

From

N. Badusha
President
Wayanad Prakruty Samrakshana Samity
Sulthanbathery
Wayanad, Kerala.

To

1. **The Project Director,**
Project Elephant,
MOEF, New Delhi.
2. **The Principal Secretary**
Wild Life and Forests
Govt. of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram
3. **The Chief Wildlife Warden,**
Kerala Forest Department
Kerala State.
4. **Wild Life Warden,**
Waynad Wild Life Sanctuary
Sulthanbathery, Kerala.

Respect Sirs,

Sub: Requisition to relocate the elephant captured
near Muthanga Wildlife Sanctuary on 22.11.2016-Reg.

The petitioner is an active conservation organization. We came to know that the forest department has captured an adult

tusker near the Muthanga Wildlife Sanctuary on 22.11.2016 based on the allegation that it involves in crop riding. The man animal conflict in Wayanad District is not uncommon owing to the anthropogenic pressure and encroachment in the forest area besides growing attractive crops along the fringes of the forest which lures the elephants.

2. The elephant which has been captured by the forest department is very familiar among the local people and it has never attacked any human beings nor caused any loss of life. The alleged attack by the said tusker in a recent case was due to unplanned chasing and scarring in an attempt to send it back to the forest.

3. The Wildlife protection Act makes it mandatory that no wild animal specified in schedule I shall be captured and brought to permanent captivity unless the Chief Wildlife Warden for the reasons stated in writing has come to the conclusion that said animal is danger to the human life and it cannot be safely relocated to some other habitat. Further, the decision to bring any schedule I animal in to captivity shall not be taken except under written permission from the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India.

4. I state that in the present case none of the above said legal procedure has been followed and the tusker has been captured in haste owing to public pressure. It is needless to mention that there

are about 15 to 20 tuskers in the same locality and the present case of forest department yielding to public pressure will set bad precedent and in every trivial case of crop riding the public will insist to capture the tuskers which will have adverse impact on the natural elephant population.

5. I state that it is pertinent to note that the captured tusker was also radio collared and studied by the forest department. We understand that the data relating to the movements of this elephant revealed that the elephant has migrated to too far of distance in to the Protected Forests of Karnataka State, which reveals that this is a potential breeding male important in spreading gene. Thus, when the male female elephant ratio is already skewed due to high number of poaching of tuskers for ivory, a few remaining adult tuskers which are important for maintaining viable population is also captured, the same will result in dwindling of already endangered elephant population.

Therefore, we request your good authorities to forthwith relocate the tusker captured on 22.11.2016 near Muthanga Wildlife Sanctuary to some other suitable habitat, failing which we will be forced to take legal recourse.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

Thiruvananthapuram
02-12-2016

N. Badusha