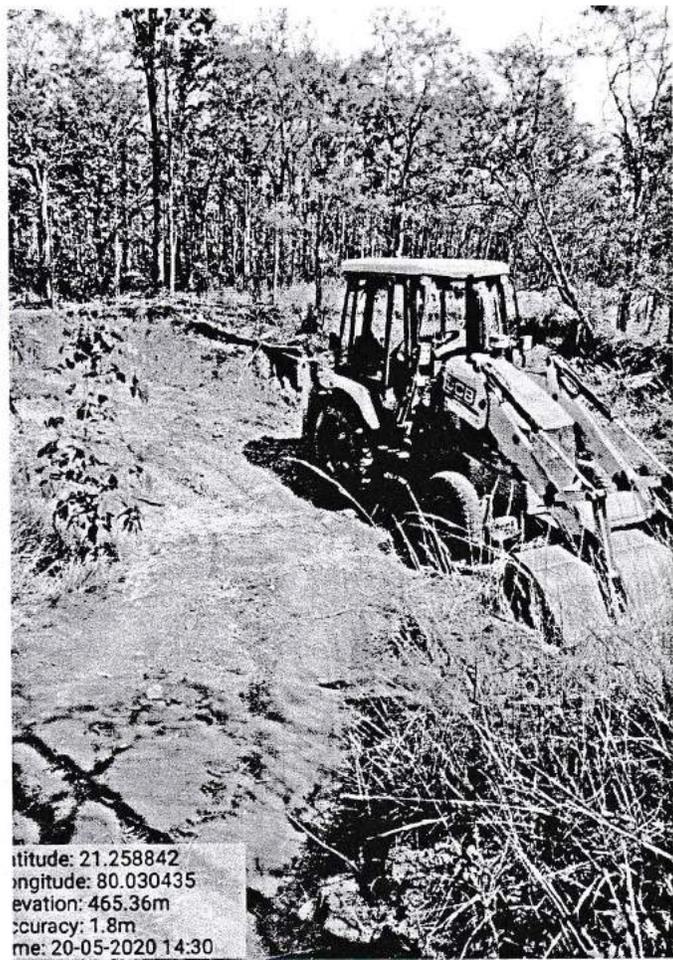




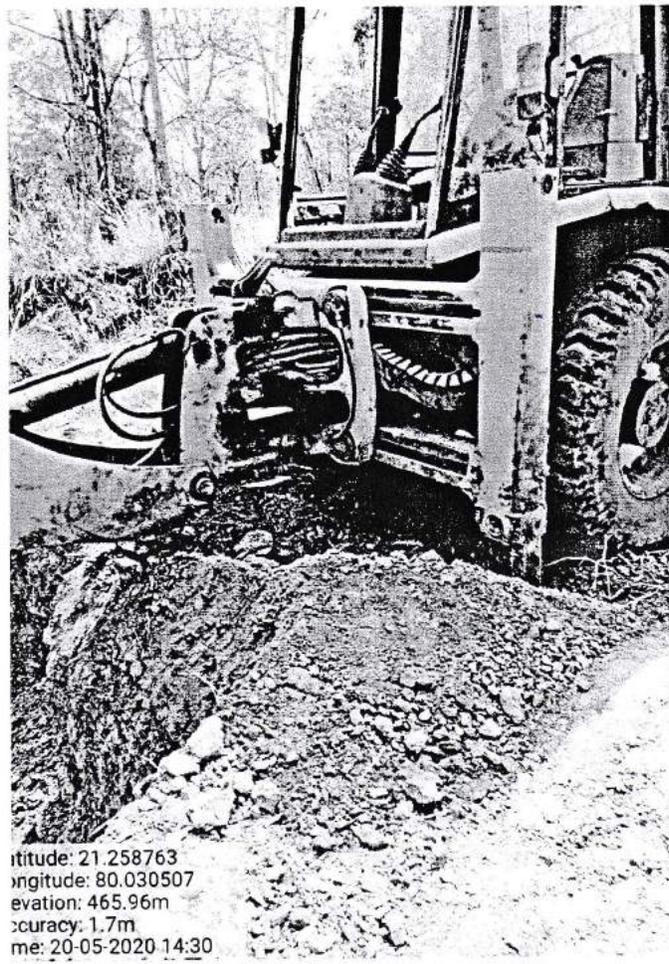
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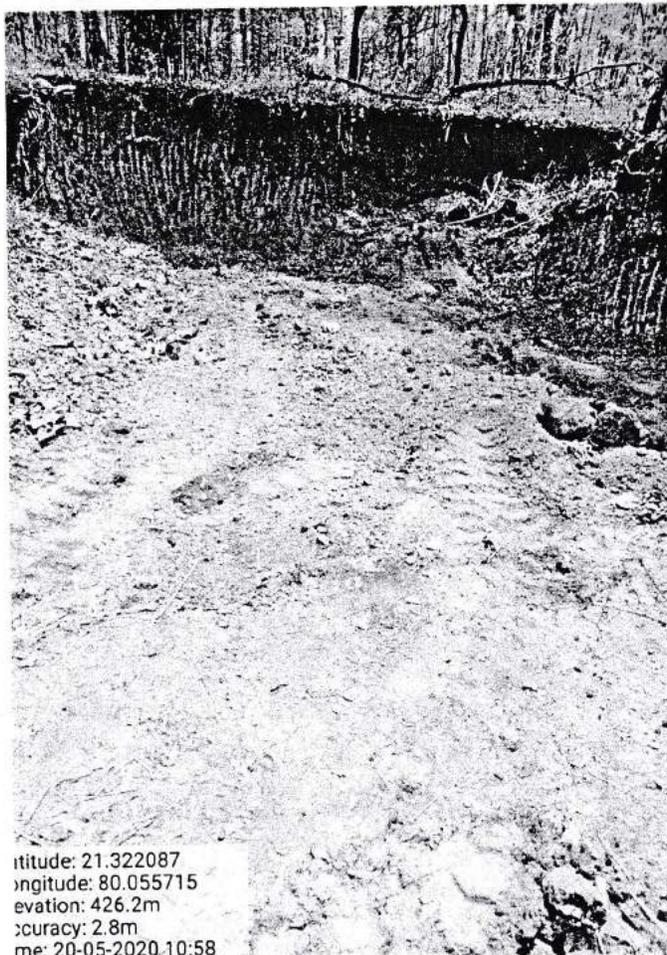
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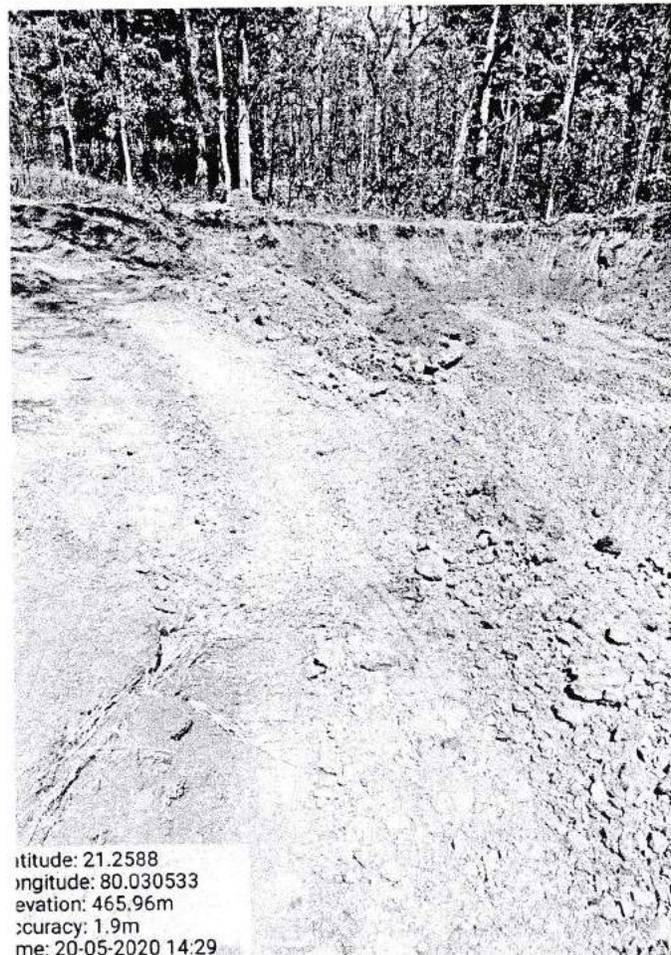
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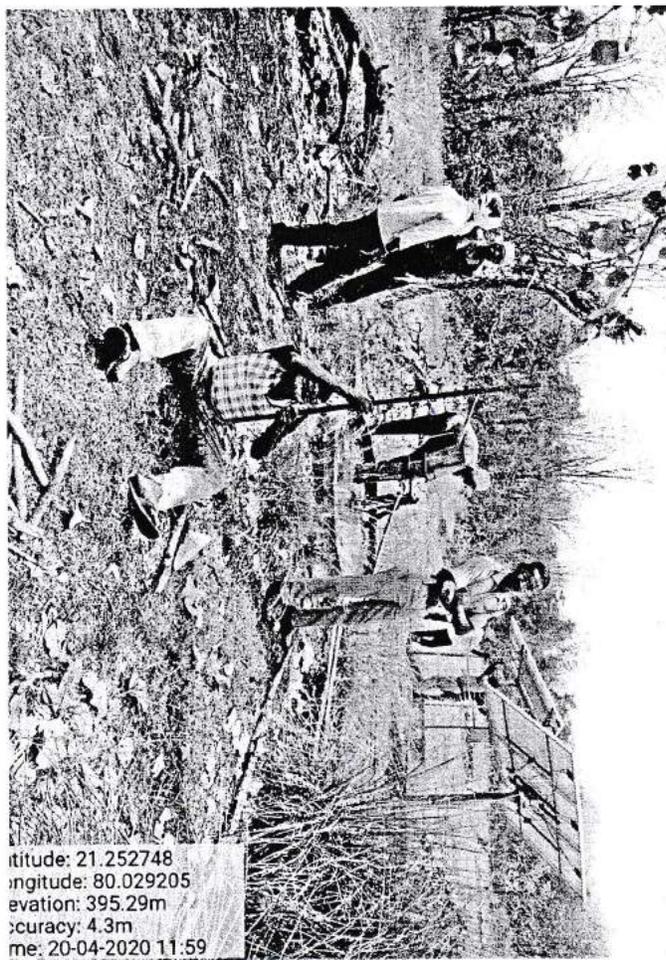
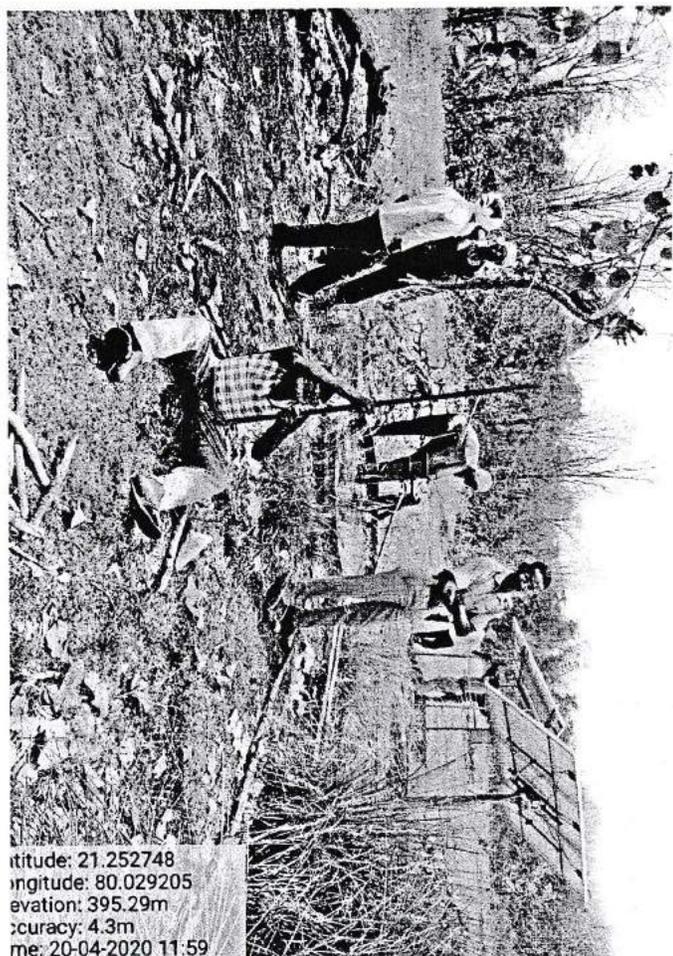
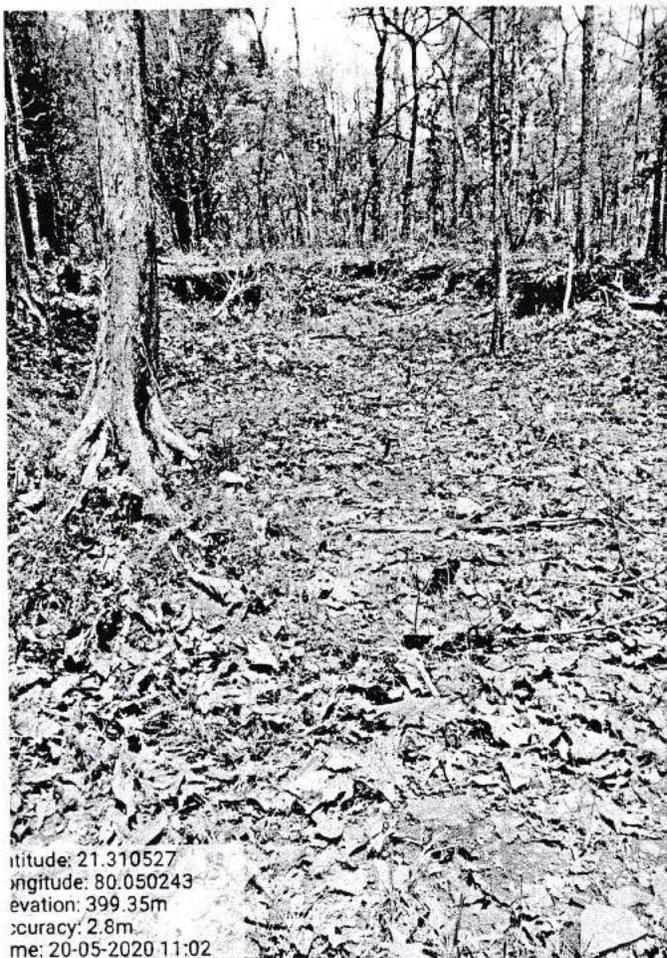
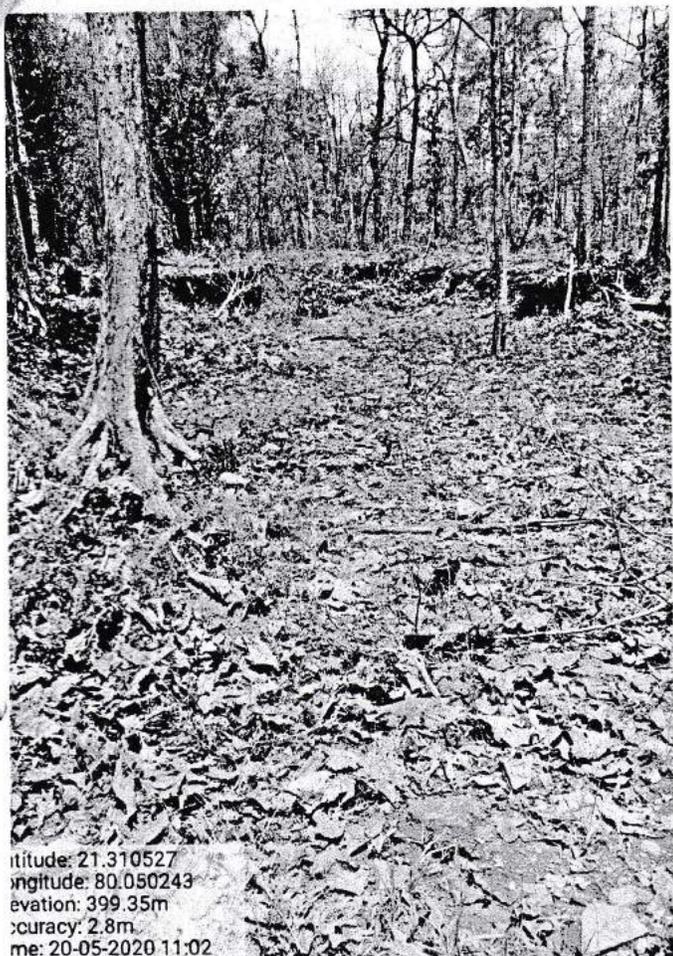
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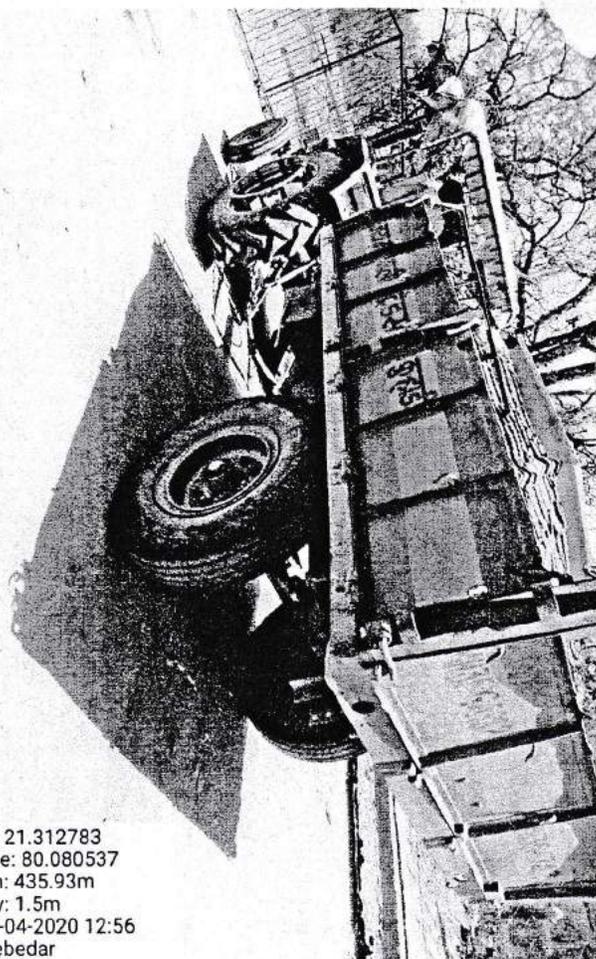


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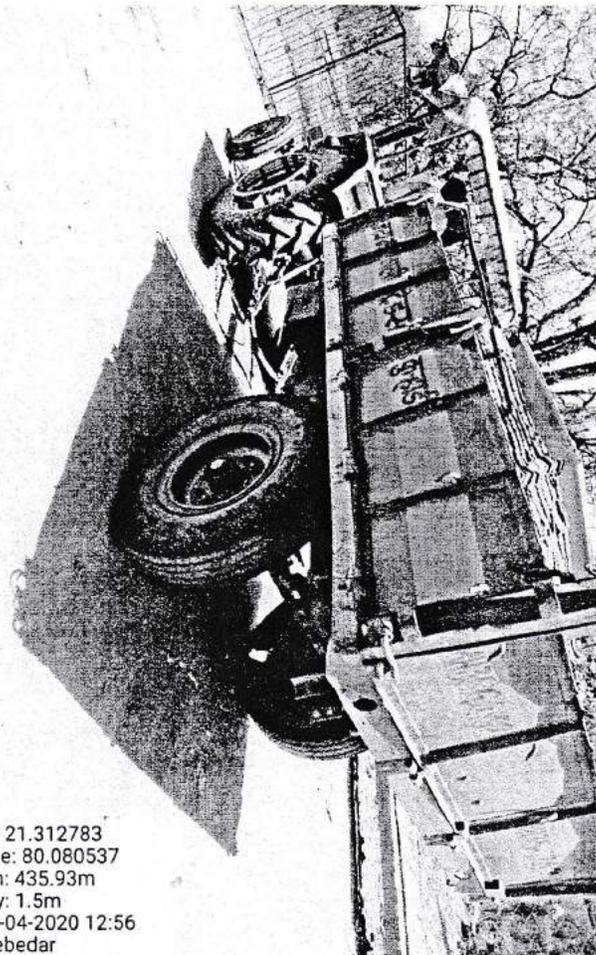


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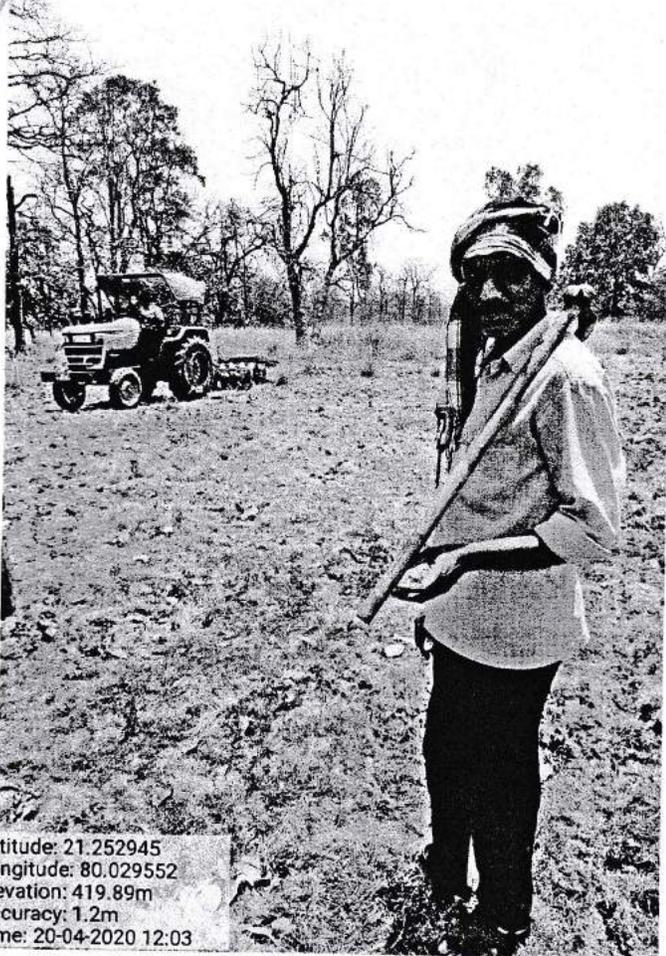


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Time: 23-04-2020 12:56
Site: Alebedar



Latitude: 21.252945
Longitude: 80.029552
Elevation: 419.89m
Accuracy: 1.2m
Time: 20-04-2020 12:03



Latitude: 21.252945
Longitude: 80.02958
Elevation: 420.69m
Accuracy: 0.9m
Time: 20-04-2020 12:03



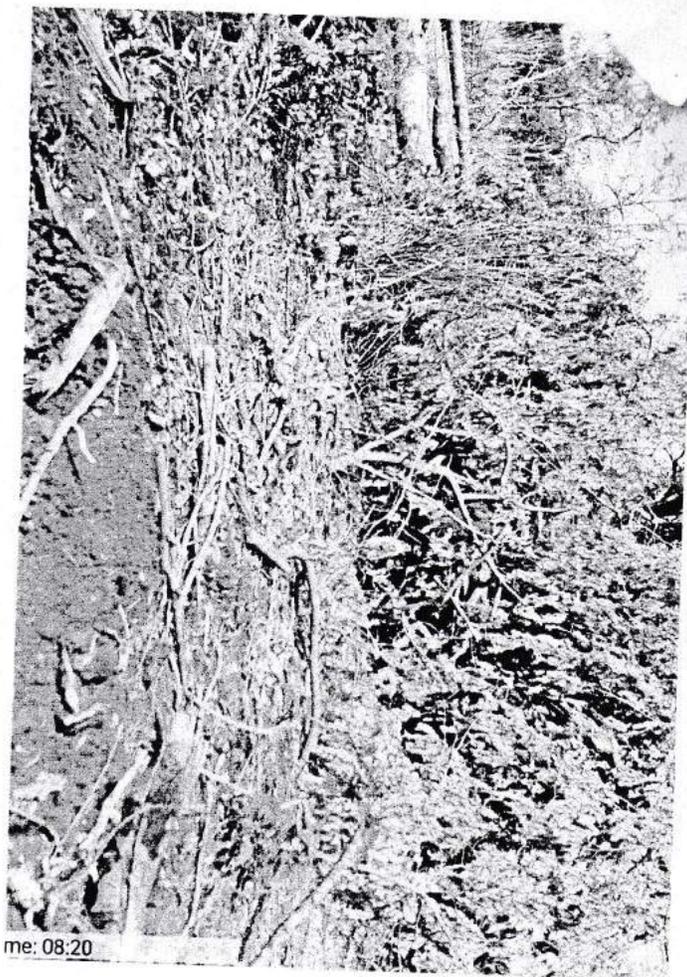
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Elevation: 436.43m
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Time: 23-04-2020 12:56
Note: Alebedar



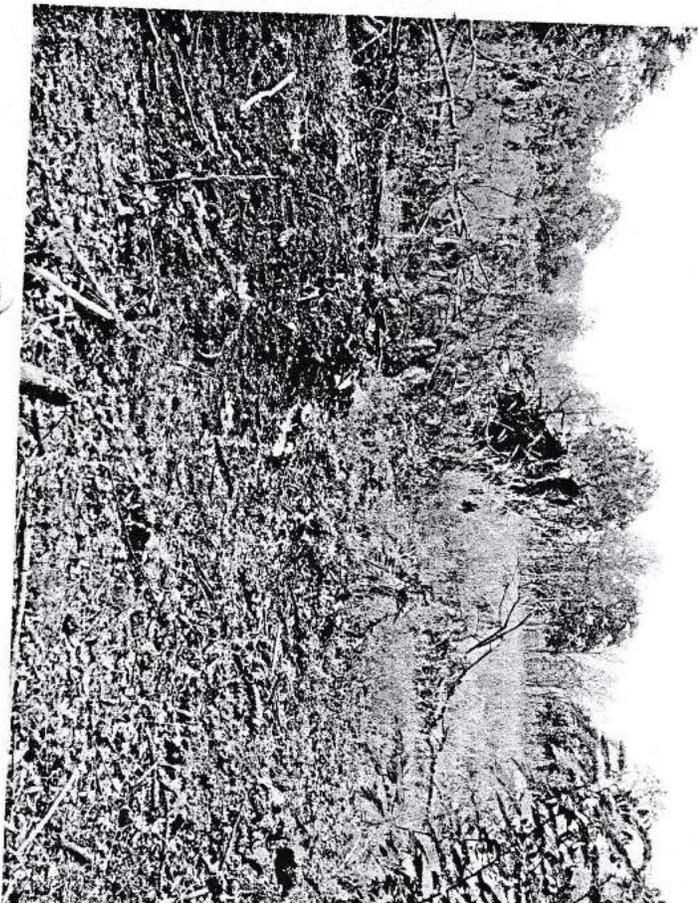
Latitude: 21.252945
Longitude: 80.02958
Elevation: 420.69m
Accuracy: 1.2m
Time: 20-04-2020 12:03

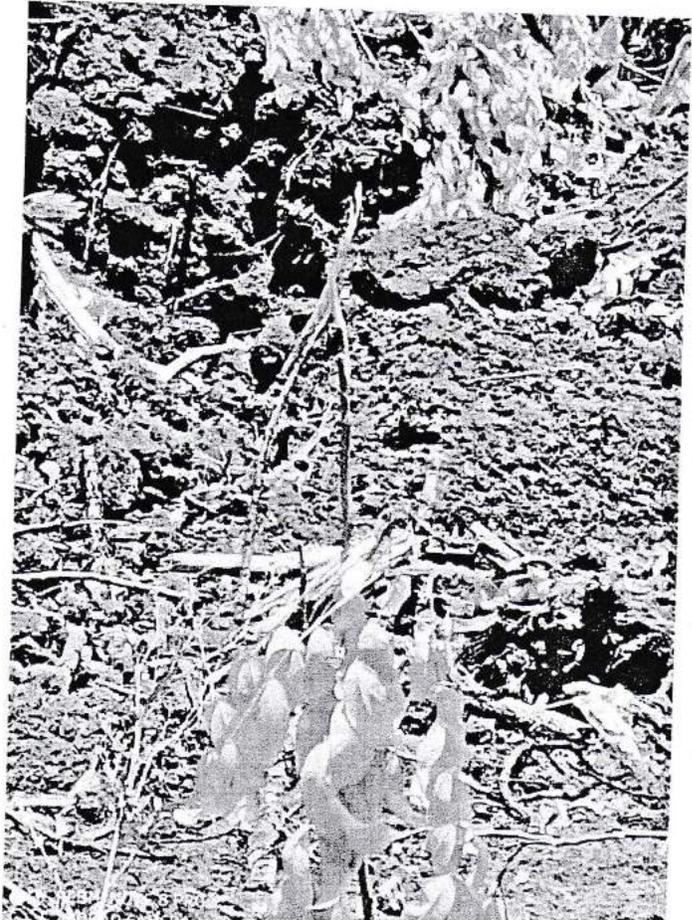


me: 08:19



me: 08:20







वनसंरक्षक तथा क्षेत्रसंचालक नवेगांव नागझिरा व्याघ्र राखीव क्षेत्र गोंदिया यांचे कार्यालय.

वनभवन टि.बी.टोली, कुडवा रोड गोंदिया, महाराष्ट्र दूरध्वनी क्रमांक 07182 251232 फॅक्स क्र.251250 पिन क्र. 441614

Office E.mail. cfwlgondia@mahaforest.gov.in.



क्रमांक कक्ष :- लले/ चौकशी/ 20-21/ 01

गोंदिया दिनांक : 09 /06 /2020

गोपनीय

प्रति,

मा. अपर प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक
(वन्यजीव) पुर्व नागपूर

विषय :- Taking action against illegal road Construction work and cutting of trees inside the core zone of Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR)

- संदर्भ :- 1. मा. प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (वन्यजीव) म. रा. नागपूर यांचे कार्यालयाकडून दिनांक 02/06/2020 रोजी ई-मेल द्वारे प्राप्त तक्रार
2. आपले कार्यालयीन पत्र क्र. कक्ष-1(अ)/लले/तक्रार/20-21/120 दिनांक 03/06/2020
3. या कार्यालयाचे पत्र क्र. लले/ चौकशी/ 20-21/462 दिनांक 05/06/2020
4. उपसंचालक, नवेगाव-नागझिरा व्याघ्र राखीव क्षेत्र, साकोली यांचे पत्र क्र. कक्ष-शिली/चौकशी/20-21/634 दिनांक 09/06/2020

उपरोक्त संदर्भीय पत्र क्र. 1 व 2 अन्वये श्री. सचिन रंगारी, Secretary, People for Animals, Bhandara dist., Unit Sakoli यांनी मा. श्रीमती मेनका गांधी, संसद सदस्य, यांना दिलेली तक्रारीच्या अनुषंगाने चौकशी करुन या कार्यालयास विषयांकित प्रकरणाचा चौकशी अहवाल सादर करण्याच्या सुचना प्राप्त झालेल्या होत्या. त्यानुषंगाने संदर्भीय पत्र क्र. 3 अन्वये विषयांकित प्रकरणाची चौकशी करुन प्राथमिक चौकशी अहवाल आपणाकडे सादर करुन विषयांकित प्रकरणाचा सविस्तर चौकशी अहवाल सादर करण्याची तजविज ठेवण्यात आलेली होती.

संदर्भीय पत्र क्र. 4 अन्वये उपसंचालक, नवेगाव-नागझिरा व्याघ्र राखीव क्षेत्र, साकोली यांनी विषयांकित प्रकरणाचा अंतिम अहवाल सादर केलेला असून निम्नस्वाक्षरीकर्ता अधिकारी सदर अंतिम चौकशी अहवालाशी सहमत आहेत. करीता सदरहू अंतिम चौकशी अहवाल या सोबत जोडून सादर करण्यात येत आहे. करीता माहितीस सविनय सादर.

सहपत्र- अंतिम चौकशी अहवाल

(आर. एम. रामानुजन)

वनसंरक्षक तथा क्षेत्र संचालक,
नवेगाव-नागझिरा व्याघ्र राखीव क्षेत्र, गोंदिया.

प्रतिलिपी :- उपसंचालक, नवेगाव-नागझिरा व्याघ्र राखीव क्षेत्र, साकोली यांना माहितीस अग्रेषीत.

**Enquiry report on allegations made by Shri. Sachin Rangari, Member,
People for Animals, Bhandara district, Unit Sakoli**

1. Report regarding alleged road construction in core zone of NNTR

Existing Road network in NNTR is being repaired every year once the monsoon season is over. Tourism roads in Nagzira range are

- i) Nagzira tourism complex to Mangezari gate running through C. no.96, 125,121, 120,112,111,110 and 109
- ii) Nagzira tourism complex to pitezari gate road running through C. no. 125, 126 and 98
- iii) Nagzira tourism complex to Chorkhamara gate running through C.no. 123,124,122, 370

These roads were repaired in November and December 2019. These roads are tourist cum protection roads and main network for access to core compartments of Nagzira range. But due to unseasonal rains till April 2020, roads got damaged and patrolling vehicles were found getting stuck in some patches. Moreover, the tractors carrying tankers to fill the artificial water holes with water during summer were finding it difficult to ply. Hence RFO Nagzira was instructed by Field Director, NNTR to get these road patches repaired without further delay. Thus road repair works were carried out from 12th May to 22th May 2020 with the help of JCB and tractors. While carrying out the repair work, murrum was used. JCB with registration no. MH 35 G 5921 and three tractors were used in the above work. Registration no. of the tractors used are MH 31 D 593, MH 35 G 7433 and MH 36 D 8630. Photos of entry and exit date for vehicles are attached herewith.

Workers worked from 10 am to 5.30 pm and used to exit the core zone by 6 pm. JCB and two tractors were stationed inside core in the said period as it was not economical for the vehicle to play every day from and to native villages. One tractor was used to ferry workers. All the entries were taken in the gate registers. All rules regarding working in core zone were followed. No trees were felled while excavating murrum for the road repair work. No illegal road construction was done in Nagzira range.

2) Regarding alleged felling of 50-60 trees in C. No. 97 with JCB

With respect to complaint of illicit felling of trees in C. no. 97, RFO (Protection) Wildlife, Gondia inspected C.no. 97. No such illicit felling of trees with the help of JCB, as alleged in the complaint, has been noticed by the RFO (Protection) Wildlife. The area experienced strong winds and torrential rains on 31st of May 2020. Eight trees were found uprooted and broken due to winds and rain.

3) Regarding alleged murrum excavation in C.No. 96,98,109,120,121,125,126

As mentioned in point no. 1, existing road network is being repaired every year in NNTR. The roads run through the compartments mentioned in the complaint. Murrum from adjoining area of the roads was used in the repair work. Ground verification was done in the said compartments and images sent in complaint were verified in the spot. After the inspection, ACF has come to conclusion that murrum was excavated only for road repair work and no trees were felled while murrum was excavated.

4) Regarding entry of JCB no. MH 35 G 5921 from Pongezara gate and Mangezari gate

The said JCB entered from Pongezara gate to carry out the desilting works in Nagzira Range. Once the works were completed, it exited through same gate. Same JCB entered through Mangezari gate as mentioned in point no. 1 for road repair work in the month of May 2020. All the entries were taken in gate registers.

5) Disturbance to Tiger movement in Nagzira Range

Tigers T 8, T 9 and tigress T 4 with two cubs are resident tigers of Nagzira range. No disturbance has been found in their movement pattern due to road repairing or desilting work and all three tigers are found very well moving inside the core zone. This has been substantiated by recent camera trap images.

6) Alleged illicit felling of 400-500 trees in C. No. 97,96,98,125,126,109,121

As mentioned in Point no. 2 and 3, as per inspection report of ACF, Nagzira, illicit felling of trees with JCB was not observed in any of the compartments mentioned in the complaint. Again, due to rains, trees were found uprooted to varying numbers in all above compartments. (Photos of windfallen trees attached herewith).

Table 1: List of windfallen trees compartment wise

S.No.	Compartment no.	Number of wind fallen trees	Major species
1.	C.no. 96	22	<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> (Dhawda) <i>Ougenia dalbergioides</i> (Tiwas)
2.	C.no. 98	47	<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i>

			(Dhawda) <i>Madhuca indica</i> (Mahua)
3.	C.no. 125	28	<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> (Dhawda)
4.	C.no. 126	32	<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> (Dhawda)
5.	C.no. 97	8	<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> (Dhawda)
6.	C.no. 120	1	<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> (Dhawda)
7.	C.no. 121	19	<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> (Dhawda)

From the above mentioned facts, it is very clear that JCB was used only to repair the existing road network in nagzira and to improve the habitat for wildlife. No trees in the forest were also felled while doing these works.


 Conservator of Forests Field Director,
 Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve, Gondia



सत्यमेव जयते



Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) East, Nagpur
2nd Floor, Laxmi Sanchar BSNL Building, Near Kasturchand Park, Nagpur-440001

ISO CERTIFIED 9001 : 2015

Tele No.0712-2560953

Office Email ID apccfwlnagpur@mahaforest.gov.in

No.Desk-1(A)/Steno/Complaint/ 135 Nagpur Date :- 09/06/2020

To,
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)
Maharashtra State, Nagpur

Sub:- Taking action against illegal road construction work and cutting of trees inside the core zone of Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR) regd..

Ref: 1) The PCCF (WL) M.S.Nagpur's letter no.Desk-23(6)/232/2020-21, dated 2/6/2020

2) This office letter No. Desk-1(A)/Steno/Complaint/118, dated 5/6/2020

3) The CF & FD NNTR Gondia's letter no.Steno/Enquiry/20-21/01, dated 9.6.2020

A complaint regarding illegal activities carried out in NNTR was received from your office vide letter under reference no.1 above.

This office has submitted a preliminary Enquiry Report regarding the above mentioned subject vide letter referred above at no.2.

The Conservator of Forests & Field Director, Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve, Gondia has submitted final report vide letter referred above at no.3.

It is submitted that, the APCCF (WL) East, Nagpur has personally visited the NNTR on 8 th June 2020 to ascertain the facts mentioned in the complaint.

The enquiry report submitted by FD, NNTR, Gondia reveals that, the machinery was used for carrying out the excavation of murrum, repairs of the roads and for the de-siltation of water bodies. The road repair works are done annually and are essential for regular patrolling of the staff. These works have not lead to any felling / uprooting of the trees. Some trees, however, are uprooted and broken as a result of strong winds and torrential rains of 31st May, 2020. The entry & exit details of the machinery /vehicles used for carrying out designated works are taken in assigned registers at the check post.

The enquiry report submitted by the FD, NNTR is based on the facts, which have been verified on the ground by his subordinate gazetted officers. The undersigned has also visited the area and agrees to the content of the report.

The inquiry report submitted by Field Director, Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve, Gondia is enclosed herewith for your perusal & necessary action.

Encl: As above.

(B.S.Hooda)

Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Wildlife) East, Nagpur.

Copy forwarded to the Conservator of Forests & Field Director, Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve, Gondia for information.

Enquiry Report submitted by APCCF

Enquiry report on allegations made by Shri. Sachin Rangari, Member,
People for Animals, Bhandara district, Unit Sakoli

1. Report regarding alleged road construction in core zone of NNTR

Existing Road network in NNTR is being repaired every year once the monsoon season is over. Tourism roads in Nagzira range are

- i) Nagzira tourism complex to Mangezari gate running through C no. 96, 125, 121, 120, 112, 111, 110 and 109
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- iii) Nagzira tourism complex to Chorkhamara gate running through C.no. 123, 124, 122, 370

These roads were repaired in November and December 2019. These roads are tourist cum protection roads and main network for access to core compartments of Nagzira range. But due to unseasonal rains till April 2020, roads got damaged and patrolling vehicles were found getting stuck in some patches. Moreover, the tractors carrying tankers to fill the artificial water holes with water during summer were finding it difficult to ply. Hence RFO Nagzira was instructed by Field Director, NNTR to get these road patches repaired without further delay. Thus road repair works were carried out from 12th May to 22th May 2020 with the help of JCB and tractors. While carrying out the repair work, murrum was used. JCB with registration no. MH 35 G 5921 and three tractors were used in the above work. Registration no. of the tractors used are MH 31 D 593, MH 35 G 7433 and MH 36 D 8630. Photos of entry and exit date for vehicles are attached herewith.

Workers worked from 10 am to 5.30 pm and used to exit the core zone by 6 pm. JCB and two tractors were stationed inside core in the said period as it was not economical for the vehicle to play every day from and to native villages. One tractor was used to ferry workers. All the entries were taken in the gate registers. All rules regarding working in core zone were followed. No trees were felled while excavating murrum for the road repair work. No illegal road construction was done in Nagzira range.

2) Regarding alleged felling of 50-60 trees in C. No. 97 with JCB

With respect to complaint of illicit felling of trees in C. no. 97, RFO (Protection) Wildlife, Gondia inspected C.no. 97. No such illicit felling of trees with the help of JCB, as alleged in the complaint, has been noticed by the RFO (Protection) Wildlife. The area experienced strong winds and torrential rains on 31st of May 2020. Eight trees were found uprooted and broken due to winds and rain.

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3) Regarding alleged murrum excavation in C.No. 96,98,109,120,121,125,126

As mentioned in point no. 1, existing road network is being repaired every year in NNTR. The roads run through the compartments mentioned in the complaint. Murrum from adjoining area of the roads was used in the repair work. Ground verification was done in the said compartments and images sent in complaint were verified in the spot. After the inspection, ACF has come to conclusion that murrum was excavated only for road repair work and no trees were felled while murrum was excavated.

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As mentioned in Point no. 2 and 3, as per inspection report of ACF, Nagzira, illicit felling of trees with JCB was not observed in any of the compartments mentioned in the complaint. Again, due to rains, trees were found uprooted to varying numbers in all above compartments. (Photos of windfallen trees attached herewith).

Table 1: List of windfallen trees compartment wise

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2.	C.no. 98	47	<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i>

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			(Dhawda)
3	C. no. 125	28	<i>Madhuca indica</i> (Mahua)
4	C. no. 126	32	<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> (Dhawda)
5	C. no. 97	8	<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> (Dhawda)
6	C. no. 120	1	<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> (Dhawda)
7	C. no. 121	19	<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> (Dhawda)

From the above mentioned facts, it is very clear that JCB was used only to repair the existing road network in Nagzira and to improve the habitat for wildlife. No trees in the forest were also felled while doing these works.


 Conservator of Forests Field Director,
 Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve, Gondia



Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HOFF), Maharashtra State

वनभवन, रामगिरी रोड, सिविल लाइन्स, नागपूर ४४०००१ Van Bhavan Ramgiri Road, Civil Lines, Nagpur 440001

प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (वन्यजीव), महाराष्ट्र राज्य Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Maharashtra State
pccfwlngp@mahaforest.gov.in; फोन Phone: 0712-2549563; फॅक्स Fax: 0712-2553018; वेबसाइट: www.mahaforest.gov.in

By E-mail

No.D-23(6)/WL/Cr.No.6(20-21)/ 356
Nagpur, Dated - 10/06/2020

To,
The Additional Chief Secretary (Forests)
Revenue and Forest Department,
Mantralaya, Mumbai 32.

Sub :- Taking action against illegal road construction work and cutting of trees inside the core zone of Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR) - reg.

- Ref :-**
- 1) Letter dated 1/6/2020 from Shri.Sachin M.Rangari, Secretary, PFA, Bhandara. | P-27
 - 2) E-mail dated 2/6/2020 from Additional Chief Secretary (Forests) Mantralaya, Mumbai. | P-31
 - 3) E-mail dated 2/6/2020 from ADG (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary, NTCA, New Delhi. | P-37
 - 4) E-mail dated 2/6/2020 from Shri.Soumitra Dasgupta, IGF, Wildlife, MoEF & CC, New Delhi. | P-33
 - 5) This office letter D-23(6)/232/2020-21 dt.2/6/2020. | P-43
 - 6) Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) East, Nagpur letter No.Desk-1(A)/Steno/Complaint/135 dt.9/6/2020. | P-59

...

A complaint was received regarding illegal road construction work and cutting of trees inside the core zone of Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve vide letter cited at reference no.1 above. The matter was examined and enquiry report has been submitted by Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) East, Nagpur vide letter at reference No.6 after his field visit.

The enquiry report reveals that the machinery was used for carrying out the excavation of murrum, repairs of the roads and for the de-siltation of water bodies. The road repair works are done annually and are essential for regular patrolling of the staff. Some trees, are uprooted and broken as a result of strong winds and torrential rains of 31st May, 2020. The entry and details of the machinery/ vehicles used for carrying out designated works are taken in assigned registers at the check post.

The undersigned agrees with the report and the same is submitted herewith for your perusal and necessary action.

Encl. - As above.

M. S. Kulkarni
**Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL)
Maharashtra State**

- Copy submitted to :-
- 1) Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) Maharashtra State for information.
 - 2) Dr. Anup Kumar Nayak, ADG (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary, NTCA, New Delhi for information.
 - 3) Shri. Soumitra Dasgupta, IGF, Wildlife, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for information.
 - 4) Deputy Director General of Forest (Central)
MoEF, Regional office, Nagpur

A site visit report on
**Illegal road construction, cutting of trees and muroom excavation in
 Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra**

AIGF NTCA Nagpur was directed by NTCA HQ to cause enquiry by carrying out site visit in connection to illegal road construction work and cutting of trees inside the area of Navegaon – Nagzira Tiger Reserve vide OM F. No./16/2010-NTCA (Vol-1) dated 8th June 2020. In persuasion, undersigned has carried out site visit on 10th and 11th June 2020.

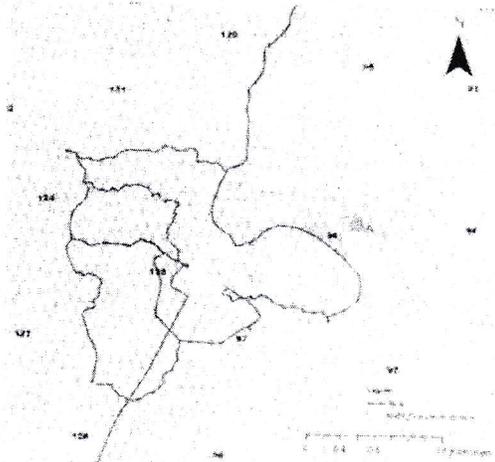


Figure 1: Field visit to compartments

I was accompanied by Field Director, Deputy Director, ACF, RFO and concerned frontline staff for site visit. During visit, we travelled on road in vehicle and walked across the said compartment to verify the merit of allegations.

Salient finding of the visit are as follows.

Sr. No.	Allegation	Location	Observations
1	Illegal road construction in core zone	Not mentioned	Road repairing work was noticed at several places with cross drainage structures but no new/bituminous/RCC road construction was observed. Same was confirmed by the Field Director.
2	Cutting of about 55 – 60 trees with JCB Cutting of 400 trees	Compartment No. 97 Compartment No. 125, 126	Numerous wind fallen/broken trees of different species, girth and height were observed throughout the area. No JCB or other intentional felling marks on tree trunk were observed. No parts of fallen trees were observed to be removed. However, <i>Cassia siamia</i> (exotic) trees encroaching on grassland were found uprooted in Chital maidan grassland. It was informed by Field Director that same were removed as a part of habitat management intervention and no part of it was taken outside tiger reserve.
3	Excavation of Muroom with JCB	Compartment No. 96, 98, 109, 120, 121, 125, 126	Excavation of muroom was observed to be done from borrow pits flanked to the roads and water percolation/ retention structures. As informed by the Field Director, it was done for road repairing and de-silting of water percolation/retention structures. Muroom was not taken outside tiger reserve.
4	Mechanized habitat management	Chital Maidan Grassland	It was agreed by the Field Director that mechanized habitat management was done in chital maidan grassland.

Immediately after receiving the complaint, a local level enquiry was conducted by Field Director, NNTR. Also, APCCF (Wildlife) east caused site visit and enquiry report has been submitted to NTCA.

[Handwritten Signature]

Photos

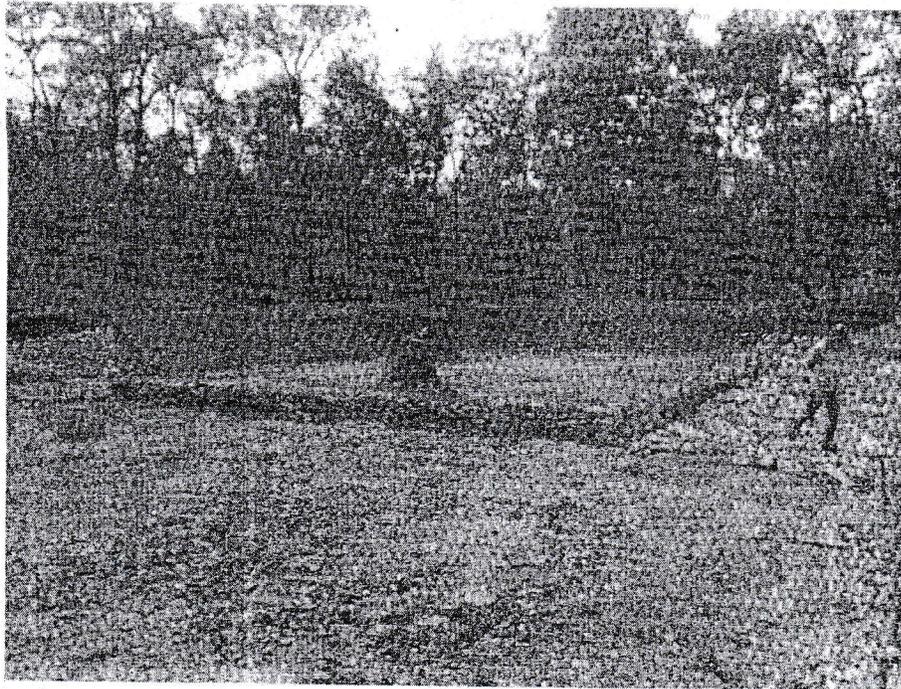


Figure 2: De-silting of percolation pond

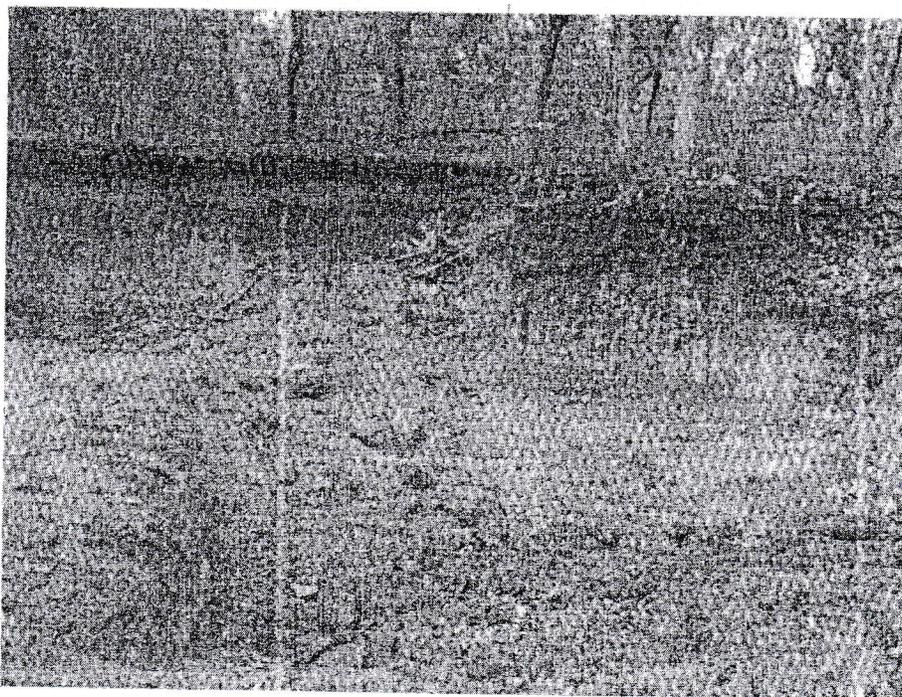


Fig. 2.3: Microom extraction from horsetail pits

Mandy

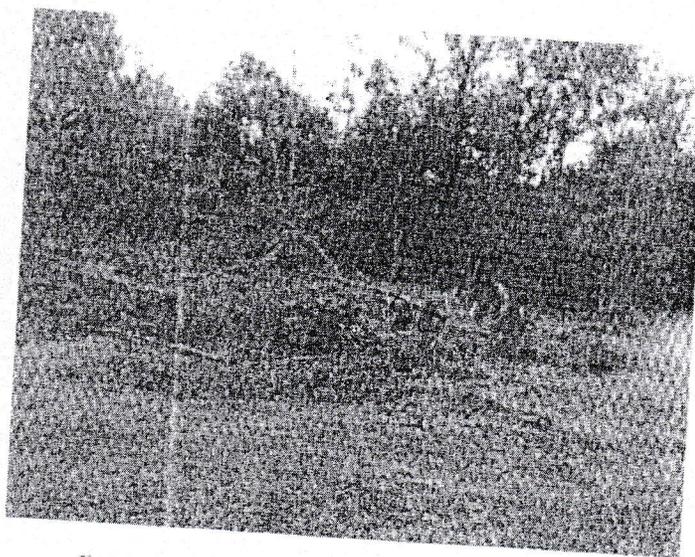


Figure 4: Sprouting of *Cassia slampa* (exotic) from grassland

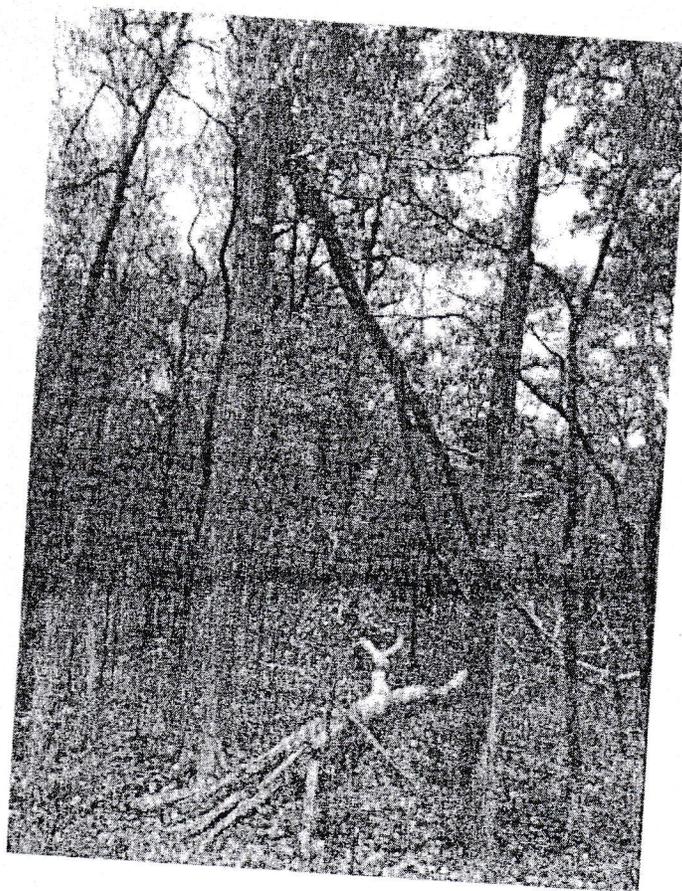


Figure 5: Wind broken trees

Mandy



Figure 6 - Wind fallen trees

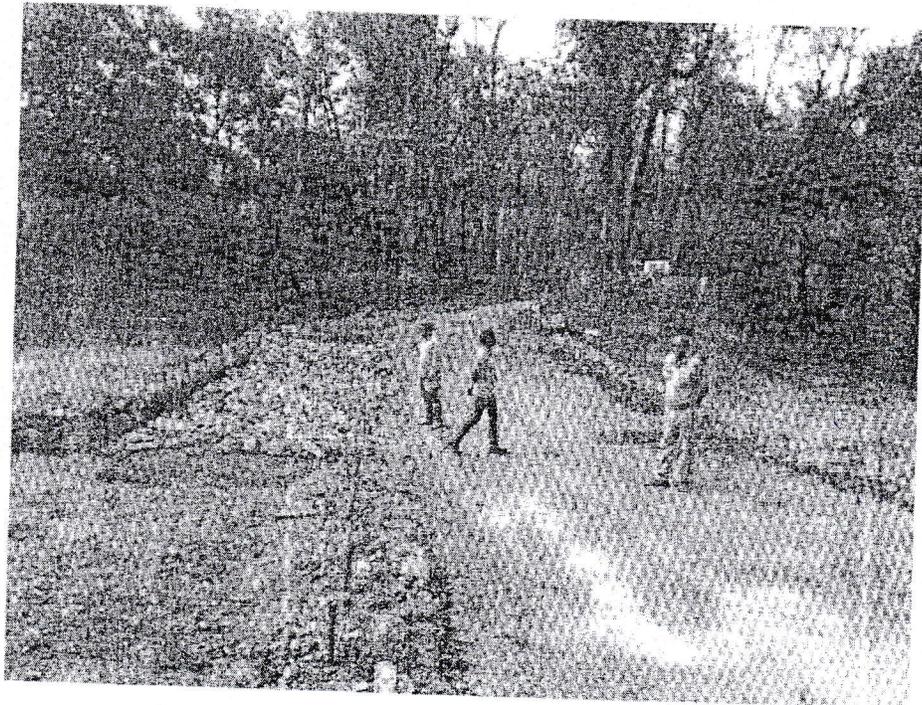


Figure 7 - Repairing of road with cross drainage structure

M. S. G.



PEOPLE FOR ANIMALS

Chairperson
Mrs. MANEKA GANDHI
Bhandara Distt. Unit

SACHIN RANGARI
Secretary

To,
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)
Maharashtra State, India.

Date: 13/06/2020

Subject: In response to the Inquiry Report submitted on cutting of trees and muroom excavation in core zone of NNTR by APCCF (wildlife) East

Ref:

1. Letter No. Desk-1(A)/Steno/Complaint/135 Nagpur Dated 09/06/2020
2. Letter No. D-23(6)/WL/Cr. No. 6(20-21)/356 Nagpur Dated 10/06/2020

An Inquiry report on tree-cutting and muroom excavation in core zone of NNTR was submitted by APCCF (Wildlife) East. It is observed that this report is misleading and contains factually incorrect information because of following points:

1. This report says that muroom was excavated for the repair patrolling roads. But such deep excavation in core zone with the help of JCB is not desirable according to NTCA guidelines & Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (Amended 2006). Ploughing was done in C. No. 97 with the help of tractor. Ploughing inside the core zone without permission of senior authorities is not permissible. This ploughing was done under the supervision of RFO Sachin Shinde. (Photos are attached). This ploughing was done for cheetal maidan. And 55-60 trees were uprooted with JCB for chital maidan before ploughing on 20/04/2020. Deputy Field Director Poonam Pate had also warned regarding this to RFO Sachin Shinde & Mr. Shinde had also apologized for the same on the Whatsapp group of Nagzira Sanctuary.
2. The report says that the area (core zone of NNTR) experienced strong winds and torrential rains on 31st of May 2020. And due to these, trees were uprooted. But this reason is farce & factually incorrect because trees were uprooted in the month of April before the mentioned storm, & rain occurred date. (Please establish this from the dates mentioned on the photos enclosed.)
3. The report says that no trees were fallen during muroom excavation. But images on the spot reveal that muroom was deeply excavated around the trees with the help of JCB and trees were uprooted. This point in the report also says muroom was excavated from adjacent areas of the road. But excavation is also observed in areas far away from the roads. Excavation of muroom for road repairs is a violation of "Guidelines for Roads in Protected Areas" issued by Wildlife division, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change vide F. no. 6-62/2013 WL, dated 22nd December 2014. It is also mandatory to take clearance from Central Govt for excavation in core zone as per Forest Conservation Act, 1980. (NTCA guidelines regarding road maintenance in PAs is attached)

4. The photos enclosed with report does not clear the dates of entry and exit of JCB and tractors. The report includes only month of entry. This point does not reveal what kind of work these machines were doing in the month of March & April 2020. The said JCB & tractors entered Pongezara gate on 20/03/2020 and exited on 23/04/2020. That's a period of more than a month. (Images of gate entries are attached.)

The images of trees fallen with JCB before 31st May, 2020 are attached with this letter. These images are with location and date.

After reading this report, it can be stated that the concerned-officers have indulged in wrongdoings and they have intentionally mislead the investigation officers. We also suspect that there's a huge financial mismanagement involved herein. This laughable inquiry report, submitted by B. S. Hooda, APCCF (WL) East, is not acceptable. The inquiry by CF Gondia is also doubtful and it tries to save the skin of concerned officials who are responsible for this tree-cutting and excavation. Deputy Field Director, Field Director & APCCF have submitted misleading report.

Therefore, we request your utmost attention to setup an independent & transparent investigation team (not involving any official of NNTR) to investigate this matter. We also demand to allow the complainant Mr. Sachin Rangari to be present during the inspection by the team members. If this demand is not met, then the complainant, Mr. Rangari will have no option but to file a PIL against all the concerned authorities on the appropriate legal platform and simultaneously raise the issue on all the social media platforms along with all the enclosed proofs including the whatsapp group chats of concerned officers.


Regards

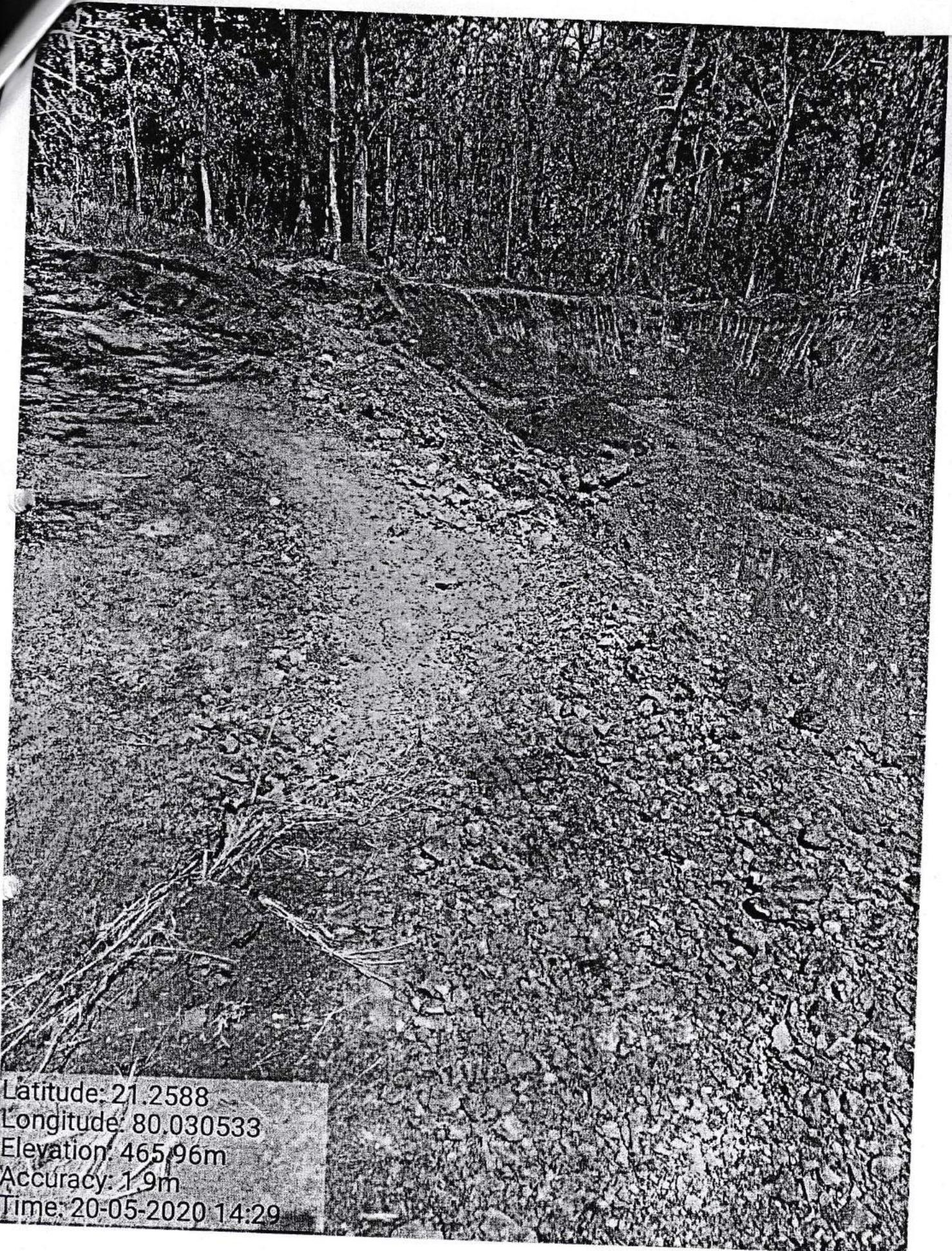
Sachin M Rangari
Secretary, PFA Bhandara
PEOPLE FOR ANIMALS
BHANDARA DIST. UNIT
AT. SAKOLI

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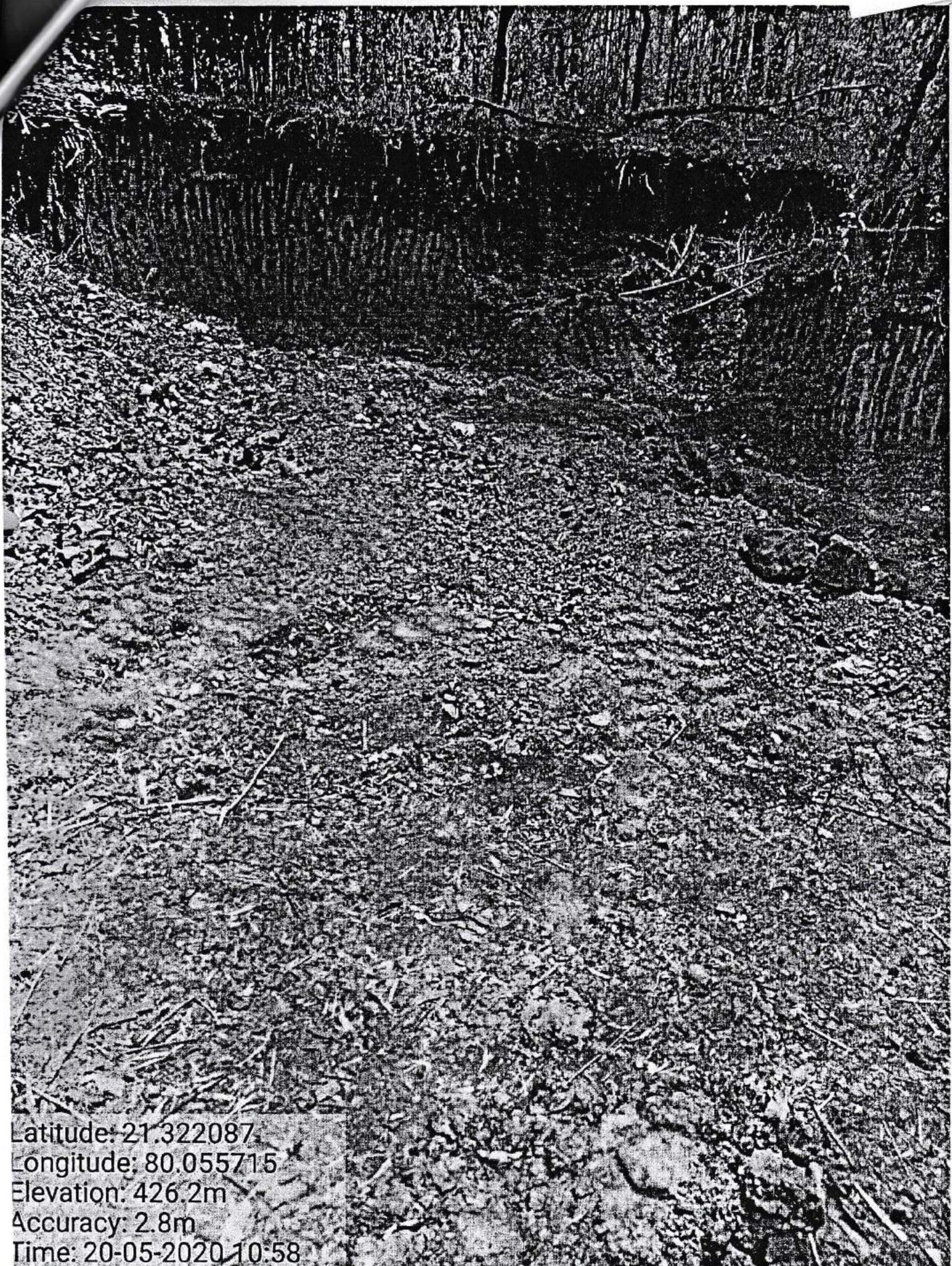
1. Smt. Maneka Gandhi, Chairperson, PFA India & Member of Parliament, India
2. Additional Chief Secretary (Forests), Maharashtra
3. Dr. Anup Kumar Nayak, ADG (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary, NTCA, New Delhi
4. Shri Soumitra Dasgupta, IGF, Wildlife, MoEF, & CC, New Delhi



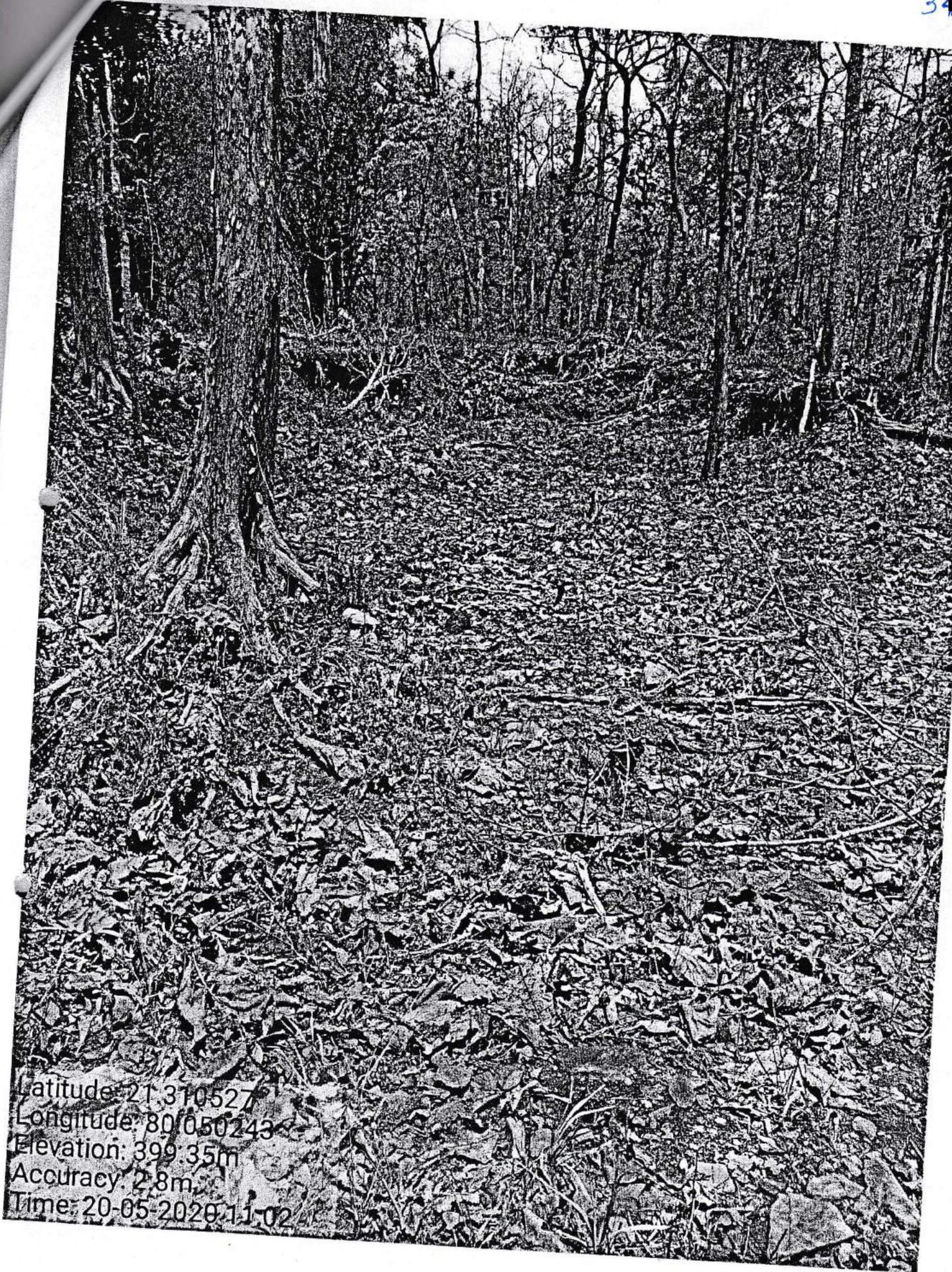
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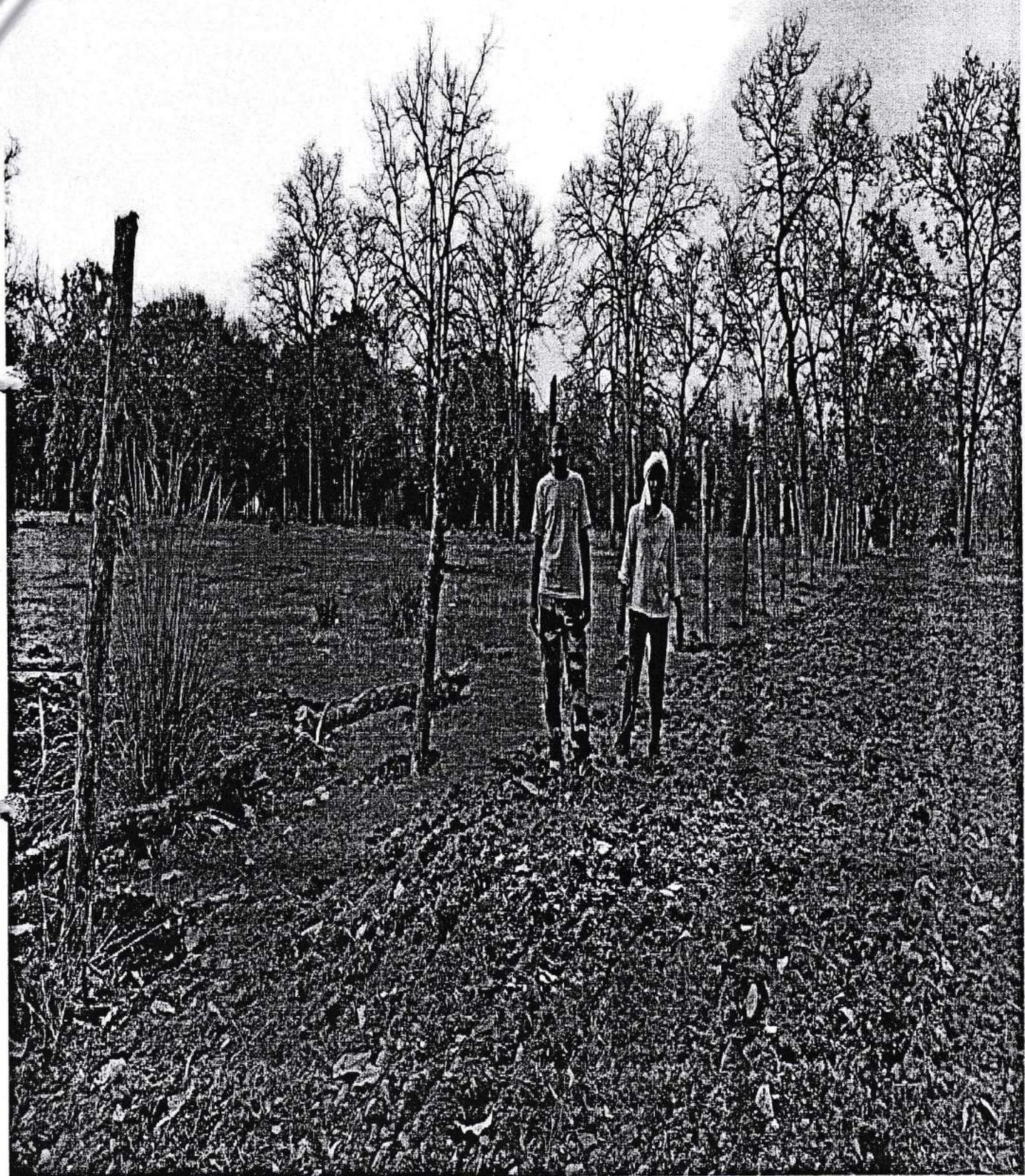
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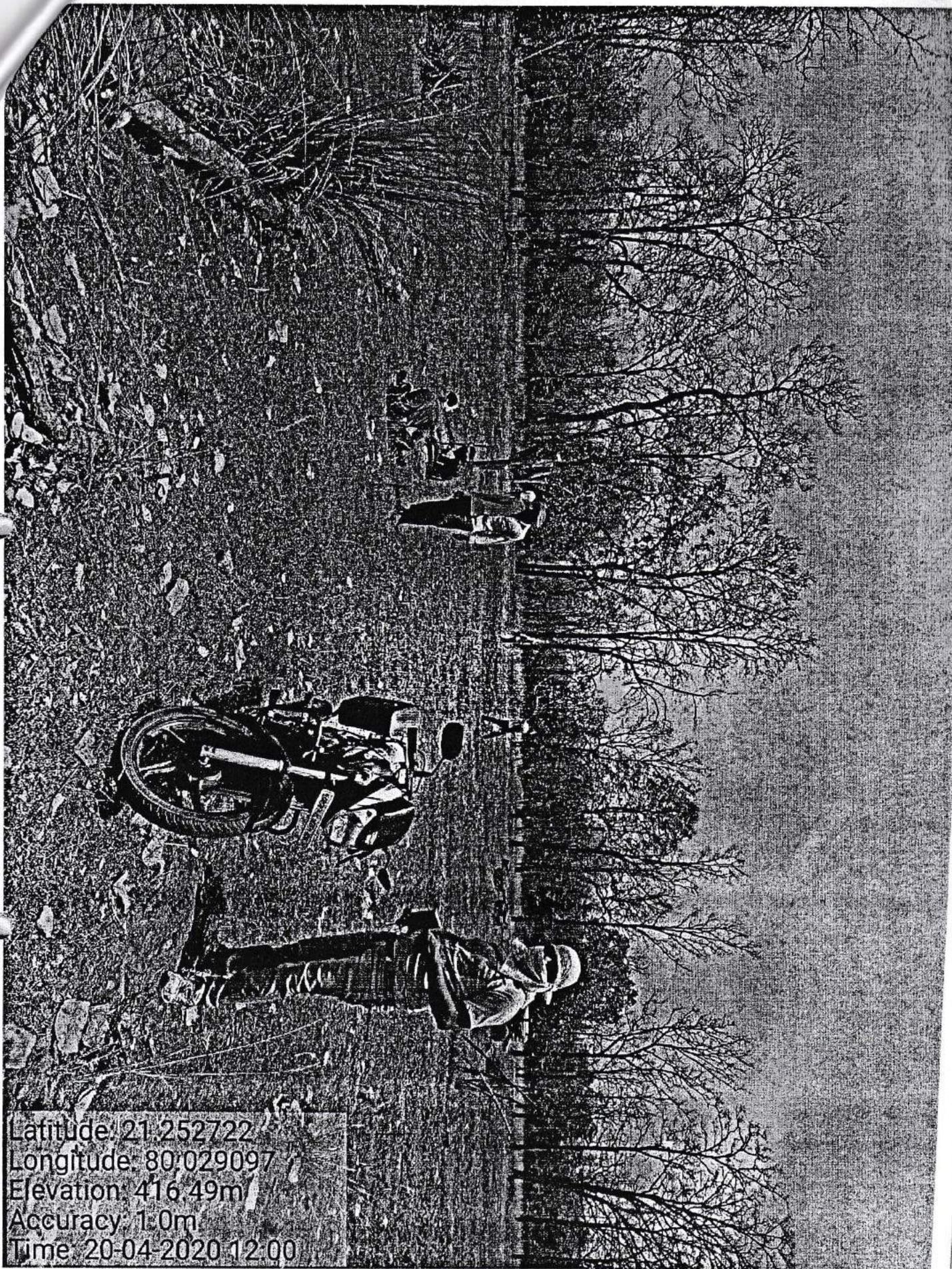
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21/1/2020	श्री. वी. वी. शर्मा	MH 36C 8421	श्री. वी.	2	-		विशुद्ध	गोवा	पं. 8227657
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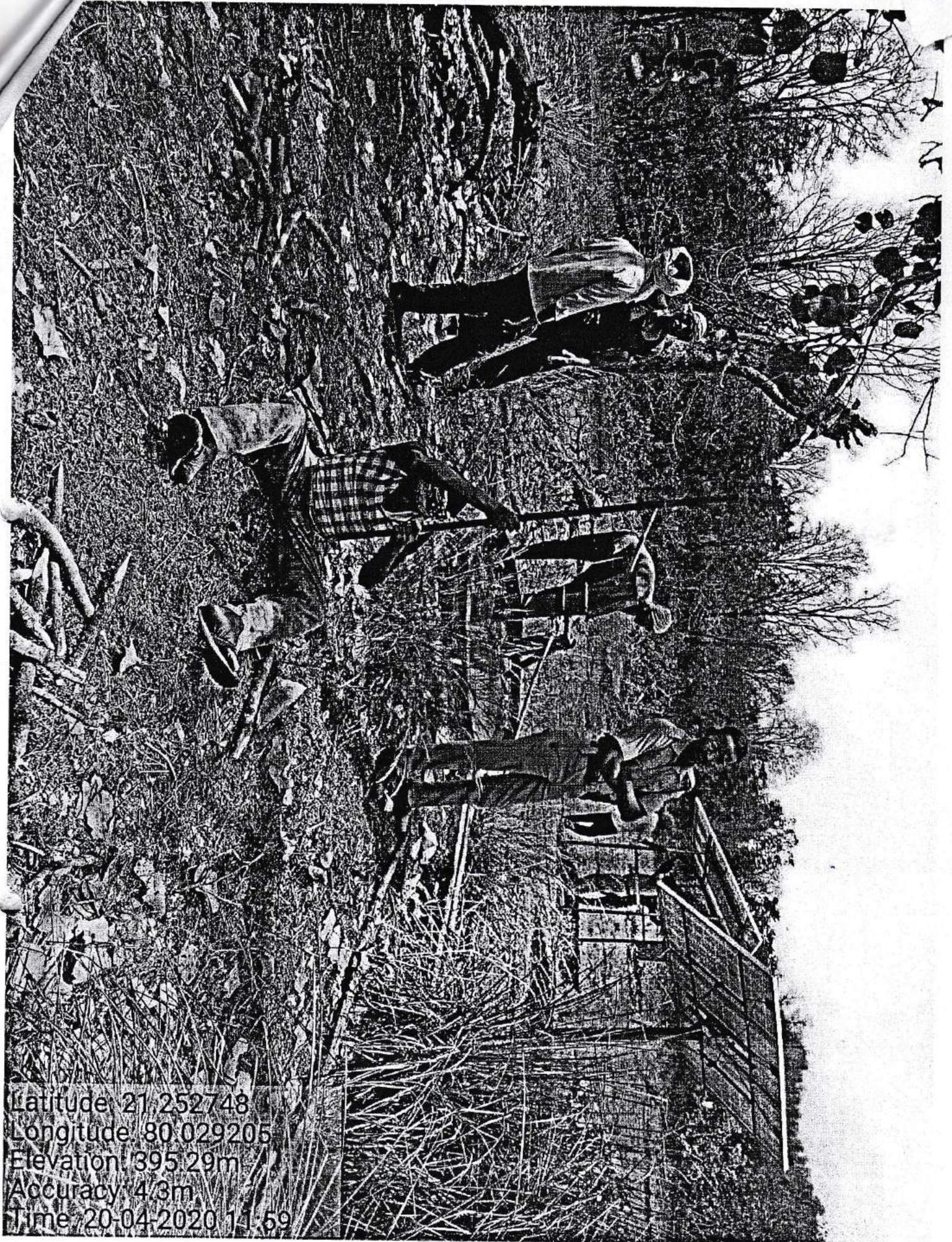
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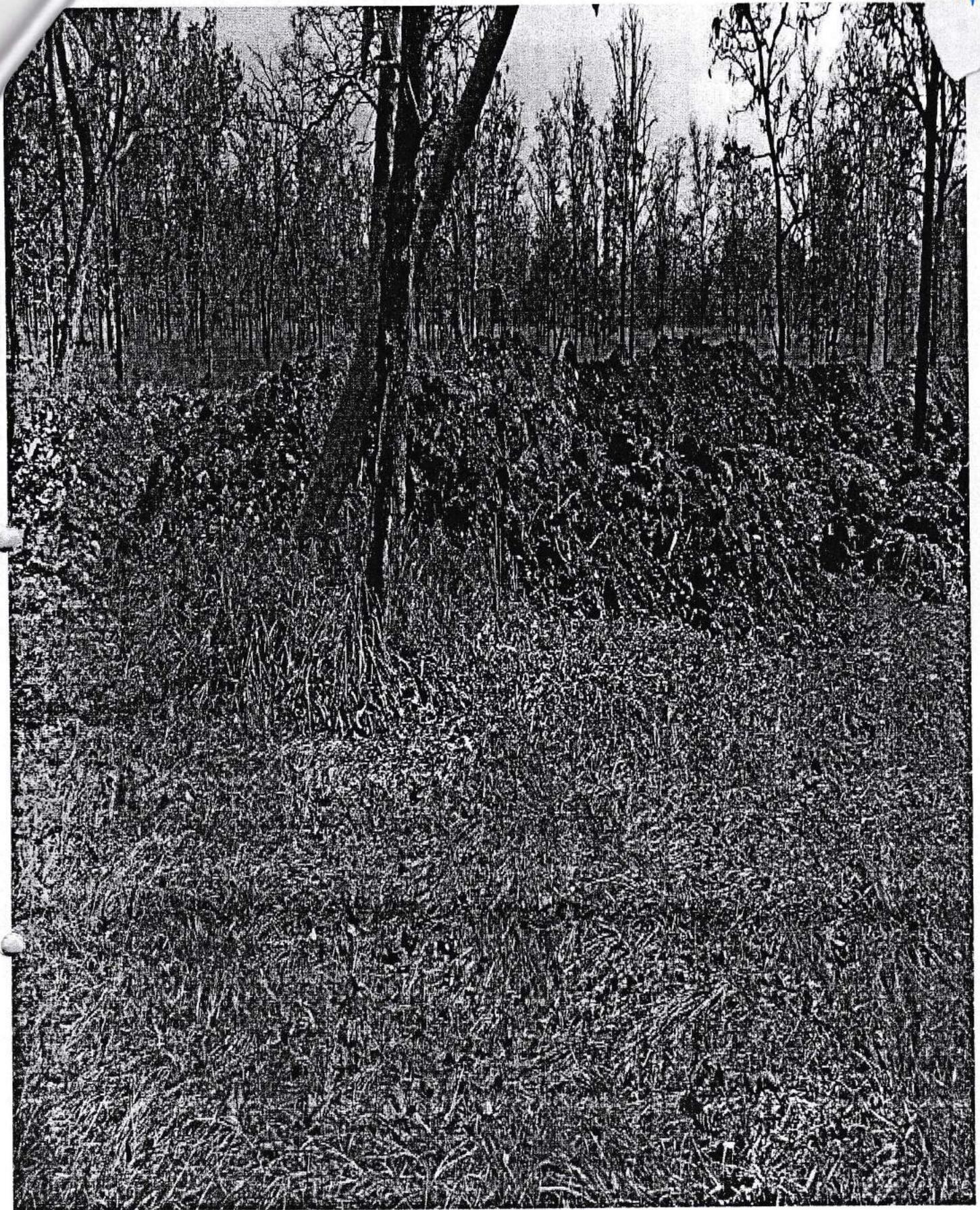


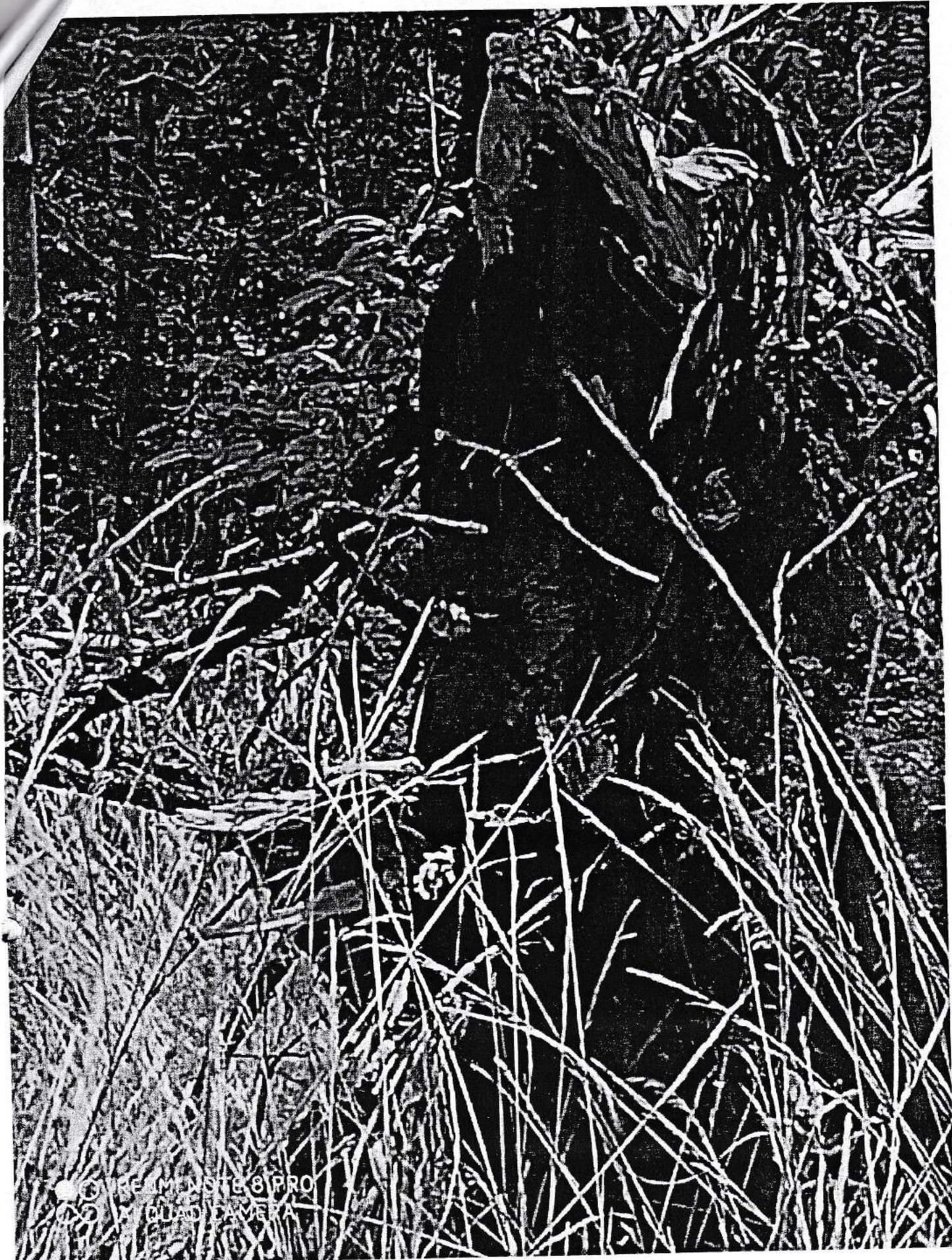


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BY BLAD CAMERA



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AI QUAD CAMERA



The colored portion indicates compartments where tree cutting and excavation is done.

93 206
48

Enquiry Report Submitted by APCCF

Enquiry report on allegations made by Shri. Sachin Rangari, Member,
People for Animals, Bhandara district, Unit Sakoli

1. Report regarding alleged road construction in core zone of NNTR

Existing Road network in NNTR is being repaired every year once the monsoon season is over. Tourism roads in Nagzira range are

- i) Nagzira tourism complex to Mangezari gate running through C. no.96, 125,121, 120,112,111,110 and 109
- ii) Nagzira tourism complex to pitezari gate road running through C. no. 125, 126 and 98
- iii) Nagzira tourism complex to Chorkhamara gate running through C.no. 123,124,122, 370

These roads were repaired in November and December 2019. These roads are tourist cum protection roads and main network for access to core compartments of Nagzira range. But due to unseasonal rains till April 2020, roads got damaged and patrolling vehicles were found getting stuck in some patches. Moreover, the tractors carrying tankers to fill the artificial water holes with water during summer were finding it difficult to ply. Hence RFO Nagzira was instructed by Field Director, NNTR to get these road patches repaired without further delay. Thus road repair works were carried out from 12th May to 22th May 2020 with the help of JCB and tractors. While carrying out the repair work, murrum was used. JCB with registration no. MH 35 G 5921 and three tractors were used in the above work. Registration no. of the tractors used are MH 31 D 593, MH 35 G 7433 and MH 36 D 8630. Photos of entry and exit date for vehicles are attached herewith.

Workers worked from 10 am to 5.30 pm and used to exit the core zone by 6 pm. JCB and two tractors were stationed inside core in the said period as it was not economical for the vehicle to play every day from and to native villages. One tractor was used to ferry workers. All the entries were taken in the gate registers. All rules regarding working in core zone were followed. No trees were felled while excavating murrum for the road repair work. No illegal road construction was done in Nagzira range.

2) Regarding alleged felling of 50-60 trees in C. No. 97 with JCB

With respect to complaint of illicit felling of trees in C. no. 97, RFO (Protection) Wildlife, Gondia inspected C.no. 97. No such illicit felling of trees with the help of JCB, as alleged in the complaint, has been noticed by the RFO (Protection) Wildlife. The area experienced strong winds and torrential rains on 31st of May 2020. Eight trees were found uprooted and broken due to winds and rain.

3) Regarding alleged murrum excavation in C.No. 96,98,109,120,121,125,126

As mentioned in point no. 1, existing road network is being repaired every year in NNTR. The roads run through the compartments mentioned in the complaint. Murrum from adjoining area of the roads was used in the repair work. Ground verification was done in the said compartments and images sent in complaint were verified in the spot. After the inspection, ACF has come to conclusion that murrum was excavated only for road repair work and no trees were felled while murrum was excavated.

4) Regarding entry of JCB no. MH 35 G 5921 from Pongezara gate and Mangezari gate

The said JCB entered from Pongezara gate to carry out the desilting works in Nagzira Range. Once the works were completed, it exited through same gate. Same JCB entered through Mangezari gate as mentioned in point no. 1 for road repair work in the month of May 2020. All the entries were taken in gate registers.

5) Disturbance to Tiger movement in Nagzira Range

Tigers T 8, T 9 and tigress T 4 with two cubs are resident tigers of Nagzira range. No disturbance has been found in their movement pattern due to road repairing or desilting work and all three tigers are found very well moving inside the core zone. This has been substantiated by recent camera trap images.

6) Alleged illicit felling of 400-500 trees in C. No. 97,96,98,125,126,109,121

As mentioned in Point no. 2 and 3, as per inspection report of ACF, Nagzira, illicit felling of trees with JCB was not observed in any of the compartments mentioned in the complaint. Again, due to rains, trees were found uprooted to varying numbers in all above compartments. (Photos of windfallen trees attached herewith).

Table 1: List of windfallen trees compartment wise

S.No.	Compartment no.	Number of wind fallen trees	Major species
1.	C.no. 96	22	<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> (Dhawda) <i>Ougenia dalbergisoides</i> (Tiwas)
2.	C.no. 98	47	<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i>

(57)

			(Dhawda)
3.	C. no. 125	28	<i>Madhuca indica</i> (Mahua)
			<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> (Dhawda)
4.	C.no. 126	32	<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> (Dhawda)
5.	C.no. 97	8	<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> (Dhawda)
6.	C.no. 120	1	<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> (Dhawda)
7.	C.no. 121	19	<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> (Dhawda)

From the above mentioned facts, it is very clear that JCB was used only to repair the existing road network in nagzira and to improve the habitat for wildlife. No trees in the forest were also felled while doing these works.


Conservator of Forests Field Director,
Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve, Gondia

Guidelines for Roads in Protected Areas

(Recommendations of the Sub-Committee of National Board for Wild Life Issued by Wildlife Division, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change vide

F.No. 6-62/2013 WL, dated 22nd December 2014)

In pursuance to the decision taken by the Standing Committee of the NBWL in its 28th Meeting held on 20th March 2013, a sub-committee under the chairmanship of Dr. M.K. Ranjit Singh, Member, National Board for Wildlife, was constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests vide O.M. No. 6-62/2013-WL, dated 26th June 2013. The terms of reference of the sub-committee are as follows:

- To frame a comprehensive guideline for construction/repair of roads passing through PA in the country.
- Design best practices for such roads passing through PAs so as to have better wildlife conservation.

The 1st meeting of sub-committee was convened on 2nd July, 2013. The second meeting of the sub-committee was convened on 6th August, 2013. The list of participants who attended both the meetings are given in Annexure-I.

PREAMBLE Background

Roads are an essential part of India's development, providing vital connectivity and transportation across the country. Yet, when they intersect natural areas (as opposed to being situated in already-modified human-dominated landscapes), roads have wide-ranging and complex impact on natural areas and wild species inhabiting these areas. Within India's Protected Areas, the extensive impact of roads remains poorly understood, except in the obvious and serious instance of wild animal mortality due to road accidents. Elsewhere, it was been well established that roads have detrimental ecological effects in both terrestrial and aquatic natural ecosystems. Roads further fragment the already highly fragmented natural habitats. They break forest contiguity, impinge on forests and well-worn migratory paths of animals, break tree cover and canopy, slice vegetation-all of which gravely impact wildlife. Roads cause soil erosion and landslides. Crucially, roads are the first step to ancillary development an increasing human footprint in the area, thus leading to accelerated developmental, tourist and hunting pressures, increase in pollution, litter, and various disturbances. Unless great vigilance and checks are provided, roads provide conduits for illegal extraction of timber and forest produce and for poaching, particularly at night, from vehicles. It is very difficult to provide the requisite surveillance and it is well established that PAs have suffered loss of vegetative cover and poaching after construction of roads. In PAs in the mountainous region, construction of roads and their widening has grave consequences, including landslides and erosion, as the debris from road cuts on hillsides is invariably tipped over the sides. A background paper on linear intrusions into natural areas, including roads, commissioned by the National Board for Wildlife in 2011, provides an exhaustive review of the current state of knowledge on this topic 1 and a companion document 2 provides detailed guidelines by which their negative impact on natural habitats and wild species, can be minimized.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

We wish to reiterate a point articulated clearly and emphatically in the National Wildlife Action Plan-2002-2016, which states that the "Ministry of Surface Transport... to plan roads, highways, expressways in such

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a manner that all national parks and sanctuaries are by-passed and integrity of the PA is maintained. Wildlife corridors also need to be avoided, or mitigative measures (such as restricting night traffic) need to be employed. This principle must serve as the cornerstone of any road plan that is being conceived in the vicinity of any wildlife or Protected Area, and envisages the Ministry of Surface Transport to work in coordination with the Ministry of Environment & Forests, and other relevant authorities and experts. Further, we believe that this principle must apply to all other roads being planned by any other agency at the national, state, or local levels. The implication of this action point articulated in the National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP) is also that plans be made proactively by relevant agencies to realign existing roads passing through protected areas, in a way that PAs are bypassed and, subsequently, decommission roads that intersect PAs.

If there are viable alternative alignments—as observed in a number of cases—to roads that otherwise intersect PAs, those within PAs must gradually be phased out and eventually decommissioned, while the alternate roads should be improved. This must be done in active coordination with the relevant ministries, departments and authorities, as noted above.

In planning roads, within and in the vicinity (defined here as roads that are situated inside and within 1 km radial distance) of protected areas, we recommend that following fundamental principles must be followed in order of priority: Avoidance, Realignment, Restoration.

1. **Principle of Avoidance:** The foremost option would be to altogether avoid are as that are within or in the vicinity of any Protected Area and to find alternatives that are socially and ecologically more appropriate.
2. **Principle of Realignment:** This follows as a corollary of the first principle. Road projects must investigate and demonstrate that they have considered other alternative routes that avoid natural areas of high ecological value. This must be an integral feature of a project proposal and implementation documents. Realignments must also be developed in a transparent manner through consultation with local communities affected by the routing and subject to ecological and wildlife considerations.

User agencies seeking clearances for roads must demonstrate as to how they have taken these factors into account, before their proposals can be considered for approval by the SC-NBWL.

3. **Principle of Restoration:** In natural areas, existing roads that are in disuse (e.g., old logging roads), or evaluated to be inefficient or detrimental to their objects, shall be targeted for decommissioning and subsequent ecological restoration, as the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed.

The Deputy Inspector General of Forests (WL) briefed the committee regarding the existing guidelines for roads within Protected Areas, viz.:

- (i) Decision of the Standing Committee of IBWL, as per decision taken during the meeting held on 14.6.2000. This held that roads that have already been tarred should continue to be maintained and repaired properly, in the current form. No roads inside the National Parks and Sanctuaries should be widened or upgraded.
- (ii) During the meeting of 14th October 2011, it indicated that *"No widening of existing roads shall be permitted, and the status of finishing of the surface of the repaired road(s) shall remain same as that*

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the original road(s), i.e., un-tarred roads shall remain un tarred after repairs, and only originally tarred roads shall be repaired and tarred "

Recommendations

The committee recommends the following:

1. The status quo of the roads passing through National Parks and Core Critical Tiger Habitats (CTH) shall remain the same. The roads could be maintained and repaired in the best manner possible in their current form and present width. No widening or up gradation is to be allowed. If it is an existing tarred road, it shall be maintained as such and no widening of the tarred surface or the widening of the road itself, may be done.
2. For Wildlife Sanctuaries and Conservation Reserves, the same norms as in the case of National Parks and Core, Critical Tiger habitats, shall apply. However, in case of Sanctuaries and Conservation Reserves, culverts and metalling in sections of roads that become impassable or 'all weather roads' for approach/connectivity to villages within the Protected Areas, can be considered for approval in the Standing Committee of NBWL. If necessary in such cases, required maintenance could be taken up by the Forest Dept. on the recommendation of the Standing Committee of NBWL. It may be stressed again, that the width and status of the existing roads shall remain the same and no up gradation will be allowed. In considering such proposals, the method of such road construction/improvement such as blasting, borrow-pit digging, etc., the impact upon movement of animals from one habitat to another/ wildlife corridors, access of water, etc. would be criteria for consideration.
3. Where roads approaching/passing by National Parks/Core-Critical Tiger Reserve/Wildlife Sanctuary are within a radius of 1 km thereof, or within the Eco Sensitive Zone, whichever of the two is lesser, would be treated on same basis/guidelines as are applicable to the Protected Areas category that it is in proximity of.
4. Presently, as Community Reserves are outside the purview of Section 29 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the committee decided not to delve into the matter of roads passing through such PAs. The committee recommended that, no change of current ownership and maintenance of roads passing through the Protected Areas should be permitted. However, in specific cases where such a transfer is required to better manage roads so as to cause minimal impacts on wildlife, as in the case of transfer of certain PWD /other roads which pass through PAs, back to the concerned Forest Dept; such transfers could be considered.
5. Roads being managed by the Forest Department for the purpose of patrolling and tourism, were of equal concern like other roads inside Protected Areas. It was noted that there was a large network of such roads in several National Parks/Tiger Reserves/Wildlife Sanctuaries. No new roads should be constructed by the concerned Forest Departments and if so required to be constructed, the approval of the National Tiger conservation Authority (in case of Tiger Reserves) and concerned State Boards for Wildlife in case of non-Tiger Reserve for other PAs must be obtained. The concerned authority should be able to demonstrate and justify the grounds for construction of the new roads within PAs, in the conservation interest of the concerned PA.

COMPENDIUM OF GUIDELINES, ADVISORIES & ORDERS

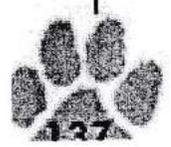
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WILDLIFE, NPA, ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

6. The committee also agreed that the Wildlife Institute of India should formulate guidelines - for making roads by the Forest Departments, for protection purposes, in Protected Areas, Critical Wildlife Habitats and designated corridors.

Management of Roads within PAs:

Mitigation: For existing roads, repairs and maintenance of existing roads, and for repairing roads that are impassable during monsoon/all-weather roads as described in the recommendation above, it is imperative that mitigation measures are included in the project planning, design, budget, implementation, and monitoring stages. This requires measures to minimise detrimental effects of roads on ecology, wildlife, local communities and users. This shall be considered only for existing structures and for new cases, where the options given earlier have been comprehensively considered and overruled, with adequate justification. These are also subject to requisite approvals from the state authorities and boards, the Ministry of Environment and Forests and its statutory bodies, such as the National Board for Wildlife, Forest Advisory Committee, and the National Tiger Conservation Authority, as relevant to each case.

An exhaustive set of management measures have been recommended in the NBWL's draft guideline document mentioned above (pages 8-13, and 17-21). While fully endorsing these recommended management measures, for ready reference, some of the key management considerations applicable for already existing roads, are herewith highlighted:

- Ban on night traffic (dusk to dawn) is essential to save animals from disturbance from the constant flow of traffic, and thus allow them passage. It is recommended that night traffic bans should be initiated and applied in Core Critical Tiger Habitats, National Parks and Sanctuaries. There are such existing bans in various Tiger Reserves and NPs. Night passes may be provided for villagers/communities living within the PAs.
- Strong regulations controlling timing and traffic volumes need to be built in for all roads through Protected Areas and critical habitats.
- Speed reduction is a must to reduce wild animal mortality, and can be achieved through imposed speed limits and speed breakers.
- Vehicles should not be allowed to stop within PAs.
- No use of horns within the PA, and no littering.
- Speed restrictions and other guidelines that spell out rules and avoidance of disturbance to wildlife and habitats along roads in PAs, must be prominently conveyed through well-designed signboards, at entry and exit points and all other relevant locations.
- Establishment of check posts by the forest department, at both entry and exit points.
- Wherever possible, natural animal crossings existing across roads should be retained or encouraged. For instance, overlapping tree canopy in closed canopy evergreen/semi evergreen forests is an essential attribute for the movement of arboreal species. Passage to waterholes and daily movements of animals must also be safeguarded.
- Underpasses: well-designed tunnels, culverts, pipes, and other structures can function as underpasses below roads and bridges, for a wide-range of terrestrial and aquatic species. Underpasses can also be deployed below railway lines/highways for passage of large bodied animals, viz elephants, tigers.

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महाराष्ट्र शासन

महसूल व वन विभाग

मंत्रालय, मुंबई-४०००३२.

मादाम कामा मार्ग, हुतात्मा राजगुरु चौक.

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क्र. डब्ल्युएलपी -०७.२०/प्र.क्र.१००/फ-१

दिनांक :- १५.०७.२०२०.

प्रति,

१. प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (वनबल प्रमुख), महाराष्ट्र राज्य, नागपूर
२. प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (वन्यजीव) महाराष्ट्र राज्य, नागपूर

विषय :- नवेंगाव-नागझिरा व्याघ्र प्रकल्पातील अवैध वृक्षतोड व मुरूम उत्खनन प्रकरणी चौकशी समिती गठीत करणेबाबत.

संदर्भ :- प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (वन्यजीव), महाराष्ट्र राज्य, नागपूर यांचे पत्र क्र. कक्ष-२३(६) / वजी / प्र.क्र.(२०-२१/६१०/२०२०-२१, दि. ०९.०७.२०२०.

नवेंगाव-नागझिरा व्याघ्र प्रकल्पातील अवैध वृक्षतोड व मुरूम उत्खनन प्रकरणासंदर्भात श्री. सचिन रंगारी यांनी दिनांक ०८.०७.२०२० रोजी मा. श्रीमती मनेका गांधी यांच्याकडे याबाबत तक्रार केली आहे. तसेच सदर प्रकरणी विविध वर्तमानपत्रात नवेंगाव-नागझिरा व्याघ्र प्रकल्पातील अवैध वृक्षतोड व मुरूम उत्खनन या संदर्भात वर्तमानपत्रांमध्ये बातम्या प्रसिद्ध झाल्या आहेत.

या प्रकरणी अपर प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (वन्यजीव), पुर्व नागपूर यांनी केलेल्या चौकशी अहवालाबाबत श्री.रंगारी व मा. श्रीमती मनेका गांधी यांचे आक्षेप असल्याचे दिसून येत आहेत. तसेच या संदर्भात स्वतंत्र चौकशी करण्याबाबत त्यांनी शासनाकडे मागणी केली आहे.

वरील प्रकरणी विविध स्तरावरून वन विभागाच्या प्रतिमेबाबत नकारात्मक संदेश जन-मानसांत जात असल्याने प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (वन्यजीव), महाराष्ट्र राज्य, नागपूर यांनी संदर्भीय पत्रान्वये समितीमार्फत चौकशी करण्याचे प्रस्तावित केले आहे. त्या अनुषंगाने सदर प्रकरणी स्वतंत्र चौकशी करण्याची बाब शासनाच्या विचाराधीन होती. त्या अनुषंगाने खालीलप्रमाणे चौकशी समिती गठीत करण्यात येत आहे:-

१	जिल्हाधिकारी, गोंदिया	अध्यक्ष
२	उप वनसंरक्षक (प्रादेशिक), गोंदिया	सदस्य
३	श्री.मुकुंद धुर्वे, मानद वन्यजीव रक्षक, गोंदिया	सदस्य
४	श्री. राजकमल जोब, मानद वन्यजीव रक्षक, भंडारा	सदस्य
५	श्री. शाहीद खान, SEAT संस्था, भंडारा	सदस्य

सदर साभतीकडून मा. श्रीमती मनका गांगी यांचेकडून प्राप्त सर्व दस्तऐवजांची सखोल तपासणी करून घेऊन त्यांच्या बाजू मांडण्याची संधी देवून तसेच क्षेत्रीय भंटी अंती आवश्यक चौकशी करून त्यांच्या स्वयंसेवा अहवाल दिनांक २४ जुलै २०२० पर्यंत शासनास सादर करावा, हि विनंती.

Stewart

(सिध्देण सावर्डेकर)

विशेष कार्य अधिकारी

महसूल व वन विभाग

प्रति,

१. अपर प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (वन्यजीव), पुर्व नारायण
२. जिल्हाधिकारी, गोंदिया.
३. उप वनसंरक्षक, (प्रा.) गोंदिया.
४. श्री. मुकुंद धुर्वे, मानद वन्यजीव रक्षक, गोंदिया.
५. श्री. राजकमल जोष, मानद वन्यजीव रक्षक, भंडारा.
६. श्री. शाहीद खान, SEAT संस्था, भंडारा.

Issued
15/07/2020
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महाराष्ट्र शासन
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क्र.अका/आस्था-1/सीआर-/20/कावि- 614 /2020

दिनांक - 01 /08/2020

प्रति,

सहसचिव (वने)
महसूल व वन विभाग,
मंत्रालय, मुंबई

विषय - नवेगांव-नागझिरा व्याघ्र प्रकल्पातील अवैध वृक्षतोड व मुरूम उत्खनन प्रकरणासंदर्भात अहवाल सादर करण्याबाबत.

- संदर्भ - 1. आपले पत्र क्र. डब्ल्युएलपी-07.20/प्र.क्र.100/फ-1, दिनांक 15.07.2020 (प्राप्त दि. 20/07/2020)
2. या कार्यालयाचे पत्र क्र. जिकागो/स्वि.स/कावि-128/2020 दि. 21/07/2020
3. या कार्यालयाचे पत्र क्र. अका/आस्था/सीआर- /20/कावि-560/2020 दि. 21/07/2020
4. वनसंरक्षक तथा क्षेत्र संचालक, नवेगांव- नागझिरा व्याघ्र राखीव क्षेत्र, गोंदिया यांचे पत्र क्र. कक्ष-लले/चौकशी/20-21/865/ दि. 22/07/2020 व 23/07/2020 रोजीचा अहवाल.
5. या कार्यालयाचे पत्र क्र. अका/आस्था/सीआर- /20/कावि-570/2020 दि. 23/07/2020

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उपरोक्त विषयांकित संदर्भीय पत्र क्र. 01 प्राप्त दि. 20/07/2020 अन्वये सदरील विषयावर चौकशी समिती गठित करुन दि. 24/07/2020 पर्यंत चौकशी करुन अहवाल सादर करण्याबाबत निर्देश प्राप्त होते. आपलेकडील संदर्भीय पत्रान्वये सहपत्रे 01 ते 27 असल्याचे नमुद करण्यात आले होते. परंतु प्रत्यक्षात आपल्या कार्यालयाकडून प्राप्त झालेले सहपत्रे एकूण 01 ते 18 होते व उर्वरीत सहपत्रे या कार्यालयाचे ई-मेलवर पाठविण्याबाबत या कार्यालयाचे संदर्भीय पत्र क्र. 02 अन्वये आपणांस कळविण्यात आले होते. व या कार्यालयाचे संदर्भीय पत्र क्र. 05 अन्वये सदर प्रकरणी अहवाल सादर करण्यासंदर्भात मुदतवाढ मिळण्यास विनंती केली होती.

सबब सदर तक्रारीच्या अनुषंगाने समिती गठित करुन समितीची प्रथम सभा दिनांक 21.07.2020 रोजी सकाळी 10.30 वाजता जिल्हाधिकारी कार्यालय गोंदिया येथे पार पाडली. सदर सभेत वनसंरक्षक तथा क्षेत्र संचालक, नवेगांव-नागझिरा व्याघ्र राखीव क्षेत्र, गोंदिया व तक्रारदार श्री. सचिन रंगारी यांना दि. 21/07/2020 रोजी दुपारी 12.00 वाजता त्यांचा म्हणणे सादर करण्यास उपस्थित राहण्यास कळविण्यात आले. सभेत सदर तक्रारीचे अनुषंगाने तक्रारदार यांनी उपस्थित केलेल्या मुद्दयांबाबत व तक्रारीतील व वृत्तपत्रातील कात्रणांचे अनुषंगाने वनसंरक्षक तथा क्षेत्र संचालक, नवेगांव- नागझिरा व्याघ्र राखीव क्षेत्र, गोंदिया या कार्यालयाचे संदर्भीय पत्र क्र. 03 अन्वये अहवाल सादर कर कळविण्यात आले. व दि. 24/07/2020 रोजी स्थळ पाहणी करण्यात आली.

दि. 24/07/2020 चे स्थळ पाहणीनंतर तक्रारकर्ता यांनी अजुन काही कक्ष क्रमांकाची परत पाहणी करण्याचे आग्रह केल्यामुळे पुनःच दि. 29/07/2020 रोजी स्थळ पाहणी निश्चित करण्यात आली. परंतु प्रशासकीय कारणास्तव सदर पाहणी दि. 30/07/2020 रोजी समितीचे सर्व सदस्य व वनसंरक्षक तथा क्षेत्र संचालक, नवेगांव- नागझिरा व्याघ्र राखीव क्षेत्र, गोंदिया तसेच तक्रारदार श्री. सचिन रंगारी यांचेसह करण्यात आली.

तक्रारदार श्री. सचिन रंगारी सदस्य सचिव, पिपल फॉर ॲनीमल्स, भंडारा युनिट यांनी दिनांक 1/06/2020, दिनांक 5/06/2020, दिनांक 13/06/2020 रोजी सादर केलेले दस्तावेज त्यानंतर दिनांक 24/07/2020 व दिनांक 27/07/2020 रोजी नागझिरा येथे समितीसोबत दिलेले भेटी आणि दिनांक 31/07/2020 रोजी चौकशी समितीसमोर दिलेल्या माहितीनुसार मुद्देनिहाय निष्कर्ष खालीलप्रमाणे आहे.

मुद्दा	नवगाव-नागझिरा व्याघ्र प्रकल्पाद्वारे प्राप्त झालेले सविस्तर उतर	तक्रारदार यांचेकडून प्राप्त झालेले दस्तावेज/पुरावे	समितीचे प्रत्यक्षात पाहणी केल्यानंतरचा अहवाल व निष्कर्ष
1	वनसंरक्षक तथा क्षेत्र संचालक, नवगाव नागझिरा व्याघ्र राखीव क्षेत्र गाँदिया यांनी दिनांक 23/07/2020 चे पत्राच्ये तक्रारीचे अनुषंगाने अहवाल सादर केला (जोडपत्र अ) नवगाव नागझिरा व्याघ्र प्रकल्पातील 1. नागझिरा ते पिटेझरी, 2. नागझिरा ते मंगेझरी, 3. नागझिरा ते पोमोझरा, 4. नागझिरा ते चोरखमारा हे चार रस्ते नागझिरा अभयारण्याच्या आराखडयानुसार (2010-11 ते 2019-2020) अस्तित्वात असलेले रस्ते आहेत. त्यामुळे कोणतेही नवीन रस्त्याचे बांधकाम केलेले नाही. रस्ता क्रमांक 3 नागझीरा ते पिटेझरी रस्ता क्रमांक 4 नागझीरा ते मंगेझरी रोड व रस्ता क्रमांक 6 टायगर रोड या रस्त्यांचा काही भाग अवकाळी पावसाने खराब झाल्याने माहे एप्रिल व मे, 2020 या कालावधीत, हे भाग पुन्हा दुरूस्त करण्यात आले.	तक्रारदार श्री. सचिन यांची दि. 01/06/2020 व 05/06/2020 तसेच 13/06/2020 रोजीची तक्रार व छायाचित्र तक्रारकर्त्याने दिनांक 31/07/2020 च्या निवेदनासोबत (जोडपत्र ब) खालील सहपत्रे सादर केले.	1. प्रश्नांमधून रस्त्यांचे बांधकाम अभयारण्याच्याव्यवस्थापन आराखडयानुसार (2010-11 ते 2019-20) व सादरित आराखडयाला मा.मुख्य वन्यजीव रक्षक यांनी दिनांक 01/04/2011 ला मान्यता प्रदान केल्यानुसार करण्यात आल्याचे पुरावे विभागाने सादर केले आहे.
2	तक्रारदार श्री. सचिन यांची दिनांक 01/06/2020 व 05/06/2020 तसेच 13/06/2020 रोजीची तक्रार व छायाचित्र तक्रारकर्त्याने दिनांक 31/07/2020 च्या निवेदनासोबत (जोडपत्र ब) खालील सहपत्रे सादर केले.	1) Guidelines for Roads in Protected Areas (22/12/2014) 2) MoEF Office Memorandum Dated 24/06/2013 3) Guidelines for taking Non-forestry Activities in Wildlife Habitats (19/12/2012)	विभागाचे अभिप्रायप्रमाणे रस्त्याची दुरूस्ती करण्यासाठी कक्ष क्रं 96, 98, 110, 112, 120, 121, 125, 126 मधून मुरूमाचे उत्खनन करून वापरल्याचे नमूद आहे. अभयारण्यात ज्या ठिकाणी मुरूम (चांगल्या प्रतिका) आहे त्याच ठिकाणातून मुरूम उत्खनन करून रस्त्यावर पसरला जातो हे काम दरवर्षी होत असते. सादर रस्ते हे वन्यजीव व्यवस्थापनाच्या कामासाठी, गस्तीसाठी तसेच व्याघ्र प्रकल्पात येणा-या पर्यटकांच्या वाहनांना फिरण्यासाठी आवश्यक असतात त्यानुसार हे काम झाल्याचे सांगितले आहे.
3	तक्रारदार श्री. सचिन यांची दिनांक 01/06/2020 व 05/06/2020 तसेच 13/06/2020 रोजीची तक्रार व छायाचित्र तक्रारकर्त्याने दिनांक 31/07/2020 च्या निवेदनासोबत (जोडपत्र ब) खालील सहपत्रे सादर केले.	1) Guidelines for Roads in Protected Areas (22/12/2014) 2) MoEF Office Memorandum Dated 24/06/2013 3) Guidelines for taking Non-forestry Activities in Wildlife Habitats (19/12/2012)	पाहणी दरम्यान कंपार्टमेंट नं.109, 110, 112, 96, 121, 124, 125 येथे मुरूम उत्खनन झाल्याचे दिसून आले. व कंपार्टमेंट नं.127 मध्ये अंदाजे 5-6 महिन्यापूर्वीच मुरूम काढल्याचे दिसून आले. वरील कक्ष क्रमांकमध्ये मुरूमाचे उत्खनन करतांना जवळील काही वृक्षांचे मुळ उधडया परिस्थितीमध्ये दिसून आले. परंतु उत्खननासाठी वृक्षतोड केल्याचे निदर्शनास आले नाही. मुरूमाचा उपयोग अभयारण्यातील रस्ते दुरूस्ती करण्यासाठी केला असल्याचे आढळले. ज्या ठिकाणी रस्त्यांवर खडे पडलेले होते त्या जागेच्या जवळच्या ठिकाणातून मुरूम
4	तक्रारदार श्री. सचिन यांची दिनांक 01/06/2020 व 05/06/2020 तसेच 13/06/2020 रोजीची तक्रार व छायाचित्र तक्रारकर्त्याने दिनांक 31/07/2020 च्या निवेदनासोबत (जोडपत्र ब) खालील सहपत्रे सादर केले.	1) Guidelines for Roads in Protected Areas (22/12/2014) 2) MoEF Office Memorandum Dated 24/06/2013 3) Guidelines for taking Non-forestry Activities in Wildlife Habitats (19/12/2012)	

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उत्खनन केले आहे. या उत्खनन झालेल्या मुरूमाचा व्यावसायिक उपयोग केलेला नाही.

तसेच संरक्षित क्षेत्रात जेसीबी अथवा ट्रॅक्टरचा वापर करता येत नाही याबाबत तक्रारकर्ता या विभागा यांनी कोणताही सबळ पुरावा सादर केला नाही. सबब याबाबत अभिप्राय नोंदविता येत नाही

2. तक्रारीमध्ये कक्ष क्र. 124, 125, 127 मध्ये नवीन रस्ता तयार केल्याचे नमूद आहे. परंतु प्रत्यक्ष पाहणीत 124, 127 मध्ये नविन रस्ता आढळून आले नाही. व कक्ष क्र. 125 मध्ये अंदाजे 125 मी. लांबीचा रस्ता दुरूस्ती केल्याचे आढळले. त्या ठिकाणी वृक्ष तोडून पडलेले आढळून आलेले नाही. परंतु जवळपास 8 लहान मुळे निदर्शनास आली.

विभागाने सादर केलेली टोपोग्राफी शिट, नकाशावरून तसेच प्रसिध्द लेखक व्यंकटेश माडगूळकर लिखित पुस्तक " नागाझिरा" (प्रकाशित 1978 मध्ये सदर पायवाट रस्त्याचा (Nature trail) उल्लेख आढळून येतो. परंतु रस्ता रूंदीकरण केल्याबाबत तक्रारकर्ते किंवा विभागाने कुठलेही दस्तऐवज सादर न केल्यामुळे पुराव्याअभावी रूंदीकरणाबाबत समिती कुठल्याही निष्कर्षातप्रत येऊ शकली नाही.

3. विभागाचे अभिप्रायानुसार दुरूस्तीचे कामासाठी वापरलेला मुरूम कक्ष क्र. 96, 98, 110, 112, 120, 121, 125, 126 मधून घेण्यात आला आहे. उत्खननासाठी जेसीबीचा वापर करण्यात आला व मुरूम वाहतुकीसाठी ट्रॅक्टरचा वापर केला असे विभागाने मान्य केले. विभागाचे म्हणण्यानुसार सदर कामे त्यांनी वन्यजीव संरक्षण अधिनियम 1972 चे कलम 33 (a) (b) (c) नुसार, मा मुख्य वन्यजीव रक्षक यांना असलेले अधिकार दिनांक 26 जुलै, 2013 चे आदेशान्वये क्षेत्र संचालक व उपसंचालक यांना प्रत्यार्पित करण्यात आलेल्या अधिकारानुसार करण्यात आलेली आहे. यासंदर्भात तक्रारकर्ता यांनी "GUIDELINES FOR TAKING NON-FORESTRY ACTIVITIES IN WILDLIFE HABITATS

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(Issued by Wildlife Division of Ministry of Environment and Forests" (Dated 19/12/2012) मधील तरतूदीचा संदर्भ देत प्रश्नाधिन कामासाठी National Board of Wildlife चे परवानगीची आवश्यकता असल्याचे नमूद केले. परंतु विभागाने त्यांना वरील कलम 33 अन्वये प्राप्त असलेल्या अधिकाराअंतर्गत वन्यजीव व्यवस्थापनासाठी सदर कामे केल्याने उपरोक्त मार्गदर्शक सूचना लागू होतं नाही असे नमूद केले आहे.

विभागाने रस्त्याच्या कामासाठी वापरलेला मूळम कक्ष क्र. 96, 98, 110, 112, 120, 121, 125, 126 मधून उत्खनन केल्याचे मान्य केले आहे. तक्रारकर्त्याने या संदर्भात "Guidelines For Roads in Protected Areas" Dated 22nd December, 2014 चा संदर्भ देत रस्त्याच्या दुरुस्तीसाठी मूळम संरक्षित क्षेत्राबहेरून आणणे आवश्यक असल्याचे नमूद केले आहे. तसेच MoEF चा ऑफीस मेमो दिनांक 24 जून, 2013 नुसार सदर उत्खननासाठी पर्यावरण अनुमती आवश्यक असल्याचेही नमूद केले आहे. या संदर्भात विभागाने पुन्हा वन्यजीव संरक्षण अधिनियम, चे कलम 33 नुसार त्यांना प्राप्त अधिकाराअंतर्गत वन्यजीव व्यवस्थापनाच्या दृष्टीने रस्त्याची दुरुस्ती केली.

या संदर्भात वनसंवर्धन अधिनियम 1980 मध्ये 17/12/1988 च्या राजपत्रात प्रसिध्द सुधारणीनुसार वनेतर प्रयोजनाची व्याख्या नमूद केली आहे.

त्यानुसार "Explanation- For the purpose of this section " non forest purpose" means the breaking up or clearing of any forest land or portion thereof for----

But does not include any work relating or ancillary to conservation, development and management of forest and wild life, namely, the establishment of check-posts, fire lines, wireless culverts, dams, waterholes, trench marks, boundary marks, pipe line or other like purposes"

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<p>2. नवेगाव-नागझिरा व्याघ्र प्रकल्पातील तलावाकरिता गाळ/मुरूम काढल्याचे व सदर मुरूम रस्त्याचे कामासाठी व जंगलात इतरत्र पडून आहे. क्वार्टमेंट नं. (96, 98, 109, 120, 121, 125, 126)</p>	<p>व्याघ्र प्रकल्पात गाळ काढण्याचे काम (De-Siltation) एकूण 03 टिकाणी करण्यात आलेली आहेत.</p> <p>1. नागझिरा वनपरिक्षेत्रातील काटेथुआ नाला झक्याडोह खोदकाम करणे.- कक्ष क्र. 121, 124 सिमा</p> <p>2. नागझिरा वनपरिक्षेत्रातील सिंधपुरी बांध खोदकाम करणे.- कक्ष क्र. 123</p> <p>3. नागझिरा वनपरिक्षेत्रातील चितळ मैदान नाला खोलीकरण करणे. कक्ष क्र. 97</p> <p>येथील काढलेला गाळ शेजारील जागेत पसरवलेला आहे.</p> <p>रस्त्यासाठी मुरूम काढलेली जागा व गाळ काढलेली जागा या वेगवेगळ्या आहेत. वर उल्लेख केल्यानुसार कक्ष क्र. मधून गाळ काढलेली आहे.</p> <p>तसेच रस्ता दुरुस्तीकरिता लागणारा मुरूम कक्ष क्र. 96,98,110,112,120,121,125,126 मधून वापरण्यात आला आहे. सदर दुरुस्त केलेले रस्ते हे याच कक्षातून जातात</p> <p>सदर कामे वन्यजीव व्यवस्थापनाचा भाग असून तरतुदी व प्राप्त अधिकाराने तसेच नागझिरा</p>	<p>तक्रारदार श्री. सचिन रंगारी यांची दि. 01/06/2020 व 05/06/2020 तसेच 13/06/2020 रोजीची तक्रार व छायाचित्र</p>	<p>यावरून वन्यजीव संवर्धनसाठी विभागाने हती घेतलेली कामांना वनेतर कामे म्हणता येणार नाही.</p> <p>1. कक्ष क्र. 109 मधील गाराडोड तलावची तक्रारीचे अनुषंगाने समितीचे सदस्य पाहणी करण्याकरिता तक्रारकर्त्याचे म्हणण्यानुसार 4 कि.मी. पायी गेले परंतु तलावाचे गाळ काढण्याचे काम प्रत्यक्षात दिसून आले नाही. व सदर तलावातील गाळ काढल्याचे आढळून आले नाही. तक्रारकर्त्याने प्रत्यक्ष भेटीत तलावातून गाळ काढल्याचे पुरावे दाखविले नाही अथवा कुठलेही दस्तावेज सादर केले नाही.</p> <p>2. व्याघ्र प्रकल्पातील तलावातील गाळ काढण्याचे काम कक्ष क्र. 97 मधील तलावात झाले आहे. प्रत्यक्ष भेट दिल्यावर तलावाचे खोलीकरण केले असल्याचे आढळून आले आहे. त्यातून निघालेली काळी माती तलावाच्या बांधावर पसरविण्यात आली आहे असे दिसले. तलावात पावसाचे पाणी जमा झालेले आहे.</p> <p>तक्रारकर्त्यानुसार हा तलाव पूर्वी अस्तित्वात नव्हता. नागझिरा प्रशासनाकडे विचारणा केली असता, त्यांनी 2002 व 2010 चे गुगल मॅप उपलब्ध करून दिले. त्यामध्ये हा तलाव अस्तित्वात असल्याचे दिसून येते. परंतु रुंदीकरणबंदल पुराव्या अभावी तलावाचे अभिप्राय नोंदविता येत नाही.</p> <p>कक्ष क्रं. 121 व 124चे सिमेवर, क्वार्टमेंट नं. 121 मध्ये एका खोद तलावाचे बांधकाम झालेले आहे यातील दगड, माती यांचा मलबा खोदलेल्या तलावाच्या बाजूला पसरविण्यात आलेला आहे. समितीने या जागेची पाहणी केली असता या पसरलेल्या धू-यावर वनस्पती उगाविण्यास सुरुवात झाली आहे. त्यात रान हळद, पळस अशी झुडूपे वाढण्यास सुरुवात झाली आहे. यावरून या फेकलेल्या मलब्यामुळे अभयारण्यातील जैवविविधतेचे आणि परिसराचे नुकसान झाले असे म्हणता येत नाही.</p> <p>तलावाचे खोलीकरणाने निघालेला गाळ/मुरूम याची विल्हेवाट कशी लावावी यासंदर्भात स्पष्ट सूचना किंवा नियम समितीचे</p>
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<p>3. नवगाव-नागाझिरा प्रकल्पात रस्तें तयार करताना वृक्षतोड झाल्याचे व विशेषतः कंपार्टमेंट नं.97 मधील 55-60 झाडे जेसीपीव्दारे तोडल्याचे कंपार्टमेंट नं. 125 आणि 126 मध्ये अवैधरित्या 400-500 झाडे तोडण्यात आले.</p>	<p>अभयारण्याच्या मंजूर व्यवस्थापन आराखडा नुसार व जिल्हा वार्षिक योजना शासन निर्णय दिनांक 27 जुलै, 2016 अन्वये करण्यात आलेली आहेत.</p> <p>तक्रारकर्त्याने वितळ मैदानाबाबत (कक्ष क्र.97) केलेल्या तक्रारीनुसार त्या टिकाणी तशांच्या सल्ल्यानुसार (डाॅ.वसंता काहळकर, वनस्पती तज्ञ श्याच्यारशी केलेला समझोता सममलेख (MOU) प्रायोगिक तत्वावर श्रमदानांतून व उपलब्ध साहीत्याचा वापर करून कुरणविकासची कामे केलेली आहेत. या कामामध्ये दोन हेक्टरवर प्रथम नांगरणी करणे, अखादय वनस्पती गोळा करून विल्हेवाट लावणे, खाद्य गवत प्रजातीच्या बियां फेकणे, व त्यास चेंनलिक करणे अशा प्रकारची कामे करण्यात आली. सदर कामे हीवन्यजीव संरक्षण अधिनियम, कलम 33 मधील तरतूदीनुसार वनव्यवस्थापनाच्या दृष्टीने करण्यात आलेली आहे. सदर कामे नागाझिरा अभयारण्याच्या व्यवस्थापन आराखडयानुसार (2010-11 ते 2019-20) च्या पान क्र. 64 व 65 मधील नमूद तरतूदीनुसार कामे करण्यात आलेली आहेत.</p>	<p>तक्रारदार श्री. सचिन रांगारी यांची दि. 01/06/2020 व 05/06/2020 तसेच 13/06/2020 रोजीची तक्रार व छायाचित्र</p>	<p>अधिनियम, 1972 चे कलम 29 व 48 (A) नुसार कुटलेही वनउपज वनाबाहेर नेण्यास प्रतिबंध आहे. त्यामुळे विभागाने संरक्षित क्षेत्रात उपलब्ध टिकाणी गाळाची लावलेली विल्हेवाट ही कृती प्रथमदर्शनी नियमबाहय असल्याचा निष्कर्ष काढता येत नाही.</p> <p>1. समितीचे प्रत्यक्ष पाहणी दरम्यान कंपार्टमेंट कक्ष क्रं.97 मध्ये तक्रारकर्त्याने नमूद केल्यानुसार 55 ते 60 झाडे तोडल्याचे निदर्शनास आले नाही. फक्त काशीद या प्रजातीची 3 झाडे व अंदाजे 7 ते 8 झाडांची मुळे तुटलेल्या स्थितीत आढळून आले. कक्ष क्रं. 125, 126 मध्ये काही झाडे तुटलेली आढळली परंतु ती नैसर्गिकरित्या वादळाने उन्मळून पडलेली होती. यामध्ये वेगवेगळ्या प्रजातीची झाडे मुख्यतः थावडा चा समावेश आहे. तक्रारीमध्ये नमूद अवैधरित्या 400-500 झाडे तोडण्याबद्दल तथ्य आढळून आले नाही. व तक्रारकर्त्याचे दिनांक 31/07/2020 रोजी सादर केलेल्या लेखी म्हणण्यामध्ये एवढ्या मोठ्या संख्येमध्ये अवैधरित्या झाडे तोडण्याबद्दल उल्लेख नाही.</p> <p>2. प्रकल्प व्यवस्थापनाने रिव्कारले की, कंपार्टमेंट नं. 97 मध्ये त्यांनी वन्यजीव कुरण विकसीत करण्यासाठी ट्रॅक्टर ने नांगरणी केली आहे. कंपार्टमेंट नं.97 मधील पाहणी केलेले स्थळ हे तेशुन जाणाऱ्या उत्तर ते दक्षिण रोडच्या दोन्ही बाजूला आहे. त्यानुसार हया रोडच्या परिचम बाजूला नांगरणी केलेली आहे व त्या क्षेत्राला जाळीचे कुंपन केलेले आढळले. आत गेल्यावर क्षेत्र निरीक्षणात जवळ-जवळ 10 स्थानावर जमिनीत मुळ सदृश्य स्थान दिसलेत परंतु कुठेच झाड पडलेले नव्हते व पूर्ण जमीन सपाट होती. तसेच हया रोडच्या पुर्व बाजूला असलेल्या कंपार्टमेंट नं.97 चा भागावर 3 मोठे झाडे एकाच दिशेने पडलेली आढळलीत. व तिथे 7 ते 8 झाडांच्या मुळांचे बुंधे जमिनीवर पडलेले दिसले. मा.मुख्य वन्यजीव रक्षक यांनी मंजूर केलेल्या व्यवस्थापन आराखडयानुसार अधिवास विकास करण्याची तरतूद आहे. व त्यांचे अधिकार क्षेत्रसंचालक हयांना दिनांक 26 जुलै, 2013 चे आदेशान्वये प्रत्यापित करण्यात आलेल्या अधिकारानुसार व मंजूर आराखडयानुसार कुरण विकासाची कामे करण्यात आली आहे</p>
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4. नवगाव-नागझिरा प्रकल्प अंतर्गत मुरुम-जेसीबीव्दारे खोदून रस्ता तयार करण्यात आले, त्यामुळे वन्य प्राण्यांचा संचारास (वाघ) अडथळा निर्माण झाला.	नागझिरा अभयारण्यातील 1 एप्रिल ते 15 जून 2020 पर्यंतचा वाघांच्या संनिचत्रणाचा कॅमेरे टूप अहवाल.	. तक्रारदार श्री सचिन रंगारी यांचा दि. 01/06/2020 व 05/06/2020 तसेच 13/06/2020 रोजीची तक्रार व छायाचित्र	असे विभागाचे म्हणणे आहे. कॅंपाईमेंट नं. 97 मध्ये कुरण विकास (Meadow Development) व नांगरणी (Ploughing) इत्यादीचे कामे हे मा. मुख्य वन्यजीव रक्षक यांचेद्वारा मान्य आराखडयानुसार करण्यात आल्याचे स्पष्ट होते. समितीला नवगाव-नागझिरा व्याघ्र प्रकल्प व्यवस्थापनाने मे, 2020 या महिन्याचे कॅमेरा टूप चे रिकॉर्ड दाखविल्या वरून या वाघांचे भ्रमण व्यवस्थित सुरू आहे असे दिसते तसेच इतर प्राण्यांच्या बाबतचा मे महिन्याचा अहवाल (वनरक्षक व वनमजुरांची प्रत्यक्ष पाहणी अहवाल) हा मे महिन्याचा तपासला असता समितीला वन्यप्राण्यांचे हालचालीत फरक पडल्याचे दिसून आले नाही. समितीने प्रत्यक्ष भेटी दरम्यान चिंतल मैदानाजवळ जवळपास 100 ते 200 चितळांचे 3 कळप पाहिले.
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Issue-wise inference of the committee, with reference to documents submitted by Complainant Shri Sachin Rangari, Secretary, People for Animal, Bhandara unit on 1/6/2020, 5/6/2020, 13/6/2020, thereafter field visits of Committee on 24/7/2020 and 27/7/2020 in Nagzira and information furnished to the committee on 31/7/2020 ,

Issue	Clarification given by Navegoan Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR)	Proofs and documents given by complainant	Report of committee after Field inspection and inference
<p>1. Following roads in core zone of NNTR have been constructed without sanction/ approval of competent authority</p> <p>A) Nagzira to Pitezari</p> <p>B) Nagzira to Mangezari</p> <p>c) Nagzira To Pongezara</p> <p>D) Nagzira to Chorkhamara and guidelines of MoEF have not been followed for road repair, Construction of new roads without permission in compartment no 124, 125, 127 ,</p> <p>Excavation inside core using machinery (JCB) and not following guidelines of bringing sand and stones for repair from outside protected area and felling of trees should not take place while doing repairs as mentioned in " Guidelines for roads in Protected Area".</p>	<p>Conservator of Forest and field director(NNTR) has submitted report on 23/7/2020 with annexures.</p> <p>Roads in NNTR namely</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nagzira to pitezari 2. Nagzira to Mangezari 3. Nagzira to Pongezara 4. Nagzira to Chorkhamara <p>Are roads existing roads in Management Plan of Nagzirasanctuary (2010-11 to 2019-20).</p> <p>So no new road construction has been done.</p> <p>Some parts of Roads (as mentioned in management plan) no 1. Nagzira to Pitezari, 3. Nagzira to mangezari , no 6 . Tiger road were damaged due to unseasonal rains and therefore were repaired again in April- May 2020</p>	<p>Complaint of MrsachinRangari on 1/6/2020 , 5/6/2020 and 13/6/2020, images and following annexures submitted along with Request letter of 31/7/2020,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Guidelines for roads in Protected Areas (22/12/2014) 2. MoEF Office memorandum dated 24/6/2013 3. Guidelines for taking non-forestry activities in Wildlife habitats (19/12/2012) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The roads alleged to be constructed are existing roads included in management plan of Ngzira sanctuary (2010-11 to 2019-20) and the management plan has been approved by Chief Wildlife Warden on 1/4/2011, as per documents presented by NNTR. According to the report of NNTR , it is mentioned that Murum has been excavated for road repair work from Compartment no 96,98,110,112,120,121,125,126. Murum is excavated from only those area where good quality murrum is available and spread on Roads in annual road repair works. It has been mentioned that these roads are necessary for wildlife management, Patrolling and plying of tourism vehicles and thus repair works are done. <p>During Field inspection murum excavation was observed in Compartment no 109, 110,112,96,121,124,125. And it was observed that murrum was excavated 5-6 months back from compartment no 127. In the above mentioned compartments roots of some trees were observed to be exposed where excavation was done. But felling of trees for excavation was not observed. It was observed that murum was used in road repair work. Murum was excavated near roads where roads were damaged. Excavated murum was not used commercially.</p> <p>Both complainant and NNTR could produce</p>

Issue-wise inference of the committee, with reference to documents submitted by Complainant Shri Sachin Rangari, Secretary, People for Animal, Bhandara unit on 1/6/2020, 5/6/2020, 13/6/2020, thereafter field visits of Committee on 24/7/2020 and 27/7/2020 in Nagzira and information furnished to the committee on 31/7/2020 ,

			<p>proof regarding any rules prohibiting use of JCB or tractor inside protected area. Thus no inference can be presented in this issue.</p> <p>2. It is mentioned in the complaint that new roads were constructed in compartment number 124, 125 and 127. But in the actual field visit no new road was observed in Comp. no 124 and 127. In comp no. 125 a patch of 125 m (approx..) was seen to be repaired. No felled trees were observed but 8 small roots were seen.</p> <p>As per the toposheet, map submitted by NNTR and mention in a book name "Nagzira" authored by renowned Marathi writer Shri Vyankatesh Madgulkar (published in 1978) the said road is said to be nature trail. But no documents have been presented proving widening of the road , both by Complainant and department. Thus the committee cannot come to any conclusion.</p> <p>3. According to report given by Department, the murrum used in repair was taken from compartment no 96, 98, 110, 112, 120, 121, 125, 126. It is accepted by Department that JCB was used for excavation of the murrum and tractors were used in transport of murrum to repair site. As per the Department the above works were done as per the provisions of section 33 (a), (b), (c) of the Wild life (Protection) Act, 1972, the delegation of powers of which (vested with Chief Wild life Warden) have been done to Field Director and</p>
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Issue-wise inference of the committee, with reference to documents submitted by Complainant Shri Sachin Rangari, Secretary, People for Animal, Bhandara unit on 1/6/2020, 5/6/2020, 13/6/2020, thereafter field visits of Committee on 24/7/2020 and 27/7/2020 in Nagzira and information furnished to the committee on 31/7/2020 ,

			<p>Deputy Director as per order of 26th July 2013</p> <p>The complainant referring to "GUIDELINE FOR TAKING NON-FORESTRY ACTIVITIES IN WILDLIFE HABITATS " (Issued by wildlife division of Ministry of Environment and forest on 19/12/2012) has said that, prior permission of National Board of Wildlife has to be taken for the work in question. But the department has stated that as the work was done for Wildlife management, using powers given by section in 33 as mentioned above, the said guidelines are not applicable.</p> <p>The department has accepted that murrum required for road repair was excavated from compartment nos 96, 98, 110, 112, 120, 121, 125, 126. The complainant in this regard has quoted the " Guidelines for roads in protected Areas of 22/12/2014 " and said that murrum required for road repair has to be brought from outside protected area. Also has also quoted an office Memo of MoEF of 24th June 2013, where it is said that environment clearance is required for excavation. The department again has mentioned that road repair was done for wildlife management according to powers in section 33 of Wildlife (protection) Act, 1972.</p> <p>In this regard , The Forest (Conservation) Act, amendment published in gazette on 17/12/1988 mentions the definition of non-forestry activities , as follows</p> <p><i>"explanation- for purpose of this section "non-forest pupose " means the breaking up or clearing of any forest land or portion thereof</i></p>
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Issue-wise inference of the committee, with reference to documents submitted by Complainant Shri Sachin Rangari, Secretary, People for Animal, Bhandara unit on 1/6/2020, 5/6/2020, 13/6/2020, thereafter field visits of Committee on 24/7/2020 and 27/7/2020 in Nagzira and information furnished to the committee on 31/7/2020 ,

			<p>for--- <i>But does not include any work relating or ancillary to conservation, development and management of forest and wild life, namely, the establishment of check posts, firelines, wireless, culverts, dams, waterholes, trench marks, boundary marks, pipe line or other like purposes.</i> “ Thus according to above explanation the works done by department for wildlife conservation cannot said to be non-forestry activities.</p>
<p>2. Silt and murrum was excavated from lakes/ponds of Navegoan- nagzira Tiger Reserve and spread in the forest and road repair.</p>	<p>Desilting works have been done in 3 places of Nagzira- 1.kathethua nala- zakyaddoh-comp no 121 and 124 boundary. 2.sindhपुरi bund deepening comp. no 123. 3. Chital maidan Nala deepening Comp no 97. The silt removed from above places was spread in area near the pond/lake. The places of murrum excavation for road repair and removal of silt are different. As mentioned earlier the murrum needed for road repair has been removed from comp. no 96,98,110,112,120,121,125,126. The repaired roads go through the same compartments. Above works are part of wildlife management and have been done</p>	<p>Shri Sachin Rangari's complaint of 1/6/2020, 5/6/2020, 13/6/2020 and related images.</p>	<p>1. With regard to the complaint the committee went to Gardkondi pond after walking for 4 km but works of removal of silt were not observed. Complainant did not show any work on the spot and did not submit any documents related to the same. 2. Work of deepening/silt removal was done in pond of Comp no 97. Deepening was observed in the actual visit too. The silt removed was spread in the surrounding area. Rainwater had accumulated in the pond. According to complainant the pond did not exist. When asked to NNTR officilas, they presented Google images of 2002 and 2010 where the pond is visible on the spot. But due to lack of proof nothing can be concluded regarding extension of the pond. In the boundary area of compartment no 121 nad 124, a dugout pond has been constructed. The rocks, soil of deepening has been spread in the surrounding areas. Various vegetation as Wild turmeric, Butea spp have started</p>

Issue-wise inference of the committee, with reference to documents submitted by Complainant Shri Sachin Rangari, Secretary, People for Animal, Bhandara unit on 1/6/2020, 5/6/2020, 13/6/2020, thereafter field visits of Committee on 24/7/2020 and 27/7/2020 in Nagzira and information furnished to the committee on 31/7/2020,

<p>growing on the debris of pond and thus it cannot be said that biodiversity and the surrounding was damaged due to this work. There are no clear guidelines/ rules regarding disposal of silt removed. Also in Wildlife (protection), Act 1972, section 29 and 48 (A) it is clearly said that no forest produce should be taken outside the forest. Thus the disposal of silt and soil in the areas available in the surroundings, prima facie, does not seem to be against any rules.</p>		<p>growing on the debris of pond and thus it cannot be said that biodiversity and the surrounding was damaged due to this work. There are no clear guidelines/ rules regarding disposal of silt removed. Also in Wildlife (protection), Act 1972, section 29 and 48 (A) it is clearly said that no forest produce should be taken outside the forest. Thus the disposal of silt and soil in the areas available in the surroundings, prima facie, does not seem to be against any rules.</p>
<p>3. Trees were felled in Navegoan-Nagzira Tiger Reserve while constructing roads and especially, 55-60 trees were felled in comp no 97 with JCB, and 400-500 trees were felled illegally in comp. no 125 and 126.</p>	<p>according to sanctioned provisions and powers, approved Management plan of Nagzira Sanctuary and Government Resolution of District Annual Plan of 27th July 2016.</p>	<p>growing on the debris of pond and thus it cannot be said that biodiversity and the surrounding was damaged due to this work. There are no clear guidelines/ rules regarding disposal of silt removed. Also in Wildlife (protection), Act 1972, section 29 and 48 (A) it is clearly said that no forest produce should be taken outside the forest. Thus the disposal of silt and soil in the areas available in the surroundings, prima facie, does not seem to be against any rules.</p>
<p>3. Trees were felled in Navegoan-Nagzira Tiger Reserve while constructing roads and especially, 55-60 trees were felled in comp no 97 with JCB, and 400-500 trees were felled illegally in comp. no 125 and 126.</p>	<p>In regard to complaint regarding chital maidan, comp no 97, meadow development were done works on experimental basis, manually with available equipment. Above works were done according to opinion of experts (MoU signed with Dr. VasantaKahalkar, Botanist). In the said works ploughing on 2 ha land, collecting weeds and disposing, broadcasting seeds of palatable grasses and chainlink to ha area, such components were involved. The above works have been done for wildlife management according to powers in section 33 of WLPA 1972 . the above works are mentioned in provisions of page no 64 and 65 of the management plan of Nagzira Sanctuary (2010-11 to 2019-20).</p>	<p>growing on the debris of pond and thus it cannot be said that biodiversity and the surrounding was damaged due to this work. There are no clear guidelines/ rules regarding disposal of silt removed. Also in Wildlife (protection), Act 1972, section 29 and 48 (A) it is clearly said that no forest produce should be taken outside the forest. Thus the disposal of silt and soil in the areas available in the surroundings, prima facie, does not seem to be against any rules.</p>
	<p>Shri SachinRangaris' complaint of 1/6/2020, 5/6/2020,13/6/2020 and related images.</p>	<p>growing on the debris of pond and thus it cannot be said that biodiversity and the surrounding was damaged due to this work. There are no clear guidelines/ rules regarding disposal of silt removed. Also in Wildlife (protection), Act 1972, section 29 and 48 (A) it is clearly said that no forest produce should be taken outside the forest. Thus the disposal of silt and soil in the areas available in the surroundings, prima facie, does not seem to be against any rules.</p>
		<p>growing on the debris of pond and thus it cannot be said that biodiversity and the surrounding was damaged due to this work. There are no clear guidelines/ rules regarding disposal of silt removed. Also in Wildlife (protection), Act 1972, section 29 and 48 (A) it is clearly said that no forest produce should be taken outside the forest. Thus the disposal of silt and soil in the areas available in the surroundings, prima facie, does not seem to be against any rules.</p>

Issue-wise inference of the committee, with reference to documents submitted by Complainant Shri Sachin Rangari, Secretary, People for Animal, Bhandara unit on 1/6/2020, 5/6/2020, 13/6/2020, thereafter field visits of Committee on 24/7/2020 and 27/7/2020 in Nagzira and information furnished to the committee on 31/7/2020 ,

<p>road in comp. no 97 , three big trees were observed fallen towards same direction and root debris of 7-8 trees were observed .It is permitted to do works habitat development works according to management plan approved by Chief Wildlife Warden. These powers have been delegated to Field Director as per order of 26th July 2013. So the meadow development works were done as per approved management plan and above powers, as stated by the department.the meadow development works , ploughing and other works have been done as per management plan approved by Chief Wildlife Warden.</p>			<p>5. Tiger movement was affected due to construction of road by excavating murrum by JCB in Navegoan Nagzira Tiger Reserve.</p>
<p>After checking records of camera trap of May 2020 it is observed that the tiger movement is present unaffected. Also the records of other animals of May 2020 (forest guard and Forest labour reports) , when checked by committee , no difference in movement was observed. The committee observed 3 groups of 100 to 200 spotted deer near Chital maidan (comp. no 97), during visit.</p>	<p>Shri Sachin Rangaris' complaint of 1/6/2020, 5/6/2020, 13/6/2020 and related images.</p>	<p>Camera trap records of tiger movement/ monitoring from 1 april to 15 th June 2020.</p>	

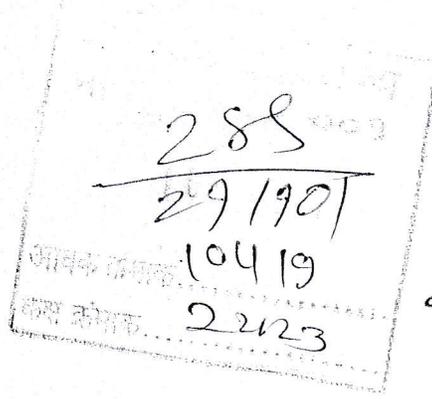


PEOPLE FOR ANIMALS

Chairperson
MRS. MANEKA GANDHI

228

Bhandara Dist
SACHIN RANGARI
Secretary



Date: 07 October, 2020

To,
The PCCF, Wildlife,
Maharashtra State,
Ambhavan, Ramgiri Road
Civil Lines, Nagpur- 440001

Subject- Taking disciplinary action against officers involved in illegal tree cutting & Murom excavation in Koka Wildlife Sanctuary, NNTR Core Zone

Respected Sir,

Incidents of tree-cutting (with axe/machine), tree-felling (with JCB), Murom excavation (with JCB), illegal transport of forest produce outside the forest have been occurring in various compartments in Koka Wildlife Sanctuary Range which is a part of Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR). These incidences have been occurring by labourers on the orders of officers who are responsible for the said deforestation and destruction of wildlife. More than 10,000 trees have been cut down with axe and machines; furniture was made from wood so obtained from cutting down these trees. Murom excavation was done with JCB into near about 3 to 5-meter depth. These activities (tree-cutting, Murom excavation) are violation of certain laws and rules related to forests & wildlife protection. All the details of these illegal and unethical activities are described below:

Responsible officers for the said tree-cutting & Murom excavation in Koka Wildlife Sanctuary Core Zone:

1. Sachin Jadhav, RFO, Koka Wildlife Sanctuary Range, NNTR
2. Smt. R. U. Sawant, ACF, Koka Wildlife Sanctuary, NNTR
3. Punam Pate, Dy. Field Director, NNTR
4. Ramanujam, Field Director, NNTR
5. O. S. Banote, RO, Koka Wildlife, NNTR
6. Mohan Hake, Forest Guard
7. Nagpure, RO, Chandrapur Round
8. Ambule, Forest Guard
9. Sawsakde, Forest Guard
10. R. D. Bhendarkar, Round Officer
11. C. P. Pardhi, Forest Guard
12. Other Round Officers and Forest Guards as well as higher Authorities

Compartments where the said tree-cutting, Murom excavation was done:

Compartment No. 384, 385, 160, 165, 168, 176, 169, 180, 177, 173, 175, 179, 172

Duration in which illegal deforestation and Murom excavation was done

The aforesaid illegal activities were done during December 2019 to May 2020. Most of the illegal tree cutting was done during the lockdown period.

Impact on Wildlife and Tiger Conservation

The cutting/felling of trees destroys the natural habitat of birds & insects, destroys food source of herbivores and finally disturbs food chain. Wild animals move to another location within the forest and outside the forest which results into man-animal conflict. The motive of government to declare any forest as Wildlife Sanctuary is to protect wildlife and to conserve environment. The motive of declaring any forest as Tiger Reserve is to protect tigers and the natural habitat of tigers. The funds provided by the government for Wildlife Sanctuary and Tiger Reserve are useless if officers (who are appointed for the protection and conservation of wildlife) destroy wildlife themselves. The loss of biodiversity as well as flora and fauna due to illegal deforestation and Murom excavation is not expected and not permissible to be done by any officer.

Importance of NNTR in National Wildlife

NNTR is situated in central India and is a natural habitat for tigers. NNTR has connectivity with other tiger reserves in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh & Telangana. Deforestation in NNTR may lead to displacement of tigers to other locations.

Possibility of illegal trade of forest produce

A large-scale deforestation was done in Koka Wildlife Sanctuary. It can be concluded that it was done for obtaining wood. Wood so obtained is primarily used for furniture. There is a possibility that the wood so obtained was sold to merchants and illegal trade of forest produce was done.

Acts and Rules which have been violated and under which criminal/forest offence may be filed

Sec. 33 (1) of Indian Forest Act, 1927

Sec. 75 of Indian Forest Act, 1927

Sec. 29 of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

Sec. 31 of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

Sec. 3B of Forest Conservation Act, 1980

Guidelines issued by NTCA

Biodiversity Act, 2002 & Rules 2004 & 2008

Sec. 3 of Minor Minerals Act, 1957

Enquiry of intentional financial gains to responsible officers

The purpose of doing these illegal and unethical activities by aforesaid officers is financial gain. The enquiry of monetary gains received by responsible officers is needed.

Valuation of trees which were cut down

A research was conducted by Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, which states that, a tree of age 50 years, cut-down for timber is priced INR 50,000 per tree. But the tree is not cut, it provides environmental services which values INR 23,00,000 per year. More than 10,000 trees were cut-down in the said forest. Therefore, timber of INR 50 Crore is lost. But a tree provides environmental services worth Rs. 23,00,000 per year. Therefore, the value of 10000 trees is Rs. 2300 Crore per year. The loss so incurred to Government and to the environment must be refunded by the guilty officers.

Murom excavation for any purpose is illegal

Murom is a minor mineral and can not be excavated inside tiger reserve, wildlife sanctuaries and other protected areas.

Immediate action needed

The concerned officers must be suspended immediately. Forest offences and criminal offences must be filed against guilty officers.

Description of trees which were cut down:

Most of the trees that were cut down were Teak trees and were of 10 to 20 years of age, up to 7 meter in length and about 20 to 60 centimetre in diameter. Trees other than teak, were also cut down. Ain, Bija, Sihna, Garadi, dhawna, Moh, Atai, Charoli, Kinhi and others are the trees which were cut-down.

Deforestation and Murom excavation in compartment No. 384 & 385

In Compartment No. 384 & 385, Murom excavation was done. Teak and other trees were cut-down. About 500 to 1000 trees were cut-down.

Deforestation and Murom excavation in compartment No. 165

In Compartment No. 165, Murom excavation was done. Teak and other trees were cut-down on 3 to 4-hectare area. About 1000 trees were cut-down.

Deforestation and Murom excavation in compartment No. 168

In compartment No. 168, pits formed by Murom excavation are near Kasai Gate in Kawlewada bit. About 500 trees were cut down.

Deforestation and Murom excavation in compartment No. 176

In Compartment No. 176, deforestation was done on 18-hectare area. Teak as well as other trees were cut down by machines and axe. Some trees were felled by JCB. About 5000 trees were cut-down in compartment no. 176.

Deforestation and Murom excavation in compartment No. 173

In Compartment No. 173, Dudhara beat, tree cutting and Murom excavation was done. Near about 1000 trees were cut-down in Compartment No. 173.

Deforestation and Murom excavation in compartment No. 180

In Compartment No. 180, Khurshipar camp, tree cutting and Murom excavation was done. About 400 to 500 trees were cut-down.

Deforestation and Murom excavation in compartment No. 169

In Compartment No. 169, tree cutting and Murom excavation was done. About 400 to 500 trees were cut-down in 4 to 5-hectare area.

Deforestation and Murom excavation in compartment No. 177

In Compartment No. 177, tree cutting and Murom excavation was done. About 400 to 500 trees were cut-down in 3 to 4-hectare area.

Deforestation and Murom excavation in compartment No. 175

In Compartment No. 175, tree cutting and Murom excavation was done. About 500 to 700 trees were cut-down.

Deforestation and Murom excavation in compartment No. 179

In Compartment No. 179, tree cutting and Murom excavation was done. 8 to 9 feet pit was dug on about 20*25 feet area.

Deforestation and Murom excavation in compartment No. 172

In Compartment No. 172, tree cutting and Murom excavation was done. 4 to 5 feet pit was dug on about 15*20 feet area.

Transport of cut-down trees outside the forest

The trees cut-down were transported out of the forest by departmental vehicles. The forest vehicle MH 35 D 423 was used for the transport of cut-down trees.

Legal Action which is needed to be taken against officers who will found to be guilty after investigation

The Special Investigation Team should be formed to investigate this case and the complainant should be a member of investigation team.

The forest offences must be filed against the guilty officers.

The loss (incurred to Govt. due to illegal activities by guilty officers) must be refunded by guilty officers.

The properties of guilty officers must be seized in case they fail to refund the loss caused by their wrong-doings.

Media coverage

The news related to deforestation in Koka Wildlife Sanctuary was published in various newspapers continuously.


Sachin M. Rangari
Secretary, PFA Bhandara
BHANDARA DIST. UNIT
AT. SAKOLI

Copy to for information and necessary action-

1. Smt. Maneka Gandhi, Member of Parliament & Chairperson, People For Animals India
2. Divisional Commissioner, Nagpur Division, Nagpur
3. District Magistrate & District Collector, Distt- Bhandara, Bhandara
4. Superintendent of Police, District Bhandara, Bhandara
5. Dy Conservator of Forests, Bhandara District, Bhandara



वनसंरक्षक तथा क्षेत्रसंचालक नवेगांव नागझिरा व्याघ्र राखीव क्षेत्र गोंदिया यांचे कार्यालय.

वनभवन टि.बी.टोली, कुडवा रोड गोंदिया, महाराष्ट्र दूरध्वनी क्रमांक 07182 251232 फॅक्स क्र.251250 पिन क्र. 441614

Office E-mail: cfwlgondia@mahaforest.gov.in.



क्रमांक कक्ष :- लले/तक्रार/कोका अभयारण्य/20-21/1732

गोंदिया दिनांक : 12/11/2020

प्रति,

मा. अपर प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक,
(वन्यजीव) पुर्व, नागपूर.

जोपनिघ

विषय :- Taking disciplinary action against officer involved in illegal tree cutting & Murom excavation in KOKA Wildlife Sanctuary, NNTR Core Zone.

- संदर्भ :-**
1. मा. प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (वन्यजीव) महाराष्ट्र राज्य, नागपूर यांचे पत्र क्र.23(6)/प्र.क्र.35(20-1)/1621/20-21 दिनांक 29 ऑक्टोबर, 2020
 2. या कार्यालयाचे पत्र क्र. कक्ष-लले/तक्रार/कोका अभयारण्य./1620 दिनांक 29.10.2020
 3. आपले कार्यालयीन पत्र क्र. कक्ष-1 (अ) लले/तक्रार/583 दिनांक 02.11.2020.
 4. उपसंचालक, नवेगाव-नागझिरा व्याघ्र राखीव क्षेत्र, साकोली यांचे पत्र क्र. कक्ष शिली/तक्रार फा./2158 दिनांक 11.11.2020

उपरोक्त संदर्भीय पत्र क्र.1 व 3 अन्वये श्री. सचिन रंगारी, सचिव, People of Animals शिवाजी वार्ड, साकोली यांचे तक्रारीवर परिपूर्ण चौकशी करून अहवाल सादर करण्याच्या सूचना प्राप्त झालेल्या होत्या. संदर्भीय पत्र क्र. 2 अन्वये उपसंचालक, नवेगाव-नागझिरा व्याघ्र राखीव क्षेत्र, साकोली यांना विषयांकित प्रकरणी तक्रारीबाबत सविस्तर चौकशी करून चौकशी अहवाल सादर करण्याबाबत सूचित केलेले होते. संदर्भीय 4 अन्वये उपसंचालक, नवेगाव-नागझिरा व्याघ्र राखीव क्षेत्र, साकोली यांनी विषयांकित प्रकरणाचा चौकशी अहवाल सादर केलेला आहे.

त्यानुषंगाने विषयांकित प्रकरणाचा चौकशी अहवाल निम्नस्वाक्षरीकर्ते यांचे अभिप्रायासह या सोबत जोडून सादर करण्यात येत आहे. करीता माहिती व आवश्यक कार्यवाहीस सविनय सादर.

सहपत्र- वरीलप्रमाणे.

(आर. एम. रामानुजम)

वनसंरक्षक तथा क्षेत्र संचालक,
नवेगांव-नागझिरा व्याघ्र राखीव क्षेत्र, गोंदिया.

प्रतिलिपि :- 1. मा. प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (वन्यजीव) महाराष्ट्र राज्य, नागपूर यांना माहिती व आवश्यक कार्यवाहीस सविनय सादर.

2. उपसंचालक, नवेगाव-नागझिरा व्याघ्र राखीव क्षेत्र, साकोली यांना माहितीस अग्रेषीत.

Enquiry report on complaint made by Shri. Sachin Rangari, Sakoli, District Bhandara

Mr. Sachin Rangari, Sakoli (District Bhandara) has made a complaint alleging that tree cutting, murrum excavation and illegal transport of forest produce outside the forest area took place in Koka wildlife sanctuary during the time period December 2019 to May 2020. He has alleged that Officers and staffs of Navegaon Nagzira Tiger reserve are responsible for the illegal activities alleged in the complaint.

To conduct preliminary enquiry, Field Director, Deputy Director and Assistant Conservator of Forest, Koka Wildlife Sanctuary visited Koka range and inspected various compartments where illicit cutting were alleged to have taken place in large scale. But no such illicit felling was observed during field visit. In the same complaint he alleged that murum was excavated in koka range. Few burrow pits were observed and murum excavated was found to be used for repairing the roads in koka range. Thus murum extracted was found to be used for forestry activity. From the preliminary enquiry it was found that no illicit felling took place and murum excavated was used for repairing the roads in koka range.

In order to conduct enquiry in detail, compartments mentioned in the complaint were allotted to officers, as shown below in order to conduct field inspection and enquire into the complaint

S.No.	Compartment No.	Officer to whom the compartment were allotted
1.	172 & 173	Field Director, NNTR
2.	177 & 179	Deputy Director, NNTR
3.	168 & 169	Sub DFO, Navegaon National Park
4.	175, 176 & 180	ACF, Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary
5.	384, 385 & 165	RFO, Protection Squad (Wildlife), Gondia

Officers too visited the allotted compartments and inspected the forest area to enquire the allegations made in the complaint. Based on the report submitted by the officers, following things were observed in the compartments, allotted to officers, with respect to the complaint.

S. no	Compartment no.	Allegations in the complaint	Enquiry report findings	Remarks
1.	384	Murrum excavation and cutting of 500 to 1000 trees	1) Four illicitly felled stumps (measuring 0.29 cum in total) were observed. Two fresh stumps of Ain (felled 8-10 days back) with less than 60 cm. girth. Two 3 to 4 months old stumps (teak 99 cm. girth and bhirra 78 cm. girth)	GPS track and details of stumps attached

			2) Murrum was excavated in three locations and it was used for road repair works in the financial year 2019-20	
2.	385	Murrum excavation and cutting of 500 to 1000 trees	1) No murrum was excavated. 2) No tree cutting was observed.	GPS track attached
3.	165	Murrum excavation and cutting of 1000 trees over 3-4 ha area.	1) No murrum was excavated. 2) No tree cutting was observed.	GPS track attached
4.	168	Murrum excavation and cutting of 500 trees	1) No murrum was excavated. 2) 10 old stumps (2-4 year old) Ain - 1 no. with girth 93 cm & Teak - 9 no. with girth <60 cm No fresh stumps were observed	GPS track and details of stumps attached
5.	176	5000 trees were cut down Murrum excavation.	1) No murrum was excavated 2) No tree cutting was observed.	GPS track attached
6.	173	Murrum excavation and cutting of 1000 trees	1) A burrow pit of size 7*8*1.3 m was observed. Murrum excavated was used for road repair works in the financial year 2019-2020 2) No tree cutting was observed	GPS track attached

11.	179	Murrum excavation over an area 20*25 feet with 8-9 foot deep and cutting of trees.	1)No murrum was excavated 2)No tree cutting was observed.	GPS track attached
12.	172	Murrum excavation and cutting of trees.	1)A burrow pit of size 4.5*3.5*1.25 m was observed. 2)No tree cutting was observed.	GPS track attached

Transport of cut trees outside the forest

No trees were felled and transported outside the forest by department vehicles. The vehicle MH 35 D 423 (Bolero camper, the official vehicle of RFO Koka) is being used by RFO Koka for regular patrolling and duty. But the complainant alleged that 10000 trees were felled and transported outside by the Bolero camper vehicle

Summary of enquiry findings:

1) After conducting field inspection in all the compartments wherein 10000 trees were alleged to have been felled in Koka wildlife sanctuary it is crystal clear that no such massive illicit felling of trees has taken place in Koka Wildlife Sanctuary.

2) Only in three compartments (C.No. 384, 168 & 169) 17 illicit stumps were recorded. Even those trees were not found felled during the said period December 2019 to May 2020.

2) Murrum excavated in few locations was used only for road repair works, which is essential for protection of forest and wildlife in Koka Wildlife Sanctuary. Thus it is clear that the murrum excavated was used for forestry activity in order to conserve forest and wildlife by doing regular patrolling.

3) Allegation of using the vehicle MH 35 D 423 (Bolero camper, the official vehicle of RFO Koka) for transporting 10000 trees which are said to be felled is the wild allegation made by the complainant. Even a layman will tell its not at all possible to transport these many trees in Bolero camper vehicle even if these many trees were felled. This allegation, made without applying mind, itself shows that all the allegations made by the complainant are baseless and frivolous.

4) When no illicit felling of 10000 trees took place in Koka WLS, it is inferred that the officers and staffs are not indulged in any illegal and unethical activities.

From the enquiry by the officers after conducting field visits, the undersigned is of strong opinion that the allegations made in the complaint are baseless and frivolous. Hence, necessary action may be taken against him to prevent the complainant from wasting time and energy in

conducting enquiry on such baseless allegations. Moreover he should be blacklisted by the department and his complaints should not be entertained in future.

Hereby i submit the enquiry report for information and necessary action.

Encl.: GPS track and details of illicit stumps attached



(R.M.RAMANUJAM)

Conservator of Forest and Field Director,
Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve, Gondia

List of illicit stumps observed in C: No. 168, 169 and 184 during field inspection

Compartment No. 168

Sr. No	Name of tress	Girth	Remarks
1	Ain/Saja	93 c.m.	Stump was 3 to 4 years old
2	Teak	38 c.m.	Stump was 3 to 4 years old
3	Teak	50 c.m.	Stump was 3 to 4 years old
4	Teak	54 c.m.	Stump was 2 to 3 years old
5	Teak	43 c.m.	Stump was 2 to 3 years old
6	Teak	32 c.m.	Stump was 3 to 4 years old
7	Teak	33 c.m.	Stump was 3 to 4 years old
8	Teak	54 c.m.	Stump was 3 to 4 years old
9	Teak	49 c.m.	Stump was 3 to 4 years old
10	Teak	62 c.m.	Stump was 3 to 4 years old

Compartment No. 169

Sr. No	Name of tress	Girth	Remarks
1	Dhawada	25 c.m.	Stump was 10 to 20 days old
2	Ain	50 c.m.	Stump was 8 to 10 days old
3	Palas	90 c.m.	Stump was 10 to 15 days old

Compartment No 384

Sr. No	Name of tress	Girth	Remarks
1	Ain/Saja	40 c.m.	Stump was 8 to 10 days old
2	Ain/Saja	50 c.m	Stump was 8 to 10 days old
3	Teak	99 c.m	Stump was 3 to 4 month old
4	Bherra	78 c.m	Stump was 3 to 4 month old

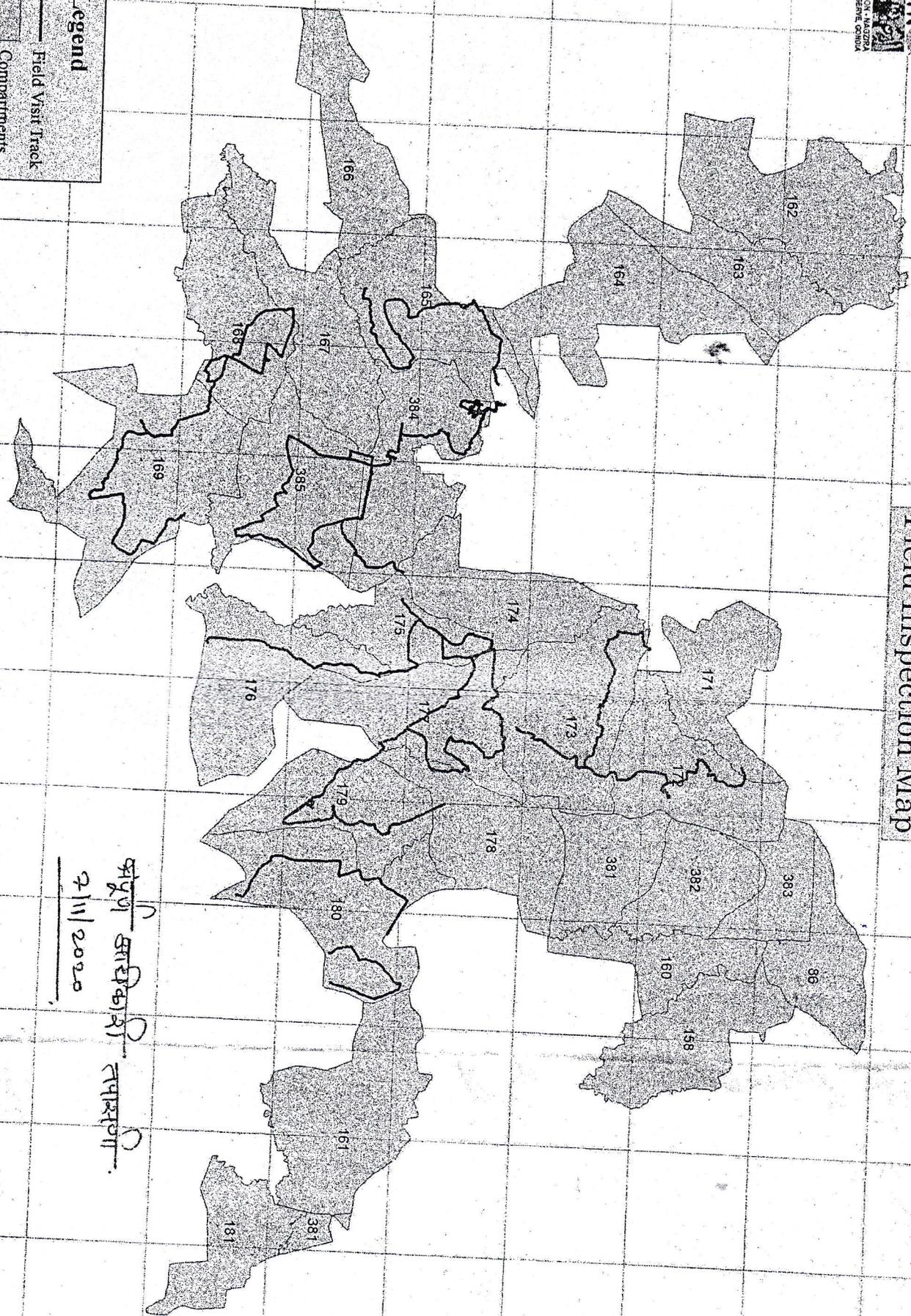

(D. R. AD. NNTR)



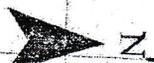
Field Inspection Map

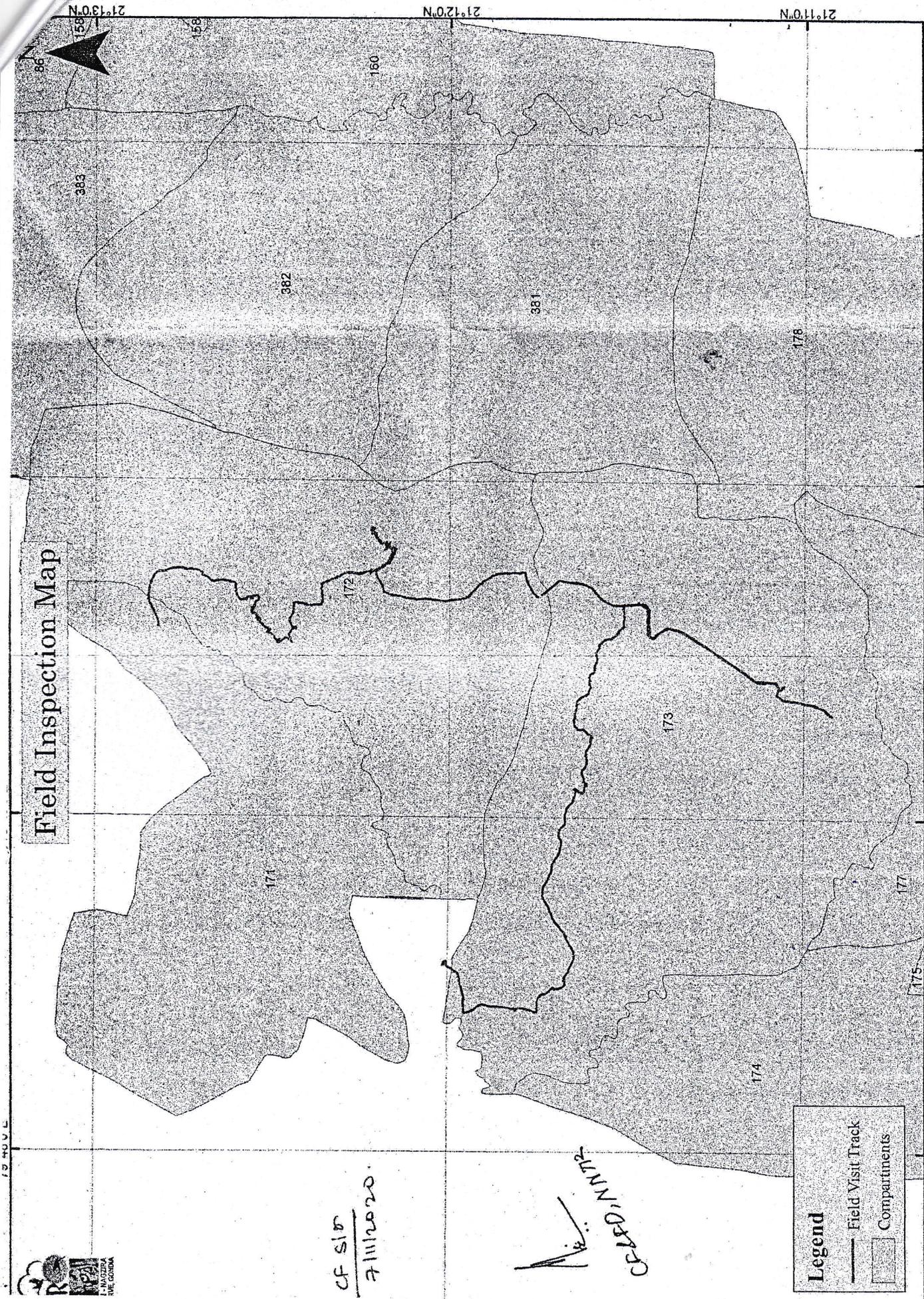
Legend

- Field Visit Track
- Compartments



श्रीगणेशाय नमः
 २/११/२०२०





Field Inspection Map

Legend

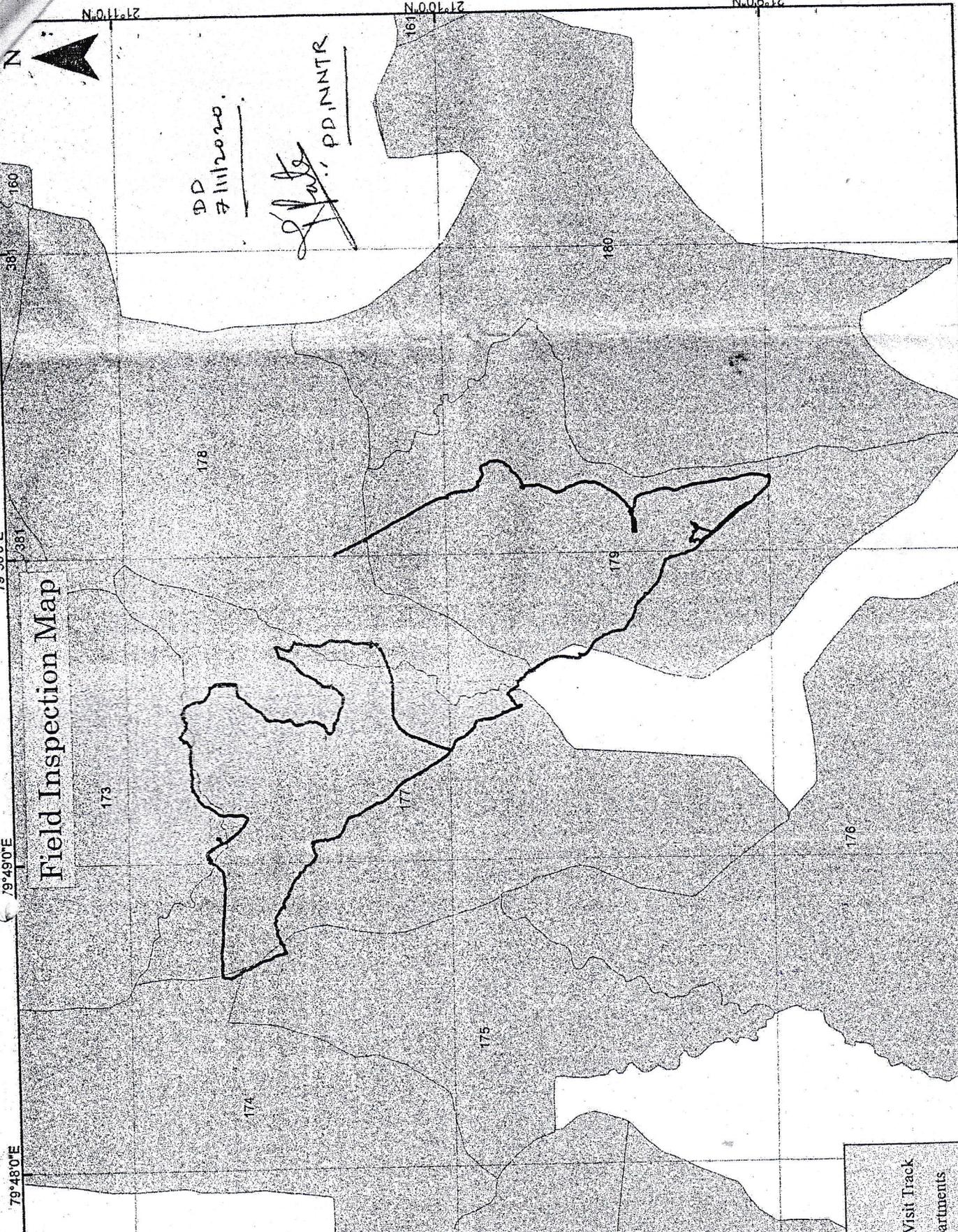
- Field Visit Track
- Compartments

CF SIB
7/11/2020

CFPD/NTR

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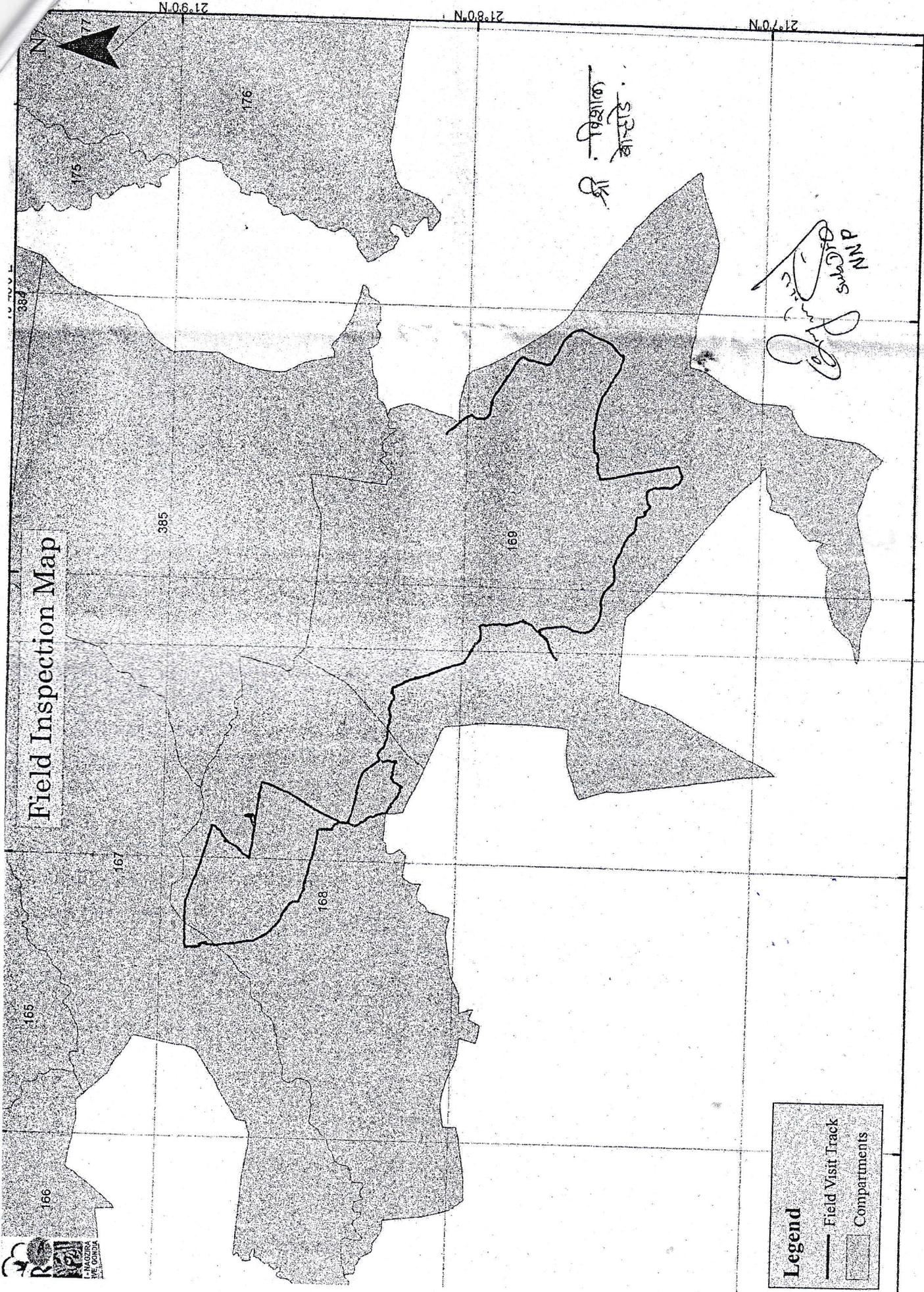
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Field Inspection Map

Legend

- Field Visit Track
- ▒ Compartments







Field Inspection Map

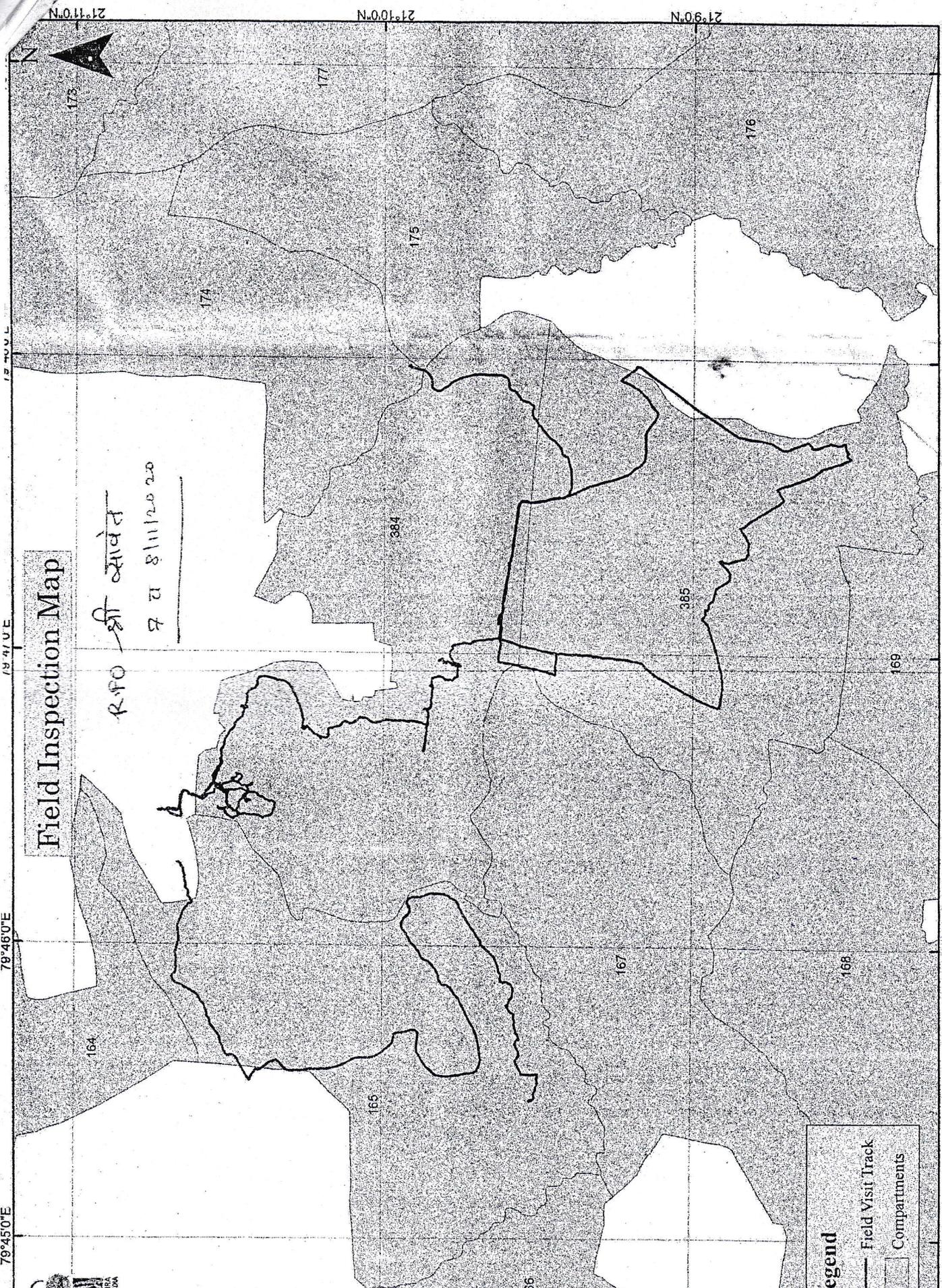
ACF की नियंत्रण

मुम्बई
ACF Nagira
(S.N. Purpure)

Legend

- Field Visit Track
- Compartments





Field Inspection Map

RPO at site
7 to 8/11/2020

Legend

- Field Visit Track
- Compartments

79°45'0"E

79°46'0"E

12°41'U

12°40'U

21°11'0"N

21°10'0"N

21°9'0"N

164

165

166

167

168

169

384

385

174

175

177

176

173



OFFICE OF THE CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & FIELD DIRECTOR NAWEGAON NAGZIRA TIGER RESERVE GONDIA
 "Vanbhavan" T. B. Toli, Kudwa Road, Gondia. Phone No. 01782- 251232, 251250.
 Fax No -251250 E.mail. cfwigondia@mahaforest.gov.in

Gondia, Dated :- 23/12/2020

Desk-Steno/Enquiry /shri. Rangari/2020-21/1388

To,

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife),
 Maharashtra State,
 Nagpur.

Subject : Report on FIR against Mr. Sachin Rangari, District Secretary, People for Animal (PFA),
 Bhandara for trying to extort money from RFO, Koka- reg.

Ref. : This office letter no. Steno/enquiry/2020-21/1733 on dt. 12.11.2020.

Sir,

I would like to bring to your kind notice that Mr.Sachin Rangari, District Secretary, People For Animals (PFA), Bhandara district has been arrested by Kardha police, Bhandara district and FIR has been registered against him for trying to extort money from Mr.Sachin Jadhav, Range Forest Officer, Koka Range, Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR) after threatening to falsely implicate him in large scale tree felling and extraction of murrum in the range.

Mr. Sachin Rangari is the same person who made baseless allegations against Range Forest Officer, Nagzira and field staffs on 1st June 2020. He gave wide publicity in media and social media just to tarnish the image of NNTR officials and staff. After enquiry, no such illegal things, as mentioned in the complaint, were found took place in Nagzira.

Again, he made baseless allegations against Koka Range Forest Officer and his staffs on 7th October 2020. In the same complaint, he mentioned that ACF, Koka Wildlife Sanctuary, Deputy Director and Field Director, NNTR were also involved in all those alleged illegal activities. Of late, he has made fresh complaint against Range Forest Officer, Pitezari Range, New Nagzira Sanctuary on 1st December 2020.

For about 2 weeks, he negotiated with RFO, koka through a mediator and threatened that if the extortion amount quoted by him was not given to him, he will file a writ petition in the Honble High court. Hence, RFO Koka filed a complaint against Mr.Sachin Rangari in Kardha Police Station, Bhandara district. On 6th December 2020, Mr.Sachin Rangari deputed Mr.Rahul Ganvir to accept extortion money on his behalf from Mr.Sachin Jadhav, Koka RFO. After he accepted money from Koka RFO he was arrested by the police and FIR (No.0330, dt. 06.12.2020, Kardha Police Station, District Bhandara) was also filed against both Mr.Rahul Ganvir and Mr.Sachin Rangari on 6th December 2020. On 7th December Mr.Sachin Rangari was also arrested and produced before the hon'ble court of JMFC, Bhandara. Both of them were given bail on same day and the investigation is on.

Moreover, while conversing with the mediator in the entire extortion episode, he was threatening to file a writ petition in Honble High Court against NNTR officials, citing the case already filed by him in Honble National Green Tribunal against NNTR officials with respect to Nagzira complaint. Hence, i kindly request you to bring it to the kind notice of Honble National Green Tribunal and get the case filed by him quashed with a request to fine the complainant heavily for wasting the valuable time of the Honble National Green Tribunal, so that it may act as deterrent to the blackmailers or extortionists from filing frivolous cases against officers without any substantial evidences.

Vide Ref. 1, undersigned stated that Mr.Sachin Rangari is in the habit of making baseless allegations against NNTR officials and staffs just to tarnish the image of the NNTR and harass the officers and staffs working in NNTR. From the extortion episode, it is very clear that his intention is to extort the money in addition to harassing the officers and staffs by making baseless frivolous allegations against NNTR officers and staffs. Hence, i kindly request you not to entertain the complaints from Mr.Sachin Rangari against Forest department in future.

Attached: News paper clippings in dailies.

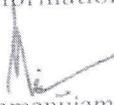


(R.M.RAMANUJAM)

Conservator of Forest and Field Director,
Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve, Gondia

Copy to:-

- 1) Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) East, Nagpur for information and necessary action.
- 2) Deputy Director, Nawegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve, Sakoli for information.



(R. M. Ramanujam)

Conservator of Forest & Field Director,
Nawegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve, Gondia.



OFFICE OF THE CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & FIELD DIRECTOR NAWEGAON NAGZIRA TIGER RESERVE GONDIA.
 "Vanbhavan" T. B. Toli, Kudwa Road, Gondia. Phone No. 01782- 251232, 251250.
 Fax No -251250 E.mail. cfwlgondia@mahaforest.gov.in.

Desk-Steno/enquiry/2020-21/ 1733

Gondia, Dated :- 22/ 11/2020

CONFIDENTIAL

To,
 Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) East,
 Nagpur.

Sub: Baseless allegations against officers and staffs from NNTR by Mr.Sachin Rangari, Sakoli,
 District Bhandara.

Ref.: Your office letter no. steno/complaint/583/2020-21 dt. 02.11.2020

Sir,

I would like to bring to your kind notice few things with respect to Mr.Sachin Rangari, Sakoli, District Bhandara. He is in the habit of making baseless frivolous allegations against NNTR officers and staffs in recent days.

Complaint of illicit felling and new roads construction in Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary

In the month of June 2019, he made a complaint against NNTR management alleging that thousands of trees were felled and new roads were being constructed in Nagzira Wildlife sanctuary in addition to other minor complaints. He forwarded that complaint to Maneka Gandhi madam, MoEF & CC, NTCA, PCCF (wildlife), MS and issued press note also. His press note was given wide publicity both in printing and electronic media. Field Director, NNTR and APCCF (Wildlife) East too conducted enquiry and found his complaint to be a baseless one.

Again he complained to Maneka Gandhi madam alleging that forest dept officers are trying to protect their own officers and staffs. He made a demand to constitute an independent enquiry committee (with no officer from NNTR as a member) with the condition to take him inside nagzira sanctuary along with the enquiry team during field inspection. His demand was accepted and a committee was constituted with Collector, Gondia District as the chairman of enquiry committee with three members from NGOs. They too conducted enquiry in presence of the complainant.

6) Just I would like to bring to your kind notice an incident, which happened when the enquiry (fdu) was in progress to prove that complainant is in the habit of making baseless and frivolous allegations against NNTR.

20/11 On 30th July 2020, enquiry committee under the chairmanship of District Collector visited Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary for enquiring the allegations made in the complaint. In front of

committee members and complainant, i requested District Collector "Complainant has damaged the image of NNTR and officers like anything by getting it published in media. One major complaint made by him is that 400 trees were illicitly felled in C.No. 125 & 126, which disturbed the movement pattern of tigers. The boundary of both compartments are located within a distance of 3 km from my camp office and they are in core of the core zone. Villages are located at a distance of 10 km. from these compartments. It is not at all possible for anyone to enter these compartments and fell the trees. He should show those 400 illicitly felled stumps today in front of the committee. If he shows these many stumps, then i ll accept that we have failed in our duty to protect the forest. Second major allegation in the complaint is that new roads were constructed in the sanctuary. He should show those new roads also to the committee". Collector too accepted my request and instructed the complainant to show new roads and illicitly felled stumps. Complainant didn't showed even a single illicitly felled stump and new road. When i asked him why did he made such baseless allegations, he maintained stonic silence.

Complaint of illicit felling and murrum excavation in Koka Wildlife Sanctuary

In the complaint made in the month of October 2020, he has alleged 10000 trees were felled and transported outside using the vehicle MH 35 D 423 (Bolero camper, the official vehicle of RFO Koka). It is the wild allegation made by the complainant. Even a layman will tell its not at all possible to transport these many trees in Bolero camper vehicle even if these many trees were felled. This allegation, made without applying mind, itself shows that all the allegations made by the complainant are baseless and frivolous.

General observations by officers and staffs from NNTR

It seems one among his malafide intentions is to his intention is to defame the Maharashtra forest department, especially wildlife wing.

Complainant seems to have no basic knowledge of FCA, WLPA and principles of wildlife management, especially meadow development. This is what the officers and staffs working in NNTR realised from the allegations made by the complainant against the officers and staffs from Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary and Koka Wildlife Sanctuary. Enquiring into such baseless wild allegations results in unnecessary wastage of time and energy of the officers and staffs. When he was told that tractor was used to plough the land in chital maidan for meadow development works, he responded by saying that FCA was violated by breaking and ploughing the forest land.

Number of tigers has increased from 190 to 312 in Maharashtra state. Maharashtra state is widely appreciated both in India and World for doing excellent job in the field of tiger conservation. It seems that malafide intention of the complainant is to tarnish the image of the Maharashtra State, projecting that so many illegal things are taking place in NNTR and state government is not taking any action against the officers.

Few press reporters who contacted officers from NNTR were also complaining that the complainant is continuously pestering them with the request to publish the press note issued by him. It shows the malafide intention of the complainant.

In the latest MEE (Management Effectiveness Evaluation) exercise conducted by NTCA, New Delhi, NNTR secured 12th position among all 50 tiger reserves in India and 1st position among all the tiger reserves in Maharashtra. But the complainant is trying to project that officers and staffs in NNTR are indulging in illegal activities, which in turn demoralise the staffs and officers working in NNTR, which is located in tribal dominated, naxal affected and remotest part of Maharashtra. Now conducting meetings with the field officers and boosting their morale has become the regular duty of higher officials in addition to the regular duty. Around 50% of the field staffs in Nagzira sanctuary, who promised that they will work for one more year applied for transfer and got transferred out of Nagzira sanctuary.

After making baseless allegations in his complaint dated 1st June 2020, he went along with two persons on 4th June 2020 with camera and threatened Mr. Mahesh Bopche, JCB driver to say that he felled trees using JCB while working in Nagzira sanctuary. complainant in this regard has been filed by Mr. Mahesh Bopche, JCB driver in Goregaon Police station, District Gondia on 6th June 2020. This incident also shows the malafide intention of the complainant. He is ready to go any extent to defame the officers and the department.

Just by making baseless frivolous allegations and sending it to higher officials, complainant is harassing the officers and staffs and gets them engaged in unproductive work.

Officers and staffs strongly feel that the complainant is misusing the name of PFA in his favour to threaten and harass the officers and staffs, who are working day and night in the remote, tribal dominated, most backward and naxal affected area of Maharashtra state. Just because of the mischievous activities of this complainant, the image of the PFA, which is well known for protecting animals, is also getting deteriorated day by day in Gondia and Bhandara districts. Hence, it should be brought to the kind notice of the Chairman, PFA at once.

Hence i kindly request you to look into all these observations and take necessary action to prevent him from making baseless allegations against the department in future.



(R.M.RAMANUJAM)

Conservator of Forest and Field Director,
Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve, Gondia

Copy to:-

- 1) Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), M.S, Nagpur for information & necessary action.
- 2) Deputy Director, Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve, Sakoli for information