

VINDHYAN
ECOLOGY AND
NATURAL
HISTORY
FOUNDATION

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To,
The Chief Minister,
Govt. of Uttar Pradesh

15th June, 2017

Sub: Representation against denotification of Turtle Sanctuary
(Varanasi)

Kind Attn: Shri Yogi Adityanathji

Respected Swamiji,

This is to bring to your kind notice that there have been rumours spread by some people with vested interests that there is danger to the Varanasi ghats due to change of river-course from accumulation of sand in Turtle Sanctuary and therefore they are demanding that the same should be de-notified.

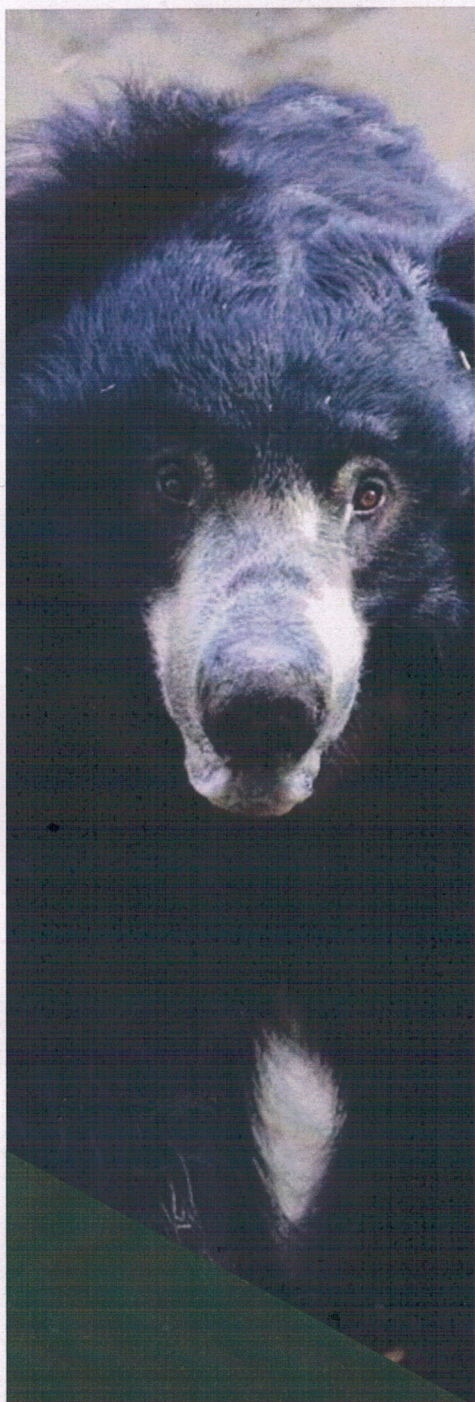
It is humbly submitted that the Turtle Sanctuary is a critical wildlife refuge in the severely disturbed Gangetic eco-system of this region. This small stretch of 7 km on River Ganga is home to Gangetic Dolphin, the national aquatic animal, several endangered species of freshwater turtle which aid in cleaning the River Ganga, and a nursery for many freshwater fishes which provide livelihood and ecosystem services. The Sanctuary is also known for migratory birds.

It is important to note that the problem is not due to the turtle sanctuary but because of the obstructions in the upstream which have lowered the flow significantly and the unplanned construction on river bank which has severely affected the natural course of the river. The presence of turtle sanctuary has no role in posing any kind of threat to the human settlement.

We hope that the State government will immediately interfere in the matter and will take strong steps for protection of the remaining wildlife habitats in Uttar Pradesh. River Ganga is not just a river but a very integral part of our culture and religion. Protected Areas like Turtle Sanctuary must be preserved and the need is to notify more of such protected stretches in the river instead of subscribing to commercially motivated theories to encroach the river and its banks.

Thanking you

Debadityo Sinha



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To,
The Minister,
Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of India

15th June, 2017

Sub: Representation against denotification of Turtle Sanctuary
(Varanasi)

Kind Attn: Dr. Harsh Vardhan

Respected Sir,

This is to bring to your kind notice that there have been rumours spread by some people with vested interests that there is danger to the Varanasi ghats due to change of river-course from accumulation of sand in Turtle Sanctuary and therefore they are demanding that the same should be de-notified.

It is humbly submitted that the Turtle Sanctuary is a critical wildlife refuge in the severely disturbed Gangetic eco-system of this region. This small stretch of 7 km on River Ganga is home to Gangetic Dolphin, the national aquatic animal, several endangered species of freshwater turtle which aid in cleaning the River Ganga, and a nursery for many freshwater fishes which provide livelihood and ecosystem services. The Sanctuary is also known for migratory birds.

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We hope that the Ministry will immediately interfere in the matter and will take strong steps for protection of the remaining wildlife habitats in the country. River Ganga is not just a river but a very integral part of our culture and religion. Protected Areas like Turtle Sanctuary must be preserved and the need is to notify more of such protected stretches in the river instead of subscribing to commercially motivated theories to encroach the river and its banks.

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To, 15th June, 2017
The Minister,
Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
Government of India

Sub: Representation against denotification of Turtle Sanctuary
(Varanasi)

Kind Attn: Sushri Uma Bharati

Respected Madam,

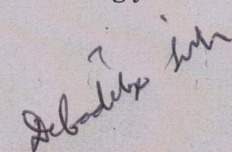
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It is humbly submitted that the Turtle Sanctuary is a critical wildlife refuge in the severely disturbed Gangetic eco-system of this region. This small stretch of 7 km on River Ganga is home to Gangetic Dolphin, the national aquatic animal, several endangered species of freshwater turtle which aid in cleaning the River Ganga, and a nursery for many freshwater fishes which provide livelihood and ecosystem services. The Sanctuary is also known for migratory birds.

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We hope that the Ministry will immediately interfere in the matter and will take strong steps for protection of the remaining wildlife habitats on rivers in Uttar Pradesh. River Ganga is not just a river but a very integral part of our culture and religion. Protected Areas like Turtle Sanctuary must be preserved and the need is to notify more of such protected stretches in the river instead of subscribing to commercially motivated theories to encroach the river and its banks.

Thanking you


Debadityo Sinha