

Dated the 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2009

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

The Government has set up the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a river basin approach. One of the primary objectives of NGRBA is to maintain minimum ecological flow in the river with the aim of ensuring water quality and sustainable development.

2. With a view of successful implementation of river cleaning efforts and to strengthen the water quality monitoring mechanism, it has been decided by the NGRBA that in addition to physico-chemical and bacteriological parameters, monitoring of bio-indicators in Ganga would also be undertaken. Accordingly, a Working Group is constituted to prepare an action plan for conservation of Gangetic Dolphin, which is considered to be one of the major bio-indicators of ecological health of Ganga. The composition of the Working Group will be as under;

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|------|--|-----------|
| i)   | Prof. R.K. Sinha, Department of Zoology,<br>Patna University, Patna                                  | -Chairman |
| ii)  | Shri P.R. Sinha, Director, Wildlife Institute of India,<br>Chandrabani, Dehradun                     | -Member   |
| iii) | Dr. Anmol Kumar, DIG, Wildlife,<br>Min. of Environment & Forests, New Delhi                          | -Member   |
| iv)  | Dr. R. Samuel Lal Mohan, Retired Scientist, CMFRI  | -Member   |
| v)   | Dr. Sandeep Behera, WWF-India, New Delhi   | -Member   |
| vi)  | Dr. Gopal Sharma, Scientist B, Zoological Survey of India,<br>Gangetic Plains Regional Centre, Patna | -Member   |

3. The Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Working Group would be as under:

- i) To prioritize and identify critical stretches of the River Ganga and its tributaries where the Gangetic Dolphins need special attention.
- ii) To identify gap areas in Dolphin distribution range.
- iii) To suggest areas of Research for facilitating long-term conservation of the Dolphin in the river Ganga and its tributaries and;
- iv) To prepare Action Plan for conservation of the Ganges River Dolphin in the Ganga and its tributaries.

4. The Working Group will submit their report within six months.

  
(Rajiv Sinha)  
Additional Director

To,

1. Prof. R.K. Sinha, Department of Zoology, Patna University, Patna-800 005
2. Shri P.R. Sinha, Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Chandrabani, Dehradun-248 001

3. Dr. Anmol Kumar, DIG, Wildlife, Min. of Environment & Forests, Room No. 706, Vigyan Sadan, Nivedita Kunj, R K Puram, Sector-10, New Delhi-110 022
4. Dr. R. Samuel Lal Mohan, Retired Scientist, CMFRI 43C, Water Tank Road, Nagercoil- 629 001, Tamil Nadu.
5. Dr. Sandeep Behera, WWF-India, 172-B, Max Muller Marg, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi-110 003
6. Dr. Gopal Sharma, Scientist B, Zoological Survey of India, Gangetic Plains Regional Centre, Road No. 11 D, Rajendra Nagar, Patna-800 016

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PS to Secy (E&F), PS to AS (RHK) & PD, PS to JS (RG)