



WILD ORISSA

(An organization for conservation of nature and wildlife)

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Dated 24th August 2010

To,

Shri Jairam Ramesh,
Hon'ble Union Minister for Environment and Forests (Independent charge)
New Delhi

Sub: equal status to Project Elephant as Project Tiger, regarding

Respected Sir,

At the outset on behalf of Wild Orissa, I would like to commend your statement in Parliament today regarding imparting equal status and attention to Project Elephant as is the case with Project Tiger. It is a most welcome move which will go a long way in conserving one of the prime flagship species of this country.

It is important India's elephants are given their due place. It was rightly pointed out by the Hon'ble Member of Parliament Shri Jena today in the Lok Sabha that Orissa has lost 698 elephants since 1990-2009 due to unnatural reasons including poaching. This indeed is a matter for grave concern for the country. Orissa is home to substantial wild elephant population. However habitat loss and fragmentation coupled with illegal trafficking of tusks are seriously threatening their survival.

Delay in consolidating elephant habitats in Orissa is major concern area. Notification of 2 (two) Elephant Reserves namely South Orissa Elephant Reserve and Baitarani Elephant Reserve, which were accorded permission for notification by the Government of India during 2005, are pending with the Government of Orissa. Early notification in this regard will ensure safeguarding some of Orissa's major elephant population.

The Task Force on Project Elephant held a meeting with stakeholders at Bhubaneswar in April 2010 during which Wild Orissa submitted a list of recommendations to the committee (copy enclosed). In this regard we would like to draw your kind attention and would be grateful for requesting the government of Orissa in expediting implementation of the recommendations pertaining to their domain and also for priority notification of the 2 elephant reserves.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully

(MONALISA BHUJABAL)
Secretary
Wild Orissa

Copy submitted for information and necessary action:-

1. Mr. Vijay Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, Delhi
2. Mr. T.K. Mishra, Chief Secretary, Government of Orissa, Bhubaneswar
3. Mr. P.J. Dilip Kumar Director General of Forests Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, Delhi
4. Additional Director General, Wildlife Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, Delhi
5. Mr. A.N. Prasad, Director Project Elephant, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, Delhi
6. Shri P.N. Padhi Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Orissa, Bhubaneswar
7. Shri U.N. Behera, Secretary, Department of Forests Government of Orissa, Bhubaneswar
8. Mr. P.R. Sinha, Director Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

(MONALISA BHUJABAL)
Secretary
Wild Orissa