

Chief Conservator of Forests & Field Director Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, Kolhapur

Vanvardhan Building Ambedkar Chowk, Tarabai Park, Kolhapur 416003

Phone-(0231)2542766 Fax-0231-2542988 E-mail-ccfwlkopstr@rediffmail.com

Sub- Minutes of the technical committee meeting held on 24.3.2015 for evaluating research/study project.

No.D-1/Res./steno/14.15/ 2-98

Kolhapur dt. 31/03/2015

To,

1. Shri.S.L.Zure,D.F.O. Wildlife Division, Kolhapur
2. Dr. M.Y.Bachulkar,Principal, shri Vijaysinha Yadav, College, Peth Vadgaon, Tal.Hatkanagale, Dist-Kolhapur.
3. Dr. S.B.More, Associate Professor,Head of Dept. Zoology,P.V.P. College, Kawathemankal, Tal. Sangali.
4. Dr. C.B.Salunkhe, Botany Dept. Krishna College, Rethare B. Tal. Karad Dist-Satara.
5. Shri. Vikas B. Awale, Astd. Professor, Bottany Dr.Pantagarao Kadam College, Sangali
6. Shri Sagar Apte,Asstd. Professor with Dr.Ankur Patwardhan Dept. of Biodiversity,MES Abasaheb Garware College,Karve Road pune
7. Shri Girish Panjabi with Jayant Kulkarni Executive Director, Conservation Wildlife Research Conservation Society,Pune
8. Dr.Anand Padhye,Associate Proffessor, Department of Zoology, Abasaheb Garware College, Pune-411004
9. Dr. S.R.Yadav,Head of Botany Department Shivaji idhyapeeth,Kolhapur
10. Shri Varad B. Giri, Post Doctoral Fellow,National Centre for Biological Sciences,TIFR,Bangalore 560065
11. Sayali K.Palande-Datar. Flat No.13, B wing,3rd floor, B-6 Building Rakshalekhe Society Dattwadi pune

Minutes of the meeting of The Technical Committee, constituted for consideration and approval of research/study project proposals held on 24/3/2015 at Chief Conservator of Forests & Field Director, Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, Kolhapur, office are enclosed herewith for information and necessary action.

Encl- As above.

Chief Conservator of Forests & Field Director
Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, Kolhapur.

Copy submitted to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) M.S. Nagpur for favour of information.

Copy submitted to Add. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) *W.D.P.* *Munshi* for favour of information.

Chief Conservator of Forests & Field Director
Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, Kolhapur.



Minutes of the meeting of Technical Committee to consider and approve research Project related to wildlife in Protected and other area held on 24/3/2015 in the office of Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director, Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, Kolhapur.

The meeting of Technical committee for consideration and approval of scientific research/study project proposals in protected areas was held on 24/3/2015 under the chairmanship of Shri G.Saiprakash, Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director, Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, Kolhapur. At Vanwardhan building, Tarabai Park, Kolhapur. The list of technical committee members and the participants attended is enclosed as annexure "A"

Chairperson welcomed all the technical committee members, special invitees and researchers. The meeting started with introductory address given by the Chairperson and the Member secretary of the committee. In all 6 research/study projects were kept before the Technical Committee. The researchers made presentation on their respective projects. The gist of deliberations and the discussions held on each project are given below.

1) Project titled :- Exploring impact of climate Factors on Flowering Patterns with special reference to lateritic plateaus.

Researcher Name:- Shri Sagar Apte, Asstt. Professor

The presentation was made on effect of climatic factor on flowering pattern on plateaus. The project is on assessing phase be effect. Advance equipment use is proposed in this study.

Objectives of the proposed exercise are as follows:-

- 1) To conduct a detailed assessment of the flowering species of the area.
- 2) To setup localized weather stations having a data logging capacity for monitoring of daily conditions regarding environmental factors like rainfall, humidity, moisture content, sunlight, wind speed, soil temperature etc.,
- 3) Observe the changes in the flowering patterns during the season, and record the patterns.
- 4) Correlate the data with the environmental factors, and assess whether a shift has occurred. (This is possible only from the second year of the observations.)

The Study areas considered are 1) Kaas Pathar 2) Zolambi Pathar 3) Idarganj Pathar, Radhanagari.

The expense of the research for the 1st year is Rs.1,59,500/- and for the 2nd year is Rs.82,500/-.

Recommendation:- While appreciating to methodology and objective of project the Technical committee approved the project with the condition that is addition another plateaus from non Protected Area also be taken up for study.

2) Project titled :- **A review of the current protocol for monitoring of Large carnivores and Herbivores in the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve and Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary**

Researcher Name :- Wildlife Research and Conservation Society, Pune Shri Girish Panjabi .

The project propend review the current design used all three protected area and suggest changes where necessary. This will result in base line estimate for large carnivores and herbivores in all protected area.

Objectives of the proposed exercise are as follows:-

- 1) To carry out an evaluation of the current design and field implementation of the protocol for monitoring large carnivores and herbivores in the study area.
- 2) To make an estimate of the population of tiger, leopard and large herbivores.

The Study areas considered are 1) Sahyadri Tiger Reserve (Koyana WLS AND Chandoli N.P.) 2) Radhanagri Sanctuary.

The expense of the research for the 2 years is Rs.2,15,500/- .

Recommendation:- While appreciating the need of refining extent population estimates the technical committee approved the project with the condition that the project should take place for one year or for one season atleast and the project outcomes should be shared with the N.T.C.A.

3) Project titled :- **Evaluation of distributional range and threats to three endangered toad species *Xanthophryne koynayensis*, *Xanthophryne tigerina* and *Pedostibes tuberculosus* within Northern Western Ghats**

Researcher Name:- Dr.Anand Padhye,Associate Professor,Department of Zoology, Abasaheb Garware College, Pune-411008

Dr. Anand Padye presented his project proposal on the survey of distribution and threats to tree toad species from Amboli to Mahabaleshwar area in western ghat. Special focus areas to be surved are S.T.R. and Radhanagari sanctuary. All protection habitat three toad species will monitored in to consecutive monsoon season from June 2015 to Nov. 2016

Objectives of the proposed exercise are as follows:-

- 1) Documentation of distribution of *Xanthophryne koynayensis*, *Xanthophryne tigring* and *Pedostibes tuberculosus* in northern Western Ghats with special focus on two protected areas S.T.R. and Radhanagari WLS.
- 2) Taxonomic confirmation of these species with recent DNA technique.
- 3) Detection of Chytrid affected amphibian populations (if any), using non invasive swabbing technique.
- 4) Detection of various threats to amphibian populations in study area and
- 5) Collection of data for revising the IUCN conservation status of these species and
- 6) Propose the strategy for conservation of amphibians in these areas based on above findings.

The Study areas considered are Potential Habitats of *koynayensis*, *Xanthophryne tigring* and *Pedostibes tuberculosus* between Amboli and Mahabaleshwar.

Special Focus Areas - 1) Sahyadri Tiger Reserve (Koyana WLS AND Chandoli N.P.) 2) Radhanagri Wildlife Sanctuary.

The expense of the research for the 2 years (April 2015 to Sept.2016) is Rs.6,50,00/-

Recommendation:- The study involves trapping / hunting of the animal as per the Wildlife Act. In this regard his project has already referred to P.C.C.F (Wildlife) M.S.Nagpur recommending for permission.

- 4) Project titled : Monitoring forest grass and vegetation (resource person S.R.Yadav & his team of Kolhapur Uni.)(3 days with 2 days field visit)

Researcher Name :- Student of Dr. S.R.Yadav, Head of Botany Department Shivaji Vidhyapeeth, Kolhapur

The presentation explain made for existing grasses and grassland at Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, importance of grasses in tiger conservation. Introduction of palatable grasses to the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve (evacuated villages). Documentation of existing grassland of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve of booklet of grasses of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve is thereby enabled.

Objectives of the proposed exercise are as follows:-

- 1) Survey, collection and documentation of grasses and grassland.
- 2) Taxonomic account of grasses.
- 3) Introduction of palatable grasses to grasslands.
- 4) Publication of book/booklet.

The Study areas considered are 1) Sahyadri Tiger Reserve (Koyana WLS and Chandoli N.P.) 2) Radhanagri Wildlife Sanctuary.

The expense of the research for one year is Rs.7,17,000/- .

Recommendation:- Though this project is very basic but has importance in tiger conservation. While appreciating the concept of improving the grasslands systematically which are the main feed of the prey base of large carnivores, the committee discussed at length. It was further felt that against the funds earmarked for the project, the need for having a rethink of the financial outlay/demand for project was expressed.

5) Project titled : Amphibians and reptiles of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve.

Researcher Name - Varad B. Giri Post Doctoral Fellow National Centre for Biological Sciences.TIFR, Bangalore 560065

Shri Varad B. Giri, made presentation on the project and highlighted the importance of documentation of the amphibians and reptiles of areas.

Objectives of the proposed exercise are as follows:-

- 1) To document the amphibians and reptiles of STR and their distribution pattern in the northern Western Ghats based on new and existing collections.
- 2) To gather natural history data on life history and ecology of endemic amphibians and reptiles of STR.
- 3) To develop effective strategy for conservation of priority species and their habitats.

The Study areas considered are 1) Sahyadri Tiger Reserve (Koyana WLS AND Chandoli N.P.) 2) Radhanagri Wildlife Sanctuary.

The expense of the research for the 2 years is Rs.3,25,000/- .

Recommendation:- The technical committee approving the study that suggested trapping may need proper permission from the Chief Wildlife Warden, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) M.S.Nagpur. The third proposal have already been forwarded for needful permission.

6) Project titled : **Archaeological exploration and Documentation of Historical Remains in and around South Sahyadri ranges, Maharashtra**

Researcher Name:- Sayali K.Palande-Datar Flat No.13, B wing, 3rd floor, B-6 Building Rakshalekhe Society Dattwadi pune

Sayali K.Palande Datar on behalf of team presented on Archaeological exploration and Documentation of Historical Remains in and around South Sahyadri ranges, Maharashtra. The project concept was explained to the committee members of the review committee of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve. Need for carrying out of such exploration in remote area of the Sahyadri was justified and methodology was explained.

Objectives of the proposed exercise are as follows:-

Archaeological exploration and Documentation of Historical Remains in through photography, GPS mapping of trade route, architectural layouts and estampages in and around, South Sahyadri range, Maharashtra.

The Study areas considered are 1) Sahyadri Tiger Reserve (Koyana WLS AND Chandoli N.P.) 2) Radhanagri Wildlife Sanctuary.

The expense of the research for the 2 years is Rs.3.25,000/- .

Recommendation:- The committee member suggested to researcher to elaborate on significance of the project to Forest Departments and how Forest Department can use the research accordingly. It was accepted in principle that traditional knowledge of the area, its rules, facts etc., is of immense value for a visitor.

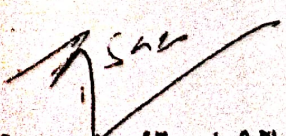
In view of the enlarged mandate of the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve to encourage basic research, the thought that Protected Areas of area could reserve as a study area for researchers was appreciated. In case which are of utmost importance, the STR could also probably fund the research study was put forth. The Chairperson and the Chief Conservator of Forests & Field Director, Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, Kolhapur expressed view that the research project in Protected area could be enhanced to a greater extent by exploring possibilities whether the same could be taken outside Protected Area so as to ensure minimum disturbance in Protected Area. It is expected that researcher should give priority to capacity building of frontline staff and no research papers/report shall be published without acknowledging the M.F.D. and office of the Chief Conservator of Forests & Field Director, Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, Kolhapur, appropriately. A copy of the research/study/thesis shall be forwarded to the office of the Chief Conservator of Forests & Field Director, Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, Kolhapur.

The University / researchers could fine tune their projects in tune with identified priority for research for each of the Protected Area.

The researcher will seek specific permission for their field visit for respective Protected Area for Chief Conservator of Forests & Field Director, Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, Kolhapur by quoting field trip plan of visit to the Protected Area, which shall be intimated to the members of the P.A. for needful action.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

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Chief Conservator of Forests & Field Director
Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, Kolhapur.



Annexure-A

List of Technical Committee who Members attended the meeting.

1. Shri. G. Saiprakash, C.C.F. & Field Director, Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, Kolhapur.
2. Shri. S.L. Zure, D.F.O. Wildlife Division, Kolhapur
3. Dr. M.Y. Bachulkar, Principal, Shri Vijaysinha Yadav, College, Peth Vadgaon, Tal. Hatkanagale, Dist-Kolhapur.
4. Dr. S.B. More, Associate Professor, Head of Dept. Zoology, P.V.P. College, Kawathemankal, Tal. Sangali.
5. Dr. C.B. Salunkhe, Botany Dept. Krishna College, Rethare B. Tal. Karad Dist-Satara.
6. Shri. Vikas B. Awale, Asstt. Professor, Botany Dr. Pantagarao Kadam College, Sangali

List of Researchers who attended the meeting.

1. Shri Sagar Apte, Asstt. Professor with Dr. Ankur Patwardhan Dept. of Biodiversity, MES Abasaheb Garware College, Karve Road Pune
2. Shri Girish Panjabi with Jayant Kulkarni Executive Director, Conservation Wildlife Research Conservation Society, Pune
3. Dr. Anand Padhye, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, Abasaheb Garware College, Pune-411008
4. Dr. S.R. Yadav, Head of Botany Department Shivaji idhyapeeth, Kolhapur
5. Varad B. Giri
Post Doctoral Fellow
National Centre for Biological Sciences. TIFR, Bangalore 560065
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