

**FEDERATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION FOR RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT IN NORTH CANARA DISTRICT  
Regd. Office: KRWCDS, Makeri, Karwar-581 306**

7<sup>th</sup> December 2000

To,  
Deputy Commissioner of Karwar and  
Chairperson of Public Hearing Committee,  
Karwar, Uttara Kannada.

Sir,

Sub: Objections to Dandeli Mini-Hydel Project

We are a Federation of Voluntary Organisation working in Uttara Kannada District. There are a few serious objections that we would like to raise regarding the Dandeli Mini-Hydel Project proposed by Murdeshwar Power Corporation.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report prepared for the above mention project is incomplete in many ways. The EIA Report does not mention the Environment Management Plan. This shortcoming of the EIA has also been acknowledged by the Karnatak State Pollution Control Board (Letter No. KSPCB/CEF-CELL/AFO-1 MURDESHWAR/PH 2000/4489. The letter has been enclosed for your ready reference). Due to this it becomes very unclear how the impact on the environment will be minimised. Environment Management Plan is an important part of the EIA Report and needs to be studied thoroughly by the concerned Individuals.

Section I-4 quotes a figure of 2 Crores for the implementation of the Environment Management Strategy. But EIA Report does not mention clearly how this amount was calculated and what are the different activities which will be undertaken using this amount.

There is no clear mention of compensatory reforestation in the report as well as whether any area has been identified for it.

Besides above mentioned flaws in the EIA report there are serious threats to the Environment and wildlife around the area.

1. Aquatic Habitats have been disturbed due to several dams on the River Kali. The fish population is going down. One more project in the area will affect the aquatic bio-diversity tremendously.
2. This project would lead to submergence of 69 ha. of forest. Transmission lines will require deforestation of 15 ha. of forest. Besides this there will be further deforestation due to increased human activities and for other requirement of the project. This deforestation will lead to loss of livelihood sources of forest dependent communities around the area.
3. There will be destruction of wildlife habitat due to this project. EIA report itself mentions a long list of wild animals, amphibians, birds, snakes, and plants found in the area.

This project is also not very promising in terms of providing employment to the local people. Section V-3 of the EIA report mentions that the positive impacts of the projects in terms of employment have been calculated to be +27 during the construction phase but it goes down to +2 in the operation phase. This shows that the this project will provide employment to a very few people in the long run. The short term increase in the employment opportunities might attract a large number of manual labourers from the other parts of the country and it has been observed in many cases this type of migration leads to a tremendous pressure on the natural resources around the area.

We believe that there should not be any destruction of forest and wildlife habitat for generation of only 18 MW power which will be a negligible contribution to the total power requirement of the State i.e. 8680 MW. Looking at the scenic beauty of the area and also the presence of wildlife in the area one can rather encourage eco-tourism which will be a development in sustainable manner. There have been initiatives from the Government to encourage eco-tourism potentials of the area. This new project and its transmission lines will be harmful to the tourist potential and will also reduce the sustainable employment opportunities for the local people.

Taking in to consideration the shortcomings of the EIA and also the possible harms to the sustainable development of the area we request you not to allow this project.

Yours truly,

Aarthi Sridhar  
For Fevord -NK

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Address for communication: Vikasa Rural Development Society, Malgi,

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ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಂಡಳಿ  
KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

6, 7, 8 ಮತ್ತು 9ನೇ ಅಂತಸ್ತು (ಜನೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ)  
ಸುಭಾಷ್ ಚಂದ್ರ ಬೋಸ್ ಕಟ್ಟಡ  
ಮಹಾತ್ಮಗಾಂಧಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು - 560 001.  
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ಭಾರತ.

6, 7, 8 & 9th Floor, (Public Utility Building)  
Subhas Chandra Bose Building  
M. G. Road, Bangalore-560 001  
Karnataka, INDIA

NO.KSPCB/CFE-CELL/AEO-1/MURUDESWAR/EPH/2000-2001/4439 DATED:

/ BY REGD. POST WITH ACK. DUE /

02 DEC 2000

TO:

M/s.Nagarika Seva Trust  
Grace Villa, No.514, 5th Cross  
7th Main, HMT Layout, R.T.Nagar  
Bangalore - 560 032.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ

Sir,

Sub: Clarification regarding REIA report submitted by  
M/s.Murudeswara Power Corporation Limited, in respect of  
proposed 2 x 9 MW Mini Hydel Power Plant at Dandeli across  
river Kali - regarding.

Ref: 1. Your letter No.120/RS/094 dated 7.11.2000.  
2. Your letter No.180/MP/171 dated 13.11.2000.  
3. Your letter No.183/MP/174 dated 20.11.2000.

<\*><\*><\*>

This is to bring to your notice that, the mistake committed vide  
reference (1) while issuing Paper Notification regarding  
S.O.318(E) instead of S.O.319(E) has been clarified by giving  
'Corrigendum' in 'Udayavani' kannada daily and New Indian  
Express, english daily, dated 11.11.2000 and 13.11.2000  
respectively.

With regard to your letter vide reference (2) & (3), the  
clarifications are as below:

1. The project proponent have resubmitted REIA report after  
conducting field studies for a period of one month (375  
man days). The report covers among other things such as  
Initial Environmental Examination, which is primarily used  
as an indicator to determine the extent of REIA need for  
the project and extent of importance to be given for each  
environmental parameters during conducting of REIA study.  
All other components of the report submitted is  
in confirmity with the guidelines.
2. The study was conducted for a period of one month i.e.  
September-October, 2000, covering 375 man days. During the  
study period monitoring was carried out with regard to  
water quality, air quality, soil quality, sediment load,  
biological environment, etc., as required under the  
guidelines. However, it is felt that the requirement of  
one season study is more relevant in case of the projects  
which are significant from the point of air pollution,

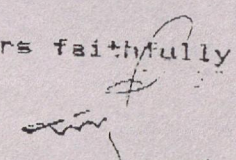
- 2 -

wherein duration, speed & pattern of micro meteorological parameters play an important role in predicting ground level concentrations.

Now, the project proponent have submitted EMP to the Board, the components of which will be discussed by the project proponent before the public during Public Hearing.

Hope the above points clarify all the queries raised by you vide letters cited under reference.

Yours faithfully

  
MEMBER SECRETARY.

**PARISARA SAMRAKSHANA KEMNDRA**

Hulemalagi Brothers  
Chowkimath,  
SIRSI (Uttara Kannada)  
Karnataka - 581 401  
India

The Deputy Commissioner  
Uttara Kannada  
Karwar

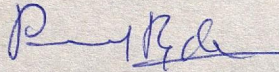
~~7<sup>th</sup> December, 2000~~ 3 Jan 2001

**Re: EIA of Dandeli Mini Hydel Project, Uttara Kannada.**

Dear Sir,

We are enclosing the comments on the above project. The comments prove that the EIA has many factual errors and is not based on proper study of the area. It is not possible to proceed with the project without proper study of flora and fauna. The EIA does not have the management plan which is mandatory and which has to accompany EIA (according to EIA notification No. SO 319 (E)). As the present report is based on erroneous facts we request you to cancel the EIA and not to give permission for the project.

Received  
on 3/1/2001  
in Palani  
beerp



Pandurang Hegde

For Parisara Samrakshana Kendra

Encl: Detail Comments on the EIA.

E  
3/1/2001  
MS, KSPCB

PARISARA SAMRAKSHANA KENDRA  
HULEMALAGI BUILDING  
SIRSI (Uttara Kannada)  
KARNATAKA-581 401

**PARISARA SANMRAKSHANA KENDRA, SIRSI**  
**COMMENTS ON DANDELI MINI HYDEL PROJECT**

*(EIA Prepared by TERI, Bangalore, October 2000)*

*1.2 Justification*

*It is surprising that the EIA begins with justification of the project rather than giving a factual position of the Environmental Impact.*

- The power generation in Uttara Kannada district is 1400 MW from various hydel and nuclear power plants. The power requirement of the district is 17 MW. The forecasting of power for the year 2020 is around 25 MW. Obviously, there is no need for power generation in the district. The district has sacrificed its land and forests for generation of power for the state. Asking the district for further sacrifice is not justified in the current scenario of environmental destruction.
  - Hydel power is cheap, as it does not include the environment costs, especially the submergence of the natural forests and agricultural land. Five dams have been built across Kali River. Further, the construction of Dam and impoundment of water might lead to increased seismic activity, leading to earthquakes. Koyna (in Maharashtra) is a living example of this activity.
  - The proposed area may be economically backward, however, the people are able to earn their livelihood from the forests. This project will not meet the employment needs of the people, as most of them are illiterates and agricultural laborers.
  - The proposed scheme is **NOT RUN OF THE RIVER SCHEME**. As it envisages building of dam, submergence of land of 208 hectares can not be termed as run of the river scheme. It is essentially submerging large area of forests, which will further destroy ecology and environment.
  - People are using the forests (in the submergence area PP 33) in multiple ways. The submergence of this will have adverse impact on the villages.
  - The present project does not have environmental clearance from MoEF (Ministry of Environment and Forests). As the rehabilitation and resettlement of previous projects on Kali is inadequate, there is no reason to believe that this will be able to compensate the negative impact of the dam.
- 1.3 *Site selection:* It is difficult to believe how the figures given in Table 1.0 (Comparative appraisal of the alternative sites) is authentic. If the height of the dam is 22.5 m and the watershed area is 208 ha cannot be called as run of the river scheme. This area is huge and it entails submergence of more than 69 Ha as claimed in the project proposal. The entire calculation is based on the inadequate data.
- 1.4 *Description of the project:* The water released from the Supa Dam is the basis for power generation at Nagjari Powerhouse. The series of the hydel dams on the River Kali is maintained by Karnataka Power Corporation. It is essential that for integrated operation of the reservoirs on this river it is essential that a single agency controls the

system. Any interference in this will have negative impact on the overall power generation of the state.

#### 1.8 B EIA:

##### Table 1.3: Methodology

Point 6. Field study of only four days to assess ecology of the area is inadequate.

*General comment:* The methodology adopted is inadequate to generate authentic data on EIA. The ADB (Asian Development Bank) checklist is outdated.

##### 2.1 IEE

The Initial Environmental Examination has taken 15 days out of 30 days spent on EIA. Thus, there is very little time left for EIA.

2.3.1 The report states that follow up EIA are required to assess the moderate environment impact. It also mentions that comprehensive EIA with three season monitoring is not required. What is the basis for this?

2.3.2 : There is no rationale behind the present EIA which states that "additional studies to be carried out" on the feasibility, remote sensing and geographical study of the area. If these basic studies are not conducted how can the Pollution Control Board even call for Public Hearing?

##### 2.3.3 Environment Problems due to the Project

a) (i) Resettlement: The EIA has not conducted detail Socio-economic study of PAP (Project Affected People). The report states that "the submergence area is illegally being used by villagers for grazing cattle and other purposes." However, this is not illegal and people have customary right to graze their cattle in the forests.

(iv) Silt: The project has not assessed the flow of silt into the dam that will decide the life of the dam and also have adverse impact on the power generation. As most of the catchment of the dam has teak plantations, there is possibility of accelerated the process of siltation.

(d) (i) Downstream variations: This needs to be studied over the years. As this study is not conducted the feasibility of DMH is doubtful.

(ii) The EIA states that the construction of the dam 'might' affect the quality of the fish downstream. Without a proper assessment of this fact EIA is incomplete.

(f) Rural electrification: How this project will "enhance" the quality of power distribution? This is not elaborated.

(iii) The affect of transmission lines on ecology is not assessed.

(g) The EIA admits that it has not studied endangered species.

The entire checklist of Environment Parameters for the DMH is based on Asian Development Bank (ADB) guidelines of 1987. This is not in tune with the MoEF guidelines of Government of India.

3.4 The data for water availability is based on data collected in 1984. This is outdated. It should be based on recent data.

4.4: The EIA states that dam will result in submergence of 204.5 Ha at FRL. Whereas in other case the submergence is stated as 69 Ha (Section I page 3, Table 1.0)

4.1.3. The tree density was not conducted in the area of DMH. Thus, the analysis (Table 4.11) of tree density in EIA is not applicable to DMH.

The study of flora and fauna is copied from Karnataka Forest departments working plan in 1993 and people who conducted EIA does not do it.

The EIA says that the forests here record "very less species per unit area" is absurd. As the report gives 361 species of plants, the forests are the one of the richest biodiversity areas in Western Ghats.

The list of Fishes in river Kali is dubious. There are fish names which are non existent. For example Sole (*Cynoglossus lingua* Ham)) is a marine estuarine species and it is not found in the Kali River. And there are no lungfishes in India (Section IV, 34), there are no crocodiles in Kali river.

Bird list: Some birds listed are not found in Karnataka (eg. Red Jungle Fowl is not found Uttara Kannada). Indian courser (*Oursorius coromandaliaus*) is believed as extinct from Uttara Kannada District.).

Similarly the list on butterflies and snakes are incomplete and are not authentic.

Table 4.12. If the forest houses 361 species recorded the statement that ' it is teak plantation' is false.

#### 4.1.4: Methodology:

The data on climate is collected from IMD (Indian Meteorology Department) for Karwar station. Karwar is 90 Kms away from the DMH. How relevant it is to quote the climate details pertaining to the region far away from the project area?

(Note: In table 4.18, the meteorological data does not mention for which year the data belongs)

5.0 Impact assessment: The methodology adopted to assess the impact is based on Carlisle and Lystra (1979) matrix is outdated and irrelevant. This is not in compliance with the MoEF notification and guidelines for assessing the impact.

It is surprising that in EIA the claim is made that in the operation phase the impact is "Negligible" for all the attributes. This is doubtful. It also states that it will lead to "economic and social upliftment of the area". But how this will happen? What are the indicators?

The entire process of EIA is not based on factual situation and without any rationale.

Executive Summary: It claims to provide employment for 150 people for the operation phase. This is highly exaggerated claim. The maximum manpower required to run and maintain the power plant of 9 x2 MW is about 24 people. The tall claims of socio-economic development of the area are false. It is not based on any facts. By falsifying the fact the EIA claims that DMH is beneficial.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**MURDESHWAR POWER CORPORATION LIMITED (MPCL)** proposed **Dandeli Mini Hydel (DMH) project** is viable, with least disturbance to the ecology and environment. Submersion of the forest area will be minimal. The 'Run-of-the-River' scheme with reduced the Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 460 m will result in 87 Ha of submerged land with the Saddle dams. Rehabilitation or resettlement of villages is avoided as people do not reside in the submersible area. The clearance for implementation of DMH project, as part of Kali Stage II works that included Kadra and Kodasahalli schemes, was obtained earlier. At that time, much of the forest area that will be submerged in this proposed project was cleared. The cleared area was afforested.

DMH project is proposed at a location downstream of Supa Dam in Kali River Valley, about 7 kms from the town of Dandeli, Uttara Kannada district (Figure 1.1 provides the details). The water from Supa Power House is currently released to the river and is impounded at Bommanahalli balancing reservoir for power generation at Nagjhari. The Kali river flows south-westerly direction and finally joins the Arabian sea. The head and water potential available are proposed to be utilized for power generation.

The proposal is to construct a dam at a suitable location, 8 kms downstream of Supa. The proposed project will be between Supa and Bommanahalli pick-up dam (Figure 1.2 provides the details). This scheme will have two hydro-generating sets of 9 MW each for power generation. There is no consumption of water as the water is proposed to be directly released back to the river after power generation. Power generated from the proposed project will be transmitted to the Karnataka power grid.

# DANDELI MINI HYDEL PROJECT

## *Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment Study Report*

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The annual estimation of power generation is 130 MU. Implementation of this project is expected to augment power supply, especially during a period when the search for more power for Karnataka is intense. Project cost is estimated to be Rs.180 Crores, which includes civil, electrical, associated works and also the interest incurred during construction.

In the DMH area, sedimentation is not a major problem in the dam site in view of the fact that catchment areas have a moderate cover of dense vegetation. However, adequate measures for conservation of the catchment area and prevention of soil erosion will have to be strengthened in co-ordination with the soil conservation department. Since the occurrence of landslides and slips depend upon the topographical gradient, the geological setup and also some basic intrusions in the rocks, it is safe to conclude that landslides and slips are not expected to be encountered.

In this rapid seasonal survey, an attempt has been made to assess the project site, submersible area and the catchment area up to 25 kms radius with respect to the flora, fauna & the environment as-a-whole and based on the field operation and available past data on the subject. Further, it is based on critical operational analysis of the existing physical & biological features and geographical information of scientific & survey values.

The existing catchment flora at the periphery of post impoundment stage will come under sub-humid climate which would be very much beneficial for the existing forest formation. Many of them under excess of moist condition enhance their growth statistics.

## DANDELI MINI HYDEL PROJECT

*Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment Study Report*

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Based on existing records, it is safe to conclude that DMH project area is free from natural calamities. There is no evidence of any archaeological monuments, historical sites and places of worships etc. in the proposed submersible area.

A rapid analysis of the project areas has shown that no species qualifies to be endangered or vulnerable or rare or threatened or indeterminate. It is safely concluded that there is no endemic habitats. However, this is to be confirmed at the final stage of the work. The presented bio-inventory list and the medicinal plants among them have a commonality in respect of their occurrence in similar habitats all along the Western Ghats areas to a great extent.

In summary, the catchment area is supported by mixed formation of dry and wet deciduous forests. Compensatory afforestation is to be planned in blank areas which are many in the catchment area. They need sport testing by forest department for their quality to support afforestation.

The wildlife fauna is limited to a large extent since the catchment area is an open area subjected to anthropogenic pressures. A few animals recorded and also observed during the monsoon have commonality in respect of their occurrence in similar ecosystems of the Western Ghats.

With the availability of increased water spread area in the post submersible stage, the reported animals from the proposed submersible area will not be tempted to migrate to other areas, other than the catchment area.

## DANDELI MINI HYDEL PROJECT

### *Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment Study Report*

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The entire stretch of the river presents freshwater conditions, alkaline in nature with poor nutrient conditions. Qualitatively and quantitatively, the plankton structure is poor.

The study of the proposed dam area indicates common fish fauna with less economic fish species. There is no need for construction of fish ladder or lift. There is also no necessity for establishing crocodile breeding center, since they are found elsewhere in the state. The present study has shown enough proof that the construction of the dam is not going to create any adverse environmental impact on the aquatic life. However, it may alter the hydro-biological features. It is stressed that this aspect requires to be monitored for future fisheries developmental programs.

DMH Scheme project area is under the influence of monsoon features. The vegetation types are often of mixed type. The density of forest of certain gaps is less than 0.4 which indicates the degraded quality of forest. The afforestation program is built on the assumption that the catchment is to be treated with suitable model. It is therefore, the responsibility of the State Forest Department to undertake the catchment area treatment. The forest department may further investigate the other areas for adoption of other new techniques and models. It is necessary to perambulate the location of areas and soil wise demarcation for adoption of one or the other type of afforestation model for planning, which requires time and resources.

The catchment treatment is planned to treat two distinct types of areas viz., afforestation of barren land, rocky and boulder areas and afforestation of plain area. The suggested cost of treatment is based on the cost approved by forest department. These proposals are tentative. If the afforestation program envisaged as detailed in the

## DANDELI MINI HYDEL PROJECT

### *Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment Study Report*

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report is executed, it would answer the requirements of protecting and safeguarding the environment in the catchment area. This eco-enhancement action plan encourages smooth and vigorous growth of forest area and maintenance of density for suitable development.

The rehabilitation and resettlement of displaced families is one of the major problems faced by Government while undertaking developmental projects. Typically, the concerned authority would spent lot of its resources since it is the duty of the Government or project authority to provide for and meet their genuine requirements.

After carefully studying different options, MPCL has proposed reducing the FRL by 11.5 m, from 471.5 m to 460 m. This will reduce the submergence drastically. The actual forest area submerged would be less than 100 hectares as opposed to the original submerged area of more than 250 Ha. Incorporating Saddle Dams will further reduce the submerged area to only 87 Ha. Hence, there are no villages or hamlets that may get submerged with the construction of the DMH dam. Hence there is no need for rehabilitation and resettlement. This is one other reason that should be favourable in securing the clearances from the Government and acceptance from the concerned people.

The promoters have proposed to allocate Rs.2 crores to implement environmental strategies that need to be pursued to achieve both the short and long term goals. The development of wise environmental management options require considerable scientific and technical infrastructure to continuously monitor and evaluate the progress of work through evaluation and analysis as under:

## DANDELI MINI HYDEL PROJECT

### Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment Study Report

1. Since the project area is free from industrial wastes which pollute air, water and land, it is safe to conclude that there would not be any ill effects on the locals.
2. The dam construction and related reservoir and the canal system are some instances of causing certain amount of degradation of the natural eco-system of the project site. Since the destruction of natural components in relatively small area are acceptable and therefore prone to neglect. However, there is a need to monitor in the post project stages.
3. It is made clear that during the final and post construction activities there should be effective monitoring system involving necessary infrastructure for effective management.
4. The baseline site data collected in this Rapid EIA and its analysis is mostly location specific. The area has to be monitored regularly with a view to protect the micro-environment and the socio-economic needs of the locals.
5. The Rapid EIA report deals with ecosystem classification. Consequently the project area is considered as a closely related ecosystem that interact with each other rather than a single large ecosystem.
6. The ecosystem classified action suggested is based on ground truth which includes a wide variety of factors which are not likely to be detected in the serial and satellite pictures.
7. So far, no endangered species of plants or animals have been observed.
8. The peripheral area of the proposed reservoir is under agricultural operation, which will not be submerged. However, their activities should be monitored.
9. The surrounding population is not much and their wood requirement is minimal. But cattle grazing and social belief should be monitored.
10. There is no evidence of a sizable wildlife in the submersible area. On the other hand, in course of time would turn as an ideal location for raptors or land based birds and becomes ideal for aquatic birds and fishes.

The aforementioned inferences is hoped to find acceptance from the concerned people for implementation of the proposed D & H project.

Dear Sir,

The 184 kms. long Kali River in the Uttara Kannada district of the Western Ghats region in Karnataka, already has 6 major Hydroelectric dams. In addition, the river supports the only nuclear plant in a forest in the world - the controversial Kaiga Nuclear Power Station. Over 1200 MW of power is already generated from these dams, and an additional 440 MW from Kaiga. There is now a serious attempt to build a 7<sup>th</sup> dam on the Kali River, near Dandeli, by Murdeshwar Power Corporation Limited (MPCL).

### **Dandeli Mini-Hydel Project of Murdeshwar Power Corporation Limited**

The MPCL dam is proposed to generate only 18 MW of electricity, but is quite poor. This at the cost of submerging 210 ha. of forests along the Kali and at a capital cost of approx. Rs. 200 crores. Whilst financially this makes the dam amongst the costliest ever built, the ecological cost due to loss of forests would be tremendous indeed. For, if the dam were allowed, the last stretch of Kali that is flowing undammed, will be lost for posterity. And the power that would be generated would be clearly unaffordable.

**Legally this project has to be abandoned.** This is because the project proponent along with its consultants are guilty of presenting two fraudulent Environment Impact Assessments, one by M/s Ernst and Young, and thereafter by M/s Tata Energy Research Institute. Environment Support Group and Parisara Samrakshana Kendra exposed both frauds during 2000, and per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, this is a case fit for rejection absolutely. The report of the Deputy Commissioner of Uttara Kannada on the basis of Environmental Public Hearing held in January 2001 clearly documents this view, and endorses the affidavit filed by Environment Support Group in this regard. Recently, the District Forest Officer in his recent report dated 19 February 2003 has stated that "this proposal is undesirable from the forestry point of view" and "(h)ence, it may be recommended to the Govt. for rejection". The District Forest Officer has also found that the claims of the proponent that there are no forests in the submergence area is false, for this area constitutes an assemblage of moist deciduous and evergreen forests, supporting a range of wildlife, including the occasional tiger. Yet there is very high pressure to build this dam.

We wish to state that Shri. R. V. Deshpande, Karnataka Industries Minister, and Minister-in-charge of Uttara Kannada, is bearing enormous pressure on the clearance authorities to clear the project.

**No more forest submergence due to dams on Kali - GOK Order:**

Over the decades over 32,000 acres of forests have been submerged in this district to build the six dams, according to some estimates. This last stretch of the flowing Kali assumes a lot of importance when we appreciate the fact that it is mainly here that the last riverine stretch of original forest is left. Construction of the MPCL dam would also be in absolute violation of the 19th May 1987 Government of Karnataka order (No. FFD 242 FGL 83) that no further projects involving diversion of forest land for other uses will be undertaken on Kali River or its tributaries.

Latest Supreme Court decisions have upheld the spirit of this order.

**Uttara Kannada – a major source of Power, and yet very little development:**

Almost all the power that is generated from the district is exported to other regions.

**Uttara Kannada uses only 17 MW of the electricity produced.** Many parts of the region languish in darkness. A brief overview of major power generating sources in Uttara Kannada and the installed capacity is provided below.

<b>Dam</b>	<b>Installed capacity</b>
Supa dam power house	100 MW
Nagjari power house	855 MW
Kadra dam power house	150 MW
Kodsalli dam power house	120 MW
<b>Nuclear</b>	
Kaiga Nuclear Station	440 MW
<b>Total</b>	<b>1665 MW</b>

Clearly, the cry from the region of enough "development" by "dams" needs to be addressed. People of this district are tired of the constant threat of displacement, have witnessed with pain the submergence of some of the best forests in the Western Ghats, and now see the need to actively oppose any further plans to build projects that threaten their lives, forests and the wildlife.

#### **Pollution by West Coast Paper Mills:**

The West Coast Paper Mills has Dandeli has a dubious record of its pollution control management. The company is highly secretive, even as the result of their actions are there for all to see. Tens of acres of agricultural land is polluted by pulp waste, and the river's ecology is all mucked up by the raw effluent discharged into it by the Mills.

For the communities who depend on this river, adverse impact of the accumulated pollutants has been tremendous. Losses in agriculture, dairy farming and fisheries are a common tale here, and cattle deaths are regularly reported. Farmers in direct contact with the water suffer from a variety of skin diseases caused due to pollution of the river. Very little is known of the impact on wildlife.

The concerned regulatory agency, the Karnataka Pollution Control Board has done very little to contain the damage, thereby allowing the Mills a free run on its polluting spree. Only recently, due to pressure from local communities under the banner of Kali Bachao Andolan, has there been some response with the local Assistant Commissioner initiating criminal proceedings against the company. The demand is not a closure of the Dandeli Paper Mills. Rather it is to get the mill to clean up its operations for the benefit of all - including the employees of the mill.

#### **Illegal Sand Mining in the Supa Submergence area:**

Hundreds of small barges and trucks are illegally employed daily by contractors in rampantly excavating sand from the Supa dam submergence area. This is most visible at Chandevadi. The result is serious disturbances to the river's ecology. The people of the region are now pleading for an end to this unending misery.

## **Kali Bachao Andolan:**

**Parisara Samrakshana Kendra** (PSK), along with several local community organizations and tribal villages, have formed the **Kali Bachao Andolan** in order to build awareness on the threats to the Kali River, and to stop further damming, pollution and sand mining. Pandurang Hegde, leading the Kali Bachao Andolan, and several others, conducted a Padayatra in February this year. Sunderlal Bahuguna, leader of the Chipko Andolan, launched this Padayatra. There has been overwhelming response from local communities to this effort. **Environment Support Group** (ESG), Bangalore, is an active support organization of the Kali Bachao Andolan.

## **Demands of the Kali Bachao Andolan:**

As Karnataka State holds celebrations on World Environment Day, Kali Bachao Andolan has come to Bangalore, led by various tribal representatives from affected villages, to highlight that true commitment for the environment demands effective action. The symbolic protest at the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial to be held this morning is to highlight the little that the Karnataka Government has appreciated of Kali's importance and the concerns of the people from the Kali Valley.

We fervently appeal that the demands of the Kali Bachao Andolan be endorsed in demonstrating your sincere commitment to the cause of environmental protection, and in ensuring environmental regulation is taken up with all seriousness. We appeal:

1. **No more dams be allowed that cause submergence of forests on the Kali.**  
This decision would be in accordance of Government of Karnataka's order dated 19 May 1987 (NO. FFD 242 FGL 83) that following Kodsalli and Kadra dams, no more dams that cause submergence would be allowed on the Kali. MPCL dam must thereby be summarily rejected.
2. **The pollution of the Kali River by West Coast Paper Mills at Dandeli must be stopped immediately.** The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board must ensure that the necessary environmental safeguards are installed, else the project authorities punished per law. If the Board fails to take such action, the officials concerned must

be penalized per law.

3. **The rampant and illegal sand mining continuing in the Supa submergence area should be immediately stopped**, and the infrastructure engaged confiscated. An investigation must be ordered on how long this activity has been continuing, and by whose support.

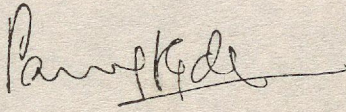
**Worldwide Appeal to you:**

The demand of KBA has found overwhelming support from Uttara Kannada, many parts of the country and the world. Letters and Emails are being sent to you from hundreds of concerned groups and individuals urging that you should endorse KBA's demands. We enclose a copy of all those who have so far endorsed this appeal.

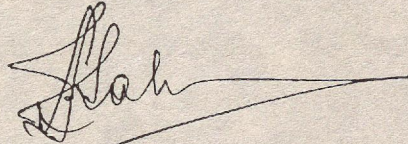
Sir, it is time that the Karnataka Government complied with these demands and secured the River's ecological future, now and forever.

We thank you for your cooperation and support.

Yours sincerely,



Pandurang Hegde  
Parisara Samrakshana Kendra  
Sirsi



Leo F. Saldanha  
Environment Support Group  
Bangalore

**For KALI BACHAO ANDOLAN**

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KBA Website: <http://narmada.org/related.issues/kali/>

Dandeli Visit- Ground realities in pollution affected villages.

1. Village Name: Harnoda: Total families 20– population 155. It is true that bore well and Hand pumps are properly functioning as reported by Assistant Executive Engineer, Haliyal (AEE). However, the water is not potable. Villagers said that rice/ grains do not boil if they use the water from these bore wells for cooking purpose. Since 18, April 2004, WPCM is supplying drinking water (one tank in Jeep) every morning. Villagers getting 35-40 liters of water per day (about 500 liters per day to the village).
2. Sakshalli: Total families in the village 11. A.E.E has reported that existing well is in good condition and at present the water is potable. This report is not based on the ground reality. The fact is that water already has dark color and unpleasant odor because of polluted water caused by effluents of WCPM. Increase in river flow results in more pollution in the well. More than 9 villagers were present during the survey and they told that even the frogs and fish inside well die at times when presence of toxic chemicals reaches high. However, during the visit of A.E.E villagers said to him that they are using this water for drinking and signed to the same statement. It does not mean that the water is good, clear and potable.
3. Bridge construction is going on drinking water could be provided up to the bridge near Sakshalli.
4. Kariampally: Families 30, Population 169. Water in the bore wells and open well is polluted because of polluted Kali River. Since last 15 days (second week of April 2004) WCPM supplying water in tanker everyday to the villagers. (About 1000 liters to the village and 30-35 liters per household) However, this water is not enough for the population for drinking and cooking purpose.

Remarks:

1. The quantity of water supplied by the WCPM is insufficient (30-35 liters per family). The river is polluted, well, tube wells are polluted and there is no other water sources available.

2. Majority of villagers are farmers and they keep cattle for agriculture / dairy purpose. What would these cattle do for drinking water? The polluted river water which is killing or brining diseases to them?
3. Supplying drinking water is temporary measure and not sustainable. There may be variation in quality / frequency of supply of water by WCPM as it was already happened at the beginning days of water supply. Many of these villagers are poor and not enough capable to raise the voice. Therefore their is need to monitor the continuos supply of pure drinking water by WCPM
4. There is possibility of failure (or project may not yield the expected results) of proposed Jal Nirmal project if the project relay upon local ground / surface water.