

**FIRST REPORT ON THE RUFFORD'S
INNOVATION GRANT
2006**

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**NATIONAL LEVEL ENVIRONMENT
IMPACT ASSESSMENT RESPONSE CENTRE**

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Introduction

The Environment Impact Assessment Response centre (ERC), has been created with effect from April 2007 as a National Level centre to scientifically critique and legally challenge projects/industries which are based on faulty EIA's. Such a centre does not exist in the country. The Rufford Innovation Award has made it possible to set up the same.

The initial quarter was spent on recruitment, planning and strategizing on how to develop the Centre so that it can have a meaningful role in the Conservation movement in the Country. The information about the centre were spread in different parts of the country specially in areas which are ecologically sensitive.

The initial reaction has been quite positive with many groups approaching the Centre for issues relating to challenging faulty EIA. However, the work is still at an initial stage and we have quite a long way to go.

Summary of Activities

The objective of ERC is two-fold:

- To serve as a Resource Centre for EIA reports;
- To serve as a Legal response Center to legally challenge faulty EIA's based on scientific critique of EIA's.

Resource Centre

The first task before us was putting in place all the EIA reports in one place. We have managed to collect over 60 EIA reports from projects across the country. This is perhaps the single biggest collection. A data base on the projects is being prepared which will be put online over the next few weeks. This website will be the first EIA related website in the Country. We expect that once the ERRC website is uploaded the access to ERC as well as outreach of ERC will be much wider. A list of EIA together with EMP has been annexed as **ANNEXURE A**

Our collection of EIA reports revealed many stark facts:

- Most of the EIA reports were based on secondary data and were in most cases based on old data. With technical support from Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW), we were able to critique many EIA reports

and it revealed cases of blatant plagiarizing and in once instance we found out how a whole EIA report for a Bauxite mining project was an exact copy of a Russian EIA report. A detailed report is being prepared and will be released before the press.

- By conducting field investigation, it was possible to cross check as to whether the facts stated in the EIA report was true or false. Thus, our investigation of Lafarge Cements undertaking mining activities in the wettest place of Earth revealed that whereas the EIA report claimed that the area is a ‘degraded forests’ in reality it was a “dense forests”. The information was sent to the media as well as the Courts. Perhaps for the first time the issue of Environmental Clearance became news headline.
- Although scientists are essential to provide detailed critique, if properly equipped even community members can raise significant issues. Our experiences in Public Hearing showed that some of the most significant issues were raised by members of the public after the critique of the EIA were provided to them.
- The issue of environmental clearances needs to be made into an effective

Response Centre

The purpose of the response Centre is to take up issues before the National Environmental Appellate Authority, the Central Empowered Committee and High Courts as well as Supreme Court as well as make representation before the Expert Committees of the Ministry of Environment and Forests wherein views of concerned people are taken into consideration.

Although, the outcome of legal proceedings is relatively long. We took up the initiative of challenging projects based on faulty EIA’s immediately after the grant of the project. As of now, around 10 cases have been filed before the different authorities. A detailed list of cases and the issues involved is provided in **Annexure A**.

Most of the cases are currently pending before the concerned Authorities. However, it is important to mention about the issue of process achievements. Although, ‘winning’ cases is usually the goal, there are many latent achievements possible for example, the very fact that people can challenge projects for violation of environmental norms results in companies being more environmentally cautious. We however expect some positive outcome in the coming few months since usually the Courts take some reasonable time to decide on an issue.

Challenging Faulty EIA's

Case No 1& 2

DECLARATION OF AREA AS PROTECTED AREA IN COMPLIANCE WITH EIA CONDITION

NARMADA VALLEY PROJECT AND OMKARESHWAR MULTIPURPOSE PROJECT

Summary of issue involved

A series of Dams were sanctioned in the Central Indian State of Madhya Pradesh. The Dams were accorded approval subject to the conditions that the loss of valuable wildlife Habitat will be compensated by declaring new Protected Areas. Thus, three Protected Areas were to be declared. However, although the Dam as been completed the Protected Areas have not been declared. We feel that unless compliance with Conditions on basis of which these projects were cleared is ensure, project proponents will continuously violate the law while valuable wildlife habitat will be lost forever. A case has been filed before the Central Empowered Committee of the Supreme Court by a local group with Support from ERC. The case has been admitted and a compliance report has to be submitted by the State.

The Project

The Narmada Valley Project is the single largest river valley development project that envisages the construction of 30 major dams on river Narmada and its tributaries. Of these, the Narmada Sagar Project (NSP) is one of the two large dam projects on river Narmada. The project involves construction of a 91.4 m high concrete dam. It will have an installed capacity of 1000 MW and an irrigation potential of 1,23,758 ha. The project will submerge 91,348 ha of land of which 40,332 ha are forest land and the remaining 44,363 ha is cultivable land. The project also involves a displacement of 1,50,000 people living in 254 villages

in the submergence area. The total cost of NSP was estimated to be Rs. 25,000 Crores or US\$ 5435 million.

Clearance

The Ministry of Environment and Forests granted the clearance to the project by letter-dated 24.06.1987 with certain specific condition. As per the conditions stipulated at the time of grant of environmental clearance, the environmental impact assessment studies were required to be accomplished to implement the environmental safeguards *pari-passu* (i.e., conducting environmental assessment studies concurrently with construction work on dam).

Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun was approached by Narmada Valley Development Authority to undertake study to address environmental issues of NSP & OMP in so far as the wildlife values were concerned.

EIA by WII

The Wildlife Institute of India gave the detailed report upon the flora and fauna of the submergence area and also suggested the mitigation measures to compensate the loss of biodiversity. The impact of the project on the biodiversity reported by WII is Submergence of 175 species of plants belonging to 138 genera and 65 families recorded during the floristic survey of the Narmada Sagar Project. The Submergence of 403.32 sq km of wildlife habitat leading to a direct loss of 99 habitat units of Chital and 80 Habitat Units of Sambar. Reduction in home ranges of ungulates species such as Chital, Sambar, Nilgai, Chinkara, Chausingha, Barking deer and Wild boar and changes in the territory size of Tiger and Leopard due to submergence of wildlife habitats. Direct impacts on food availability and feeding ecology of Primates and Giant Squirrels due to clearance of vegetation in the submergence zone. Direct and irreversible loss in the avian diversity of the area currently represented by 209 bird species belonging to 53 families due to submergence of woodland habitat and inundation of small rivers & streams. Loss of habitats of Fishing Cat due to the submergence of Kitti group of islands. Changes in migration patterns, home range, breeding and denning sites of Otter due to fluctuations of water levels downstream of dam, habitations in the upstream habitats and disturbance in draw down areas of the reservoir. Overall decline in biodiversity resources due to increased biotic pressures and physical disturbances associated with peripheral developments outside the submergence zone and the consequently lowered biodiversity value.

Among other recommendations the Wildlife Institute of India gave recommendation that three new protected area may be created as:

- Narmada National Park (496.70 km²),
- Surmánya Sanctuary (126.67 km²) and
- Omkareshwar Sanctuary (119.96 km²)

comprising of a total area of 788.57 km².

The total area proposed to be notified as protected area is 658.35 sq. km. and out of that only 502.45 sq. km. as National Park and Sanctuary.

Approaching Court for Implementation

The SOCIETY FOR NATURE EDUCATION & HABITATS has approached the Central Empowered Committee through us for implementation of recommendations of Wildlife Institute of India and declaration of protected area as per the recommendation of the Wildlife Institute of India i.e. sanctuary Narmada National Park (496.70 km²), Surmánya Sanctuary (126.67 km²) and Omkareshwar Sanctuary (119.96 km²) comprising of a total area of 788.57 km².

CASE No 2

MINING FOR BAUXITE AND LIMESTONE IN A MARINE CREEK BASED ON A PLAGARISED EIA

UMBARSHET BAUXITE MINING IN RATNAGIRI, MAHARASHTRA

Summary

Although the project is a mining project for Bauxite, the area leased includes marine creeks which has many species of corals protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 of India. The analysis of the EIA revealed (thanks to the efforts of scientists of ELAW), that the EIA was an exact copy of a Russian EIA report for a bauxite mine! We were surprised to find that every single sentence of the EIA report is a copy of the Russian EIA. We are developing a strategic plan to take legal action against the EIA consultant as well as the Project proponent for the blatant plagiarizing of the EIA report. This is the first time when such a fraud has been detected with respect to EIA report.

Project

The Ashapura Mine Chem Ltd. has proposed to do mining at Village Umbarshet, Tal: Dapoli, District Ratangiri, Maharashtra. The Umbershet Plateau is located of North West of Dapoli township and is considered to be extension of Anjarli plateau but dissected by Savitri Nadi. To the west of the Umbarshet is Arabian sea.

EIA study

The EIA study is conducted by Yogiraja Industrial Consultant, Bahu Patil Road, Bopodi, Pune. The said mining is happening on the creek in the Arabian Sea though the study has not studied the impacts. Spring of water is the only source of water to Rowale, Umbarshet and near by villages and mining in that area is destroying the water source. The Consultant has a highly dubious distinction

and we were able to locate instances where the Consultant has copied reports from other EIA reports.

Clearance to project

The environmental clearance has been granted by the Ministry of Environment and Forest by order dated 29.12.2006 (No.J-11015/44/2006-IA II (M)), for the project Rovale Bauxite Mine by M/s Ashapura Mines Ltd. and order dated 29.012.2006 (No.J-11015/46/2006-IA II (M)) to the project Umbarshet Bauxite Mine by M/s Ashapura Mines Ltd.

Challenging the clearance granted and EIA

The local villagers of the area have formed an organization named “Kelshi, Mandivali, Vanzaloli Panchakroshi Bauxite Virodhi Sangharsha Committee”. This organization has challenged the Environmental Clearance granted to the project through us.

URANIUM MINING IN INDIA'S LARGEST TIGER RESERVE

Summary

The proposed construction of a Uranium Mining Project seriously threatens the Tiger and other wildlife in the Nagarjuna Sagar Project. Given a population of only 1300 Tigers in the Country, the location of such hazardous project is against the precautionary principle. A thorough analysis of the EIA document was done and that revealed several flaws including its negative impact on the water sources.

LAMBAPUR-PEDDAGETA URANIUM MINING PROJECT

Project

The Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) is a Government of India Undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has proposed for mining of Uranium at Lambapur-Peddagattu in Pedda Adsalapalli Mandal, District Naglonda in Andhra Pradesh. The uranium ore will be processed to magnesium di-urnate concentrate (yellow cake) and will be supplied to Nuclear Fuel, Hyderabad. The annual production capacity targeted is 0.375MTPA of Uranium ore. This site is just 1.6 km from Nagarjuna Sagar.

EIA Study

The EIA Study is conducted by MECON Limited, Ranchi in the year 2002. The total land involved in the mining is 1301.35 acre, out of which 1104.64 acre is forest land. The EIA states that the core zone of the proposed mining areas falls under Yellapur Reserve Forest. The part of the mining buffer zone is covered zone of Rajiv Gandhi Sanctuary and this is part of Tiger Reserve.

The mining site is just 1.6 km from Nagarjuna Sagar, which is at a lower level of 180 mRL, in comparison to mine site elevation of 240-340 mRL. The Nagarjuna Sagar Dam is a major habitat for aquatic flora and fauna. The Nagarjuna Sagar is also habitat of Marsh Crocodile (Mugger).

Clearance to project

Environmental Clearance is granted by Ministry of Environment and Forest by letter dated 21-12-2005 and Corrigendum to this clearance was issued by letter dated 13-06-2006.

Challenging the clearance granted and EIA

Capt. J. Rama Rao I.N (Retd) has challenged the clearance granted by the Ministry of Environment and Forest through us and also the EIA prepared for the project. The clearance was first challenged before High Court of Andhra Pradesh. After that the petitioner was asked to approach National Environment Appellate Authority.

MEGA SHOPPING EVENT WITHOUT EIA CLEARANCES IN PROXIMITY TO BIRD SANCTUARY

Summary

The Construction of an annual shopping event on a flood plain of a river in proximity to the Okhla Bird Sanctuary: an identified Important Bird Area, led to clearing of reed belts and disturbance to the birds. No EIA was done, and the project commenced without any mandatory clearances. A detailed document of the impact of the shopping complex was made case filed before the High Court on behalf of local groups. The High Court accepted the fact that the Village has come in violation of the law and was assured that the area will be restored to its original glory. We are happy to state that the same has happened and the reeds have regenerated. We have also obtained a moratorium on all such future events in the area.

Projects

Global Village

The Global village is located in the western bank of the river, next to and in the north of the DND flyway and involves the use of approximately 100 acres of land. Prior to being cleared this area was covered with reeds and provided an excellent natural habitat for birds. This area was burnt and flattened through the use of earth movers. As per news reports "global Village will be like an international fair with an electrifying atmosphere. Besides being a shopping

extravaganza, it promises to provide complete entertainment to visitors of all age groups. There will be a spectacular display of fireworks and a carnival every night where you will find Brazilian Samba, Russian Balancing troupe and Egyptian belly dancers shaking a leg with Bhangra and dandiya dancers. And with 25 restaurants and a food court by each participating country there is adventure in store for your palate as well. The village authorities are expecting at least 30,000 visitors a day”

Mayur Vihar –Dnd (Extention) Link Road

The DND –Mayur Vihar I City Centre Link road lying in the north of DND and on the eastern bank of the river involves the linking up of the Mayur Vihar City Centre with the DND flyway through the construction of an extension of the DND across the eastern bank of the river in the north of the DND. This has involved massive changes in the landscape by extensive excavation and dumping of huge quantities of soil, cement, sand and other construction material thereby destroying the drainage pattern of the river Yamuna and irreversibly changing the flood plain’s role and function including its ability for ground water re - charge

EIA Study

The project proponent has conducted no EIA study of the area and in the case of Global village the project proponent is also not clear. The land is within 10 Km of the boundary of a Sanctuary i.e Okhla Bird Sanctuary (which is within a distance of approximately 1 Km); it is within one kilometer of the interstate boundary of Delhi and Uttar Pradesh and finally it is located in a ‘ Critically Polluted Area’ as notified by the Central Pollution Control Board.

No clearance has been taken from the Ministry of Environment and Project.

Intervention through Court

The Convener of the “Yamuna Jiye Abhiyan” Mr. Manoj Mishra who is a former member of the Indian Forest Service and is currently Trustee of the Peace Institute Charitable Trust approached High Court of Delhi through us to stop the construction activities on the Yamuna River bed which threatens the ecological integrity of the river and future Okhla Bird Sanctuary. High Court directed the Petitioner to approach Usha Mehra Committee for Removal of Illegal Encroachments from Yamuna Bed. The petitioner filed representation before

Usha Mehra Committee and the Committee also submitted its report to High Court of Delhi on 25.04.2007 in respect of issues raised.

BAUXITE MINING IN AREA OF MAJOR BIODIVERSITY

Summary

Field investigations revealed that areas shown as of low biodiversity value are in fact areas of very high value. The project was challenged on the ground that biodiversity assessments have not been properly done and several endangered species have not been accounted for in the study. The case is currently pending.

Project

M/s HINDALCO has proposed a project for Bauxite mining village Aligaon-Kankaramba, Tehsil-Pottangi, District- Koraput.

EIA Study

EIA Report is prepared by VIMTA Lab. The EIA report has not studied the impact on Flora and Fauna of the project properly.

The content of EIA report does not reflect the actual vegetation on the land at present. The land applied for mining lease is full of various flora and fauna, and therefore not a wasteland as per land use.

Clearance

The Ministry of Environment & Forest granted clearance to the Maliparbat Bauxite mining project by the order dated 7.09.2006 (No. J-11015/411/2005-IA II (M)).

The ministry in Clearance letter mention some incorrect facts about the project area and those are:

- The environmental clearance letter mentions that “the total mining lease area of 268.11 ha is wasteland and no forest land is involved in it”. This statement is not correct as the project area bears a wide variety of vegetation.

- The environment clearance letter mentions that the proposed project site involves no forest land. The overall distribution of flora and fauna in this area can be described as follows:
 - (i). The land directly applied for the lease is full of various important flora, including medicinal plants, non-timber forest products and other species. A list of medicinal plants in the area and in the immediately adjacent lands are submitted in annexure I. This list includes plants like Patalgaruda (*Rauwolfia serpentina*) which is endangered medicinal plant
 - (ii) The CEC constituted by Hon'ble Supreme Court in its report in I.A 1324 relating to Vedanta Alumina Project at Langigarh, Orissa in its report to supreme court has already mentions the importance of grass land eco-system for maintaining the water in the aquifer.
 - (iii) According to the local villagers there are a large number of rare fauna including Sloth Bears, Sambhar, Wild boar, Peafowl, Barking deer in the area that is coming under the mining. The escarpment of the mining site is covered with forests, which are also home to many wildlife. This gives ample proof that this area bears a good forest growth.

Challenging the clearance granted and EIA

The clearance granted by the Ministry of Environment and Forest and the EIA report of the project is challenged by Orissa Unit of the Lok Shakti Abhiyan which is a national level organization working on issues of social and environmental concern and specifically empowerment of marginalized communities. This Organisation is working among the villagers of the affected area in and around Maliparbat. This organization approached us to get assistance in evaluating the EIA properly and assisting in challenging the EIA and the clearance before the appropriate forum. The Appeal has been filed before National Environment Appellate Authority.

ALUMINA SMELTER PLANT IN VITAL ELEPHANT CORRIDOR

The Eastern Population of the Asian Elephant is seriously threatened by large scale mining construction of roads and industries. An Alumina Smelter Plant now threatens a vital elephant corridor. A detailed investigation has been carried out and the information provided to local groups.

Project

M/s Vedanta Alumina Ltd has proposed the Alumina Smelter Plant (2, 50,000 TPA) of. at Village Bhurkamunda / Brundamal, District Jharsuguda, in Orissa.

Main Concerns

- The River Bheden is only 200 mtrs far from the proposed plant site and this project will cause water pollution in the river and also the water in Hirakud Reservoir, which is a good habitat of migratory birds and many aquatic flora and fauna.
- There are many Iron industries and also the Bhusan Steel industry is within 10 km radius of the proposed project. Due to these industries the pollution level of this area is high, and the people of this area has suffered from many diseases. The day temperature of this area is more than 50 degrees Celsius during summer and these industries will have worsened the situation.
- This project has destroyed many forest areas and it caused threat to the wildlife and mostly to the elephants of this area.
- The project area is acting as the bridge between two massive forest patches, one comprising of Badarama/Ushakothi and the other comprising of forests north-west of Hirakud Dam. The scattered forests between Rengali and Jharsuguda are the only link between these massive forested areas. This fact has been ignored in the EIA and Clearance letter.

EIA Study

EIA study of the project has been conducted by VIMTA Labs. The EIA has not studied properly the flora and fauna of the area. The study area is surrounded by seven reserved forest areas, but surprisingly terrestrial sampling sites were selected by the consultancy in such a manner that it avoided sites of rich floral composition and diversity. The location of fly ash pond is on the boundary of Katikela Reserve Forests. But nothing is mentioned about the impact of fly ash

pond on ecology and biodiversity of the R. F. The EIA report does not make any mention about the floral & faunal density of study area. Even biodiversity index and forest density of the study area are not found out in the EIA report. Hirakud reservoir is considered one of the important sites for migratory birds, but study regarding migratory birds was carried out during April, which is not a season at all for migratory birds who generally arrive in monsoon and rainy season.

Clearance

The Ministry of Environment and Forest has Granted Clearance to the project by order dated 7.03.2007.

The environmental clearance letter mentions that, although the area is coming under the Sambalpur elephant reserve, but it does not form a part of elephant corridor, which is not true. This area is acting as the bridge between two massive forest patches, one comprising of Badarama/Ushakothi and the other comprising of forests north-west of Hirakud Dam. The scattered forests between Rengali and Jharsuguda are the only link between these massive forested areas. There are various evidences of man-elephant conflict like crop depredation, casualties, etc. in local media. The proposed Vedanta Smelter, ash pond and power plant will effectively cut off the rest of the corridor, which has not been mentioned in the EIA.

Challenging the Clearance granted and the EIA

The Clearance granted and the EIA report has been challenged before NEAA through advice provided by ERC to Prafulla Samantra, a social and environmental activist and involved in issues concerning the tribals as well as the environment. He together with his group has been closely following the developments in Brundamal and Bhurkamunda District Jharsuguda, Orissa and is working among the affected communities. He is also the President of Lok Shakti Abhiyan, Orissa unit.

CHALLENGING FAULTY EIA CLEARANCE FOR A BARRAGE PROJECT THREATENING THE POPULATION OF HIGHLY ENDANGERED GHARIAL (*GAVIALIS GANGETICUS*)

Summary

A flood control scheme in the State of Rajasthan over the river Chambal seriously threatens the population of the Gharial which is highly endangered, and the River Chambal happens to be among the last home of this reptile. A diversion channel to control the flood water being proposed was approved without conducting an EIA. The issue was raised before the Supreme Court Committee (CEC). An EIA was subsequently prepared. However, it did not give adequate emphasis on the Gharial. An investigation was conducted, and a detailed critique was conducted which revealed that no primary data was collected, and the entire study was done within a period of three weeks. The CEC has admitted the matter and a detailed response from the Ministry of Environment and Forests has been sought.

ACTIVITIES OF HYDRO POWER PLANT IN KANCHENDZONGA NATIONAL PARK, SIKKIM

The project envisages the construction of a 56 m high dam with a capacity of generating around 300 MW of electricity across the river *Ramyaang Chu* near Linigaza village in Mangan subdivision, North Sikkim District. Total land required for this project is 56.835 hectare, out of which 23.629 ha is forestland. The total cost of the project is an estimated Rs 137566/- Lakhs. The surface power station would be located on the right bank of the Tolungchu River. The concerned project has been accorded environmental clearance on the 2nd of January 2007 by the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF), on the basis the Environmental Management Plan submitted by the Himagiri Hydro Energy Pvt. Ltd. For the purpose of the project a number of catchment areas have been identified in North Sikkim to prevent siltation.

The main problem with the project is that the catchment area treatment for the project is located within the National Parks and this would involve range of activities such as bunding, terracing, laying of wire meshes etc. This will adversely affect the movement of wildlife. Unfortunately, this whole aspect has not been disclosed in the EIA report. The issue has been challenged before the CEC on behalf of local group i.e the Affected Citizens of Teesta

WORK PROGRESS AS PER TARGETS

TASK		TARGET
Creation of the Resource Centre on EIA's	<p><u>Atleast 50 EIA reports to be collected in the First Six month and aim will be to have a database of over 100 EIA reports in the first years.</u></p> <p><u>The Resource centre to be made operational within the first six months of the start of the project</u></p>	<p>As per target. Over 60 EIA's relating to Dams, Mining projects have been collected. The summaries of the Same has been converted to electronic form and is in process of been uploaded to the website of ERC (which is expected to be functional within the next one month.)</p> <p>A list of EIA in tabular form is annexed and marked as <u>Annexure A</u></p>
EIA Response Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>A minimum of two EIA's per month will be analysed</u> by scientists and lawyers to be selected on the basis of urgency of the matter, the location of the project (wildlife and biodiversity rich areas will be of special focus) • Field visits will be conducted in order to ascertain the field conditions with respect to a particular project. <u>A minimum of two field visits per month will be conducted.</u> • <u>Aim will be to prepare</u> 	<p>ANALYSIS OF EIA DOCUMENTS</p> <p>The analysis of EIA documents has started from the month of April and as of date 6 EIA documents have been analysed. These relate to the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kota Barrage threatening population of Gharials <i>Gavialis gangeticus</i> • Uranium Power Plant to be located within a Tiger Reserve (Nagarjuna Sagar Srisalam).

	<p><u>atleast 4 alternative EIA for projects in a year</u> with the assistance of in-house scientists as well as external scientific consultants.</p> <p>Legal assistance to groups in challenging faulty EIA's before the Courts and other appropriate forums. Legal assistance to affected communities as well as NGO's will be provided. <u>The aim will be challenging a minimum of 10 faulty EIA's</u> in the Courts and other fora created for challenging faulty EIA's.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smetler plant to be located within Elephant Corridor in Orissa. • Bauxite plant in western State of Maharashtra dependent on mining from Coral Reef. • Anaysis of EIA report for Lafarge cement plant in wildlife habitat in the Biodiversity hotspot of North East (Meghalaya). • EIA Analysis of Panan Hydel Power Project in Sikkim located in proximity to the Kanchedzonga National Park. <p>FIELD VISITS:</p> <p>Over eight Field Visits were conducted during the period in the following regions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sikkim (for investigating the issue of Dam construction of Wildlife habitat and specially habitat of Red Panda.) • Arunachal Pradesh • Meghalaya. • Goa. • Karnataka
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<p>Capacity Building of Communities, Ngos, activists and lawyers on the EIA process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Organising capacity building workshop and training on EIA.</u><i>The aim being to impart training to atleast 200 activists, lawyers and community representatives on the EIA process as well as on how to use the Right to Information Act to access environmental information.</i> • <u>Publishing a people's guide to participating in the EIA process</u> in regional languages. • <u>Publishing illustrative poster on the EIA process</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Preliminary Workshops were organized in Goa and Uttaranchal as a pilot one. These also served as training needs assessment workshop. Series of workshop have been planned from the month of August • Work on the People's guide to Participating in the EIA process has been initiated
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