

FOREST TREE FELLING SHOULD BE STOPPED TO SAVE SIMILIPAL TIGERS

While the entire country, including the Prime Minister is concerned over plummeting population of tiger's, the Orissa forest department has officially undertaken a disastrous exercise to destroy valuable forests adjacent to Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR)

The Wildlife Society of Orissa (WSO) in a letter to the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the State Chief Minister had demanded an immediate stop to all forest working operations in the areas within a 10 Km radius of Similipal Tiger Reserve. The chief wildlife warden of the State has also been argued to stop forest working in these areas.

The State should forthwith demarcate and notify such areas as “ ecologically sensitive areas” (ESA) under section 3 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986, WSO Secretary Biswajit Mohanty has pleaded.

Mohanty points out that the forest department has started cutting timber trees according to the approved working plans in the Baripada and Karanjia forest divisions. Many of these forest border the STR and are used by tigers for movement and hunting. Under this plan, green felling has commenced at Noto Reserve Forests.

This reserve forests are an important animal corridor adjacent to the core area of STR. The area is strategically located and serves as a corridor for movement of wildlife, including tigers and elephants, to the forests of Keonjhar and Balasore district. It is the only bridge between the STR and Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary for Similipal Tigers

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