

CENTRAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE

(CONSTITUTED BY THE HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
IN WRIT PETITION (CIVIL NO. 202/95 & 171/96)

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Visit of Central Empowered Committee to Orissa from February 10-14, 2004.

1. Introduction

1.1 The object of the visit of the Central Empowered Committee was to see the extent of compliance in the context of directions issued in the Interim Order dated March 7, 2003 of Central Empowered Committee in Application No. 46 regarding protection of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles in Orissa. An extract of the relevant portions from the interim directions of CEC dated March 7, 2003 is at Annexure I.

1.2 The following visited Orissa:

1. Shri P.V. Jayakrishnan,
Chairman, CEC
2. Shri Bittu Sahagal,
Editor, Sanctuary Magazine (Special Invitee)
3. Shri V.R. Chitrapu
Retired PCCF, Tamil Nadu) (Special Invitee)

1.3 The CEC visited Bhubaneswar, Gahirmatha, Devi River Mouth and Rushikulya from February 10-14, 2004 when apart from site inspections, discussions were held with State Government officers,

Officers of Coast Guard, representatives of the fishing communities and trawler owners associations, turtle researchers and conservationists. The details in this regard are at Annexure II.

2. Compliance of Interim Directions of the CEC

2.1 At the outset it is noted and appreciated that the State Government has taken the task of protection of Olive Ridley Turtles seriously. This is evident from the compliance note at Annexure III. This also became evident both during the Committee's site visits as also during the discussions.

2.2 The figures of mortality of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles upto 31.1.2004 was 3689 compared to 10086 during the year 2002-03 and 12977 in 2001-02. It is too early to conclude as to whether there is any declining trend in the mortality of turtles.

2.3 It was informed that there has been a decline in fish catch in most parts of the Orissa Coast. This was attributed to many causes such as destruction of mangroves, large scale prawn culture, chemical pollution and heavy trawler activity (this includes large number of unlicensed vessels and poaching by foreign vessels as also vessels from West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh). The collection of prawn seedlings by traditional communities using cloth or fine mesh nets along the shore and across the creeks as also release of toxic pesticides and sediments from paddy fields into national park and sanctuary areas are also destroying fish diversity. Pollutants from Oswal Fertilizer Factory at Paradeep and Jayashree Chemicals at Ganjam and pollution from Paradeep Port and ships coming to and from the port threaten the eco-system. All these are

direct threats to the survival, conservation and protection of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles.

2.4 During the visit it was seen that there are still many issues which the State Government will have to address itself urgently in a time bound manner if there is to be a substantial decline in the mortality of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles. For instance, it was reported that the turtle monitoring camp set up by the Raj Nagar Forest Division at the New Island at the Devi River Mouth had to be removed on 28th December, 2003 after a mob of 40 trawler crewmen threatened the Forest Department staff and daily wagers stationed there.

2.5 It was also observed that the vessels deployed by the Government Departments are generally old and unable to match the speeds of fishing boats it is supposed to check. This was experienced during the visit in a vessel to Gahirmatha sanctuary area in the sea on 11th February, 2004 when we came across a two kilometre long gill net which had been freshly laid by the trawlers in the sea very close to the coast in the turtle congregation area. The gill net was promptly seized but the trawlers which had laid the gill net escaped because of its higher speed capabilities.

During the visit we were impressed by the commitment and positive outlook of the Coast Guard who so far have conducted themselves in an exemplary manner in tackling the problems notwithstanding some of the constraints that they have been facing. For example, on 2nd January, 2004, the Coast Guard seized 12 trawlers at the Rushikulya River Mouth for fishing in the closed area and for not using TED's. The Fisheries Department declined to take delivery of the seized boats claiming that adequate facilities for

District to hand them over to the Fisheries Department at the Devi River Mouth.

3. Remedial measures :

After considering all the relevant factors and after acquainting ourselves with many of the problems on the ground the following observations are made with reference to :

- a) Restrictions on trawlers and monitoring of their activities
- b) Restrictions in Gahirmatha Sanctuary
- c) Traditional fishermen
- d) Acquaculture activities
- f) Infrastructure and personnel
- g) Coast Guard/DRDO
- h) Restrictions on lighting in turtle nesting areas
- i) Threats
- i) Removal of casuarina plantations

These measures are a further elaboration, in operation terms, and also reiteration of the interim directions issued by CEC on 7th March, 2003 in Application No. 48.

3.1 Restrictions on trawlers and monitoring of their activities

3.1.1 "Trawlers" should be prohibited from fishing from 1st November to 31st May upto a distance of 20 kms towards the sea from the high tide line at the mass nesting sites of Gahirmatha, Devi River Mouth and Rushikulya. The Coast Guard may be requested to stipulate the coordinates for the exclusion zone. In this connection may also refer to Govt. of Orissa's Notification No.7 Fy .Sch.20/2002 10966/FARD, dated 7th June, 2002 (Annexure V).

River Mouth and Rushikulya. The Coast Guard may be requested to stipulate the coordinates for the exclusion zone. In this connection may also refer to Govt. of Orissa's Notification No.7 Fy .Sch.20/2002 10966/FARD, dated 7th June, 2002 (Annexure V).

3.1.2 All boats must have the registration/licence number/name boldly displayed so as to be visible from air and sea to facilitate checking by Coast Guard vessels and helicopters. The boats should also carry a laminated water proof chart duly certified by the captain and countersigned by the local fisheries officer regarding the permitted number of nets, types of nets and length of nets (in case of gill nets) it carries, or plans to use.

3.1.3 The monitoring units and staff of the Forest and Fisheries Department must immediately ensure that surprise inspection of boats on land prior to heading out to sea is done with reference to length and type of net, validity of license and identification markings. All boats should carry original fishing licenses with them for verification purposes. The excuse that the original is with the owner at the fishing base should not be accepted. If any boat on inspection at sea is found not using a TED or has stitched shut the escape hatch of the trawl net, its license should be cancelled, the boat impounded and a fine levied for the first offence. Any subsequent offence must be liable to a punitive fine. The money thus collected should be deposited with the Forest Department in a dedicated account to be used for turtle protection.

3.1.4 The vessels/trawlers and gill nets which are seized should be kept in a safe and secure place for which necessary facilities on land is a must at each of the three nesting sites at Gahirmatha, Devi and Rushikulya.

3.1.5 It is also essential that there is proper coordination with the public prosecutors with a view to ensure that trawler owners do not reclaim their vessels after paying token fine in court. A special public prosecutor needs to be appointed to deal with this problem. This has become all the more urgent as it has been reported that on the night of 17th February, 2004 as many as 62 vessels were seized in the Devi River Mouth where illegal trawling is acute.

3.1.6 Devi Patrol Camp, where illegal trawling is also acute, should be headed by the Coast Guard with Forest and Fisheries officials deputed to the team.

3.2 Restrictions in Gahirmatha Sanctuary :

3.2.1 The present restrictions on all fishing inside Gahirmatha Sanctuary must remain. These restrictions are not merely for turtles, but also for dolphins, fish, prawns, crabs etc. so as to preserve their breeding grounds. No fishing of any kind should be allowed inside the core area of the Marine Sanctuary. However, traditional fishermen may be granted passage through the core area by the Forest Department, on the basis of passes issued to local boats only. The Coast Guard and the DRDO will have to ensure that no fishing vessel enters the marine sanctuary area.

3.3 Traditional Fishermen

3.3.1 Fishing by traditional, non-motorized gill net vessels (namely vessels without in-board or out board engines and without mechanised fishing gear) may be permitted within 5 kms of the High

Tide Line in all areas, including near the three nesting beaches. However, the nets used by such vessels must be small mesh, monofilament nets with a maximum length of 300 m.

3.3.2 Fishing by traditional vessels (vessels without in-board or out board engines and without mechanised fishing gear), using small mesh, monofilament nets with a maximum length of 300 m. may be permitted inside the turtle congregation zones. This is subject to a restriction on the total number of vessels fishing in the zone simultaneously. No motorized vessels, trawlers or those using mechanised fishing techniques should be allowed in congregation zones.

3.3.3 Motorized gill netters may also be permitted within 5 km of the HTL, except in the 5 km exclusion zone around the Devi and Rushikulya mass nesting sites. However, nets used must be small mesh size, monofilament nets of a maximum length of 300 m. Under no circumstances must multifilament large mesh size nets be used.

3.3.4 The limits spelt out above should be clearly spelt specified with longitude/latitude details. OMFRA should be modified accordingly to incorporate these recommendations.

3.3.5 Three types of gill nets cause turtle mortality namely Sankucha jaal (Ray net), Ring seine and Bhekti/Bahal Jall. The Orissa Traditional Fish Workers Union has voluntarily decided to give up the use of these three types of nets during the turtle season. This gesture on their part is welcome. In addition, all gillnets of 140 mm and above, whether monofilament or multifilament, should be prohibited in Orissa, until there is sufficient proof that they are not a

threat to turtles. However, strict enforcement of this should continue to be the responsibility of the officials of the Fisheries and Forest Departments with necessary assistance wherever required from the police and the Coast Guard.

3.3.6 In the Gahirmatha sanctuary area, the tourists should travel in traditional boats and not motorized boats. This will also enhance the employment opportunities and income of the local population.

3.4 Acquaculture activities

3.4.1 No intensive aquaculture should be permitted in the following areas :

- a) Within 5 km. along the coast and inland from the boundaries of the Gahirmatha Sanctuary and the Bhitarkanika National Park.
- b) Along the entire coast and upto 5 km. inland from Hatadhar River to the Rushikulya River Mouth. Existing facilities falling in these areas should immediately be shut down and demolished by the Forest and Revenue Departments (in case of revenue lands) and the natural drainage should be restored.

3.4.2 Illegal prawn seedling harvest is taking a heavy toll of fish resources on the Orissa coast. As much as 95% of the catch may be discarded on the beach and left to die, severely impacting the recruitment of wild fish, crab and shrimp populations. Though

the OMFRA, 1982 bans such an activity, adequate steps are not being taken to curb this huge illegal trade in shrimp seedlings. The Fisheries Department should check this menace through setting up of checkpoints in the coastal road network as well as the national highways and crack down on the traders who reportedly transport these stocks by vehicles. They should also carry out raid at all stores and stocking points along the coastal areas near rivers, creeks and sea beaches where traders procure and keep these live seedlings. The Forest Department should check such activity inside the limits of any wildlife sanctuary or national park situated in the coastal area.

3.5 Strengthening of Infrastructure and Personnel :

3.5.1 It is imperative that armed police personnel are permanently deployed at Gahirmatha, Devi and Rushikulya with immediate effect as recommended in the interim directions of CEC in its order dated 7th March, 2003.

3.5.2 Last year there was one case of death of a forest guard after altercation with gill net operators in Gahirmatha. Forest officials particularly those in the field need to be conferred with powers to use fire arms in the course of discharging their duties. They should for this purpose be imparted necessary training before arms are issued to them. This could be on lines in Tamil Nadu. The Home Department of the Government of Orissa should take necessary initiatives in this regard in coordination with the Forest Department.

3.5.3 An amount of rupees one crore which was given by the Indian Oil Corporation for turtle protection has been lying unutilised for four years. Since the mechanisms for use of the funds has been

finalised by the Forest Department, the execution of the protection plan, including acquisition of equipment and patrol boats should be completed before the start of next nesting season.

3.5.4 Another amount of rupees one crore has been given by the Ministry of Agriculture to the Orissa Fisheries Department to purchase fast patrol boats. It is imperative that the shallow and high sea patrol boats are acquired urgently so that they can be utilised to patrol the no fishing zones in Gahirmatha, Devi and Rushikulya during the next season.

3.5.5 At least two fast boats must be located at each site, one of which could be used to undertake night patrolling during the turtle congregation and nesting period. These fast patrol boats should have Global Positioning System (GPS) fitted to identify location of errant fishing boats. The staff should be adequately trained in reading marine maps and know their locations and distances from the boundaries of prohibited fishing area. For this purpose the help of the coast guard should be taken. There is need for close rapport amongst the officials of Forest, Fisheries and the Police Departments as also the Coast Guard.

3.5.6 All the vacant field posts in the Orissa Forest Department in the areas concerned with the turtle and coastal habitat protection should be filled immediately. Sufficient number of daily wagers should be recruited for the turtle season from the local fishing community in the three mass nesting areas to enable proper protection and close monitoring of nesting / mortality. The patrol staff should be dedicated and should not be entrusted with other duties so that they are able to efficiently carry out the protection of nesting turtles. The schedules should be worked out and patrolling

should be done shift wise. Incentives should be paid to them by way of special allowances.

3.5.7 The Government of Orissa and the Fisheries Department should under OMFRA authorize and confer powers on the Forest Range Officers also as has been done in the case of Assistant Conservators of Forests. This has to be done urgently as it is the Forest Range Officers who operate at the cutting edge level.

3.5.8 Patrol staff to be given training to enable identification and differentiation between different fishing gear.

3.6 Coast Guard/DRDO :

3.6.1 Coast Guard may be requested to place marking buoys to specify the congregation zones and the 5 km. limits around the mass nesting sites. They may intensify patrolling (during period 1st November to 31st May) in these areas both during day and night. They may also carry out aerial reconnaissance to detect illegal trawling.

3.6.2 The Forest, Fisheries and Police Department of Government of Orissa should institute measures immediately with Coast Guard/DRDO to establish permanent lines of communication which will ensure better coordination.

3.7 Restrictions on lighting in turtle nesting areas :

3.7.1 An action plan should be put in place for "blackout" practices on Wheeler Island from January 1st to 31st May every year

during the mass nesting and emergency of turtle hatchings. This needs to be done in coordination with the DRDO. Instructions will also need to be issued to all industrial, municipal and residential units along the coast near the three mass nesting sites, to install 'turtle friendly' lighting. The light sources should be identified on a moonless night and pinpointed and the owners/users should be directed to do the needful thereafter.

3.8 Removal of Casuarina Plantations

3.8.1 The Bombay Natural History Society may be requested to undertake a study urgently to identify casuarina plantations that interfere with the turtle nesting along the Orissa coast. Such casuarina plantations together with their root stock must be removed and the beach restored to its natural condition. The experts should lay down norms for future shore plantations to be used as protection from cyclones and tidal upsurges. The BNHS may be asked to submit its report early so that effective follow up action can be taken before the next season.

4. Suggestions :

Following suggestions are made for the consideration of the MOEF and the State Government and other authorities :

4.1 State Government could on a selective basis make it mandatory for the trawlers to install tracking devices on board such as the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) sets, in use in many fisheries across the world. These vessels would then be tracked at an onshore control room to monitor movement within the congregation zones and the effectiveness of such tracking devices.

The Orissa Government may consider taking help of organisation such as Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

4.2 The Forest as well as Fisheries Department must involve the traditional fishing community in conservation efforts highlighting at the same time that certain restrictions will ensure their long term livelihood security. Measures such as the ban on trawlers, aquaculture, dedicated zone for traditional fishing craft etc. should be pointed out and used to gain the support of the community. Public meetings, chaired by the respective Range Officers must be held once a month between November 1 and May 31 each year with the local fisherfolk at the Devi River Mouth and Rushikulya River Mouths. The minutes of such meetings must be recorded and the names and the addresses of people present noted.

4.3 The non-mechanized traditional fishermen and fisherfolk cooperatives must be involved immediately in monitoring turtle congregation and nesting. Such efforts will provide them with employment, improve and widen the intelligence gathering network and reduce conflict between the fisherfolk and wildlife protection staff. Further wherever feasible local conservation teams may be allowed to partake in proactive conservation measures. Necessary facilities may be provided in this regard subject to administrative and financial constraints.

4.4 The Wildlife Department must prepare and implement an "Olive Ridley Nesting Beach Monitoring and Protection Plan" from December to May (six months). All nesting beaches identified over the last ten years (where over 200 turtles have nested) along the Orissa coast must have a monitoring unit. Each unit should have a member of the Wildlife Department staff and must employ local

villagers/traditional fishermen on their payroll. The primary responsibility of each unit will be:

- ◆ To ensure a safe beach by removing all debris, plastic etc. before the nesting season.
- ◆ To prevent illumination, vehicular movement, sand dredging, beach plantations and other harmful activities.
- ◆ To mark, measure and identify the sex of dead turtles washed ashore.
- ◆ To report violations to the Forest Department for further action.

4.5 The Department of Environment, the Orissa State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) and the Forest Department should jointly prepare a status report on the existing threats to the survival, conservation and protection of Olive Ridley Turtles from the existing and the proposed industries and planned developmental activities along the sea coast and the offshore waters in this sensitive stretch of Orissa Coast. This report alongwith recommendations of the State Government should be sent to the CEC by August 1, 2004.

4.6 The State Government may consider taking measures to ensure that existing industries such as M/s Oswal Fertilisers and M/s Jayshree Industries do not release harmful effluents or solid wastes into the sea, rivers, creeks or beaches directly or indirectly. Industries found violating pollution laws need to be dealt with strictly.

4.7 Similarly, no new licences for industries classified as Hazardous by the MOEF may be granted in the impact zone of Gahirmatha and Rushikulya.

4.8 Carcasses of turtles have been buried at the Devi river mouth nesting beach, apparently hidden by some unidentified person a few days prior to the visit of the Committee. Similar reports have been received from Gahirmatha beaches too. The Forest Department should not bury or allow anyone else to bury dead turtles without specific permission from the Wildlife Warden of the area as such acts are likely to be used to cover up actual mortality numbers. The help and role of traditional fishermen here would be most relevant. The traditional fishing community must be encouraged to report turtle mortality that occurs through fishing in legal areas.

4.9 Since the traditional fishing community is being called upon to regulate itself, the question of alternative sources of livelihood may be looked into urgently. The Orissa Forest Department should work with the Orissa Traditional Fish Workers Union (OTFWU) to arrive at a list of facilities/schemes/programmes to be provided by the Orissa Government as also the Government of India that will benefit the traditional fishing community.

4.10 Necessary legislation should be promulgated by the State Government to prohibit collection of prawn juveniles and fishing from river mouth areas and mangrove forests as it is adversely affecting the food and livelihood security in the coastal areas.

4.11 The Orissa Coast is suffering from over-fishing and

declining catch. No new licenses should be granted to trawlers including foreign trawlers, along the coast from Gahirmatha to Rushikulya.

4.12 The proposed Dhamra Port is to be located close to the Gahirmatha National Park. The routes that will be used by shipping will necessarily be through the turtle congregation areas offshore. Oil spills and sundry pollution will inevitably occur in the event of a large port being set up. The present site will seriously impact Gahirmatha's nesting turtles and could lead to the beach being abandoned by the marine creatures. It is therefore necessary that an alternative site is located for this port.

4.13 It has been reported that a Reliance Gas Handling facility is being thought of at Rushikulya: This facility could cause serious problems for the turtles through pollution, increased shipping traffic and light pollution. This facility therefore should be located elsewhere in case there are plans for such a facility.

4.14 It is also learnt that BPCL crude oil terminal is planned at Kantiagada near Rushikulya. No new licences for industries which will cause pollution should be granted along this sensitive stretch of the coast from Gahirmatha to Rushikulya.

4.15 Any conservation policy would fail if proper estimates of the endangered species which is to be saved are not available. Counting turtles on the nesting beaches during mass nesting is difficult in view of the overwhelming number. However scientific enumeration would give a better idea of the population of the female Ridleys turtles. The method to be followed by the Forest

Department for counting the nesting females during the arribada should be both scientific and widely acceptable.

4.16 Hoardings in local regional languages indicating "Does" and Don'ts" should be put up in the fishing bases for education and raising awareness amongst the traditional fishermen and trawler owners/operators. Involvement of local conservation groups would be desirable and will give a fillip to this activity.

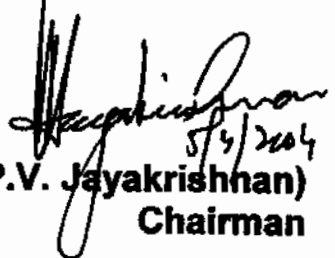
4.17 Turtle-friendly shore armouring must replace the stone armouring on Wheeler Island. This could include sand fences and traps and the propagation of natural beach vegetation in consultation with the Bombay Natural History Society and/or the Centre for Herpetology.

4.18 The State Government should set up a Consultative Monitoring Committee consisting of the Fisheries Department, Forest Department, the OFTWU, Coast Guard and representatives of Operation Kachappa and also other NGO. This Committee should meet at least once a month during the congregation and nesting season, that is from 1st October to 31st May. Effective follow up action on its recommendations would have to be ensured.

4.19 The Forest Department and Fisheries Department, utilizing institutions such as the Wildlife Institute of India and Madras Crocodile Bank Trust should conduct a long term (minimum three year) study analyzing the impacts of various types of fishing gear being used along the Orissa Coast on turtle population.

4.20 In consultation with Forest Department and the artisanal fishing community, cooperative, low-impact, eco-tourism that ensures proceeds benefit the local fishing community should be explored.

4.21 There could be "Project Turtle" on the lines of "Project Tiger/Project Elephant". A comprehensive turtle protection and conservation programme could then be undertaken to study feeding, biology, migration pattern etc. of the turtles. Experts could be engaged for this purpose.


5/9/2024
(P.V. Jayakrishnan)
Chairman

13. The Committee draws strength and guidance from the judgment dated 14.5.1998 in the case of Centre for Environment Law, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), India, Petitioner v. State of Orissa and other, Respondents. (O.J.C. No. 3128 of 1994) reported in AIR 1999 Orissa 15, wherein in the Hon'ble Mr. Justice. Arijit Parayat and Hon'ble Mr. Justice. P. C. Naik, had given several directions, some of these are reproduced below:

"All possible attempts should be made to curb the influx of migratory human population of the surrounding area. Sea-going vessels with required staff and police should be stationed at vintage points during 1st of November to the end of May, every year to ensure that trawlers do not enter the Gahirmatha area. The points where the staff and police are to be stationed are to be decided by the Forest Department in consultation with the police authorities. Though the Committee has suggested the restriction period to be from October 15 to May 15, considering the fact that the nesting session is normally between December to April, we have modified the period suggested.

More check gates and additional staff with equipment be provided to the concerned D.F.O for having effectively strengthened protection net-work.

It is matter of grave concern that there is large scale unauthorised fishing in the high turtle congregation of Gahiramatha. It is pointed out that during the period

from 13.12.1997 to 26.1.1998, 55 trawlers and 23 gill centers were apprehended. On 30.1.1998, 6 trawlers and 3 gill neters were apprehended from the core area of the Garhramatha (Marine) Wildlife Sanctuary. It would be appropriate if the State Government and the Central Government take statutory measures for conferring powers of confiscation of vehicles, vessels, tools, weapons etc. connected with wildlife of offences.

Immediate steps be taken to evict the unauthorised occupants of forest land, including rivers and creeks within the boundary of Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary. The encroachers should be legally dealt with, and if any lease has been granted it should not be renewed after expiry of the period of lease.

No new leases for land, and water bodies should be granted within the Sanctuary.

The aquaculture farms (semi-intensive the intensive should not be allowed within the Sanctuary boundary.

All trawlers operating in the area shall be required to use devices like Turtle extrusion Device (TED) to avoid entanglement to sea turtles. Poaching or netting of sea turtles should be seriously dealt with. The coast guard operation system should be strengthened to prevent poaching and netting the sea turtles."

OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS:

14. The legal position of the Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1984 and the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 is very clear.

Fishing in restricted areas within 5 km. is prohibited. Illegal fishing being done in this area is causing immense damage to the population of Olive Ridley turtles even though it has been given the highest degree of protection under the Wild Life (Protection), Act, 1972.

15. The Committee is of the view that sufficient steps have not been taken by the State Government for safeguarding the turtles. Unfortunately, the detailed directions given in the judgment of the Orissa High referred to above, have by and large remained uncomplied with. But for the involvement and dedication shown by the Coast Guards, the turtles would have been in a precarious situation. Under these circumstances immediate steps are required to be taken in order to safeguard the present congregations of turtles at Gahirmatha, Devi river mouth and Rushikulaya mouth and favourable conditions should be created to facilitate the mass nesting which we are informed - has already began. Meanwhile media reports about deaths of about 8,000 turtles this season is disturbing. The following interim steps shall immediately be taken :-

INTERIM DIRECTIONS

16. All the directions given in the Judgment dated 14th May, 1998 delivered in the CEL – WWF case by the Orissa High Court should be strictly enforced. A copy of judgment of the Orissa High Court is annexed here to at Annexure – A for ready reference. In overall conformity to the said directions the State Government is directed to immediately take the following measures:

- i) the Forest Department shall establish permanent camps one each, at Devi river Mouth and Rushikulaya Mouth within 15 days and provide all necessary equipments such temporary tented accommodation, communication, etc.
- ii) a sum of rupees one crore land earmarked exclusively for turtle conservation in a is lying unused with the Chief Wildlife Warden since last four years. The expenditure for establishment of camps, hiring of boats, protection of beaches etc., should be met from the fund without any further delay and progress should be reported to the Committee within ten days of receipt of the directions;
- iii) one sea worthy boat shall be hired out of the funds lying with the Chief Wildlife Warden for each of the above mentioned camps with immediate effect;
- iv) at least 10 Armed Police Personnel drawn from the Orissa State Armed Police should be posted at each camp for patrolling in restricted areas along with staff of the Forest and the Fishers Department. This should be a continuous coordinated operation;
- v) the Coast Guard is requested to intensify patrolling in the coming three months and arrange to establish two boat stations between Paradeep and Rushikulaya suitable for shallow water patrolling. These stations are vital for the protection of turtles in the next few months.
- vi) the officers of the Coast Guard at Paradeep should be notified as Authorised Officer under the Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1984 within with in 7 days. The application in this regard is already pending with the Orissa Fisheries Department. This