

**Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
National Tiger Conservation Authority**

File No. PS-MS(NTCA)2012-Misc.

Dated the 27th April, 2012

To,

Additional Chief Secretary(ies)/ Principal Secretary(ies),
Forest Department,
Government of Uttarakhand / Maharashtra / Assam / Madhya Pradesh /
Chhattisgarh / Karnataka / Tamil Nadu / Rajasthan / Andhra Pradesh

Sir,

It has been brought to the notice of this Authority that wandering gangs involved in poaching are targeting several tiger reserves. In the recent past, snares have been recovered from some reserves, apart from tiger deaths due to poisoning and leg trap injury. The situation is serious and calls for urgent action to step up protection in the tiger reserves as well as the forest divisions adjoining such reserves by launching a special drive.

In this context, it is advised that the field authorities may please be directed for the following on a priority basis:

- (a) Deploying antipoaching squads comprising of local workforce to assist the frontline staff for intensive patrolling / combing the sensitive forest areas and areas having tiger / wild herbivore presence to check / remove snares / traps, within a fortnight.
- (b) Keeping track of straying tigers and tigresses with cubs moving out of tiger reserves / protected areas.
- (c) Ensuring vigil near water points / nallas / exit points / barriers / highways while keeping track of traditional wandering gangs involved in poaching.
- (d) Building up the intelligence in collaboration with the district level Local Intelligence Unit of the IB and Police.
- (e) Keeping track of cattle depredation by carnivores to prevent revenge killings.

(f) Reviewing of pending cases relating to payment of compensation / ex-gratia for livestock depredation / human deaths due to carnivores.

2. This special drive is being launched in the wake of several recent reports regarding poaching gangs frequenting wildlife / forest areas. Hence, it is requested that the field authorities may be directed to accord topmost priority to this initiative which needs to be completed within a fortnight. The Field Director of the Tiger Reserve in the region may be nominated as the Coordinator for liaising with the officers of territorial forest divisions.

3. The above drive may please be launched at the earliest under intimation to this Authority, besides subsequently updating about the outcome.

Yours sincerely,

-Sd-

(Dr. Rajesh Gopal)

APCCF & Member Secretary (NTCA)

Copy to:

1. Chief Secretary(ies), Uttarakhand / Maharashtra / Assam / Madhya Pradesh / Chhattisgarh / Karnataka / Tamil Nadu / Rajasthan / Andhra Pradesh.
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and HOFF, Uttarakhand / Maharashtra / Assam / Madhya Pradesh / Chhattisgarh / Karnataka / Tamil Nadu / Rajasthan / Andhra Pradesh.
3. Chief Wildlife Warden(s), Uttarakhand / Maharashtra / Assam / Madhya Pradesh / Chhattisgarh / Karnataka / Tamil Nadu / Rajasthan / Andhra Pradesh.
4. Field Director(s), Corbett / Tadoba-Andhari / Melghat / Pench / Sahyadri / Kaziranga / Nameri / Manas / Kanha / Bandhavgarh / Pench / Satpura / Panna / Sanjay-Dubri / Achanakmar / Udanti-Sitanadi / Indravati / Bandipur / Nagarhole / Bhadra / Dandeli-Anshi / BRT / Mudumalai / Kalakad Mundanthurai / Anamalai / Sariska / Ranthambhore / Nagarjunasagar Srisailem / Kawal Tiger Reserves.