



Date: 21 February 2019

To

Mr. Deepak Bilgi, IFS
District Forest Officer
Hosur Forest Division
Tamil Nadu

Dear Sir,

Sub: Annual fair in Dabaguli, Bilikal RF

On behalf of the members of the Kenneth Anderson Nature Society (KANS), we would like to thank TNFD for the efforts that have been undertaken over the last few months to reduce the disturbance in this region.

The closing of the checkpoint at Balagadapallam and the restriction of evening entry of people at the Manjukondapalli checkpost is a step in the right direction. These steps, along with the wire-rope fence being implemented at the northern boundary, have the potential to mitigate the human-elephant conflict in our district to a very large extent.

As far as the recently concluded annual fair in Dabaguli is concerned, we do not have a count of the number of vehicles/people/stalls etc. since we had requested the FD staff to collate all this data and all these would be available at the respective range office. However, the sense is that the strict measures taken by the FD to check vehicles for alcohol have had a large effect in reducing the illegal activities happening at the fair.



Nevertheless, gatherings like these attract people who feel that this area is open to anyone to have a picnic. For a first, we came across two boys who were caught by our FD staff with *narcotics*.



We request the Hosur Forest Division to not to yield to any political pressure and to continue with the good work that they have been doing along the riverine region.

There are a few suggestions that we would like to recommend:

- Construct a cabin at the Manjukondapalli checkpoint for the staff
- Construct a physical barrier at Dabaguli to prevent people and vehicles from going upstream
- Survey the temple area with the Revenue Department and recover forest land encroached by the Temple authorities



- Include these RFs under CNWLS for better protection and administration
- Allow the temple area inside the forest to be allowed only for the 'fire ritual' as mentioned in the RF notification and disallow any other activities. Especially since these events are used by people to involve in alcoholism and narcotics. Irrespective of the jathre organising committee's claims that they clean up the area after the festival, a large quantity of waste that get into the river during the festival.

Regards,

Laxmeesha Acharya
President