



M G Grover  
Deputy Secretary (Admn)

D.O.NO.A.12015/1/93-P.I

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भारत सरकार

पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS

पर्यावरण भवन, सी. जी. ओ. कॉम्प्लेक्स

PARYAVARAN BHAWAN, C.G.O. COMPLEX

लोदी रोड, नई दिल्ली-110003

LODI ROAD, NEW DELHI-110003

Dear Shri Debroy,

Dt. 10<sup>th</sup> March, 1993

I would like to inform you that your case for appointment for the post of Honorary Adviser in this Ministry (on Eco-Development) is under consideration.

2. In this connection, you are requested to furnish a comprehensive bio-data giving your qualifications, experience in different capacities and publications if any, enabling this Ministry to process the case urgently.

Yours sincerely,

( M.G.Grover )

Shri S. Deb Roy,  
Addl. IGF (WL) (Retd)  
B-4 / V-24,  
Lodi Road Complex,  
NEW DELHI - 110 003.



ARIN GHOSH  
Tele: 384428

DIRECTOR, PROJECT TIGER

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पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS  
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No.3-25/91-PT

8th April, 1993.

Shri S. Deb Roy,  
24/4 - Type-V  
Lodi Complex,  
New Delhi.

Sir,

We are required to prepare an eco-development project for 8 sites for probable funding under GEF. The project preparation cost is being supported by the U.N.D.P. I would request you to kindly indicate whether it would be possible for you to take up consultancies for 3 months at a total remuneration of Rupee equivalent US \$ 4500 for FD Coordination job with following job descriptions:-

" To coordinate with the State forest departments/ wildlife departments in terms of:

- a. Identification and deputation of concerned officers for various activities, training programmes and workshops/meetings.
- B. Support to coordinating institution, national consultants, state institutions.
- c. Updating of management plans.
- d. Finalisation of ecodevelopment plans. "

Your reply may kindly be communicated at an early date.

Regards,

Yours sincerely,

(ARIN GHOSH)



ARIN GHOSH

DIRECTOR, PROJECT TIGER

D.O. No.3/49/93-PT

Dear Shri Deb Roy,

I have called a meeting of all the Field Directors of the concerned reserves who are involved in project preparation for Eco-Development Project under GEF.

I shall feel obliged if you can kindly make it convenient to attend the said meeting as a national consultant ( relevant papers and contract forms is being sent to you shortly) and brief them about project preparation. I have also requested the representatives of the IIPA (Institutional coordinating consultants) to also be present.

The meeting would be held on 6th July, 1993 at 11.00 AM in the Conference Room , Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi-3.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Arin Ghosh)

Shri Deb Roy,  
Member,  
Steering Committee of Project Tiger,  
Type 5,4/24, Lodhi Road Complex,  
NEW DELHI 110 003.

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June, 29, 1993.

October 21, 1993

Director, Project Tiger  
and Chief Coordinator, Ecodevelopment Planning.

Sub : Ecodevelopment under G.E.F consideration for funding.

Ref : Your letters about ecodevelopment

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letters quoted above I wish to bring out the following matters, which is raising a cloud of doubts in my mind about the efficacy of the way the planning of Ecodevelopment is being dealt with and which has been discussed in the recently concluded "Workshop" at Taj Palace at New Delhi.

I have raised various doubts in the Workshop, but I don't think I had received any real answer to my questions and doubts. On the contrary time and again clear cut questions have been either replied vaguely or have been avoided completely. I regret to mention that even the Secretary, E & F did not directly address my questions and had been vague in his short stay and discussions.

Since signing the contract of consultancy during the 3rd week of August, I had requested you several times to appraise me about what had been going on about the planning during the preceding period and also to discuss about the works involved as a consultant. I had, of my own, met you and Dr. Sekhar Singh and also Mr. Raman Mehta of I.I.P.A at your office on one occasion and had some brief discussions. During this discussion I came to know that ecodevelopment plans were being written down by some people of the I.I.P.A, who had already visited these protected areas. I was also informed that the Field Director/Park Directors were also preparing similar plans (ecodevelopment) for their respective areas, which would be put to a workshop.

Later Dr. Sekhar Singh has sent me the document called "Biodiversity Conservation Through Ecodevelopment" produced through I.I.P.A. He has also sent subsequently a set of Ecodevelopment plans for all the eight areas which are under proposal of G.E.F funding on the 8th October (evening), which would be discussed in the workshop on the 11th & 12th. You would probably recall that on the 4th October, I talked to you over phone and wanted to meet you at your office for having a discussion about the agenda of this workshop, in which I was supposed to contribute. Unfortunately this meeting was not held because of your preoccupation. Naturally I was in a lot of confusion about my role in the workshop, which I had to attend without any knowledge about the conceptual approach towards making of the plans, that had been taken. You will certainly appreciate, knowing everything in detail was obligatory.

However, the following doubts still persists in my understanding and I would like to get your views in this matter as early as possible.

1. The planning should have taken a clear idea of the traditional life style of the local people, who are mostly tribals, known to be more of hunter - gathers and pastoral people. Most of these tribals are not good agriculturists and they practice agriculture only as a part time activity for their own sustenance. It had been envisaged in the Ecodevelopment scheme that the traditional life style of these people shall not be disturbed in any way in the name of ecodevelopment, which will render the scheme very similar to rural development, an undesirable way to promote consumerism into these people. Any such attempt, even involuntary, may result into a serious backlash on the ecological front, which is aimed to be put in proper balance through ecodevelopment.

But in most of the plans the outline indicates an approach towards the wrong way, where there seems to be almost no differentiation made between rural development and the proposed Ecodevelopment. I feel strongly that an analysis of the lifestyles of various people has to be made to properly plan, how the symbiotic relationship of these people with natural recycling (energy transfer) can be generated to safeguard future ecological balance in the P.A's. (This most important aspect of the Ecodevelopment planning has been sadly overlooked completely) This can be achieved only by starting the planning from the grass-root level at the field in full consultation with the people for whom the plan is envisaged. The links of these people with natural recycling through their traditional way of life and how sustainability can be ensured has to be reflected in the plan, which is the essence of this plan. I cannot shake off my feeling that the preparation of this plan is not in the right order, despite all the arguments that I have heard during the workshop. May be I am not able to understand!

2. I had been repeatedly warning that if consumerism and market economy makes headway through any unsuspected loop hole in the plan, this can really spell disaster in the long run. I know even the secretary E & F is probably of the opinion that I am probably stretching this point too far, which was evident from what he spoke in the workshop. But then I feel, this one single point may be the key turning point and can be the real dividing line between success and failure of launching the plan. Inducing consumerism shall accelerate degradation and shrinkage of natural ecosystems which we are aiming to halt and cut down through 'Ecodevelopment'.

It is always argued that the world is changing and we have to suitably adjust with the changing scenario. But why not consider seriously whether this change is for good or for the reverse. This change, which is the gift of 'Development' or modernisation or advancing civilisation has been at the root of the devastating ecological degradation and loss of biodiversity, which is now threatening a global climatic change! Should we not pause for a moment and seriously consider, supporting the traditional way of life of the Indian ecosystems people? We cannot afford to enlarge the already opening door of consumerism and free market economy to the target people. Many of the plan prescriptions in almost all the eight P.A's are bound to do that.

3. The rising human population, specially in the vicinity of these P.A's has made it very difficult to maintain the sustainability of the people. Further rise (at the present rate of over 2.5%) seems to be inevitable. And such rise in human population level is bound to erode the results of the plan, even if the plan is successful. This aspect can not be ignored. A strong component of family planning along with peoples health care must therefore be included in the Ecodevelopment plan. If I remember correctly, this had been envisaged in the scheme, but has been left out from the plans, which, I feel, must be included in the plan.

4. It is common knowledge that the urban demand and use of forest resources is actually much more responsible for the depletion of the natural resources than the local use of such resources by the rural people. Of course, such siphoning of the resources takes place through the help of the poor local villagers, who are drawn into the smuggling racket by offering the locals little crumbs of the large profit that accrues. This channel of almost uncalculated sources of scourage of resources must be stopped, if the plan has to succeed. But no step whatever has been proposed in these plans.

5. Nature interpretation and educational programmes to rekindle the awareness about the need and usefulness of nature/biodiversity conservation has not been adequately looked into. This aspect deserves much more attention, specially because the fringe people are caught in the wave of so called "change", which is modifying their age old traditional way of life and even the traditional values of life are being transformed. The young generations have to acquire the wisdom to differentiate between real sustainable living and the dangers of embracing consumerism & market economy. Revival of traditional social culture, which have been mostly discarded, thanks to the advent of "materialism" and hard financial economy, appears to me to be the real link to success.

6. There are some more points to consider. But we must remember that the present situation prevailing is anything but comfortable. The tight grip on the situation in the Project Tiger areas has been slackening during the last few years. And this took place through the backlash created mainly by increasing man-animal clash of interest, accentuated by the changing life style of the people, specially the rural people, residing in and around the Protected areas. It appears we have hardly any buffer to manouver. Any single mistake at the planning stage shall obviously magnify during execution and is going to result into disastrous outcome of accelerating the degradation and shrinkage of natural ecosystems. Even if the plan is faultless, the results may only be partial, as success will heavily depend not merely on the dedication and professional integrity and efficiency of those who execute it, but also on the reaction of the target people. We must not therefore be hazy about the ideas and must not rush. Since this is a new approach, we must be crystal clear about what we are thinking and planning to do.

Lastly, I am going through the wildlife management part of the plans and shall communicate to you about that in a short while. But you will certainly understand that merely looking through the plans, drawn up by the Field Director's/Park managers may not be enough to evaluate these. Local factors play a major role in preparing such plans and naturally visiting such areas and having discussions with the planners may become necessary, at least in some cases.

Yours sincerely

S. DEB ROY

Copy to :

- 1) Addl. I.G.F Wildlife
  - 2) Inspector General of Forests
  - 3) Secretary to the Govt. of India
- Ministry of Environment & Forests.

November 24, 1993

S. Deb Roy  
24/4, Type V  
Lodhi Complex  
New Delhi - 110 003

Dear Mr. Ghosh,


Kindly refer to your last D.O. letter 3-50/93-PT of the 19th instant. In this regard I want to reiterate (as I had spoken to you) that it is not enough to only read through the management plans of the target areas. I feel it is not only necessary, but in some cases even essential, to talk to the Field people and visit some of the areas.

However, I have already communicated to you about my observations about the management plans, pertaining to some of the target areas, but I don't know what is being done about the same.

I have never visited Pench National Park and I have visited Palamau more than a decade back. I feel I should visit these two areas at the least. Can you arrange for such visit for a duration of say 3/4 days in each area?

Best wishes

Yours sincerely

  
25.11.93  
S. Deb Roy

Mr. Arin Ghosh  
Director, Project Tiger  
Bikaner House, Annexe - 5  
Shah Jahan Road  
New Delhi - 110 011

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S. No. 79

November 24, 1993

S. Deb Roy  
24/4, Type V  
Lodhi Complex  
New Delhi - 110 003

Dear Mr. Ghosh,

Kindly refer to your last D.O. letter 3-50/93-PT of the 19th instant. In this regard I want to reiterate (as I had spoken to you) that it is not enough to only read through the management plans of the target areas. I feel it is not only necessary, but in some cases even essential, to talk to the Field people and visit some of the areas.

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I have never visited Pench National Park and I have visited Alamu more than a decade back. I feel I should visit these two areas at the least. Can you arrange for such visit for a duration of say 3/4 days in each area?

Best wishes

Yours sincerely

*S. Deb Roy*  
25. 11. 93  
S. Deb Roy

Arin Ghosh  
Director, Project Tiger  
Banner House, Annexe - 5  
Ch Jahan Road  
Delhi - 110 011

He may be requested to draw up his itinerary so that no may be taken. Pl inform him accordingly

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ARIN GHOSH

DIRECTOR, PROJECT TIGER

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Telephone: 384428

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Telex: W-66185 DOE IN FAX: 4350670

Dated the 8th March, 1994.

D.O.NO. 3-48/93-PT (INPUTS)

Sub: Submission of Consultancy inputs.

Dear Shri Deb Roy,

Kindly recall the previous correspondences and our discussion in the matter.

We have not yet received any consultancy inputs from your side. The project document is in the final stages of preparation and unless your inputs as per terms of the reference of your consultancy is sent to us immediately, it may not be possible to incorporate the same in the Project Document.

I would once again kindly request you to expedite the submission of the consultancy inputs. Looking forward to your continued support and cooperation.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(ARIN GHOSH)

Shri Deb Roy,  
Type-V/-4-24  
Lodi Complex,  
Lodi Road,  
New Delhi-110 003.

9/3/94

139  
MARCH 16, 1994

Mr. Arin Ghosh  
Director, Project Tiger  
Bikaner House, Annexe - 5  
Shah Jahan Road  
New Delhi - 110 011

Dear Mr. Ghosh,


I am enclosing herewith a note about the management plans of the eight protected areas (core areas) that are under consideration to be covered under G.E.F funding for ecodevelopment.

All the plans of these areas should be revised and updated as soon as possible. The most important aspect is to find the linkages between the management plans and the ecodevelopment plans of these protected areas, as these plans should be complimentary to each other. Strongest emphasis is, of course, necessary on protection works and management based research.

It may take some time to complete the job and it should be the endeavour of the planners to do both the jobs simultaneously, as far as possible and dealing with the site-specific problems. Of all the 8 plans, only the Palamau plan seems to be acceptable with few items of modification. As I had told you earlier, it would have been much better, if I could have visited all the areas even though the matter has been discussed with all of them and I had visited Pench myself.

Regards,

Yours sincerely

  
S. Deb Roy

24/4, Type V  
Lodi Complex  
New Delhi - 110 003



ARIN GHOSH

DIRECTOR, PROJECT TIGER

By Hand

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Telephone: 384423

टेलिक्स:  
Telex: W-66185 DOE IN FAX: 4360678

No. 3-48/93-PT (INPUTS)

Dated the 19th March, 1994.

Dear Mr. Deb Roy,

I have just received your note related to your consultancy which I am forwarding to the IIPA, the Central level Coordinating Agency for the incorporation in the project document. However, I still feel that instead of a general write-up you could give us specific recommendations about each of the Park for up-dating of the Management Plan as was mentioned in the terms of reference of your consultancy.

Regarding your observation that it would have been better if you could visit all the areas, I would like to inform that we were very keen that you visit all the areas and would have made arrangements for your tickets. However, no formal/informal tour programme was received from your end for the visits as mentioned in your letter under reference.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(ARIN GHOSH)  
DIRECTOR, PROJECT TIGER

Sh. S. Deb Roy,  
B-4/V-28, Lodi Road Complex,  
New Delhi-110 003.

COPY NOT IN ORIGINAL FORWARDED TO:

Dr. Shekhar Singh, IIPA, along with a report received from Mr. Deb Roy, Consultant for your information and comments.

(ARIN GHOSH)  
DIRECTOR, PROJECT TIGER

Copy for file no. 350/93-PT

med  
19/3/94



ARIN GHOSH

DIRECTOR, PROJECT TIGER

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टेलिक्स:

Telex: W-66185 DOE IN FAX: 4360678

No.3-48/93-PT (INPUTS)

Dated the 29th March, 1994

Dear Shri Deb Roy,

Kindly refer to my letter of even number dated 19/3/94. I would request you to kindly send us the detailed consultancy report covering the Management Plan and Eco-development Plan of each Park separately. You may also indicate the basic thrust area for Eco-development and managerial inputs of each Parks in particular and for the whole of the project in general.

Your consultancy report should reach the undersigned latest by 31st March, 1994.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(ARIN GHOSH)  
DIRECTOR, PROJECT TIGER

Shri S. Deb Roy,  
Type V, 4/24 Lodi Road Complex,  
Lodi Road,  
New Delhi-110 003.

## NAGARHOLE

The Nagarhole National Park in Karnataka holds a very high potential of Biodiversity preservation not only because the area contains a large spectrum of gene pool resources, but also because it has a contiguous large forest cover, spreading into the neighbouring states of Tamilnadu and Kerala. And it is a good coincidence that there are two protected areas, Bandipur and Mudumalai, situated in this contiguous belt. On another side is situated the Brahmagiri wildlife sanctuary, which contains the Nilgiri ecosystems with semi-evergreen and tropical evergreen forest types.

Because of the remoteness and hilly terrain, this area fortunately does not have very high human population pressure. Similarly, there is no industrial development, which may adversely affect wildlife interests. However, a string of coffee estates rings one side of the National Park which sometimes cause serious problems in management of the Park. Besides, even though there is not much human population pressure on the Park, there is a lot of pressure from poaching of wild animals and Sandal wood from the Park. This is because the warrior 'Kurgies' inhabit the adjoining areas and these are probably the only people in this country, who can have guns without any license. These people had been hunters (subsistence hunter) in the past and a large section of them still craves to continue. Anti-poaching therefore plays the most important part in management of the Park. At present the anti-poaching work seems to be going quite efficiently, which should be planned in details, pursued meticulously and monitored constantly.

In the <sup>S</sup>Part strict policing has caused serious conflict between some local people and the Park administration. Properly planned ecodevelopment works should prove immensely beneficial in avoiding such conflicts. Awareness campaign and environmental education along with indigenous tradition and customs being helped to possible revival should be useful.

During the <sup>past</sup>~~part~~ a large number of people had been resident in the Park. But many of such settlers had been shifted out of the Park. These settlers practiced agriculture in the valleys, where perineal water is available. Such agricultural fields have now turned into excellent wildlife habitat, which has reestablished the carrying capacity of <sup>the</sup> composite area. *natural*

But even now about 6000 people are residents in the Park in more than 20 clusters/villages. These people are willing to shift outside the park, which has been expressed by the villagers to the Park management in their meetings. Proposals for central assistance to relocate these people is lying with the G.O.I. This proposal must be completed as fast as possible to free the area from avoidable human abuse. The site for resettlement of these people has already been selected and the proposed relocation area has been liked by people. It is advisable that the shifting of these people from the National Park should be taken up and completed as a priority component ~~plan~~ *plan* of the management.

But tackling the actual resettlement of these relocated people will be best tackled through ecodevelopment planning. Proper attention has to be given not only to their sustainable living,

but at the same time their dependence on the natural ecosystems has to be reduced through proper ecodevelopment planning and implementation, which has to be closely monitored for a considerable period of time.

As mentioned earlier Nagarhole National Park is actually a part of a large contiguous forested area with several protected areas in the region, situated in three different states. It is therefore very important that a composite plan should be taken up for the entire region, which will be of much greater significance in the interests of biodiversity conservation. This will ensure viability of various species because of more dispersal and free genetic flow. This area now holds. The Bandipur Tiger Reserve is adjoining to Nagarhole and is under the same state administration. But the Mudumalai area in Tamilnadu and Weynad area in Kerala are under the respective states.

A common strategy for conservation should be planned in this entire zone. The management plan should take care of this important aspect and join hands to plan to tackle the problem of poaching and smuggling of wildlife articles, which is spread over the entire zone. Collection of secret information about the above and to share the same whenever necessary between the different states for tackling the interstate movement and activities of poaching groups should be ensured.

In this regard the Biosphere reserve, Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, set up nearly a decade ago should have been extremely useful. But it appears the Biosphere Reserve has remained more or less ineffective and has remained more or less as a funding agency with no clear conservation aims. Some of the objectives of the M.A.B programme aims at achieving human interest in the adjoining areas. Such objectives seem to coincide with the ecodevelopment objectives and hence it should be very clearly defined and monitored to avoid duplication of works under the two schemes. The M.A.B programme may possibly take up extensive research on the effects of human interference on the natural ecosystems of this region and the consequent results in the form of reduction in natural productivity, change in water regime and change in land use for the past 10 decades. All such matters will provide important clues to ecodevelopment plan.

The matter of research in wildlife should be granted priority. Census of the major animals should be taken regularly to study the population dynamics, which actually reflects the status of management. Similarly monitoring of the ecosystems should be regularly carried out to understand the effect of management practice. The pug mark census of the tiger requires regular monitoring of the tiger population for at least 3 months before the actual census week. Only this is likely to produce reasonably accurate results. In Nagarhole a scientist is carrying out research to find out the feasibility of Tiger census by using trap photography. The same researcher is also conducting a census of other major animals by strip sampling. Such research works are extremely useful and should be supported.

A research wing of the Nation Park should be properly planned and established. Some management oriented research subjects should be identified, prioritised and taken up as quickly as possible. The Kabini dam and the consequent reservoir created in the early seventies has caused some important changes in the habitat and

the dynamism of this area of high biomass productivity. Seasonal utilisation of parts of the submergence area, which comes above the lower water level of the reservoir during the dry season, by wild herbivores will make interesting research. The large aquatic ecosystems that has been evolved due to the impounded water should be explored through appropriate research. Genetic dispersal of various species including the Elephant is another interesting subject for study, which has great importance in future management strategy strongly linked up with Biodiversity conservation.

Fire, from natural or human induced reasons, seems to be quite a threat to the area. Meticulous planning of fire protection involving modern technology should form part of the management plan to follow up the present level of measures undertaken for fire protection.

Tourism in the Park is quite heavy, though there is no large accommodation facilities available in or around the Park. A large number of day-visitors through <sup>the</sup> Park right round the year and a section of such holiday crowd often create problem through vandalism. There is no separate staff to conduct tourism, which naturally strains the management. Enhancing man power resource with proper training should be planned to properly manage tourism. Adequate interpretation and some education about expected behaviour for the tourists should be helpful and must be properly planned for <sup>achieving</sup> the fruits of tourism. The interpretation centres should bring out the geological and zoological process of evolution of this area as also the demographic background and the anthropological history of the zone.

Proper training of the field staff at all levels is as important as supervision of their planning and actual work schedule. Training of the officers is probably more important than that of the lower field staff, who are mostly engaged in prototype works, where ~~the~~ jungle craft is essential to be known. Arms training should be a must for all field staff in a planned programme to cover all the staff.

Staff management or man management is probably the most important key to success and for the same proper service condition and proper facilities and amenities for them has to be planned and ensured. Proper motivation and leadership can bring <sup>up</sup> ~~about~~ the moral of the field staff which can lead to success in wildlife management. But such unorthodox essentialities can be achieved only through proper motivation and dedication of the Director, who should be a true leader.

In Nagarhole a lot of area has been planted up with exotic Eucalyptus and Teak during the part. This has resulted in ~~conservation~~ <sup>version</sup> of a large part of the natural ecosystem resulting into severe reduction of biomass productivity and the resultant carrying capacity. It should be aimed at that the Eucalyptus is gradually removed in phases and the natural ecosystems allowed to be reestablished. A lot of research in this regard may be taken up to support the actual course of reestablishing the natural ecosystems.

Elephant and other animal damage to property, crop and even human life often causes serious tension and related problems in the area. An elephant proof trench is being constructed in areas of

such conflict. This should be completed and maintenance ensured, which will also ensure stopping any attempt of encroachment, which is rather common.

#### BUXA

In the Himalayan foot hills of the northern West Bengal, Buxa comprises of Terrai and Bhabar areas, typical of Himalayan foot hills and is one of the extremely rich areas, containing a broad spectrum of biodiversity. The area was extremely inaccessible till the early fifties and had not much pressure from human population, though some tea garden and some villages had been present in the surrounding areas. But after independence tremendous demographic change took place in the entire zone, which, along with development of a string of road net works, changed the face of the area. This has put a lot of pressure on the protected area. Besides, a number of Dolomite mines were ~~put~~<sup>put</sup> under operation in the protected area, which not only caused tremendous disturbance and pollution in the area, but resulted into <sup>soil</sup> erosion and movement of transport for the mines, and tea gardens. Also in the adjoining areas to the north, in Bhutan, a lot of persons settled and started agricultural practice. Most of such people have to traverse through Buxa to reach such areas in Bhutan and also to procure all their requirements, which adds to the disturbance caused to the area.

Along with the human population the number of domestic animals (cattle, goat etc) has also had a phenomenal rise. It is estimated that nearly 100,000 cattle graze in this National Park and in the surrounding Reserve Forests areas. This combined pressure of the large human and domestic population has created serious problem in the Park, which has to be addressed in the management plan. But only management of wildlife cannot take care of such problems and these problems can be tackled through appropriate ecodevelopment planning. In the management plan all the linkages of the ecodevelopment plan should be clearly identified.

Poaching of animals is a nagging problem in this Park though no detection of any large number of cases are in record. Confidential information received from the area suggest that poaching of animals and also timber is quite common in the area and it is extremely difficult for the park staff to control the same as a large number of people enter the area and move here for various reasons and it becomes <sup>impossible</sup> to keep track all such people and their activities.

Moving the villages and particularly some of the tea gardens from the enclave of the National Park should be an ideal objective of the management plan, but seems to be an impractical goal mainly due to economic, demographic and social compulsions. However, all possibilities should be examined and explored to find out if at least partial achievement is possible. This is very important not only to achieve viability of various species of wild animals, but also for reducing human influence in the shape of poaching, competition (grazing) and habitat degradation. Unless the gradually rising biotic influences in this area is reduced, true success in wildlife management may remain a far cry. The cost of freeing the area from biotic influences will be somewhat staggering, but all pros and cons to achieve this must be carefully considered and included in preparing the management plan.

Simultaneously the ecodevelopment plan has to explore all the possibilities of reducing the dependence of the people <sup>on natural resources,</sup> living in and around the park by way of attempting to provide alternate sources of energy and grazing facilities for their domestic stock, which will help in restoring the ecological ~~imbalance~~ <sup>upset</sup> in the area, that has been ~~caused~~ <sup>caused</sup> through human overuse during the <sup>s</sup> part.

Properly and carefully developed anti-poaching strategy supported by a meticulously planned clandestine line of information generation has to be pressed into service. The service conditions of the field staff has to be improved and training of staff at all levels has also to be planned along with provision for adequate equipments necessary in executing the plan of anti-poaching in particular.

During the <sup>s</sup> part over 60% of the area of the Park had been intensively exploited and put under Teak plantation. Teak is an exotic in this region and seems to have resulted in reduction in biomass productivity. Besides, the Bhabar area, where ~~re~~ Teak has been planted, now has very little ground cover which is adding to the increase in intensity and frequency of floods in the southern areas. Plan should be made to phase out the Teak and restore the natural ecosystems in the area. But care must be taken to take pilot projects, monitoring of the results and take up extensive areas only when expected results are ensured. The area has the problem of weed infestation (like mecania) in open areas, which <sup>is</sup> a danger that has to be looked into.

Elephant depredation in the human habitation causes not only very heavy damage to the crop and property but also to human life. A large number of people regularly get killed in such degradation, which is causing serious tension and related problems between the people and the management. The reasons are not far to seek. Most of the low-lying areas with perineal water resources have been converted into agricultural fields. Such areas and the highlands, now under tea had once been the extensive grazing grounds of the elephants, which <sup>routes</sup> no longer belongs to them. Besides most of the natural moment <sup>of</sup> these large pachyderms have been ~~been~~ <sup>fragmented</sup> by burgeoning human population, severely restricting ~~their~~ <sup>their</sup> movements. Besides, elephants and many other species of wild animals used to move regularly between Buxa in West Bengal and Manas Tiger Reserve in Assam, across the river Sankosh, which <sup>is</sup> the boundry between the two areas. This linkage has been all but snapped by tea gardens and mushrooming villages and agricultural fields. The pocketed wildlife population therefore is under tremendous strain and, no wonder, come out to raid human settlements, where they had their traditional home range areas. The area had some Rhinos and wild buffaloes in the recent <sup>s</sup> part which are no longer found in the area. The Rhinos had been present as late as early sixties.

To restore the nature of composite viable habitat in this highly productive (agricultural) area will undoubtedly <sup>be</sup> extremely difficult, due mainly to immediate human demands, specially because of demographic reasons. But the management plan should express the ecological aims quite clearly, ~~however~~ <sup>however</sup> difficult (may ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> impossible) the task may be, in the ultimate interest of <sup>since</sup> biodiversity conservation, if one is serious about the same and <sup>the</sup> range of biodiversity in the wild in this area is really very extensive indeed.

A lot of research input to scientific management is essential which requires to be carefully planned in management plan. A system of monitoring the ~~biodiversity~~ <sup>biodiversity</sup> productivity and probable ~~in~~ change of status of both the floral and faunal composition has to be developed with base ~~time~~ <sup>time</sup> data ~~base~~.

Census of wild animals in the National Park is extremely difficult because of the extremely dense cover conditions, which allows very poor visibility even during the short dry season. Census of tigers has been done, but the reliability of the data probably remains uncertain. Regular monitoring of the tigers during the dry season by taking the pug mark tracings should go a long way to rectify this problem.

Tourism has not yet made any large impact, though an increasing number of local tourists are visiting the area. Few forest rest houses with limited accommodation provides the scope to serious *tourists* to undertake any study. Proper interpretation facilities, should be arranged at a few key points for educating the tourists as also the local residents.

The National Park is influenced by the Bhutan areas to the north and also the Manas area to its east. Management of this Park should therefore be properly coordinated with that of Manas and whatever may be prevalent in Bhutan. Proper coordination between all the areas in management is essential for success.

Crop protection against wild animal depredation and provision <sup>of adequate compensation</sup> for damage to life and property of the people of the area, caused due to animal ~~depradation~~ <sup>degradation</sup> has to be ensured to thwart people's possible resentment.

Provisions for incentives and rewards for works of exemplary works, of anti-poaching and <sup>bravery</sup> for the field staff at all levels, must be provided in the management plan. Similarly same type of provision for rewards to the local people for providing clue about poaching and smuggling of wildlife articles, that may lead to detection and conviction, *should be made.*

#### PENCH

Pench National Park in the Satpura range of central India, <sup>is</sup> spread over the states of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. The Madhya Pradesh part of the area is a National Park and is the core area of the Pench Tiger Reserve, while the Maharashtra part remains, as a wildlife sanctuary. The area contains rich dry deciduous forest with a wide range of flora and fauna. The river Pench flows through the area and sufficient water is available during all the seasons. A dam has been set up on the river Pench <sup>in the</sup> sanctuary area of Maharashtra, which has submerged a large part of the ~~part~~ available habitat in the National Park. The ecological impact of the dam on the National Park remains yet to be assessed.

The National Park does not have much human population within. Some of these people who had been inside, has been moved outside the Park and the rest are also on their way to be relocated in less than a years time. The relocation has been arranged by the management in full agreement of the villagers. Most of these villagers are tribals and belong to the Gond or Bheel communities. These tribal people still remain very simple and mostly

unaffected by the influence of consumerism and market economy. They still remain within the folds of their tradition, customs and religious bindings. These people actually lived the life of "ecosystems people" during the past and probably still has the wisdom of the key to actual sustainable living.

Ecocodevelopment plan in <sup>this</sup> ~~the~~ area should aim at to harness the traditional wisdom of these ecosystems people and make an attempt to protect their living style from the aggressive <sup>assault</sup> ~~result~~ of <sup>the</sup> market forces, known usually as "development". It is therefore very important to find out the linkages of the ecocodevelopment with management of the Park through identification of the areas of conflict between human demand and wildlife interests.

Since the population pressure in these areas is not very high and the people, by and large, do not indulge in poaching of animals or timber, <sup>and wild animals,</sup> the protection work seems to be comparatively not so difficult. However, there are cases of poaching of animals, even including a case of tiger poaching recently. Naturally strong and efficient enforcement of protection measures have to be <sup>ensured</sup>. The manpower and means of fast communication resources <sup>requires</sup> a lot of thrust for efficient protection works. Simultaneously the required equipments should also be provided to the field staff and their service conditions looked into. A clandestine line of information about the poachers and the smugglers activities must also be developed for anti-poaching job.

The course of the river Pench has the richest habitat in the Park and the dynamism and potential of the whole Park seems to be pinned in this area. The management plan should take into account this fact in preparing the management plan. This area should not be opened up by construction of roads, but at the same time should have a network of anti-poaching camps to guard against any possible damage that may be caused to the area. Domestic cattle from Chindwara area come to this river for water at some points. This must be stopped, as has already been planned.

About 1600 acres of the Park on the western bank of the river Pench is allowed for grazing by the domestic cattle of some villages of the chindwara district. This has to be stopped as the area cannot realise the potential of wildlife as long as the grazing continues, which has already caused degradation to parts of this area.

The reservoir contains a lot of fish and some fishings are regularly introduced into the lake in the Maharashtra part to allow commercial fishing in that part of the reservoir. The reservoir itself falls party in both Madhya Pradesh National Park and in Maharashtra and though no fishing is allowed in the National Park the fishermen are regularly entering the Park area for fishing. These fishermen are also reported to be often camping in the remote corners of the reservoir and indulging in poaching of animals occassionally. The National Park authorities have hardly any means of keeping strict watch on these vulnerable areas, neither do they have any anti-poaching posts in these areas which are cut off during the rainy season, when the reservoir becomes full. Some power boats and adequate manpower is immediately required to check and control the decimation. Proper planning to tackle the situation should be meticulously done.

The National Park is situated in the Satpuras and is very dry at

least for 4/5 months in a year. Naturally fire hazard is a real danger for the management of the Park. Though minor ground fires do take place occasionally, yet thanks to the alert management, no severe fire incidence has been recorded from the Park recently. Yet efficient fire protection with induction of modern technology should be planned to remove all apprehensions and make all arrangements to fight any accidental fire, which is not unlikely to happen in such dry areas.

A lot of research work should be taken up in the area, specially because of the large body of water impounded due to the dam, which has caused various ecological effects on the area. The aquatic ecosystems formed as a result in the submerged area and the avifauna that has been attracted by the reservoir requires regular monitoring and intensive study. The effect of the reservoir on the flora and fauna also requires to be studied and understood. ~~The~~ Census of tigers have been taken in this Park, but regular monitoring of the population of tigers should be planned preceeding 4 months of the actual census week, which should provide more reliable data. In absence of extensive grassland ~~and~~ undulating terrain with rather dense cover conditions render census of wild animals not any easy task. However, it should be possible, through <sup>sam</sup> samplings, to find out the population trend in the National Park from time to time.

Tourism is yet to make any <sup>serious</sup> impact on this Park, though it is probably being planned to divert a part of the enormous pressure of tourism from Kanha to this Park. But it may be wiser to watch and go slow and plan properly. The history of the area suggests that the area had undergone heavy exploitation of forest produce and has also experienced heavy hunting pressure which had decimated not only the wild animal population but also depleted the natural forest cover/habitat. Under effective protection and in absence of any heavy biotic interference, the habitat has improved considerably and the status of wildlife is on the process of restoration. Before full restoration is achieved, tourism should not be commenced in full swing. However, a proper tourism management plan should be incorporated in the wildlife management plan under the care of a trained staff component to be added to the Park staff. Simple but effective interpretation centres should be set up for proper orientation and education of the visitors. A lot of pressure of visitors, is there on the dam site in Maharashtra, which should be able to deal with the casual visitors, while only serious wildlife tourists may go into the National Park. *in the past*

Provision of reward and other incentives for the field staff should be made for examplory good work and bravery in anti-poaching works. Same provision for <sup>other</sup> people also should be made for providing information about poaching and smuggling.

#### SIMLIPAL

The Simlipal National Park is situated in the Chotanagpur area of Northern Orissa and is regarded as one of the richest area in the eastern part of this country. A wide range of habitat types that contain a large spectrum of wild fauna makes this area highly important in Biodiversity conservation. The area has continuous forest cover, virtually in all sides, which is of great importance in future conservation strategy.

But the area is plagued with very serious problems of severe biotic interference, which has already depleted the biodiversity drastically. Though the area had been under Project Tiger since 1973, the management of this area does not seem to have achieved very much of its objectives. The duplication in management principles in the core area and in the buffer zone remains yet unresolved. The "Akhand Shikar", commonly attributed as a tribal ritual could not be brought under any desirable control. Poaching of timber and wild animals here remains as <sup>a major</sup> ~~some~~ problem, though official reports do not really reflect the ground realities. But visit by various capable people and their observations tend to express misgivings about the result of attempted restoration of the biomass *productivity*.

The management must therefore take full account of the present status of not only the core area but also of the buffer and plan for effective protection from all biotic influences, which will include poaching, grazing by domestic stock and inducing fire etc. The human pressure on the Park has to be dealt with through proper and adequate ecodevelopment plan provisions. For this all the links has to be carefully identified through tentative dialogue with the local people. The management seems to have inadequate man power and equipments, which require to be augmented and properly planned. The management of the buffer has only been very recently placed under the Field Director. Proper management plan has to be developed for the buffer also.

Regular anti-poaching patrols by vehicles and foot patrol from anti-poaching posts is a must and has to be planned properly. Ground fires are deliberately set by villagers to drive wild animals in a predetermined direction, where people wait with weapons and kill them in the name of "Akhand Shikar". This is a serious problem and the management had sought police help to curb the tendency, where a large number of non tribals also take active part. Proper plan developed under Ecodevelopment may be able to solve this problem for which utmost care is needed.

Simlipal area contains large areas under moist deciduous and semi-evergreen forest cover and hence the fire hazard is a little less pronounced than the drier areas. But all the same extreme alertness and precaution is called for to prevent deliberate setting up of fires.

There are a number of villages situated within the Park. Ideally speaking all these villages should be removed from the Park area, but it may not be a practical proposition. However, some villages from the National Park should be removed, where the village sites are directly infringing with critical wildlife interests. Ecodevelopment planning for the remaining areas (within the Park) must see that market forces are not given any direct or indirect incentive through provisions of this plan. Some of these people have already become the victims of such forces and the planning process should aim at cutting off such influences through the invocation of traditional customs of these people from where they are being lured away.

There are some roads including a National Highway passing through or very close to this area. Regular check posts and irregular mobile checking of the traffic should be planned to guard against possible smuggling of wildlife and their products. A good clandestine line of information has to be developed to back up proper

anti-poaching strategy and consequent action. Provision for some secret funds for "buying" information about poacher's and smuggler's movement and their intended activities must be made in the plan.

Adequate amenities to the field staff and proper service conditions to them should be provided in the plan. Training of the staff at all levels must be provided along with provision for rewards for the staff, who might have done some exemplary work in anti-poaching and shown exemplary courage. Same provision should also be made for non government people, who may provide any clue to poaching or intended poaching and or smuggling of wildlife products, which may lead to detection and conviction. The communication system should be improved and more points covered by the wireless ~~cover~~ *net work*.

For proper action about biodiversity conservation, a plan for the entire region should be developed, wherever contiguity of habitat still exists. Only such integrated approach in regional planning may help in retaining future genetic viability of all the gene pool resources, available in the region. As mentioned earlier, the entire region is extremely rich and highly productive with very high biomass potential. The major management objective should be to keep the area from as low biotic influence as may be possible.

The pressure of tourism is gradually building up but as yet it is not very severe. Proper planning to manage tourism has to be made. Provisions of some interpretation centres in simple way but with as much education, as possible about the background of the area, its flora, fauna and also about the human population should be made for the visitors. A separate set of staff with proper training should conduct the tourism, so that other works do not suffer.

A lot of research about tiger ecology had been stated by the first Field Director, late S.R.Choudhury in this Park. But unfortunately since his untimely demise, nothing seems to have been done to interpret the large data ~~base~~ *base* that S.R.Choudhury had created. Not much of research activities are also going on at present, though an efficient research officer is available. A lot of management oriented research and monitoring of flora and fauna should be taken up, as had been planned by late S.R.Choudhury.

Census of Tiger by pug mark tracing had been developed in this park by late S.R.Choudhury, which has been taken up as the country method of census. No emphasis should therefore be necessary on the ways to carry out such census in Simlipal, though the figures produced recently leaves room for speculation. Regular precensus monitoring of the tiger population is the only way to dispel doubts. Census of other animals in this reserve is not easy but some sample survey should provide the population trend, which is very important.

Crop damage and cattle lifting is causing some problem in the nearby areas, which has to be taken seriously crop protection, specially against, elephant, and provisions for adequate compensation for loss of property or life must be provided in the management plan. *Provision of reward for providing information about poaching or smuggling of wildlife articles to people should be made. Rewarding exemplary works of anti poaching done by the field staff should also be planned.*

May 2, 1994

Mr. Arin Ghosh,  
Director, Project Tiger  
Bikaner House, Annexe - 5,  
Shah Jahan Road,  
New Delhi - 110 011.

MOST URGENT

Dear Arin,

Thank you for sending me the summary of eco-development plans but unfortunately they have been sent very late. As you are aware at the last meeting of the Project Implementation Committee it was agreed that I could see and comment on these plans before they were sent to UNDP but I am sad to find from your letter received on 30-4-94 that these plans have already been sent to UNDP. I do not consider this proper procedure and you must record this fact for the reference of this committee.

As you are aware I was asked to participate and provide inputs to this committee by the Chairman, Project Tiger, the hon'ble minister Shri Kamal Nath. You are also aware of some of my experience in working with local communities around protected areas. I find it unfortunate that several of the inputs that I have provided do not appear in this project summary. I again enclose for your reference all my comments given earlier and reiterate in this letter some new ones. This reiteration is being done so that there are some safeguards in the process that is defined as eco-development. Without safeguards we can very easily destroy the heart of what we are trying to protect. This factor can not be glossed over by anyone, since it is in the interest of the tiger.

(1) 11.2 Ecodevelopment Principles, - Please add :

Ecodevelopment can only be effective if stringent protection is ensured in the core and buffer areas of National Parks. Without this enforcement of the law, eco-development can not work.

(2) Buxa - Point 5.

As discussed you can not persuade well established NGO's at state levels to take up planning and implementation of eco-development activities. It is commitment at field levels not persuasion.

(3) GIR

Please delete Point 5. Ecodevelopment is not in its definition designed to translocate lions to alternative habitats.

(4) PENCH

Point 1 - There is no such thing as sustainable grazing and this can not be allowed in the protected area.

Point 4 - Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh should have the same policy i.e no fishing in the reservoir.

(5) PERIYAR

Point 1 and 2.

No land should be bought by the ecodevelopment project either for fodder or fuelwood. The precedent of buying land is dangerous. Alternatives to this will have to be found.

Point 7 - There can not be any rationalisation of boundaries of this area. Kindly delete this as such suggestions are damaging the interest of our wilderness areas.

(6) SIMLIPAL

Point 1 - Akhand Shikar must be banned as without this there will be no biodiversity left.

(7) PAGE 44 - The overall organisational chart appears to be an administrative minefield and therefore a nightmare. Kindly simplify this process if we need to be effective. After all each protected area will be dealing with 8-18 crores each. A special cell must be created to find the best procedure for handling funds, monitoring and working.

(8) PAGE 46 - Rationale for GEF support.

16.2 - This comment of encourage decentralised control of forest resources must only refer to resources outside the P.A system not inside otherwise this process can spell disaster for P.A's due to abuse and misuse. This statement must be corrected.

BUDGETS

(1) Unless computers are manned by computer operators in dust free conditions such expenditures are a complete waste of money.

(2) Poultry and duckery are activities of high risk due to disease and my suggestion is not to enter these areas since disasters strike easily.

(3) Translocation of lions and budgets must be deleted from this ecodevelopment strategy.

(4) Fuel efficient funeral pyres sounds like an excessive happening for Gir. Let ecodevelopment not get mixed up with funeral pyres. This is not a joke. Let District Municipality or village panchayats deal with this directly with administration.

(5) Diamond cutting should be deleted from this income generation plan. Let some other agency look into it. It just does not have a head or a tail in relation to eco-development.

(6) There is too much expenditure on management 31.37% in Gir and too little on Environmental regeneration 38.62%. This must be rationalised by reducing nearly 50% of expenditure on management.

(7) Carpentry is not an environmentally friendly occupation around a protected area. I would like to point out that carpentry, involves wood, we are trying to grow wood, it may take 20 years, let us therefore not train people to cut wood till we have surplus wood. Therefore in income generation we must concentrate on recyclable materials, paper, waste scraps of metal etc. No iron smithy please unless it is from scrap.

(8) Do Gir and Nagarhole have no health or population problem? Primary health care and family planning are essential components for all areas. They therefore must figure in each plan.

(9) Lac culture - this activity can only be possible when the species concerned is growing in plantations outside the P.A. Therefore till the plantations develop this activity can be deleted unless it is suggested that this activity can take place in the P.A. If so I don't think it is in the interest of the P.A.

(10) Carpentry tool kits are dangerous in ecologically sensitive areas. It is providing the tools that fuel a demand for wood. Tailoring can be linked to handicrafts but should not be a separate category for income generation. Ecodevelopment is not a process to create tailors in villages. Tailoring caters to urban demand.

(11) Mechanical and electrical repair tool kits, are again total unconnected with the broad philosophy of eco-development and this should be deleted from skills and vocations.

(12) As stated earlier expenditure on roads should be minimal.

(13) In Periyar's budget I am shocked to see 60% expenditure on income generation and 6.7% on environmental regeneration. To me it does not make sense. Is the P.A manager going to coordinate the expenditure of 6 crores or more on poultry pig rearing, apiculture, horticulture, handicrafts, Pisciculture, iron smithy, mechanical and electrical repairs etc etc. This can not be eco-development as its original principle suggests. Such allocations can spell disaster for a P.A by flooding the area with money causing havoc in market forces and rampant consumerism. I suggest therefore immediate correction of this budget.

(14) In Simlipals budget again 30% of the budget is for income generation and 24% for environmental regeneration. This must be corrected otherwise we are creating the seeds of disaster for our protected areas like in Periyar. Ecodevelopment is not income generation. Please refer to original principles of this document.

VALMIK THAPAR, 19 KAUTILYA MARG, NEW DELHI-110 021

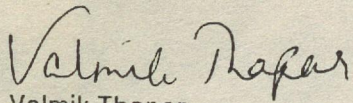
Telephone: 3016261

Fax: 3019457

Ecodevelopment is about ecologically sustainable development that deflects pressures from protected areas, not creates them. Ecodevelopment is not economic development. I have in the shortest possible time looked at and reacted to this Project summary. As a member of the Project Implementation Committee I can not subscribe to these plans in the present shape and I hope you will record this fact. My objective in providing you such details over the last year has been in the interest of safeguarding our P.A's from any future impediments. I may not have succeeded but this letter and the enclosures are to state clearly the serious weaknesses of certain strategies in this plan on the future of these essential areas. I had mentioned in my earlier letter to you the importance in getting comments on the final document from firstly, Shri H.S.Panwar, Director Wildlife Institute of India who not only runs eco-development courses but is regarded as the original initiator of such a concept and secondly, Shri S. Deb Roy who played a vital role in the inception of these present plans while he was in the Ministry. Both these eminent persons would have provided valuable inputs in the final shaping of these plans.

I do hope you will circulate my comments to the other members of the Project Implementation Committee. I on my part will circulate this note to the Chairman and members of the Steering Committee of Project Tiger.

All the best

  
Valmik Thapar



ARIN GHOSH

सत्यमेव जयते

DIRECTOR, PROJECT TIGER

D.O.No. 3-49/93-PT

भारत सरकार  
पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS  
ANNEXE NO. 5, BIKANER HOUSE,  
SHAH JAHAN ROAD, NEW DELHI-110011

तार:

Telegram: PARYAVARAN, NEW DELHI

दूरभाष:

Telephone: 384428

टेलिक्स:

Telex: W-66185 DOE IN FAX: 4360678

Dated the 5th May, 1994.

Dear Valu,

Kindly refer to your letter dated 22nd April, 1994. A copy of the letter issued to the Field Director and the Chief Wildlife Warden of eight sites of Eco-development Project is sent herewith for your kind perusal.

The tentative dates of some of the District Level Workshops are as under:-

Pench 14th May, 1994.

Ranthambore 24th May, 1994.

You may kindly consider attending the said workshops.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(ARIN GHOSH)

Shri Valmik Thapar,  
19, Kautilya Marg,  
Chanakyapuri,  
New Delhi-110 021.

Copy with a request to attend the workshop forwarded to:-

1)

Shri S. Deb Roy - for Ranthambore.

2)

Shri Bittu Sehgal - for Pench.

(ARIN GHOSH)

By Hand  
By speaker post

COPY

F.No.3-49/93-PT  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
(PROJECT TIGER)

Annexe No.5, Bikaner House,  
Shahjehan Road, New Delhi-110 011.

Dated the 26th April, 1994.

To

The Field Director,  
Ranthambore, Buxa, Pench, Palamau, Simlipal,  
Gir, Periyar, & Nagarhole

The Chief Wildlife Warden of  
Rajasthan, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa,  
Bihar, Orissa, Gujarat, Kerala and Karnataka.

Subject:- District Level Workshop for Eco-Development Project.

Sir,

Kindly refer to the minutes of the Project Implementation Committee for GEF projects forwarded to you by this Office Memo of even number dated 15th April, 1994. You are requested to kindly organise the local level workshop by involving district level officers as was discussed in the national level workshop held in New Delhi.

Please ensure that the workshops are held in the month of May only and if possible an advance intimation may be sent to us, so that some of our officers from Delhi can also go and participate in the said workshop.

This may kindly be treated as extremely urgent.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/- Arin Ghosh  
Director, Project Tiger  
Ph.384428

From: S. DEB ROY

To : The Director, Project Tiger, Govt. of India.  
Bikaner house, N. Delhi.

Dear sir,

I beg to inform you that due to being indisposed badly, since last night, I will not be able to attend the workshop in connection with Ecodevelopment planning to be held at Ranthambhore on the 25th May, '94. I regret very much about the same and hope to interact in the matter at a later date.

Yours sincerely

S. Deb Roy  
24.5.94

VALMIK THAPAR, 19 KAUTILYA MARG, NEW DELHI-110 021

Telephone: 3016281  
Fax: 3019457

Dated the 16th June, 1994

Dear Arin,

It was good meeting you and Shekhar Singh on Monday 6th June, 1994, even though it is evident from our discussions that various issues still remain unresolved, I strongly feel that there are several inputs in these plans that could be damaging for our National Parks and, therefore, require urgent reconsideration.

Before holding discussions with UNDP and World Bank, both in India and places like Indonesia, we must within our Indian expertise reach some decisions about these plans. For instance I do know that carpentry tool kits were never part of the Ranthambhore P.R.A. exercise and both poultry and iron smithy were not income generation issues for either the village or Park Management. Yet they find a place in the plan and I fail to see how this happens unless several errors and oversights have been committed in the very basic understanding of ecodevelopment.

I have over many months provided detailed comments at different stages of these plans which have hardly been ever considered but even so all my previous comments hold good for me. In addition, I now reiterate the following points in order to restate why I believe these plans can in the future have damaging repercussions for our protected areas :

(1) In the broad introduction one of the vital and absent ecodevelopment principles in 11.2 is "Eco-development will not work unless there is stringent enforcement of the laws that govern protected areas. "Where people can cut trees, or graze into a Park nobody tries to plant trees".

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23/6

(2) In 13.1, institutional structures it is vital that the protected area management authority must have trained exclusive staff to look after ecodevelopment work.

(3) In 13.2, only National level N.G.O's with previous experience and track records of working with protected areas can be "persuaded" to join.

(4) In these plans Rs.4.3 crores is allocated for crop protection measures. I think this is a total waste. In 20 years of involvement with protected areas and looking in detail at crop damage, I do not believe for a minute that throwing such money at the problem will resolve it. All over the world crop damage occurs but quick solutions like electric fences etc. end up in failure. Let us look at alternate crops, land-use and come up with crops that are not damaged like mustard. Again in Ranthambhore 1.75 crores is allocated for crop protection when in any case the predominant crop is mustard and it has never been damaged by wild animals. Does this expenditure make any sense at all?

(5) Between 22-25 crores are being spent on income generation activities. Periyar leads the way with nearly 29% of this money. This component is dealt with by the plans as if it will solve the problem. In fact it is this component that will create the problem by fuelling consumerism and the market force at the expense of the protected area. What has happened is that instead of the target of these plans being ecology it has turned out to mean "development economics". Let us return to ecological development, Eco-development does not hold answers for the world. It can only hold answers for our protected area. The present component of income generation is so diverse that it totally dilutes ecodevelopment. It must be changed, restricted, narrowed down and focussed. If income generation activities concern environmental regeneration which therefore concerns land are taken up in the future interest of the park then income generation can compliment ecodevelopment. In these plans income generation has become isolated from eco-development, thus diluting the original objective which is to protect the Park. Ecodevelopment is about ecology and not mechanical and electric repair, piggery, duckery, carpentry, and so on.. Let us not make a mockery of nature or become fashionable in our approach. Let us be simple, focussed and concentrate on ecology, land-use, environmental regeneration and then see the enormous benefits that come from this sharply focussed approach. There are hundreds of sectors, departments, N.G.O's that are dealing and will always deal with rural and economic development but let us draw the distinction between this and ecodevelopment. At the moment these plans have merged all the above in one big amorphous mass of confusion. We must correct this by extracting the essence of clarity, related to ecology.

Periyar, if as I am given to believe, has no land available for environmental regeneration, then it should have never been selected for ecodevelopment. Now we have a plan for Periyar that could well be called 'An income generation plan for Periyar and not Ecodevelopment. Let us rectify this and return to the original principle of ecology otherwise the whole exercise will become frivolous. After all there are hundreds of vital protected areas which are in dire need of environmental regeneration. Let those be taken up in Ecodevelopment. Let Periyar's problems be looked at by those involved in purely income generation. I do hope you understand what I am reiterating endlessly. Ecodevelopment does not equal or mean income generation. In today's crisis it has become too easy to rationalise and justify everything in a never ending rhetoric. This is dangerous, Simlipal follows close on the heels of Periyar in terms of income generation. All this dilutes the primary aim of the plans. We must now extract only the essentials, delete the rest so that we rediscover the original ecodevelopment strategy and then it will have a chance to work.

CONCLUSION : In our discussions on 6.6.94 I had mentioned all the above and Dr. Shekhar Singh had stated that till the negative impact of an income generation activity can be proven it is justifiable, I do not agree. This is not the issue in question. Ecodevelopment, as suggested, is not rural development or income generation. But to give you an example from Australia, Kakadu National Park, where a uranium mine has been functioning for the last ten years. 30 scientists have been employed for the last ten years to monitor at a day to day level the environmental impact of this mine. To this day no negative environmental impact has been observed. Does this mean that the uranium mine is in the interest of the National Park? No, since the future repercussions can not be assessed and there could be a day where this area turns into a radio active nightmare. I fervently do not want the same to happen in the future to these plans through income generation that we start today in India.. Therefore, I hope we can quietly return to ecodevelopment and target the process of environmental regeneration rather than walking straight into the economics of income generation. Income generation measures that have a direct impact on environmental regeneration or that results from environmental regeneration are the only sustainable elements in any ecodevelopment plan that

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will in the long term benefit the people and the protected area. Target environmental regeneration the rest will follow. Do it in reverse and there will be a disaster.

The above is a fundamental principle for effective eco-development.

All the best,

Yours sincerely,

*Valmik Thapar*

(VALMIK THAPAR)

Mr. Arin Ghosh,  
Director, Project Tiger,  
Annexe No.5, Bikaner House,  
Shahjahan Road, New Delhi.

Copy to :

1. Shri Kamal Nath, Union Minister for Environment & Forests, Paryavaran Bhavan, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.
2. Shri R. Rajamani, Secretary (E&F), Ministry of Environment & Forests, Paryavaran Bhavan, New Delhi.
3. Shri S.C. Dey, Addl. IGF(WL), Ministry of Environment & Forests, Paryavaran Bhavan, New Delhi.
4. All Members, Tiger Crisis Cell.

(VALMIK THAPAR)

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June 18, 1994

We need to respond

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27/6

The Secretary,  
Ministry of Environment and Forests,  
Paryavaran Bhavan,  
CGO Complex,  
Lodi Road,  
New Delhi.

DIC

Dear Sir,

ECODEVELOPMENT INDICATIVE PLAN -- APRIL 1994

I have carefully studied the April 1994 Biodiversity Conservation through Ecodevelopment Indicative Plan prepared by the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) for the approval of the lead agency, The World Bank. Unfortunately I was only able to obtain a pirated copy of the original plan late in the month of May 1994 as Mr. Shekhar Singh, Director of the IIPA, chose not to send to me a copy directly despite my repeated requests. I have already written to the Hon. Minister, Mr. Kamal Nath, registering my strong objection to the plans in their current form.

To ensure that I have an opportunity to prepare a more detailed critique than has been appended below, may I ask that four sets of the detailed proposals -- as against the current Indicative Plans -- for each of the eight chosen reserves be immediately handed over to me... if at all such plans exist? I presume that considerably more data has been collected than has been presented and I would like this to be made available to me on a floppy disc as well. I undertake to share this information with people's groups and wildlife professionals and can also bring the matter up at the People-Park discussion being sponsored by the Ministry of Environment in Delhi in September 1994.

On going through the plans I do see that some of the possible solutions to India's biodiversity conservation objectives (mainly soil and moisture conservation schemes and the involvement of locals in PA management) have been considered. Many of the suggested solutions, however, are questionable (to put it mildly) and could serve to aggravate existing Protected Area (PA) problems, thus negating the very purpose of the ecodevelopment exercise. I strongly urge that an environment impact analysis of the proposed GEF-funded plans be undertaken before one dollar is spent on site.

I have listed some of the issues below for your perusal, but in the meanwhile I advocate that we step back from the exercise -- that the proposals not be submitted for GEF funding -- till the plans are effectively debated and the local communities affected have a chance to examine language translations. Rushing through with half-baked, top-down plans such as the one for Gir -- which offers money to displace the Maldharis (was this the result of a PRA exercise?) and is not supported either by conservationists or local communities -- could very well endanger the future of the Asiatic lion. Have the lessons of Bharatpur (where excluding water buffaloes from the bird sanctuary adversely affected the wetlands) already been forgotten? And has the Central government considered the possibility of political influence being welded by state governments by way of transfer of officers genuinely concerned about wildlife conservation so as to bring in more pliable officers who might allow local politicians greater access over the relatively astronomical sums (\$3,000,000) being pumped around each reserve? Is it the intention of the Ministry of Environment to urbanise the surrounds of the Protected Area Network of India and thus destroy this biodiversity forever?

Obviously very little thought has been focused by the IIPA consultants on the conflict between the preservation of ecological values and the economic aspirations of communities and individuals. The underlying premise of the IIPA seems to have been that it is both possible and desirable to integrate economic growth with the preservation of natural values. This premise is subject to debate, particularly in light of the effect our economic activities have thus far had on natural ecosystems. Specifically, the fact that true forest dwellers are less dependent on market forces than other rural people seems to have escaped the IIPA. Rather than look towards the interests of such communities, the indicative plan makes no pretense about trying to surround every chosen forest by market forces. This is an ill-advised step which goes counter to the very objective of ecodevelopment and will serve to damage the forests... and true forest dwellers.

Every project, for instance, seems biased towards the creation of a 'higher production' with 'higher inputs'. Translated, this means enhanced use of fertilizers, pesticides, lift irrigation, industries and monocultures of exotic grasses, trees and livestock. All eight project proposals attempt to integrate the buffer zones of sanctuaries and national parks with the larger markets -- a step inimical to biodiversity conservation. Perhaps the IIPA consultants were not briefed properly, or are not experienced enough to understand the complicated people-park issues confronting us. The actual objective of ecodevelopment is to create an

confirming

ecological wall between market forces and the forest. The ecodevelopment proposals being suggested by IIPA on the other hand apes several main-stream approaches towards resource management and export-oriented, as against sustenance, agriculture. Does this approach really vary enough from the strategies which have created wastelands outside our PA system? And is it the objective of PA managers to compete with rural development agencies which have badly damaged forests in the past?

Leaving aside the legitimacy of the strategies for ecodevelopment for the moment, I see from the indicative plan that little consideration has been paid to the issue of internalising ecodevelopment costs into the State budgets. By opting for GEF funding as the prime, rather than a supporting, source for ecodevelopment, we are marginalising the importance of ecodevelopment. When GEF funds dry up – as they inevitably will – the states will abandon the ecodevelopment programmes.

In conclusion, I would like to place on record my firm belief that the World Bank does not have the understanding or the wherewithal to evaluate the implications of tampering with natural ecosystems – which is what these Indicative Plans would have us do. It would be a gross error, therefore, to go ahead with the ecodevelopment plans in their current form, in the belief that they are good simply because the World Bank approves of them.

PALAMAU TIGER RESERVE

The contradiction of preparing a biodiversity conservation proposal for the approval of the World Bank is best highlighted by the case of Palamau. The same World Bank has financed the Kotku dam which threatens to drown 23,000 hectares of land in the Palamau Tiger Reserve, including parts of the core area, plus 27 villages! This issue was brought to the attention of Mr. Shekhar Singh by me in writing in New Delhi, but he returned my letter within the hour after scrawling off some cursory responses in the margin. It does not surprise me, therefore, to see that the submergence by the Kotku dam is featured as the last item on the priority list of management issues (page 177/1.8.17). Meanwhile the ecodevelopment recommendations while asking for pig-rearing, iron smithy and tourism (page 182-183/2.2.3 and 3.1), does not even ask the World Bank and the Water Resources Ministry to desist from inundating prime forest land whose biodiversity value was not understood when the original proposal to build the Kotku Dam was conceived. The utter shallowness of the ecodevelopment proposal for Palamau can be gauged by the fact that the old tired route of opting for solar heaters, fuel-efficient chullahs and biogas plants is put forward as a means to reduce fuelwood pressures, despite knowing that none of these 'solutions' have worked in the past. The list of contradictions in the budget proposals for Palamau is long and is exemplified by the fact that the IIPA recommends that US\$ 166,670 be spent on the upgradation of cattle breeds and US\$ 400,000 be spent on fuelwood plantations, plus US\$ 375,000 on fodder plantations – exotics and monocultures which have been misleadingly labeled as environmental conservation and regeneration. There are no details of the species being raised with the amount of US\$ 228330 being spent on plant nurseries. Besides, they suggest that five times more money be allocated in base costs to acquire furniture, than for compensation in the event of human death or injury from wild animals! Do we seriously expect public support for such plans?

THE GIR NATIONAL PARK

The IIPA suggestion that funds can be raised to finance the displacement of the Maldhari community through the GEF could actually result in the extinction of the Asiatic lion by eroding the support for its conservation within the Maldhari community. The lions not only depend for their survival on livestock to the extent of 35.2 per cent, but also upon the 'live and let live' attitude of the people around Gir.

The opening para of the Summary Description of the Indicative Plan (page 25) reads: "Though this is not a part of the ecodevelopment proposal, if and when this (the relocation of 361 Maldhari families living in 54 nesses, plus the residents of 14 forest villages) happens, those of these families who are relocated within the project area (extending to a radius of six kms. around the PA) would be covered by the ecodevelopment project." With sums as large as \$ 3,000,000 to play around with, one must presume that intense pressure can and will be brought to bear on the Maldharis to move. This one idea outweighs all the other ill-conceived ecodevelopment proposals put together in its potential impact on the survival of the Asiatic lion.

By moving the Maldharis out of Gir, lock stock and barrel, we will cause great resentment within their community towards the lions. This resentment is bound to disrupt the relative harmony with which Maldharis and lions have co-existed for decades. In any event, shifting the Maldharis out of Gir is hardly likely to reduce their biomass demands. Bringing the Maldharis closer to market forces would, in fact, serve to increase their biomass needs as milk sales are bound to rise. It would be reasonable to expect that non-Maldhari's owning cattle will also increasingly entrust the grazing of their animals to Maldharis in exchange for money. This increased livestock grazing will obviously be put still more pressure on the forest.

Moving one third of the lion's prey base out of the forest will result a still greater drift of carnivores (including leopards) out of Gir. Here they will come into contact with people with greater frequency than today and thus aggravate an already critical man-

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animal conflict situation. The IIPA is not unaware of the facts regarding the livestock-dependence of the lions (page 142/1.8.13). But just how unwise this step is can be judged by facts gathered by the IIPA itself (page 142/2.1) which confirm that in the belt which extends to six kms. around Gir there are already 97 villages with a population of 1,31,087 people and 94,000 cattle. Resettling Maldharis here will result in inter-community competition for scarce fodder and fuelwood and thus add social tensions to the existing problems of gir.

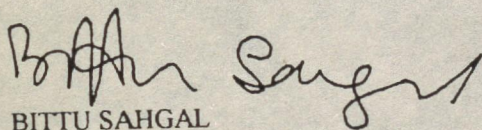
The attempt to find an alternate home for the lions has always been considered a desirable objective and the budget allotted for this purpose would be well spent. But to advocate the out and out commercialising of the Maldhari and Siddhi knowledge of medicinal plants (US\$ 33,330) and 'upgrading of livestock' (US\$ 333,3300) defies logic. I wonder who can better the Maldhari's traditional knowledge of animal husbandry for the dry deciduous habitat of Gir? In the absence of more detailed information one can only conclude that fragile Jersey cows, and the like, will find their way to Gir. Exotic cattle-breed suppliers will reap a harvest, but the 'improved' animals are likely to succumb to disease as they have almost everywhere they have been introduced in rural communities, thus heaping further misery and misfortune on the Maldhari community.

To add insult to injury, it is also proposed (page 148/2.2.3.1) that diamond cutting and other cottage industries be introduced within a six kms. radius of Gir... that tourist lodges be set up (2.2.3.3) and (2.2.1) that biogas, windmills and solar energy panels and fuel efficient chullahs be set up... even though these have little hope of successfully reducing pressure on the forest.

As much as US\$ 295,000 is proposed to be spent on fuel wood and fodder plantations. What species are proposed? And if these turn out to be plantations to generate cash in exchange for the resultant fuel wood, would the creation of quick-growing monocultures benefit the fragile Gir ecosystem? Clearly, these ideas have not been adequately discussed with the bulk of NGOs interested in the protection of the PA system, even though IIPA has had considerable opportunity to do so. Should we not be debating them within India so as to arrive at a consensus? I suggest that a two-day discussion session be held at Gir at which Maldhari, Siddhi and other local representatives be given a chance to express their views before sending such controversial proposals to 1616 H Street, Washington for approval.

I am in the process of sending you my detailed comments on the Indicative Plans for the other six chosen sites namely Buxa, Nagarhole, Pench, Periyar, Ranthambhor and Simlipal. The comments on Palamau and Gir are being sent in advance as it will take a minimum of 10 days for me to write out the rest of my report and you should be aware of the glaring deficiencies in the overall proposals urgently to enable you to use your influence to arrest the process of forwarding them to the World Bank -- at which stage extraneous issues such as the egos and pride of the IIPA and its consultant may come in the way of altering or cancelling the ill-advised plans. When I brought these fears to the notice of Mr. Shekhar Singh, the Project Director on October 12, 1994, he retorted that the plans should be seen as 'self-correcting missiles'. In my view, however, they might be more accurately described as misguided missile!

Sincerely,

  
BITTU SAHGAL

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Re: letters sent to the Ministry of Environment and Forests by Shri Valmik Thapar (16.6.1994) and Shri Bittu Sahgal (18.6.1994), regarding the ecodevelopment indicative plans prepared for eight PAs.

There appear to be four types of issues that are raised in these two letters. These appear to be:

- Issues relating to specific items in the budget
- Issues relating to the ideology or philosophy of ecodevelopment
- Issues relating to dams and rehabilitation
- Miscellaneous issues

I give below some comments on each of these types of issues with the hope that such an exchange of views would contribute to the discussion.

#### 1. Budget Items

Both Valu and Bittu seem to feel that certain activities included in the budget as income generation or crop protection activities should not be a part of the plan. In this context, perhaps the following points need to be made:

1.1 An indicative plan does not determine the specific types of income-generation activities that will be carried out. An indicative plan only indicates a possible menu, and not necessarily an exhaustive one, from which, through a PRA process, the micro-level plans determine what activities are appropriate and preferred by each village and family. It is quite possible that many of the activities in the indicative "menu" are never picked up and many others, not in the menu, are finally selected. As such, specific activities are mentioned in the indicative plan as only a very tentative indicative list of possible activities and also in order to give a broad indication of the budgets required, otherwise the proposed budgets would be without any basis. At this stage, therefore, it is not important what the menu contains, but what the process for determining the final list is.

1.2 This is borne out by the fact that though in the indicative plans prepared for Great Himalayan National Park and Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, earlier, we had indicated similar details in the budget, the final project document, as approved, just talks about a lump sum Ecodevelopment Fund (EDF) without even mentioning the detailed activities.

1.3 Despite this, as a measure of abundant caution, the menu contains mostly only those activities which have been suggested in the plans submitted by the PA Directors or as a result of the participatory rural appraisals already conducted, in a sample of the villages, by NGOs.

1.4 For example, Valu, in para two of his letter, has objected to the inclusion of poultry for Ranthambhore. In checking up, I find that in the preference ranking given in the WPA report prepared by Ranthambhore Foundation, for Ranthambhore, the people "stressed on poultry" regarding unemployment, the people "stressed on poultry".

1.5 Similarly, Valu objects, in numbered para 4 of his letter, to crop protection measures. Yet, in the WPA report from the Ranthambhore Foundation, the need for crop protection fences is repeatedly stressed.

1.6 Many of the other examples cited by Valu and Bittu have been taken from one of the two sources cited above. However, this is not to say that all of them are necessarily appropriate or optimal for each area. But the actual determination of what should be supported will happen at the micro-level planning stage and that is where the concerns that Bittu and Valu have should be taken into consideration.

1.7 In order to record some of the well known constraints of the various activities that might be considered at the micro-level planning stage, the indicative plan includes an "indicative list of activities related to the development of infrastructure and income generation" (p 108-118). In this list, the prerequisites and constraints of various such activities are listed. It would be very valuable if Valu and Bittu helped us to make this list more comprehensive so that the micro-planning teams could be guided by it.

## 2. Ecodevelopment ideology

Both Valu and Bittu have expressed apprehension at certain aspects of the ecodevelopment ideology that they see inherent in the indicative plan. Perhaps this apprehension is best expressed by Bittu, in his letter, when he says:

"The underlying premise of the IIPA seems to have been that it is both possible and desirable to integrate economic growth with the preservation of natural resources." (para 4)

As he has made a similar statement in an earlier document (Comments on the draft GEF-ecodevelopment projects drawn up by IIPA, February 22, 1994), I presume it reflects his real worry.

It is true that the integration of economic growth with conservation of the environment is a premiss of the document. In my mind, it is a premiss of ecodevelopment itself. In this context, perhaps the following points need to be made:

2.1 The alternative, as Bittu seems to be suggesting, appears too dangerous. If we were to work with the assumption that these two cannot be integrated then we are presenting, to the local communities and to the nation, an either/or choice: EITHER ECONOMIC GROWTH OR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION. Surely an ideology that offers

only one of the two cannot be conducive to conservation.

2.2 In any case, it is not ecodevelopment which is offering them economic growth, even in terms of linking up with market forces. This is already happening and will, as things stand today, continue to happen unless the macro social and economic conditions change drastically. A lesson can perhaps be learnt from the tribal states of North-east India where, despite explicit efforts to preserve traditional lifestyles and protect the people from the disastrous implications of "modern civilisation", most of the people developed and pursued aspirations to link into the market economy. Some have even argued that the government's efforts at denying these aspirations were the basis of the insurgency and civil strife that tore apart much of this region. Within this context, what ecodevelopment is attempting to do is trying to ensure that, in the process of satisfying their economic aspirations, the local communities do not damage the protected areas. Instead of earning their living by poaching in the PAs, ~~communities must~~ offer them a real option of earning a living without destroying the PA.

? 3 In any case, the people living around PAs have as much of a right to make their own choices as we have. And even if they opt for the market economy, their lifestyles will for many many years be far less a threat to the environment than ours already are.

### 3. Dams and rehabilitation

Bittu has come down particularly hard on the indicative plan because:

- it does not ask the World Bank and the Ministry of Water Resources to desist from making a dam in Palamau
- it offers money to displace the Maldharis in Gir

3.1 Kutku Dam: In my opinion, it would have been inappropriate to launch an attack on Kutku Dam in the indicative plan. This is despite the fact that I am, personally, not favourably inclined towards dams. However, notwithstanding my personal prejudices, there is a need to delimit the scope of the indicative plan. If we do not do this, the ecodevelopment indicative plan would soon become a plan for sustainable development in general. Consider that the lifestyles and consumption patterns of the urban and rural elite threaten Palamau Tiger Reserve and, for that matter, all protected areas, far more than Kutku Dam. Or, as was argued by the UNDP team, population growth is a major factor contributing to the degradation of protected areas and, therefore, the indicative plan should also include a plan for the control of population. The view that was taken then, and that is perhaps applicable in the case of the Kutku Dam, was that other processes existed which dealt with these issues. Considering all dams need environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, presumably this matter is

also being looked after through that process.

3.2 Besides, it would be difficult, perhaps even embarrassing, for the Ministry to submit a report to the GEF criticising its own decision and action giving clearance to the Kutku Dam. However, if despite all this, the MOEF feels that it is appropriate to include a section on why the Kutku Dam should be scrapped, I would be delighted to do so.

3.3 Perhaps a more detailed discussion of the implications of the Kutku Dam on the management of Palamau Tiger Reserve might add to the indicative Plan. However, management issues for the eight PAs were being studied by a national consultant. Unfortunately, till the finalisation of the indicative plan, the report of this consultant was not received and, as such, the analysis and recommendations pertaining to management issues could not be included in the indicative plan, except in a very general and cryptic form.

3.4 Relocation of the Maldharis: The indicative plan consistently refuses to recommend relocating people from PAs. This is despite the fact that there has been a demand from various quarters that some relocation should be envisaged. For example, one of the national consultants, Shri S. Deb Roy, says in his consultancy report that:

*Many of the 'Maldharis' have been moved out of the park during the past and the results have been singularly positive for the management of the park. The habitat has marked tremendous improvement and the status of the natural prey base has also made a spectacular rise. The Lions of this park had earlier been heavily dependent on domestic stock for their food (upto 75%) but now the scene has been changed and the species are obtaining nearly 80% of their food from natural prey base. Naturally, the remaining Maldharis also should be moved out of the park, the sooner the better. The management plan must aim at this as its first objective. (p 15)*

However, Bitu Sahgal, in his letter, says:

*The IIPA suggestion that funds can be raised to finance the displacement of the Maldhari community through the GEF could actually result in the extinction of the Asiatic Lion by eroding the support for its conservation within the Maldhari community. The Lion not only depend for their survival on livestock to the extent of 35.2 per cent, but also upon the 'live and let live' attitude of the people around Gir. (para 9)*

The one mention, in the indicative plan, regarding the relocation of Maldharis was, as the language makes it clear, only a contingency in case they were relocated, as is being proposed by the Park authorities. I quote the para in full:

*The entire area of Gir PA has now been declared a national park (? July, 1993). Consequently, all habitation within the PA is now illegal, as is all grazing and other human uses or extraction. At present, there are 54 Maldhari messes with 361 families, and 14 forest villages within the PA. The Park Authorities propose to relocate these families outside the PA. Though this is not part of the ecodevelopment proposal, if and when this happens, those of these families who are relocated within the project area (extending*

to a radius of 6 kms around the PA) would be covered by the ecodevelopment project. (p 25)

In fact, no provisions for their relocation have been made in the budget. What the above para means is that if these people are relocated in the project area they would also be potentially eligible to be covered by the ecodevelopment plan. What else can be said? Should the indicative plan say that even if these people were relocated in the project area they would be banned from benefitting from the ecodevelopment plan? On what basis? Is it fair that those who have already been affected by being dislocated should further be discriminated against in this manner?

3.5 Perhaps what is being expected is that the indicative plan should come out explicitly against the relocation of the Maldharis from Gir. Though I am personally against dislocating rural communities, I recognise that sometimes it is essential. As such, it must be done only in the rarest of rare cases. As it was not within the purview of the IIPA to study the situation in Gir from the point of view of whether the Maldharis should or should not be relocated, therefore it was not possible to determine whether the Maldharis in Gir qualified as that rarest of rare case. As relocation was not being recommended, no specific opinion was explicitly called for or expressed in the plan.

3.6 It must also be remembered that as Gir has now been notified as a National Park, if the Maldharis are to stay inside legally, it must be denotified. The IIPA team did not have a basis on which to recommend such a denotification.

#### 4. Miscellaneous Issues

Mrs. Brijendra Singh, Velmik Thapar, C. Deb Roy and Ditta Sahgal's joint letter of 4 August, 1994, addressed to the Secretary, MOEF, raises some additional issues.

4.1 They present a reworked budget for Ranthambhore and urge that the entire plan be recast in keeping with their recommendations. In their reworking they:

- a. delete crop protection electric fences and walls, fuelwood and fodder plantations, poultry, tailoring, iron smithy, and carpentry.
- b. They reduce investment on nurseries.
- c. They enhanced expenditure on compensation for human injury development, research and development, education and awareness, and monitoring

4.2 They state that the ecodevelopment strategy being presented in the indicative plan is suffering from conceptual errors and that this is because "the regular inputs which have been provided were not incorporated by the IIPA".

4.3 They advise that "the bulk of the ecodevelopment budget

requires to be used to provide employment to locals".

4.4 The points made in this letter have certain very serious implications. For one, by reworking the budget in the manner that it has been done, the implication is that the lakhs of rupees and the enormous time and effort spent in PRA exercises was unnecessary, and the views expressed by the villagers in the process of the PRA, irrelevant. If the activities to be supported in the ecodevelopment plans are to be determined by experts in Delhi and Bombay, what is the point of a PRA. Also, if it is not "top down" for these plans to be written by non and ex government experts in Delhi, then why is it top down for such plans to be written by the Park/Field Directors themselves. I think the latter are better informed of the issues involved.

4.5 Secondly, by diverting the thrust of ecodevelopment activities away from income generation to wages, as has been envisaged in the reworked budget, the implication is that the local people for ever will be dependent on the government and government funding to earn their living. In such a circumstance there would be serious doubts whether wages can be sustained after the project is over. Also, an approach which seeks to keep the local populations for ever dependent on government dole rather than provide them with the ownership of their own modes of production and skills to use these modes would be very suspect.

4.6 Of course, what might have been ideal was a situation where there was enough land outside the protected area to be able to support all the population through just land based activities, without need for other income generation efforts (see section 29, p 20-21 of the indicative plan). However, in none of the areas under consideration that seems feasible. Also, the PRA responses confirm that the local people want to get involved in income generation activities other than purely land based ones.

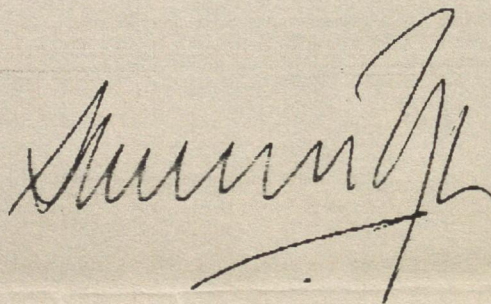
4.7 To conclude, the thrust of the recommendations have very dangerous implications of making the planning totally top down and non-participatory, and of condemning the local population to forever be wage labourers. Given the background of at least some of the signatories to the letter, I am sure they would not want either of these two things to happen. Therefore, I think they need to carefully reassess their advice.

4.8 In general, I feel that the signatories should be provided, by the MOEF, the huge amount of data that has been collected in the process of formulating the indicative plans. Perhaps after they have been through this data they might like to get back to the MOEF with a set of concrete suggestions. However, it would be useful if these suggestions were made keeping in mind the scope, purpose and limitations of an indicative plan.

I have put down, in some detail, all these points, not because they are new, for all of them were raised and discussed in the various workshops that were held in the process of finalising the

indicative plan. I have put down these points because despite their being repeatedly discussed they have been raised again in the letters under reference. I hope with the recording of these points on paper, the debate on ecodevelopment can move ahead to new issues. For example, I am far more worried about how the micro-level planning and the implementation will be organised. We need to discuss that widely and urgently.

There are many other issues raised in the letters under reference which I was not able to deal with in detail. I have attempted to provide some response in the table annexed.'

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'S. M. Singh', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

## ANNEXURE

Ref.	Point made	Response
Valu: Para 2	See 1.4 above	See 1.4 above
point: 1	Ecocodevelopment must go along with stringent enforcement of the law	Agreed
2	Exclusive, trained, PA staff for ecocodevelopment	The Indicative Plan (IP) provides for exclusive : 1 Project Officer (DFO level) 2 Range Officers 3 Other staff There is provision for their training. Some training has already been done ( see budgets and section 10.1 of IP)
3	Only experienced NGOs to be involved	Agreed
4	Crop protection measures a waste	See 1 above, especially 1.5
5	Avoid income generation activities which are not directly concerning land and which are not directly environmentally regenerating	See 2, 4.5 and 4.6 above
5	Periyar should not have been selected for ecocodevelopment	MOEF to respond
Conclus ion	Avoid income generation activities which are not directly concerning land and which are not directly environmentally regenerating	See 2, 4.5 and 4.6 above
Bittu para 1	Plans and information should be made available to him	MOEF should do this. See 4.8 above.
2	EIA should be done of the plan	Agreed. In fact table on p 108-118 of IP was a small and modest beginning. Should be expanded and developed. See also 1.7 above.

3	Submission of proposals to the GFF should be delayed	Not required since these are only indicative plans and do not commit us to <i>any specific</i> activities. See 1.1 and 1.2 above.
3	The plans are top down	Though there is always scope for improvement, I do not know of any other government plan which has been formulated in such a participative manner, especially considering that it is only an indicative plan. The final, micro level, planning stage is even more participative and bottom up.
6	Internalise ecodevelopment costs into State budgets	I understand that there is a commitment to support these activities through the centrally sponsored schemes. MOEF needs to respond.
7	The World Bank is not capable of evaluating these plans	The idea is for India to prepare the sorts of plans that India wants. The plans are not being made to suit the World Bank's requirements. In fact, many of the World Bank's requirements have been rejected.
8	The ecodevelopment proposals for Palamau are "utterly shallow" because they recommend solar heaters, fuel efficient chullahs and biogas plants as a means to reduce fuelwood pressures, despite knowing that none of these solutions have worked in the past.	Such solutions have a mixed record with both successes and failures. But that is true for most things. Besides, these were asked for by the local people. Nevertheless, whether they are finally adopted would depend on the result of the micro-level planning exercise. Also see 1 above.
8	Exotics and monocultures should not be promoted as part of cattle breed upgradation and fuel and fodder plantations.	Agreed

	being allocated for furniture in Palamau than is being allocated for compensation in the event of human death	be found in the budget. I also requested Bittu to show them to me but he did not. In any case, compensation would be on actuals and is, therefore, not limited by the allocation.
13	Maldhari and Siddhi knowledge of medicinal plants and upgradation of livestock should not be done	The suggestion is to assist the local people in cultivating medicinal and edible plants There is no proposal to "commercialise" them, whatever that might mean. For upgradation of livestock, exotics will not be introduced, as already specified above.
16	The egos and pride of the IIPA consultants may come in the way of altering or cancelling the ill-advised plans.	We are working on our egos. Meanwhile, perhaps the MOEF should clarify to the letter writers that the IIPA does not present the plans to the World Bank. The IIPA puts together the document, based on the inputs by the State Governments and the NGOs doing PRA, and then submits the document to the MOEF. It is the MOEF that finally approves the document and submits it to the World Bank. Therefore, the egos of the IIPA consultants, however bloated, are not really relevant.

nb\940816.raj

Date:

Dear Kamal Nathji,

I have been observing with intense interest and very pleasant feelings that recently you have been talking about the forces of consumerism and market economy as the main force which are silently but surely eroding the ecological base almost irreversibly. There is probably nothing more true than this, which is either not clearly understood by most or not admitted openly, may be due to the glitter of the false hope that despite these forces ecological balance is possible. I feel a great danger is lurking just around the corner ahead in our own country, which compels me to write this letter.

You are possibly aware that during my brief tenure in the Ministry from 1990 to 1992, I had initiated two plans, (i) Eco-development plan; and (ii) Project Elephant and was fortunate to have both accepted as new schemes, despite a ban during that period to admit any new scheme due to financial crunch.

The Eco-development plan has been laboured with for nearly two years and is now in the final stage under the U.N.D.P. assistance to be placed before donor agency through G.E.F.. But I have a strong feeling that all has not gone the way, it should have. Sri Valmik Thapar, who is in the implementation committee of this U.N.D.P. assisted project has recently written to you about his feelings in the matter. In this same issue, I have the following to add :

(1) I feel that the idea of originating the plan by the target people themselves did not materialise, as after collection of some data from the field, the plan had been formulated here by some consultants. Afterwards when I had raised some objections during a workshop, it was said that the microplanning would be taken up through consultation with the target people. This is, I feel, nothing short of imposing a plan of "improving living conditions" of the villagers by urbanised line of thoughts, which often smells of strong consumerism. This will invariably cause cultural invasion of the target people, who are mostly tribals and this must be avoided at any cost.

Contd...2...

2. The solution of the problem of overuse and abuse of the natural renewable resources has to be sought through traditional customs and practices of the indigenous people, which entails full understanding of this life style. Demographic change and the resultant pressure may make it difficult to accommodate the old life style, but certainly modification of the same in consultation with the target people is possible. I strongly feel that the proposals for income generation (like diamond cutting carpentry and other wage earning scope) is potent with change in life style of the indigenous people, who are basically hunter gatherers and partially agriculturists. I can foresee the future invasion of dish antenna into these areas through such change in life style before long. The invasion is already on, but has so far not penetrated the target areas.

3. For the overuse of the resources and the consequent depletion of such resources, the local communities are generally held responsible. But in reality about 70% of these resources are not utilised by the locals. This overwhelming major share of the resources is actually being siphoned off by urban communities on payment of some 'incentives' to the poor locals, which is a pittance, compared to the prevalent price of these resources in the urban areas. This more plainly means that the urban consumption of the resources, through questionable lines, is much more responsible for the degradation of the natural ecosystems in our country. If the objectives of the eco-development planning has to be achieved, this indirect and almost invisible line of siphoning has to be snapped. Otherwise no actual results will come forward. I had mentioned this in the original plan, and had talked about this in several meetings and in workshops. But nothing has been done in this regard.

4. The upward trend of human population rise still remains untackled in this country. The reasons of most of our ecological problems is mainly rooted there. Naturally if the human population level is not stabilised the future achievements of eco-development

Contd.....3.....

planning, even if achieved shall be nullified by the demographic change in no time. In the original plan it had been envisaged that suitable strong line of action for population control would be undertaken as a plan component. But this has not been done, though there is mention (almost casual) about family planning here and there.

5. The budgetary provisions for various components of the plan are not commensurate with the objectives. More than adequate fund has been earmarked for income generation and similar other activities, while too meagre allotment has been made for eco-restoration, which gives the plan a look of any of the normal rural development plans of which we have probably had enough in those remote areas.

There are many other points of disparity, which will only lengthen this letter and hence I refrain from mentioning here. In the initial formative stage of the plan, all these points had been highlighted by me and it appeared to me the points had been accepted. But when the planning process started, I was sidelined. Though the Secretary had been repeatedly saying that I should be consulted at every step, yet no information was disseminated to me, even on my repeated enquiry. Ultimately, I was offered a consultancy for 3 months on the 3rd week of August '93, when the actual time left for the consultancy had been 2½ months (till 30.10.93) !

Again there was no terms of reference or any mandate and on my request, I was later asked to look up the 'Management Plans' of the target protected areas. This gives me a feeling that there had been a deliberate attempt to cut me off the main grounds of eco-development planning, for whatever the reasons are. This, I feel strange and even insulting, as the originator of the scheme. On one side there is loud talk of N.G.O. support and participatory management, but on the other N.G.O.'s are often quite brazenly sidelined and welfare plans, dictated by city based elites of the Ministry's choices are imposed on the target people.

Contd....4....

But I am not really bothered by this attitude. What is not disturbing and of concern to me is the fact that I visualise the eco-development plan as the last weapon to tackle the losing battle of saving the remnant natural eco-systems and the life forms contained there. But this Eco-development plan is quite alike to a double edged weapon. If one is not really careful and somehow, even unwittingly leaves room for consumerism in the plan, then the reverse backlash is very likely to wipe out even the last vestiges of what we call 'wildlife'. In such an unfortunate event, I will have to bear the moral responsibility of the possible catastrophe as the initiator of this plan. In fact, I am unable even to accept the definition of 'Eco-development', as has been put down in the plan document.

May be I am misunderstood or not understood at all, may be my apprehensions are wrongly founded. But I have seen heaps of failures, preceded by honest but ill conceived plans during the last four decades, which makes me weary and cautious. We have been left with no room for manouvering as we are almost at the edge of the abyss.

Your speech during the Ministerial meeting at Delhi and later at the U.S.A. has emboldened me to bare my feelings before you as I am confident that you will appreciate my feelings.

With personal regards and the every best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

( S. Deb Roy )

Mr. Kamal Nath,  
Honourable Minister,  
Forest & Environment,  
7, Tughlak Road,  
New Delhi

July 11, 1994

Shri Kamal Nath  
Hon. Minister for Environment & Forests  
7 Tughlak Road  
New Delhi

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The Eco-development plan has been laboured with for nearly two years and is now in the final stage under the U.N.D.P assistance to be placed before donor agency through G.E.F. But I have a strong feeling that all has not gone the way, it should have. Shri Valmik Thapar, who is in the implementation committee of this U.N.D.P assisted project has recently written to you about his feelings in the matter. In this same issue, I have the following to add :

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But there was no proper directive as to how to go about and on my request, I was later asked to look up mainly the 'Management Plans' of the target protected areas. This gives me a feeling that there has been a deliberate attempt to cut me off the main grounds of eco-development planning, for whatever the reasons are. This, I feel strange and even insulting, as the originator of the scheme. On one side there is loud talk of NGO support and participatory management, but on the other genuine NGO's are often quite brazenly sidelined and welfare plans, dictated by city based elites, without field experience are being imposed on the target people.

But I am not really bothered by this attitude. What is not disturbing and of concern to me is the fact that I visualise the eco-development plan as the last weapon to tackle the losing battle of saving the remnant natural eco-systems and the life forms contained there. But this Eco-development plan is quite alike to a double edged weapon. If one is not really careful and somehow, even unwittingly leaves room for consumerism in the plan, then the reverse backlash is very likely to wipe out even the last vestiges of what we call 'wildlife'. In such an unfortunate even, I will have to bear the moral

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I therefore suggest that a review of these plans take place with a view to making necessary corrections.

Your speech during the Ministerial meeting at Delhi and later at the U.S.A has emboldened me to bare my feelings before you as I am confident that you will appreciate my feelings.

With personal regards and the very best wishes,

Yours sincerely

S. Deb Roy

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New Delhi - 110 003