



UNITED STATES AGENCY for INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NEW DELHI, INDIA

January 11, 1991

Mr. S. Deb Roy
Addl Inspector General Wildlife
Ministry of Environment & Forests
C.G.O. Complex
NEW DELHI 110 003

Dear Mr. Roy:

It is becoming increasingly apparent to analysts and practitioners of natural resources management that popular participation in the management decisions and actions affecting the disposition of land, water and forest resources is a necessary condition for achieving equitable, sustainable development of these resources. Responsible decisions regarding the use of natural resources can only come when all affected parties have an understanding of the bio-physical-social system of which the resource is a part, and a stake in the long-term yields of the resource system. For policy makers, this means an adequate appreciation of the true nature and value of goods and services provided by natural systems, along with the hidden costs of lost options and foregone benefits involved in altering these systems to derive immediate economic benefits. For resource users, it means assured access to and responsibility for continuous system benefits, whose cumulative value over time clearly exceeds that to be gained through intensive, short-term use.

The two-volume report attached is the final product of an eco-restoration assessment commissioned by USAID's Office of Natural Resources Management. It explores the nature and effectiveness of restoration efforts thus far to rehabilitate degraded sites along the periphery of "protected" natural systems under increasing pressure of exploitation from surrounding human and livestock populations. Buffer Zones were selected as the focal point for this eco-restoration assessment because they represent the last line of defence for India's remaining in situ reserves of biological resource and habitat diversity.

While site specific, the strategies identified to restore productivity to degraded Buffer Zones in central Rajasthan and Gujarat are relevant in the broader context of wasteland rehabilitation in India. They underscore the social and economic underpinnings of environmental degradation, the lack of alternatives--for subsistence and income generation--available to resource-dependent users, and the need for greater equity and public accountability in the management of natural resources.

The findings identify the need for simple but effective technologies to:

- prevent soil and water loss in fragile, moisture-limited environments

- enhance biomass production on degraded and marginal lands, for fuelwood, fodder and income generating needs
- improve efficiency of energy conversion in fuel use and livestock production, and
- provide alternatives to land-based production schemes for income generation.

More importantly, the study demonstrates that these technologies alone are insufficient to turn the tide of resource degradation in the rural areas. What is essential is creating the institutional framework and incentive structure for the adoption of these technologies. At the Panchayat, village and sub-group levels, the potential benefits of these technologies must be demonstrated along with measures to ensure equitable distribution of benefits to all participants. In so doing a demand is created for technologies which enhance system productivity and social norms (e.g., through resource user groups, management societies and protection committees) which maintain resource use within sustainable levels. With these improved modes of production and benefit sharing in place, resource dependent users would be in a better position to limit their exploitation of natural systems to levels in harmony with the natural productivity of the system.

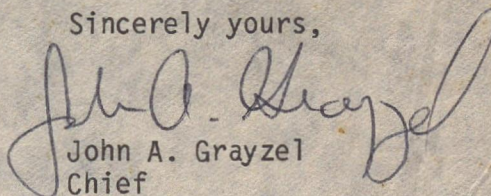
Natural resource policy makers and managers, on the other hand, face the difficult challenge of identifying ways to share the burden of decision making and responsibility for improved management of natural resources with those de facto resource managers who, clandestinely or openly, are daily determining the fate of these resources.

The task at hand for donors such as USAID is to define an appropriate and effective means of catalyzing those processes which are likely to open the forum for natural resources management decisions to broader interests with a clear stake in the long-term productivity of these resources. Coordination among donors and the GOI in the development and implementation of such a strategy would go far towards meeting this challenge.

I invite you to read these reports and provide us with your comments and suggestions for future actions.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,



John A. Grayzel
Chief
Office of Natural Resources
Management

Enclosures



THE TIMES OF INDIA

7, Bahadurshah Zafar Marg,
New Delhi-110002

Mr. S. DEB ROY
Special I.G. (Wildlife)
Ministry of Environment & Forests
New Delhi-110003.

NIRMAL GHOSH

107 GOLF LINKS

NEW DELHI 110003

January 21, 1991

Mrs. Maneka Gandhi
Hon'ble Minister of State for Environment & Forests
Paryavaran Bhavan
CGO Complex
New Delhi 110003

Dear Mrs. Gandhi,

During a recent visit to Rajaji National Park, U.P., I received the following details from various sources regarding illegal activities in the Park, which I would like to bring to your notice:

1. It is alleged that wild herbs and roots (harad, baheda, anwla, vairsal, panni, chirchita, doodha bel etc. from Mohand and Baniawala beat were illegally sold by Shri Chintamani Dhyani, Forest Daroga, Chillawali Range, to Shri Rijawan Ahmed, s/o Abdul Bari, for Rs. 2500/=.

It is reported that the Conservator Wildlife acting on information recovered 20 bags containing doodha bel and ordered realisation of compensation worth Rs. 5000/=. However no proceedings have been initiated against Shri Chintamani Dhyani.

The herbs and roots mentioned above were allegedly dried in the Baniawala farm barely 100 yards from the forest guard post. The whole process took about 20 to 25 days.

2. Shepherds are reportedly engaged in illegal loading of Khair for their sheep in connivance with the forest guard, forest daroga and range officer in the Baniawala beat of Chillawali range. The shepherds reportedly pay the forest guard at the rate of Rs. 10/= per sheep. There are about 200 sheep.

3. Residents of villages surrounding the forest allegedly pay Rs. 15/= per cycle load of grass. Prior to the National Park notification a khol (area earmarked for cutting grass) yielded a revenue of Rs. 70,000/= to 80,000/=. which may now be adding to the income of the forest guard and forest daroga.

4. The Range Officer of Chillawali Range runs his own hosiery shop in Pipalmadhi, Dehra Dun. He is therefore, quite understandably, not particularly interested in the Park. The forest guard Shri Dhyani appears to be actually looking after the entire range.

5. Gujars reportedly siphon camel-loads of khal and chokar for their buffaloes during the night, bribing the gate keeper Shri Mamraj.

6. A wild tusker was found dead in Laldhang in November 1990 with its tusks removed.

During my discussions with various sources, it is obvious that the honest, conscientious forest department personnel, especially the junior ones, are thoroughly demotivated and lack the necessary leadership. This problem became worse recently after the transfer of Shri V. K. Verma, former ACF. Shri Verma commanded their respect and was able to motivate them to take anti-poaching steps. Shri Verma should be brought back to Rajaji National Park as soon as possible.

The individuals against whom allegations are made in the reports I have quoted above should be investigated and even if no evidence is found against them they should be in any case transferred to non-critical areas, as their peers', juniors' and seniors' confidence in them will remain minimal.

The problem of the Gujars remains to be solved. I have always believed the Gujars should be moved as per Court directives. However if the political reality tells us that they cannot or will not be moved away from the Park area, the forest department should explore means to develop a better relationship with them, as the present negative relationship is damaging to the conservation concept. In short, it can be stated that the concept of integrated conservation has totally failed in Rajaji National Park, and the whole existing system must be investigated and changes made. All staff postings and responsibilities must be thoroughly reviewed, and vacancies filled.

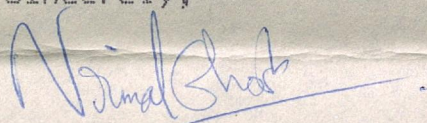
Poaching is to some extent related to the easy accessibility of the forest from various towns. I suggest that a survey of all possible unmanned entry points be undertaken, and these points blocked by felling trees across them (ditches are easily crossed with wooden planks).

The problem of elephant crop-raiding and killing of humans exists in the area. Studies have proven that elephant-proof ditches are the best means of restricting elephants. These ditches should be dug and maintained on the periphery in all affected areas. They will serve the dual purpose of restraining the ingress of cattle.

Since Rajaji is of tremendous importance as a green belt and catchment area, I am sure you will understand my concern. I hope some steps can be taken to improve matters. Your personal interest would be crucial to this.

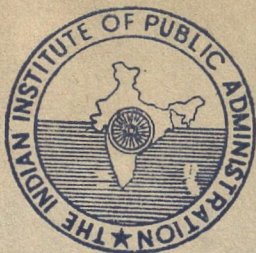
With warm regards,

Sincerely,



Nirmal Ghosh

copy to - Mr. S. Deb Roy



दूरभाष : 3317309 (9 लाइन)

भारतीय लोक प्रशासन संस्थान

इन्द्रप्रस्थ एस्टेट, रिंग रोड, नई दिल्ली-110002

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TELE [GRAMS : ADMNIST
PHONES : 331-7309
(9 LINES)

Shekhar Singh
Project Director

15 March, 1991

Dear Shri Debroy,

Please find enclosed a copy of the draft report "India's National Parks: A Management Profile", in completion of the consultancy work "Management Status of National Parks in India" vide letter no. 19/9/88-WL-I dated 24.11.1988.

As we would like to finally publish this report, we would be grateful to have comments from you at your earliest convenience.

A copy of the statement of accounts is also enclosed. As you would notice, there is an excess in expenditure of Rs. 22,693.53. We would be grateful if this amount can be reimbursed at the earliest.

With regards,

Yours sincerely

(SHEKHAR SINGH)

Shri S. Debroy
Additional Inspector General of Forests (WL)
Room 126, Paryavaran Bhawan
CGO Complex
Lodi Estate
New Delhi - 110 003

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, NEW DELHI

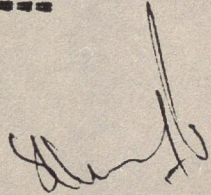
Research Project Management Status
of National Parks in India
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<u>S.No.</u>	<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Budget Provision</u>	<u>Expdt. upto 31.12.89</u>	<u>Expdt. during Jan'-March'90</u>	<u>Expdt. upto 31.3.90</u>
1.	Salary & Hon.	1,10,000.00	1,40,197.10	8,335.00	1,48,532.10
2.	Use of Computer	40,000.00	2,981.80	-	2,981.80
3.	TA/DA	25,000.00	16,005.35	-	16,005.35
4.	Miscellaneous	12,500.00	29,233.54	1,969.00	31,202.54
5.	Overhead	18,000.00	15,498.74	4,373.00	19,871.74
Total:-		1,95,500.00	2,03,916.53	14,677.00	2,18,593.53

Expenditure upto 31.3.90 Rs. 2,18,593.53

Grant received so far Rs. 1,95,900.00

Excess expenditure Rs. 22,693.53


(S. K. KATYAL)
ASSTT. REGISTRAR (F)
(S. K. KATYAL)
Asstt. Registrar (Finance)
Indian Institute of Public Administration
NEW DELHI-110002