

**Title of the Project:- Management & Conservation Plan for Proposed Acharya Shankar International Vedant Sansthan in Godadpura of Punasa Range, Beat Mandhata Near Omkareswar of Khandawa District Madhya Pradesh (As per Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Specific Condition No. 14 (b):- Wildlife Conservation Plan)**

**Why this Project:-**

To prepare Management & Conservation Plan for Proposed Acharya Shankar International Vedant Sansthan in Godadpura of Punasa Range, Beat Mandhata Near Omkareswar of Khandawa District Madhya Pradesh.

**Activities Undertaken:-**

This project was jointly undertaken by Ecology Branch and Wildlife Branch. As per the specific condition No. 14 (b) of Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for this project, the Wildlife Conservation Plan was prepared by Wildlife Branch. This conservation plan focused on the following points -

- Present status of faunal species of the area of Mandhata beat of Punasa range in Khandwa Division which included carnivore species, herbivore species, aquatic fauna and avifauna species which were analysed and listed. The animals directly sighted by staff of the forest department were also included in the list of terrestrial fauna and avifauna of the study area.
- During the present survey twelve species of mammals were recorded, including carnivore and herbivore species. All the recorded species were under the least concerned as per IUCN status. No endangered or rare species were recorded from the study area.

**Outcome of Research :-**

Compartment no. 211 comprises of 10 ha area of (Total area-134.84 ha) of Mandhata beat of Punasa range which is to be diverted for the proposed construction of Acharya Shankar International Vedant Sansthan. The wildlife species are emigrant in nature and as the construction activities begins, they may shift towards adjoining forest area which has the capacity of absorbing the displaced wild animals of the project area. The area comprises (towards west) good habitat, which may be congenial for displaced wild animals of the area. It is expected that the magnitude of the adverse impact will be negligible on emigrant wildlife due to project activities in the area.

- There are human settlements around the adjoining area on all the three sides of the project site. During operational phase noise of machines and vehicles, may cause disturbance to animal species up to a tolerable extent, the wildlife of the area will not be affected as they are habituated to such biotic pressures and activities.
- Open teak forests are there in the project site on the western side, but on the other three sides i.e. North, South and East directions, there are human settlements. Location of Omkareshwar dam is at a distance of 5 kms from the proposed construction site. Location of the river Narmada is hardly 500 meters from the outer boundary of the proposed area. The adjoining forest and water bodies may sustain a good population of bird species. It may also provide good shelter, food and water to the displaced wild life of the area. Any protected area or wildlife corridor is not passing through the project site. Hence, there is no direct threat to terrestrial or to aquatic faunal species of the area. As for avifauna is concerned, surrounding area with good forest cover and huge water body may support nesting and feeding sites for bird species for survival. The relevant mitigation measures were also suggested for this project.

