

No. 4-1/08-PE
Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
(Project Elephant Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi – 110003.

Dated: 20 January 2012

Office Memorandum

Subject: Constitution of Task Force for Mitigation of Human-Elephant Conflict in Karnataka.

With a view to equitably and permanently resolving the problem of human-elephant conflict in Karnataka, and with the approval of the Competent Authority in the Government of India it has been decided to constitute a Task Force for mitigation of human-elephant conflict in Karnataka, with the following members:

1. Mr Ajay Desai, Member, Project Elephant Steering Committee and Elephant Task Force
 2. Dr Raman Sukumar, CES, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
 3. Mr. Sharat Chandra Lele, Sociologist, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment
 4. Dr C.H. Basappanavar, Retired Forest Officer (he is assisting the High Court in the pending court case)
 5. Dr S. S. Bisht, Former Director (Project Elephant) and Elephant Expert
 6. Mr. B.R. Deepak, Advocate
 7. Dr N.K. Madhusudhan, Elephant Biologist
 8. CCF & Field Director, Mysore Elephant Reserve : Member-Convener
2. The Task Force will have the following terms of reference:
- (i) To look into the entire gamut of issues related to human-elephant conflict in Karnataka with special reference to Hassan-Kodagu area and make recommendations to bring about a more effective conservation and management regime for the species and its habitat in Karnataka with due focus on participation of local communities.
 - (ii) To study the composition of the elephant population in Kattapura area and its movement pattern.
 - (iii) To undertake consultation with a view to considering translocation of problem elephants, with people, including the people presently affected and also those from where the elephants are to be translocated, and other experts, including

international experts in elephant behavior and conservation, and conflict management, who may be consulted electronically.

- (iv) To consider any other relevant issue.
3. The Task Force will submit an interim report to the Director (Project Elephant), Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India and Chief Wildlife Warden, Karnataka every three months citing progress of the field study.
 4. The Task Force shall meet at the place(s) decided and arranged by the Member-Convener as frequently as the members may decide but it shall meet at least once in two months.
 5. The Task Force may co-opt any other expert(s) as member(s) as per requirement.
 6. The non-official members of the Task Force will be entitled to travelling expenses and sitting fee as admissible to an officer in the rank of Director in the Government of India as per Rule SR 190.
 7. In case of travel by Air, the non-official members will fly by the national carrier (Air India) only, to be eligible for reimbursement of the air fare.
 8. The expenditure incurred by the Task Force in carrying on its activities will be provided by the Ministry of Environment and Forests through assistance released to the State Government of Karnataka under CSS-Project Elephant.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

(Prabhat Tyagi)
Joint Director (WL)
Telefax: 24366842

Distribution:

1. All Members of the Task Force.
2. Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Karnataka.

Copy to:

1. PS to Hon'ble MOS (I/C) E & F.
2. PPS to Secretary, E&F.
3. PPS to DGF & SS.
4. PPS to Addl. DGF (WL).
5. PPS to IGF and Director (Project Elephant)
6. RCCF, Bangalore
7. NIC Cell- with a request to kindly upload the above order on the official website of the Ministry.