

Government of Nepal Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation **Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation**



Date: December 18, 2014

To **Kishore** Rao Director The World Heritage Centre 7, Palace de Fontenoy 75352 Paris 07 SP, France

Subject: State of Conservation of Chitwan National Park, Nepal (N 284) and **Sagarmatha National Park**

Dear Mr. Rao,

It is my pleasure to forward the State of Conservation (SoC) of Chitwan National Park, Nepal and Sagarmatha National Park to you. I would like to request you to include this State of Conservation of Chitwan National Park and Sagarmatha National Park, Nepal in World Heritage Center SoC on-line. Please find attached statements.

Thank you very much for your concerns.

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mil Tikaram Adhikari **Director General** Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Nepal **Director** General

CC: UNESCO Office Kathmandu

Name of the World Heritage Property: Chitwan National Park, Nepal (N 284)

The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation has the following comments regarding the conservation issues of the Chitwan National Park Nepal.

Related to Annex I and II

1. <u>N0. 4 Annex I</u>

East–West Electric Railroad and the Terai Hulaki Highway crossing the property Chitwan National Park Nepal.

Response (i):

The bridge construction works was proposed at Golaghat which falls in buffer zone of Chitwan National Park and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation strongly opposed it. As a result, the contact was cancelled by the Department of Roads. However, the Department of Roads has been planning to construct bridge over the Narayani river at Bhosara ghat, which is a bit far towards the north from the previously located site (Golaghat). This proposed bridge site is said to provide services as part of the East-West Postal road (Hulaki Marg). The department has still opposed to this site, because we need to maintain the core value of world heritage site.

The government of India has done agreement with the government of Nepal in providing financial and technical support in constructing the Hulaki road and bridges along the low land from east to west in Nepal. Such alignment can pass the several National Parks and Wildlife Reserves across the country. The preparation of Detail Project Report (DPR) and EIA of Rail road is in under way. The government has still denied providing EIA study in the protected areas of Nepal including Chitwan National Park. In this regards intern-national support is needed in proving the value of world heritage site.

Our concern is to build the Rail road along the human settlements rather than constructing through the forest area and the prime habitats of wildlife.

If proposed Rail road and Terai Hulaki Highway is constructed, CNP will be fragmented in four places viz. Bagai-Amuwa, Bankatta-Dhurba, Bhoseraghat-Laukhani and Dumkibash-Tribeni. These sectors provide important habitats to mega wildlife like elephant, rhino tiger, bison, etc., and with the construction of rail road through these sectors do not benefit considerable human population except loss of wildlife habitats. As mentioned above, Chitwan National Park suggested alternatives which will provide maximum benefits to human population and pose negligible adverse impacts in the nature of this World Heritage Property. Instead of Terai Hulaki Highway crossing the CNP, alternative of this highway can be Birganj to Thori in Parsa district and Bagai to Bharatpur in Chitwan. This needs road improvement and will provide services to human populations as well as safeguarding of biological diversity of the property.

NO. 5

The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation requested by writing invitation letter to UNESCO Office Kathmandu 14th September, 2014 for IUCN advisory mission to study the issue of Kondge View Resort in SNP and also will request to study CNP issues. In line with this DNPWC already has requested to UNESCO Office Kathmandu as follows:

Alter to	Government of Nepal Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
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E	Department of National Parks & Wildlife Conservation
	Date: 14 th September, 2014
	To
	Christian Manhart Head
	UNESCO Office, Kathmandu
	Ref.: Construction of rail road through Chitwan National Park (CNP), Nepal, a World
	Natural Heritage Site.
	Dear Mr. Manhart,
	Nepal is a developing country. Obviously, there could be a heavy pressure of developmen
	infrastructure demands such as roads, hydropower, irrigation canal, bridges, railways in protected
	areas. The large size development projects create adverse impact to wildlife habitat that may not be
	recovered.
	Recently, the newly established Department of Railways of Nepal has initiated to build East-West rai
	road, and is now in the phase of feasibility study and environmental impact assessment report
	preparation. The South Korean consulting company is conducting the survey. The Department o Railways has proposed the alignment of the railway, that passes through the national parks as well
	One of the section of the railways is proposed through Chitwan National Park- a World Natura
	Heritage Site and popularly known as last resort for the endangered wildlife species such as tiger
	elephant, and rhinoceros. However, government of Nepal, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation
	has given permission to conduct feasibility study for the railways with condition of conducting studies among three alternatives, the authority of railways has only conducting the feasibility study of
	the section that passes through the CNP.
	It is believed that railways are for the economic development of a country and should provide
	services to the people thus requires to pass through cities and nearby human settlement areas
	Obviously, Nepal should also have operating the electrified rails for better transportation facilities
	and link with the world. But, there is no justification to construct the railways cutting pristine wildlife habitat such as Chitwan National Park. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
	has urged to design the railways alignment in other alternative routes that do not pass though the
	national parks and request to UNESCO also to hand on with the department so that we can secure the world heritage property for present as well as for the future generations.
	world heritage property for present as well as for the future generations.
	Thank you for your attention.
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	With best regards, Adlineani
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	Tika Ram Adhikari
	Director General

2. <u>Other current conservation issues identified by the State Party</u> :

Effective management system of CNP has resulted increasing number of wildlife. At the same course Human Wildlife Conflict has also raised unexpectedly. One of the causes of conflict, human casualty creates severe situation. Human Wildlife Conflict needed to be resolved site specific immediately of event happened. Government of Nepal provides three thousand rupees against a person killed by a wild animal. The demand of relief fund is growing every year.

3. <u>Major restorations, alterations, and/or new constructions envisaged</u> within the protected area and its buffer zone and/or corridors.

• There are no such cases in CNP during the reporting period. But an optical fiber laying project along the electric line (Jagatpur to Madi) inside the CNP is proposed for this scoping document and Terms of Reference is presented to carryout EIA.