

CIRCULAR No.07/2006

Sub: Forest Department - Wildlife - Straying of wild animals into the villages and urban areas and Man - animal - conflict - Prevention - Further instructions issued - Reg.

Ref: 1. PCCF's Rc.No.8413/2004/WL4, dated 28-2-2004.
2. PCCF's Rc.No.3952/2005/WL4, dated 17-5-2005.

The Conservators of Forests (Territorial & Wildlife) are informed that the straying of wild animals like bears, panthers, deer, etc., in to the villages and the urban areas in the recent times is on increase particularly during summer for various reasons. In the past, instructions have been issued vide reference 2nd cited to all the Conservators of Forests/Divisional Forest Officers (Territorial & Wildlife) to take adequate measures to mitigate these problems by providing sufficient water holes within the R.Fs.

In the event of wild animals straying into the villages and urban areas, the Conservators of Forests have been requested vide reference even No. dated 28-2-2004 to keep trap cages at all Division Head quarters for quick trapping of the wild animals. The funds for preparation of these trap cages were to be met from the Wildlife schemes and other schemes under implementation in their Divisions (Territorial & Wildlife). The Conservators of Forests were requested to ensure that these trap cages are fabricated as per the design communicated vide reference 1st cited. They should also arrange for a couple of people either Forest or Veterinary personnel in the district to be trained at Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad in tranquilizing the wild animals and also procure the tranquilizing equipment. The same should be kept always ready in working condition.

However, it is observed that the Territorial Officers are not evincing proper interest in dealing with the straying wild animals. They are under the impression that their duty ends with informing the zoo authorities/Chief Wildlife Warden and requesting them to arrange for the capture. Sufficient assistance is not being extended to the zoo staff in the field when they are out for capturing the wild animals. The Divisional Forest Officers are not even leading the capture teams leaving it to the mercy of the subordinate staff. The Conservators of Forests should realize that **they are the Dy. Chief Wildlife Wardens as per the Wildlife (Protection) Act and it is their duty to see that the stray wild animals are properly captured and released back** into the forest areas or in the event of injury to be sent to the zoo. They should also realize that the zoo authorities are assisting them in discharging their rightful duties. Owing to the negligence of the Divisional Forest Officers and improper arrangements, lot of hardship is caused to the zoo personnel who assist field officers. At times they find there is no such stray wild animal and it is only a rumour. Proper police bandobust arrangements are also not being made resulting in crowd exciting the animal thereby causing injury to capture staff and public.

The Conservators of Forests are therefore requested to take proper care in such cases in future and ensure that the territorial Divisional Forest Officer should lead the capture team making proper police bandobust.

The Conservators of Forests should develop expertise in their Circles/Divisions to handle such issues without depending on the Zoo staff. They should realize their responsibilities and take all necessary steps to prevent the straying of wild animals into the villages and prevent such man-animal conflict.

Sd/- (**K.S. Rao**)

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Chief Wildlife Warden (A.P.).