

F. No. 1-3/2008-NTCA (Vol. IV)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
National Tiger Conservation Authority

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Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi-110003
Tel. No. +91 11 2436 7837-42
Fax: +91 11 2436 7836
E-mail: aig1-ntca@nic.in

Dated: 20.04.2018

To,

**The Chief Secretary,
Government of Assam, Guwahati.**

Sub: Report on rampant mining in Karbi-Anglong Hills adjoining Kaziranga Tiger Reserve, Assam- reg.

Sir,

Please find enclosed this Authority's report in response to complaint filed by Shri Rohit Choudhury of Bokakhat, Assam.


In this context, I am directed to request you to kindly take immediate action as appropriate to stop the mining, quarrying, stone crusher activities in the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong Landscape as they are seriously hampering survival and conservation of tiger, its habitats, co-predators, prey including mega herbivores and their transit routes during annual flood season.

In addition, the Tiger Conservation Plan of Kaziranga Tiger Reserve as mandated under Section 38 V of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 needs to be submitted at the earliest to continue funding assistance under the CSS-PT.

An early action is highly solicited.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As above.


20/4/2018
(Raja Ram Singh)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests (NTCA)

Copy for kind information:

1. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt of Assam, Guwahati.
2. The Field Director, Kazirang Tiger Reserve.
3. IGF, NTCA, Regional Office, Guwahati.
4. Shri Rohit Choudhury, Bokakhat, Assam.

REPORT REGARDING RAMPANT MINING IN KARBI ANGLONG HILLS ADJOINING KAZIRANGA TIGER RESERVE, ASSAM.

BACKGROUND:

A complaint was filed by Shri Rohit Choudhury of Bokakhat, Assam about rampant mining taking place in Karbi Anglong Hills, adjoining to Kaziranga Tiger Reserve, Assam. The complainant had alleged that significant environmental degradation and habitat destruction has been happening in the foothills of Karbi Anglong hills which is a prime elephant habitat and also part of Kaziranga – Karbi Anglong Elephant Reserve. It is also an important tiger corridor as delineated by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and Wildlife Institute of India (WII) which connects to Intaki National Park, Nagaland through Karbi Anglong hills.

Activities like quarrying all along the hills of Karbi Anglong has resulted in degradation of hills slopes, drying up of streams, destruction of habitat and loss of valuable flora and fauna. The mining happening which has been happening for the last several years may cut off the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve from Karbi Anglong hills if the mining activity is not stopped.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in writ petition 460/2004 had observed if the proposals for notification of eco-sensitive areas is not received from the States / Union territories, then the Court may consider passing orders for notification of the areas within 10 km from the boundaries of sanctuaries and national parks as eco-sensitive areas for conserving the forest, wildlife and environment. The Court also observed that the MoEF would refer all cases having environmental clearances and are within 10 km zone to Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL).

In case of KTR, the eco-sensitive area is yet to be notified and the extent of eco-sensitive area will be 10 km from the boundary of KTR. This being the case, at present large number of stone quarries / mining sites and stone crusher units are located in places such as Kakosang, Kakojan, Dolamara, Rangali, Kania Teron Gaon, Geleki, Panbari, Rongagorah, Slimkhuwa, Rongbongwe, Dihingjuri, Killing Gaon and Kanchanjuri of Karbi Anglong district that are within 2-4 km distance from the southern boundary of Kaziranga Tiger Reserve, a world heritage site of Assam. A copy of the complaint is enclosed as **Annexure I**.

FIELD VISIT:

The NTCA headquarter had requested the IGF, NTCA, Regional office, Bengaluru to cause a site inquiry into the complaint of Shri Rohit Choudhary and submit a report. Accordingly, field visits were undertaken on 11th and 12th January, 2018 when both IGF

and AIGF of NTCA, Regional office, Bengaluru were participating in All India Tiger Estimation (AITE) training program at KTR. Since the field visit was decided suddenly while attending AITE program prior intimation could not be given to authorities concerned. However, during the field visits extensive discussions were held with the officials of KTR.

A copy of NTCA letter is enclosed as **Annexure II**.

ABOUT KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK:

Kaziranga National Park (KNP) is one of the most important protected areas in Assam. Spread over an area of more than 860 sq km in the flood plains of Brahmaputra, it harbors the world's largest population of Great Indian One horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) (2413 Nos. in 2018), Wild Buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) (1431 Nos. in 2001) and the Swamp Deer (*Rucervus duvauceli ranjitsinghi*) (1169 Nos. in 2011).

KNP being a part of Kaziranga – Karbi Anglong Elephant Reserve also possess a sizeable population of Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) thereby playing an important role of elephant conservation in Assam. Its biodiversity conservation values were much recognized when in 1985 UNESCO declared it as one of the World Heritage Sites of in India.

The park lies between latitudes 26 0 34' N to 26 0 46' N and longitudes 93 0 08' E to 93 0 36' E. It is spread over the civil jurisdictions of Nagaon and Golaghat districts in Assam with mighty Brahmaputra river on the north and verdant Karbi Anglong hills on the south. With three new additions, three proposed additions and two reserved forests namely, Panbari and Kukurakata reserve forests coming under the administrative control of the Kaziranga National Park, the geographical area then lies between Latitudes 26 0 33' N to 26 0 50' N and Longitudes 93 0 05' E to 93 0 41' E including a part in civil jurisdiction of Sonitpur district.

For administrative purpose KNP is divided into 5 ranges (Burapahar, Central, Eastern, Northern and Western range) and a beat (Bokakhat beat)(Vasu, 2003). KNP is also part of Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong Elephant Reserve, an important Elephant Reserve (ER) of Assam with an area of 3270 sq km.

OBSERVATIONS:

1. Prior to the site visit the undersigned had perused the various documents provided by the complainant for understanding the mining issue in Kaziranga – Karbi Anglong landscape. Going by the documents, it is clear that mining / stone quarrying in the intervening area between the southern boundary of Kaziranga

National Park and foothills of Karbi – Anglong hills has been taking place for the last several years. For example, way back in 1996, the Forest Range officer of Kaziranga Range, had expressed his concerns to DFO, Eastern Assam Wildlife Division, Bokakhat. The said report highlighted following points:

- The proposed site of stone crusher unit was just outside the boundary of Panbari Reserve Forest having rich bird diversity and also habitat for Hoolock Gibbon, the only ape of India.
 - The area is free from human habitations and during seasonal migration the wild elephants from park use this area to access the Karbi – Anglong hills.
 - During high flood time, the wild animals use Panbari RF area as shelter and installation of stone crusher unit would cause disturbance to wild animals through noise as well as other forms of pollution.
 - **Annexure III– Copy of FRO letter is enclosed.**
2. It appears that despite the concerns of Range officer, Central Range, the permission was given for setting up of stone crusher units in the land adjoining to Panbari RF. During the field visit we did notice extensive sound and dust pollution at the stone crusher site and given the high decibel sound emanating from crusher units it is highly impossible for wild animals to use the habitat for Panbari RF let alone move towards the foothills of Karbi Anglong.
3. The Director, Kaziranga National Park in his letter to Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife), Assam highlights that more than 40 stone quarries have been allowed in the Karbi Anglong East and Golaghat Forest Divisions particularly in the hills slopes facing NH 37. The stone excavated from these quarries was then dispatched to stone crusher units established within the jurisdiction of Eastern Assam Wildlife Division, Bokakhat and also to neighbouring districts. While outlining the negative impacts of mining in the area, the director had also raised concern about the forest clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act given to some of the quarries operating in the Karbi Anglong hills and requested for taking up the mining issue with Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council and also Regional CCF of MOEF, Shillong for Environmental Impact Analysis (EIA). However, it is not clear if the Director, Kaziranga National Park had taken any initiative or action in closing down some of the crusher units operating in his jurisdiction that use the stone from nearby quarries of Karbi Anglong.

Annexure IV– Copy of Director, Kaziranga National Park letter to CCF (Wildlife), Assam.

4. In 2010, similar complaints were received by the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India and NTCA was asked to constitute a committee for site inspection with respect to stone crushing and mining. The 3 member committee had requested the DFO, East Karbi Anglong division on 14th September, 2010 to provide information on detail land status and location of stone crushing and stone quarries. However, the said DFO chose not to respond to the queries of committee.
5. After site visit, the team observed that the entire hilly areas facing Kaziranga are a prime elephant habitat through which wild elephants continue move between Kaziranga and Karbi Anglong. As the area is part of the Kaziranga – Karbi Anglong Elephant Reserve, all the north facing hills of Karbi-Anglong along the Kaziranga National Park should be declared as 'No Development Zone' and activities like felling of trees, stone or soil quarry should not be permitted. However, it seems nothing much seems to have happened on the ground indicated by continued stone mining activities and establishment of stone quarries in the adjoining areas of Kaziranga.

Annexure V: A copy of the committee report is enclosed.

6. The issue of stone mining in the close proximity of Kaziranga was also highlighted before a sub committee of Kaziranga Biodiversity Conservation and Development Committee (KBCDC) headed by Principal Secretary to Government of Assam, Revenue Department. The Director in his submission before the sub committee mentioned that if the stone quarrying/mining activities are not checked and regulated, then Kaziranga may become physically isolated from Karbi Anglong forest areas resulting in choking of animal migration path which is very vital for Kaziranga with high density of wildlife.
7. The Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) of India, in its report “*Performance Audit of Kaziranga National Park – Issues and Challenges*” has observed the following:
 - *There are a number of crushers and brick kilns within 10 km of the boundary while some are within 1-2 kms. Some of the crushers and brick kilns were found located right on the animal corridors (Panbari animal corridor has a number of stone crushers and brick kilns). Interaction with the villagers near Panbari corridor revealed that due to running of the crushers, herds of*

elephants which otherwise use the corrido, had stopped coming that way, of late.

- Further verification by the audit team and interactions with various stakeholders revealed that there is a constant mining activity on the Karbi Anglong Hills adjacent to NH 37. This disturbs the natural movement of elephants which frequent the hills from KNP and vice-versa. The ever decreasing forest cover due to mining of stone from the hills coupled with the sound pollution from the machineries used in mining operations force the elephants to enter human settlements damaging crops and houses of the settlers. This in turn gives rise to the claims for compensation for which the KNP authorities had to entertain and settle.*
- From the results of physical verification, interactions with the wildlife authorities / villagers and scrutiny of various correspondences, it would appear that uncontrolled and ever increasing construction / human settlements with urbanization at places, commercial activities / mining had contributed to blocking of majority of the stretch of NH 37 including the designated animal corridors (except some patches fo Haldhibari and Burapahar). Non declaration of the ESZ for such a long period of time had a direct bearing on such activities detrimental to the well being of the animals. The dangerous trend, if not checked immediately and permanently could lead to irreversible impact on conservation and protection of wildlife with the potential threat that in case of a major flood, majority of the internationally acclaimed species – One horned Rhinos would be wiped out, forever.*

Annexure VI: Relevant extract of CAG report is enclosed.

8. The destructive mining and quarrying activity in the foothills of Karbi Anglong hills has even affected the agriculture as well. In his report, the Circle officer, Bokakhat Revenue Circle wrote to the Sub Divisional Officer (Civil), Bokakhat, that in the villages Kakojuri, Gelaki, Mikir, Gohanibor, Silkuwari under Bokakhat revenue circle close to Karbi Anglong district boundary large scale earth cutting and stone mining activities has been taking place. Due to these activities, all natural streams are blocked and have become shallow. Vast stretches of paddy land of the villages mentioned above have been silted up due to the run off water flowing from the earth cutting and stone mining areas. It was not possible to cultivate such lands due to siltation problem.

Annexure VII: A copy of circle office letter is enclosed.

9. The DFO, Eastern Assam Wildlife Division, Bokakhat wrote to DFO, Karbi Anglong West Division, Diphu, stating that as per Hon'ble SC order, no mining activity was permitted within 10 km from the the boundary of National Park and Wildilfe Sanctuaries. As the stone quarries at Geleki, Rongagorah, Silimkhowa, Rongbongwe, Dihingjuri and Killinggaon are between 2-4 km from the southern boundary of KTR and are operating in violation of Hon'ble SC order, these quarries may be closed down.

Annexure VIII: A copy of DFO, Eastern Assam Wildlife Division letter is enclosed.

10. In 2016, the Director, Kaziranga National Park wrote to the PCCF, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), Diphu stating that stone quarries /mining units located near Geleki, Panbari, Rongagorah, Silimkhowa, Rongbonwe, Dihinguri and Killingaon under KAAC were situated inside the proposed Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of Kaziranga National Park. It was also reiterated that these stone quarries were responsible for adverse impact on environment and soil quality of agricultural lands of Golaghat district. Further, citing the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India's direction on ESZ (wherein 10 km from PA boundary will be considered as ESZ till final notification of ESZ) the Director requested the PCCF, KAAC to stop the mining activities in the villages mentioned before.

Annexure IX: A copy of Director, Kaziranga National Park letter is enclosed.

11. Instead of considering the mining issue seriously, the PCCF, KAAC, in reply to DFO, Eastern Assam Wildlife Division, Bokakhat letter posed questions to DFO, Eastern Assam Wildlife Division (who works under Director, KNP) whether DFO priority was rhinos or the Geleki village (and other villages where rampant mining was happening). Further, the PCCF, KAAC stated that all the mining activities taking place in villages like Geleki, have approved mining plan and valid environmental clearance documents from competent authority. However, it is not clear whether PCCF, KAAC, provided any documentary proof to KNP authorities in support of his claim that the mines operating in Karbi Anglong area adjoining to Kaziranga had mining plan and environmental clearances.

Annexure X: A copy of PCCF, KAAC letter is enclosed.

12. Given the destruction unleashed by these mines, quarries and crushers units on the fragile landscape of Kaziranga – Karbi Anglong landscape, and also by considering the fact that the Forest Department of KAAC hardly gives any importance to correspondences of KNP authorities, there is an urgent need to review all the

permissions, clearances granted and a committee may be constituted by Government of India for this purpose.

13. During the field visit, we traveled from Burapahar to Bokakhat to get first hand experience of stone mining activities taking place in the Kaziranga – Karbi Anglong landscape (**Figure 1**). We visited a Silimkhowa village and from a distance we could hear the sound of heavy machinery (a JCB) busy in breaking the stones taken out from the northern facing hill side of Karbi Anglong (**Annexure XI**). The heavily used village road, parking of trucks were indicating the stone mining continues here unabated. The sound of heavy machinery busy in breaking the big boulders could be heard far away from the mining spot. Interestingly, this mining spot was in close proximity to the 4th addition (Kanchanjuri corridor) area. The destruction caused by rampant mining to the north facing hills of Karbi Anglong adjacent to Kaziranga National Park is visible from far away.
14. We were told by some locals that while mining and quarrying activities take place during the day time, the transportation of broken stones, earth etc to nearby stone crusher units takes place mainly in the late evening hours or in the night. Similarly, the finished products from stone crusher units also gets transported to various places in the night only. We were also told that in case the operators of these quarries and crusher units come to know about the visit of senior forest officials in the nearby area then all the activities at both quarrying site and stone crusher units are stopped till the departure of officials from the field.
15. Next from Silimkhowa village, we visited Panbari corridor area to see the impact of mining and crusher units (**Annexure XI**). The situation in Panbari RF and corridor is really alarming. We came across many stone crusher units operating right next to Panbari RF blocking the connectivity between Panbari RF and to the Karbi Anglong hills. Further, we also saw mining activities undergoing in the nearby hill and the materials were being transported from these mines to the stone crusher units. At few places, the waste generated from the mining and stone crushing activity was dumped right next to the boundary pillar of Panbari RF (**Annexure XI**). The small streams and rivulets in and around the mining and crusher units had dried up due to siltation. This state of affair has already been highlighted in several letters written by Kaziranga authorities.
16. While the southern part of Kaziranga – Karbi Anglong landscape is experiencing fast paced urbanization coupled with destruction of Karbi Anglong hills due to illegal and rampant mining/ quarrying activities, the Kaziranga is also facing another natural threat on its northern boundary. Every year, the River Brahmaputra is continuously eroding the northern and eastern bank of Kaziranga core. As a result, the precious core populated with high density of Indian rhino, Indian

elephant, wild buffalo and tigers, is getting reduced. In view of this, the destructive activities like stone quarrying, mining and stone crushers operating within 10 km radius (as per Hon'ble SC direction) needs to be stopped immediately.

17. While considering the issue of mining/ stone quarrying & crushing in Kaziranga – Karbi Anglong landscape, it is pertinent to mention that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in the writ petition (civil) No. 202 of 1995 had clarified that the word “forest” must be understood according to its dictionary meaning and it covers all statutorily recognised forests irrespective of whether these forests have been reserved, protected or otherwise for the purpose of Forest Conservation Act. The term “forest land” mentioned in section 2 of Forest Conservation Act will also include any area recorded as forest in the Government record irrespective of its ownership.

18. Under section 38V (3) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the State Government shall prepare a Tiger Conservation Plan (TCP) for ensuring: i) for protection of tiger reserve and providing site specific inputs for a viable population of tigers, co-predators and prey animals, and ii) ecologically compatible land uses in the tiger reserves and areas linking one protected area or tiger reserve with another for addressing the livelihood concerns of local people, so as to provide dispersal habitats and corridor for spill over population. During the field visit and interaction with forest officials of Kaziranga, it has been learnt that the KTR despite being declared as a 'tiger reserve' on 3rd August 2007 is still not having an approved TCP. It is a matter of great concern that a protected area like KTR, a world heritage site is being managed without a properly planned TCP.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the observations made in various official documents and details gathered during field visit, it is concluded that the stone mining/ quarrying and stone crushers established in the intervening area between Kaziranga and Karbi Anglong hills are responsible for destruction of wildlife corridors and vital wildlife habitat which is essential for long ranging species like Indian elephant and tigers. In addition, these stone mining/quarrying and stone crushers are also responsible for drying and siltation of several natural streams and rivulets that flow from Karbi Anglong hills towards Kaziranga. Considering the destructive impacts of quarrying/mining activity all the stone mining/ quarrying and crusher units needs to be closed down immediately. If these destructive activities are not stopped immediately then there is a high risk of Kaziranga National Park may lose its corridor and habitat connectivity with larger Karbi Anglong landscape permanently. Lack of corridors and habitat contiguity for wildlife dispersal will have serious implications for

long-term conservation of wide ranging species like tigers and Indian elephants of Kaziranga Tiger Reserve.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Considering the importance of Kaziranga National Park in conserving the world's single largest population of Indian rhinoceros, and in view of the above observations as well as directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, it is recommended to stop all mining, quarrying, stone crushing activity in the Kaziranga – Karbi Anglong landscape with immediate effect.
2. A committee may be constituted by MoEF&CC, Government of India to review all the permissions, clearances given to stone crushers units and stone quarrying / mining units operating in the Kaziranga – Karbi Anglong landscape.
3. The Assam Forest Department may take necessary steps for preparation of Tiger Conservation Plan for core, buffer and corridor and for notifying Eco-sensitive Zone around Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve.
4. Keeping in view the long-term conservation of mega herbivores like Indian rhinoceros, India elephant and mega carnivores such as tiger, the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve boundary may be rationalized by including areas of Karbi-Anglong adjoining Kaziranga.

Submitted by



(P S Somashekar)

Inspector General of Forest

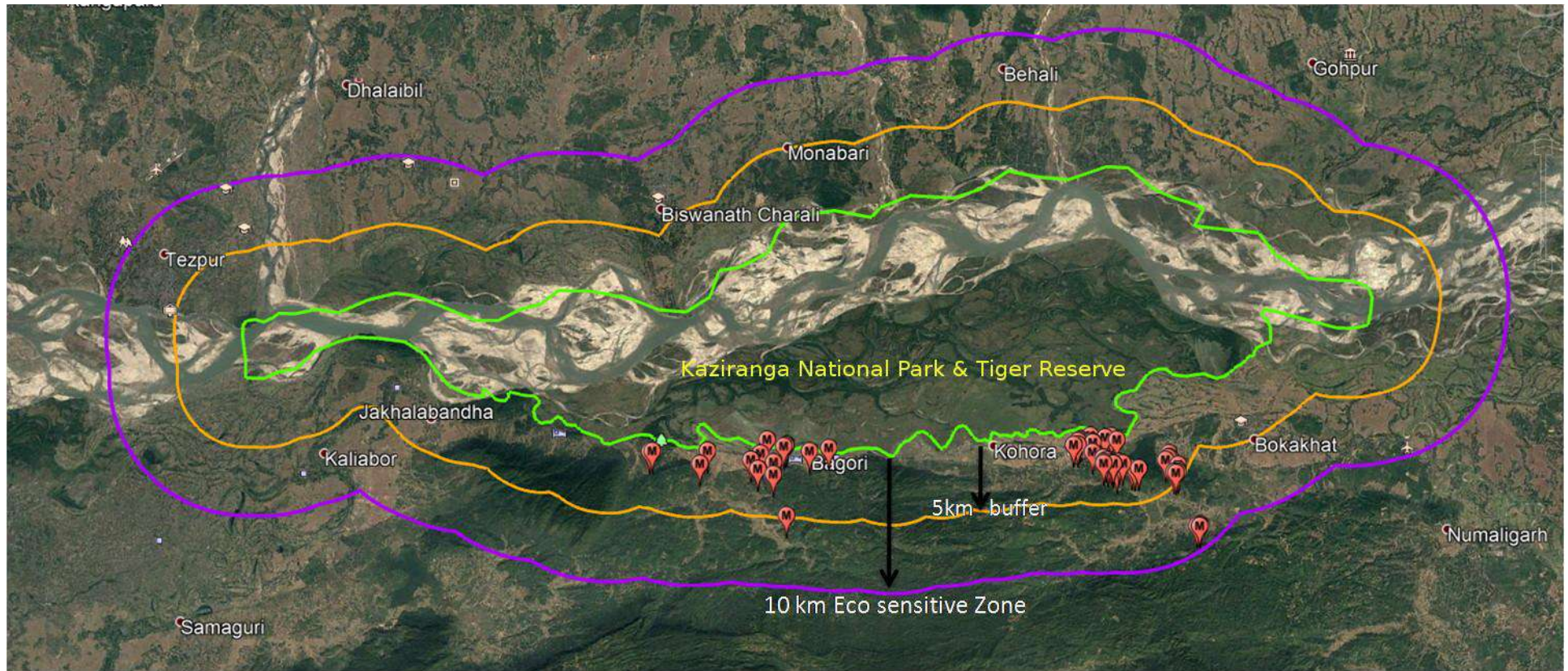


Figure 1: Map showing the Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve, 5 km & 10 km buffer along with location of stone mining / quarry / and stone crusher units (shown as red balloons). From the map, it is clear that majority of mining / quarry areas within 5 km from the park boundary and concentrated in and around wild animal corridors that link Kaziranga with Karbi Anglong hills.

Annexure: XII Few photographs of field visit to stone mining and crusher units



1.A crusher unit adjoining Panbari Reserve Forest



2 Boundary pillar of Panbari Reserve Forest (shown by red circle).



3 Tea plantation right next to Panbari Reserve Forest (towards Karbi Anglong hill side)



4 Road used by trucks, tractors ferrying material from mining quarries and crusher units



5 One of the mining site near Silimkhowa village (Karbi Anglong foothills)



6 A excavator under use in one of the mining site



7 Another mining site near Panbari Reserve Forest. Note the hills sides have already been mined

To the Director
G-128506
6.10.17

O/o Secretary
128506
6/10/17

DC FRSS
21
6/10

ADG (PT) &
MS (NTCA)

MS to govt
5982/2088
25/10/17

12/10/17
SOPC
A. Put up in Kaziranga
admin file for record
12.10.17

COMPLAINT

NTCA	
APP NO./	
DATE	
ADGPT	
Dated: 05/10/17	

Already Diary
2193
9.10.17

10.10.17
ALY (Cm)
ALY (RR)

To,
The Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India.
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Lodhi Road
New Delhi-110003

Sub: Complaint against rampant mining in Karbi Anglong Hills adjoining Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve.

Respected sir,

I am pained to inform you that the hills of Karbi Anglong, which are prime elephant habitat, and part of the Kaziranga - Karbi Anglong Elephant Reserve, are subject to significant environmental degradation and disturbance due to illegal stone mining and stone crushing, which continue to harm the habitat and corridors.

As you would be aware that this area is adjoining the Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve, and is a vital corridor connecting the elephant population of Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve and South Karbi Anglong Wildlife Sanctuary and an important tiger corridor identified by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) & Wildlife Institute of India.

The impact of quarrying along hills in Karbi Anglong is quite visible in terms of erosion leading to degradation of hills slopes, vanishing streams, loss of valuable flora & fauna and habitat for housing and migration of key species of wildlife etc. (Please see annexed photographs and GPS coordinates of few mining sites).

The unregulated stone mining is close and often very close to Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve, and if not checked and stopped, these activities will result in the physical isolation of Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve from Karbi Anglong forest area in the southern part.

The hilly areas facing Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve is a prime elephant habitat through which elephants moves in between Kaziranga and Karbi Anglong hills which is part of the Kaziranga - Karbi Anglong Elephant Reserve and as such I feel no activities such as stone or soil quarry should be permitted to keep the landscape fit for tiger, elephant and other wildlife.

In addition Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve is connected through the Karbi Anglong hills to Intanki National Park in Nagaland. This area hence forms a vital tiger corridor for the most important tiger source area in the North East Indian tiger landscape.

MS (RR)
9/10/17

Rohit Choudhury
05/10/17

67

Also, the Karbi hills form an important refuge for the wild denizens of Kaziranga Tiger Reserve during period of flooding which is a recurring feature.

Sir, I wish to inform you that in pursuance of Hon'ble Supreme Court Order in PIL 460/2004 regarding issue of declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones read with order Dated 4th December 2006 it may be noted that no mining activity shall be permitted within 10 km zone from National Park and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

It is in this regard, I would like to request you that, all the stone quarries in Karbi Anglong hills adjoining Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve may be immediately closed. The stone quarries near Kakosang, Kakojan, Dolamara, Rangali, Kania Teron Gaon, Geleki, Panbari, Rongagorah, Slimkhuwa, Rongbongwe, Dihingjuri, Killing Gaon, Kanchanjuri in Karbi Anglong district are located about 2 to 3 km from southern boundary of Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve (Western Range). The stone quarries may be immediately closed as they are operating in violation of Hon'ble Supreme Court Order, dated: 04/12/2006.

I would like to bring to your notice Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 15.09.17 in SLP(c) No(s).2579-2580/2014 in context of Eco Sensitive Zones wherein the Hon'ble Court has taken an adverse view in the matter.

I am writing this letter to solicit your urgent personal intervention on the above issue. May I request you to impress upon the Assam State Forest Department, the importance of this landscape for wildlife, and the need to take corrective conservation action at the earliest.

Action taken in this regard may be informed.

Sincerely,

Rohit Choudhury
05/10/17

(Rohit Choudhury)
C/o Shri D.P. Agarwal,
P.O: Lokhujan, Village- Gurmur Gaon,
Bokakhat- 785612, Dist-Golaghat, (Assam)
Email: rohitskaziranga@gmail.com

Copy to:

1. The Hon'ble Minister for Forest & Environment, Government of Assam, Guwahati.
2. ✓ The Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi.
3. The Member Secretary, National Tiger Conservation Authority, New Delhi.
4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife), Guwahati, Assam.
5. The Field Director, Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve, Bokakhat, Assam.







F. No. 1-3/2008-NTCA (Part-II)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
National Tiger Conservation Authority

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New Delhi - 110003.
Email: aig3-ntca@nic.in
Tel. (EPABX) 011-24367837-42
Fax: 011-24367836
Dated: 26.10.2017

To,

The Inspector General of Forests,
NTCA, Regional Office,
Bengaluru.

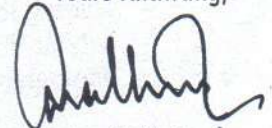
Sub: Complaint against rampant mining in Karbi Anglong Hills adjoining Kaziranga Tiger Reserve – reg.

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of complaint dated 05.10.2017 received from Shri Rohit Choudhury, Bokakhat, Assam on the subject cited above and to request you to cause a site inquiry into the said complaint and submit report within a fortnight of issue of this letter.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. Vaibhav C. Mathur)

Assistant Inspector General (NTCA)

Copy to:

1. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Assam.
2. The Field Director, Kaziranga Tiger Reserve, Assam.

OK
18/10/17
M.S.P.
27/10/17

(COPY)

GOVT. OF ASSAM.

OFFICE OF THE FOREST RANGE OFFICER ::: KAZIRANGA RANGE:::
Memo No. Kr/Crusher Machine/96/480. Date:- 25/2/96.

To,

The Divisional Forest Officer,
Eastern Assam Wildlife Division,
Bokakhat.Sub :- Enquiry on installation of stone crusher-
ing Industry.Ref :- Your letter No. B/WLG/Stone Crusher/96/
1616-17 dt. 5-2-96.

Sir,

In connection with the installation of stone crushing Industry at Siljuri village near Panbari Reserve Forest, I have inspected the lane in question as shown by the applicant, viz. Shri Cpath Mal Agarwalla. As regard the legal status of the land is concerned the records enclosed along with the above letter do not fall within the purview of my enquiry.

I am putting few points in short below in connection with the installation of the Industry at that place.

- 1) The place lies just on the boundary of Panbari Reserve Forest and about 300-350 mtrs. South of the Park. It is well known to all that Panbari R.F. is a very rich harbour of some precious and endangered species of Wildlifes. This perhaps is the only undisturbed and protected habitat for the Hooleck Gibbon on the Age of India. Panbari attracts the foreign tourists large number for its varied flora and faunas.
 - 2) The seasonal migration of elephant from the park to Mirik. Hilla takes place through these area. This is probably the only open area in the region where there still human settlement has not coming up in the form of installation of villages.
 - 3) During high flood time, the animal, specially the deer from the park use to migrate to the elevated lane that is to Panbari area acrossing the National High way. When a stone crushing industry will come-up in that area, due to constant noise of stone crushing and like other associated pollution will tremendously distrube the above ecosystem causing distrubence to the conservation.
- I request to consider these few points before allowing the industry to install in that area. There are many places for such industry beyond the area proposed.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-B.N. Talukder, F.R.
Forest Ranger, Kaziranga
Range, Kohora.



ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST DEPARTMENT

**GOVT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR: KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK
BOKAKHAT**

Letter No.KNP/FG.65/CM, Dated June 18, 2003

To, The Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Wildlife) Assam, Rehabari,
Guwahati-8

Sub: Opening of New Stone Quarries in areas adjacent to
Kaziranga National Park.

Ref: CF, Karbi Anglong, Diphu's Letter No.CF/KA/Mahal(C)/65/2002-
03/43/93, dtd.5/3/2003
And this office letter No.KNP/FG.65/CM, dtd.19/4/03

Sir,

Kindly refer this office letter dtd.19th April'03 regarding growth of quarries in areas adjacent to Kaziranga National Park. Though we do not have any records as to the total number of Stone Quarries allowed in Karbi Anglong East and Golaghat Division, I have been given to understand that more than 40(forty) Stone Quarries are existing along hill slops facing National Highway-37. Stone from this quarries find its way to the Crusher machines established under Eastern Assam Wildlife Division, Bokakhat and also goes directly to other neighboring districts.

The impact of quarrying along hills in Karbi Anglong is quite visible in terms of erosion leading to degradation of hill slopes, vanishing streams due to siltation and change in course of these streams, loss of valuable flora & fauna and habitat for housing and migration of key species of wildlife etc.

I am also not convinced about the clearance under Forest Conservation Act of some (if not all) of these quarries which will definitely defeat the object of long term conservation of wildlife in this region including Kaziranga National Park. Executives of various leading N.G.Os, Naturalists, Scientists working in the field of conservation and also many senior officers visiting Kaziranga National Park have shown their concern over the appearance of hill slopes facing National Highway-37.

Under the above circumstances I would like to request you kindly to take up the matter with Karbi Anglong Autonomous District Council and also with the Regional C.C.F., M.O.E.F. if necessary for examining the activity adjacent to the Kaziranga National Park through proper Environmental Impact Analysis.

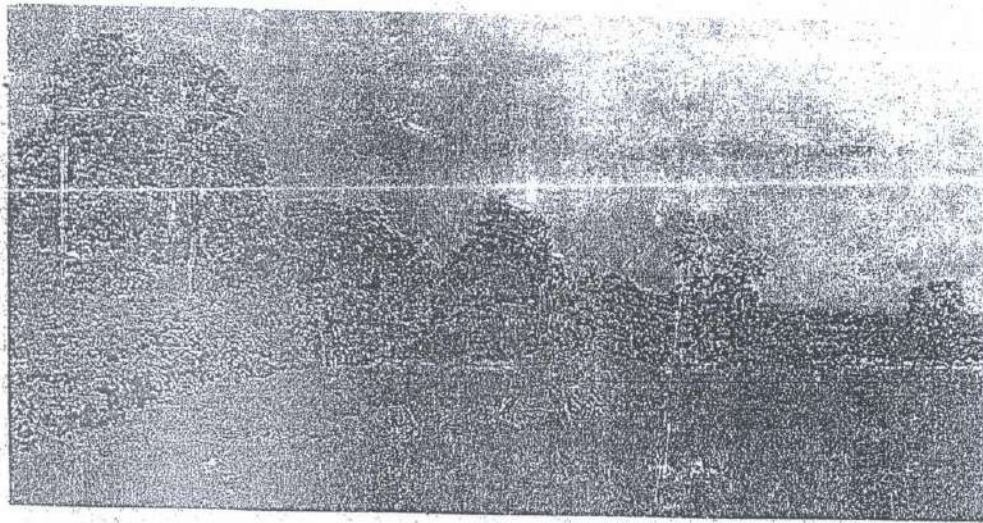
An early action is solicited

Yours faithfully,

Director,
Kaziranga National Park
Bokakhat:785612:Assam



**REPORT ON SITE INSPECTION IN
KARBI-ANGLONG FOREST AREAS
ADJACENT TO KAZIRANGA NP
BASED ON COMPLAINTS
RECEIVED BY MOEF**



(B.K. Talukdar)

(R. Barman)

D.M. Singh, IFS
Rathin Barman, Ph.D.
Bibhab Kumar Talukdar, Ph.D.

REPORT ON SITE INSPECTION IN KARBI-ANGLONG FOREST AREAS ADJACENT TO KAZIRANGA NP BASED ON COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY MOEF

Background:

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, received few complaints from few groups alleging environmental degradation through establishment of quarries along the hills of Karbi-Anglong facing Kaziranga NP. The terms of reference of the committee are:-

- (i) Ascertaining the factual status vis-à-vis the complaint regarding anti-social/anti-national activities under the Karbi Anglong East Division of Assam through site visit and interaction with local people
- (ii) Suggesting suitable measures for improving the situation in the interest of wildlife.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority of India had issued a notification on 31st August 2010 vide letter No. 1-3/2008-NTCA requesting CCF (Wildlife)-Assam, Dr. Rathin Barman of WTI and Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar of Aaranyak to go for site inspection and report back to NTCA within three weeks.

Accordingly the team comprising of Mr. D.M. Singh, CCF (Wildlife), Assam, Dr. Rathin Barman of WTI and Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar of Aaranyak went to Kaziranga NP on 7th September 2010. On 8th and 9th September 2010, the team visited the sites and discussed with local forest officials of Dolamara Range of Karbi Anglong and also met the complainers.

The salient observations are -----

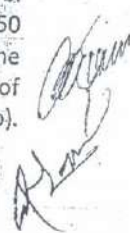
1. The site was being prepared for establishing a stone crusher machine. But when the local people opposed this and Forest Range officer (Dolamara Range) objected this (because of local people complain), they abandoned the site on 26th of August, 2009 and since then no development has taken place for establishing a stone crusher machine in the site.
2. The land belongs to a Karbi man named Dhainiram Ronpher and hence consider as private land. He got *patta* for this land in 2006.
3. Mr. Binod Jalan and Hun Phanso had consent from the land owner Mr. Dhaniram Ronpher for establishment of the stone crusher machine in his land. We could meet Mr. Dhaniram Ronpher and he told this to the enquiry committee.



4. The land is adjacent to forest land (PRF ? / RF) and this has teak plantation.
5. The land in question did not had teak plantation and remained as a vacant plot for last several years. So, there is no question of cutting teak plantation from this land. This has been confirmed by several local residents in the area. (We met Mr. Numalia Kutum of Panbari Village, Mr. Dirga Munda, Barbheta Village, Barshing Teron, Barbheta Village. They were all working in the nearby paddy fields and they confirmed this.)
6. But the local people said that there was a small nursery (in a degraded state) in the area. They don't know who the owner of this nursery was. While interacted with the range officer Dolamora Range he had mentioned that this nursery was started by the forest department. So, now question arises why this land was given to Mr. Dhaniram Ronpher while forest department was having a nursery on it. In Karbi Anlong land patta is given by another department and they might have ignored this while they allotted this land to Mr. Dhaniran Ronpher or did not physically verify before giving patta & otherwise also reportedly the forest department did not raise any objection for this.
7. In 2008 the same piece of land was also selected for establishing a Dairy Firm by then Education EM Ratan Ingti. But this did not happen.
8. Question was also raised by local people on a plot of land behind the stone crusher machine site. This area has been converted to a tea plantation now. Clear sign were seen that the area had teak plantation earlier. When we enquired the matter and later visited the site with range officer of Dolamora range we came to know that this plot also has been given patta to a person named "Hun Phanso." This plot is adjacent to the forest area (which is a good elephant habitat). Forest department also did some plantation works next to this plot. Local complainers believe that this plot of forest land was illegally given patta to private party who raised tea plantation now. The local complainers believe that because of this activity elephants now get less area and coming to human habitation frequently, which has some logic.
9. The whole area is a prime habitat of elephants and part of the Kaziranga-Karbi Anlong elephant reserve.
10. There are several stone crusher machines next to the forest area and inside the reserve forest (?).
11. Actually reserve forest boundary is not very clear and people may take advantage of it.
12. Elephant getting disturbed due to stone crusher machine and change of land use patterns (change of forested area to cash crop field, like tea and rubber) is found to be logical.

Further the team had written a letter to the Divisional Forest Officer of the East Karbi Anglong Division (letter enclosed) on 14 September 2010 vide letter no. WTI/RE/10/50 seeking information related to (1) The detail land status and history and land records of the concern areas (preferably with maps with distinct forest boundary line) ; (2) Location of other existing stone crusher machine and stone quarries in the areas (preferably in a map). However no reply has been received till 31st December 2010.

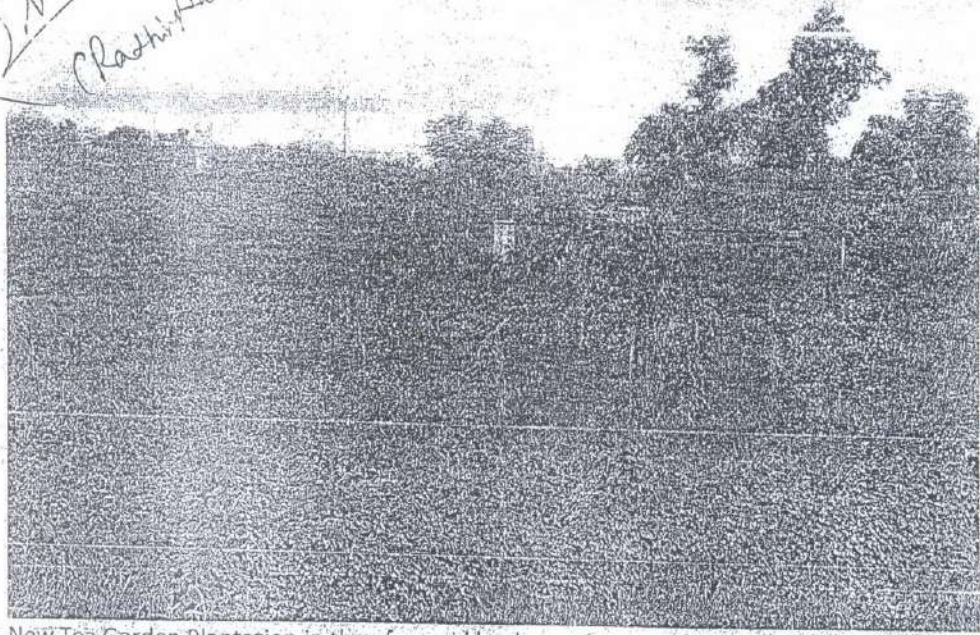
The committee feels that --



- Forest boundary needs to be properly demarcated and during our field verification, the officials of Dolamara range could not show us the boundary of the Reserved Forests. A portion of hilly areas are being used by tea planters which needs to be verified from land record whether the tea garden set up recently is within the forest boundary. If the plantation area is within the RF, steps should be taken to regain the area.
- The whole hilly areas facing Kaziranga NP is a prime elephant habitat through which elephants moves in between Kaziranga and Karbi Anglong Hills which is part of the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong Elephant Reserve and as such the committee feels that the no activities such as felling of trees, stone or soil quarry should be permitted to keep the landscape fit for elephant and other wildlife. All the north facing hills of Karbi Anglong along Kaziranga NP should be declared as no-development zone.
- The committee also feels the need for wider orientation of forest officers working in Karbi-Anglong District Council to give them needed exposure to trigger better wildlife conservation initiatives and ecosystem management and full control & authority of Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam to act if need be by deputing officials/staff of State Govt. in deserving cases without involving council authorities/officials.
- Tea Board and Rubber Board should be advised not to encourage plantation of tree and rubbers in the north facing hills of Karbi Anglong to keep the landscape intact for ecological balance.

(Rashid Barman)

(Bibhab Kr Talouder)



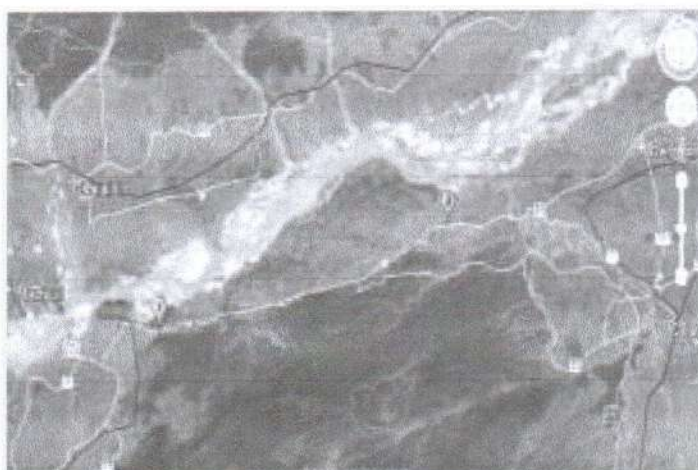
New Tea Garden Plantation in the aforesaid land

Officers nor did their statements contain the required information and the reports were therefore highly deficient.

14.2.6 There are four designated animal corridors over NH 37 which are used by the animals. These are Panbari Corridor (377-380 km post⁶), Haldhibari Corridor (359 - 361 km posts), Kanchanjuri corridor (344 - 348 km posts) and Burapahar corridor (330 - 337 km posts).

14.2.7 Joint physical verification⁷ alongwith KNP Officials carried out by Audit revealed that-

- there has been largescale construction of dwelling houses, resorts/ dhabas with substantial spare land retained with guard wall, parking lots etc on the entire stretch of the NH.
- The portions of animal corridors on the NH being highland are also used by the animals for shelter during floods. Majority of the highland had been used for construction of houses, resorts/ dhabas.
- Hundreds of trucks were found parked in the parking lots/dhabas day and night.
- During the course of field verification, continuous construction efforts were also noticed on both the sides of NH 37.
- There are a number of crushers and brick kilns within 10 km of the boundary while some are within 1-2 kms. Some of the crushers and brick kilns were found located right on the animal corridors (Panbari animal corridor has a number of stone crushers and brick kilns). Interaction with the villagers near Panbari corridor revealed that due to running of the crushers, herds of



Map showing the points 1 and 2 between which physical verification was conducted while the red marks denote the animal corridors respectively from right Panbari, Haldhibari, Kanchanjuri and Burapahar corridors.

⁶ In absence of GPS co-ordination, the park authorities had used the km posts located along the northern side of the highway which denotes the distance to Pancharatna (the starting point of NH 37).

⁷ Of the entire stretch of 60 km from Burapahar to Bokakhat of NH 37 from point 1 to point 2 bearing GPS locations N 26° 34' 06.7" E 093° 02' 27.6" to N 26° 38' 27.6" E 093° 35' 39.7"

elephants which otherwise use the corridor, had stopped coming that way, of late.

14.2.8 The following are the on-field photographs taken during the field verification.



Serially from left to right - (1) Parking of trucks on the animal corridor. (2) Human Settlement in additional areas. (3) New construction of dhaba just adjacent to Park boundary found during field visit. (4) Resort on Animal Corridor. (5) Parking lot on north side of NH37 adjacent to the Park. (6) & (7) Construction of wall along NH 37 blocking animal corridor and (8) & (9) continuous construction can be seen on both sides of the NH 37 (especially under Kaliabor Circle under Nagaon District).

14.2.9 It was also observed that the Director, KNP in his letter of May 2014 to the Deputy Commissioner, Nagaon had also highlighted the above issue and stated that “it is seen on the ground that disproportionate land use change has taken place between Jakhalabandha and district boundary of Nagaon near Bagori in the form of commercial establishments, resorts, dhabas, parking slots for heavy vehicles etc. resulting into severe barrier effect between floodplains of Kaziranga and high grounds along NH 37 and hills in Nagaon and Karbi Anglong districts”.

14.2.10 Further verification by the Audit team and interactions with various stakeholders revealed that there is constant mining activity on the Karbi Anglong Hills adjacent to the NH 37. This disturbs the natural movement of elephants which frequent the Hills from KNP and *vice-versa*. The ever-decreasing forest cover due to mining of stone from the hills coupled with the sound pollution from the

machineries used in mining operations force the elephants to enter human settlements damaging crops and houses of the settlers. This in turn gives rise to the claims for compensation which the KNP authorities had to entertain and settle.



Glimpse of hill cutting in Karbi Anglong on the South of NH 37

14.2.11 From the results of the physical verification, interactions with wildlife authorities/ villagers and scrutiny of various correspondences, it would appear that uncontrolled and ever increasing construction/human settlements with urbanisation at places, commercial activities/mining had contributed to blocking majority of the stretch of NH 37 including the designated animal corridors (except some patches of Haldhibari and Burapahar). Non-declaration of the ESZ for such a long period of time had a direct bearing on such activities detrimental to the well being of the animals. The dangerous trend, if not checked immediately and permanently could lead to an irreversible impact on conservation and protection of wildlife with the potential threat that in case of a major flood, majority of the internationally acclaimed species – One horned Rhinos would be wiped out, forever.

14.2.12 *The Department stated that there are some grey areas in this subject which had to be taken care of before the ESZ is notified. For instance, they pointed out the fact of management of the ESZ. It was also clarified that the matter is being sorted out through discussion with the GoI. While highlighting the difficulties regarding management of the 10 sq km area to be declared as the ESZ which is yet to be clarified and checking migration, the Department stated that a body named Kaziranga*

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE BOKAKHAT REVENUE CIRCLE
BOKAKHAT

No BKC 4 2015

Dated Bokakhat the 3rd July 2015

To

The Sub-Divisional Officer (civil)
Bokakhat.

Sub. Submission of report on damage of paddy land due to indiscriminate earth cutting and mining activities at the hills of Karbi Anglong.

Ref. Your letter No BP 02/2015 332 dtd 10/6/2015

Sir,

With reference to above, I have the honour to inform you that following your instruction and public complaint I have inquired the matter into the indiscriminate earth cutting and mining activities on the hills of Karbi Anglong and its impact on the paddy fields of neighboring village of Bokakhat Revenue Circle.

I have visited the villages namely Kakojuri, Gelaki Mikir, Gohanibor, Silkuwari under Bokakhat Revenue circle nearby to the district boundary of Karbi Anglong and noticed large scale earth cutting and stone mining activities in the hills of Karbianglong District. Due to large scale stone mining activities and indiscriminate earth cutting on the hills, all natural outlets have been blocked and become shallow. Vast stretches of paddy land of above mentioned villages have been silt up on the run off water mixed with earths and stones from the mining sites on the hills and become unfit for agriculture. Other natural water bodies in those areas are affected too. Area of paddy land damaged

1. Kakojuri	:	80.32 hect
2. Gelaki Mikir	:	120.48 hect
3. Gohanibor	:	160.64 hect
4. Silkuwari	:	87.00 hect
Total		448.44 hect

If the mining activities continues on the hills of Karbi Anglong at this rate, more paddy land of my Circle may be affected. There is already strong resentment among the farmers of the above areas over this issue, few untoward incidents have already taken place between the villagers of two districts and there is likelihood of flare up in future as well. The hon'ble MLA, 93 Bokakhat LAC has also requested to take immediate step in this regard.

I therefore, request your honour to take the matter with appropriate authority for addressing the same.

Enclosed - 1. public petition in original
2. copy of complaint lodged by hon'ble MLA

Yours faithfully

[Signature]
Circle Officer
Bokakhat Revenue Circle

[Handwritten initials]
**CIRCLE OFFICER
BOKAKHAT REV. CIRCLE**



Govt. of Assam
Department of Forests
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer
Eastern Assam Wildlife Division, Kaziranga National Park
Bokakhat:785612

Letter No. B/KNP/2016/ 9019

Dated : 07/11/2016

To

The Divisional Forest Officer
Karbi- Anglong West
Diphu

8096
10/11/16

Sub: **Geleki Stone Quarry-Closure**

Ref: A. Hon'ble Supreme Court Order in PIL 460/2004 regarding Issue of Declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones
B. Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated 4th December 2006 in PIL 460/2006

Sir,

I wish to inform you that in pursuance of Hon'ble Supreme Court Order in PIL 460/2004 regarding Issue of Declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones read with order Dated 4th December 2006 it may be noted that no mining activity shall be permitted within 10 km zone from National Park and wildlife Sanctuaries.

1. It is in this regard I would like to request you that **Geleki Stone Quarry and Panbari Stone Quarry** may be immediately closed and the case may be referred to Standing Committee of National Board of Wildlife as directed in order dated 4th Dec 2006 by Hon'ble Supreme Court if deemed necessary. Circle Officer Bokakhat Revenue has submitted a report regarding degradation of soil quality in surrounding agricultural areas of Geleki Stone Quarry. Geleki Stone Quarry is less than 4 km from Southern Boundary of Kaziranga National Park.
2. The Stone quarries near **Rongagorah, Slimkhuwa, Rongbongwe(6 nos), Dihingjuri, killinggaon** in Karbianglong District are located about 2 to 3 km from Southern Boundary of Kaziranga National Park(western range). The Stone Quarries may be immediately closed as they are operating in Violation of Hon'ble Supreme Court Order.

This is for your kind information and necessary action please.

Yours faithfully,

(Suvasish Das IFS)
Divisional Forest Officer
Eastern Assam Wildlife Division
Bokakhat





GOVT OF ASSAM
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST
OFFICE OF THE

DIRECTOR: KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK :BOKAKHAT::ASSAM

Letter No. KNP/FG.765/Stone Quarry,

Dated: 16-11-2016

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest,
Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council,
Diphu

Sub: Closure of Mining units in the Kaziranga Eco- Sensitive Zone.

Ref: DFO, EAWL Division's letter No. B/KNP/20169019, dtd. 07-11-2016 (copy enclosed).

Sir,

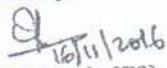
With reference to the letter cited above, I have the honour to bring you your kind notice that some stone quarries/mining units are running at near Geleki, Panbari, Rongagorah, Slimkhuwa, Rongbonwe, Dihingjuri and Killing Gaon under Karbi Anglong district which are inside the proposed Eco-Sensitive Zone of the Kaziranga National Park. Running of these stone quarries are leading to adverse impact on environment and disturbing the soil quality of agricultural field of Golaghat district. We have received a number of complaints from nearby villagers of Golaghat district in this regard and the location of Geleki & Panbari Stone quarry were inspected by us. Since the location of above said stone quarries are in Karbi-Anglong district, your kind intervention in this regard is needed.

Sir, you are aware that as per Hon'ble Supreme Court of India's order dated 4th December, 2006, a distance upto 10 KM from the boundary of National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary is treated as Eco-Sensitive Zone till the demarcation and actual notification of respective Eco-Sensitive Zone by the Govt. of India.

I, therefore, request you to kindly direct the Divisional Forest Officer, Karbi-Anglong West Division, Diphu to stop the stone mining activities in the above said locations.

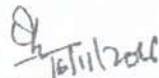
Yours faithfully,

Encl: As stated.


(Dr. Satyendra Singh, IFS)
Director,
Kaziranga National Park,
Bokakhat: 785612: Assam

Copy to:-

1. The Divisional Forest Officer, Karbi Anglong (West) Division, Diphu for information and necessary action.
2. The Divisional Forest Officer, Eastern Assam Wildlife Division, Bokakhat for information and necessary action.


Director,
Kaziranga National Park,
Bokakhat: 785612: Assam



Issued on
16/11/16
MH/C2/Nov/16

(Annexure - II)

KARBI ANGLONG AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
KARBI ANGLONG:.....DIPHU

Letter No. PCCF/KA/WL/2016-17/ 1685 - Dated 23/11/2016.

To,

✓ Suvasish Das, IFS
Divisional Forest Officer
Eastern Assam Wildlife Division, Bokaghat

Sub:-

গড় নে গেলেকী ? ? ? ? ?

Ref:-

your letter No.B/KNP/2016/9019, Dated 07/11/2016

I am in receipt of your letter No. B/KNP/2016/9019, Dated 07/11/2016 Memo No.A/KNP/2016/4888-91, Dated 07/11/2016 this was mis- addressed to Divisional Forest Officer, Karbi Anglong West Division, Diphu.

Please let me know, as your priorities are known World Wide; as DFO, EAWL Division; whether you should concentrate on গড় or গেলেকী ?

Perhaps I need not remind you it is better to stick to গড় than to meddle into গেলেকী affairs which had approved mining-plan and required and valid environmental clearance documents from proper authority. Anyway, the concerned DFO has closed it down. This has created large scale resentment due to loss of employment to the people of গেলেকী।

It is pretty bad to have discontented community with no employment around protected areas, you would agree as a wildlife manger of KNP.

(Dr Abhijit Rabha, PhD, Indian Forest Service)
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Karbi Anglong.
Department of Environment and Forests.
Diphu. 782 460. ASSAM

Memo No. PCCF/KA/WL/2016-17/
Copy to:-

Dated /2016.

1. The Director, Kaziranga National Park (KNP) , Bokakhat, for information.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, Bashistha for information.
3. All Divisional Forest Officers throughout the landscape of Assam for information and reference.

(Dr Abhijit Rabha, PhD, Indian Forest Service)
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Karbi Anglong.
Department of Environment and Forests.
Diphu. 782 460. ASSAM