

## **Site inspection report on removal of old Manganese ore dumps outside the Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat**



**Pic: The view of Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary**

**by  
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Members, Standing Committee of the NBWL**

Pursuant to the decision taken during the 28th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC) of the NBWL, the two undersigned members of the SC carried out a spot inspection of the site of the proposal for removal of old manganese ore dumps from the Shivrajpur area outside, but within a 10 km periphery, of the Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary, mooted by the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC).

The project site was inspected on 22.07.2013, in the presence of the Regional Manager (RM), Gujrat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC) Shri. B.P. Pati, CF, Vadodara Shri Bhaskar L Shukla , the DFO Vadodara Shri. R.G. Prajapati , ACF Shri. Solanki and other officers and staff of the Forest Department of Gujarat.

The committee members were briefed at the Shivrajpur office (Tah-Halol, Dist:Panchmahal) of GMDC about the project proposal, by the Regional Manager and his staff.

They mentioned that the deposit of the Shivrajpur belt has been worked in 1906 by a British M/S Killick Nixon & Company and the operations were closed in 1956. The manganese ore overburden which had a low ore percentage, was considered as waste/uneconomical in England at that time and was lying since the last many decades. The technique and equipment for extracting manganese from these low percentage stacks, was not available then. A Temporary Work Permit (TWP) was granted on 18th July 2011. Later on, these dumps were removed using semi manual method by the GMDC.

The present proposal does not involve any new mining and only requires permission to remove scattered old manganese ore dumps located outside the Jambughoda Sanctuary. It

was explained further that the dumps extend from 1 km distance from the boundary of the sanctuary.

The committee later on visited these dumps close to Shivrajpur and elsewhere. The proposal submitted to SC-NBWL mentioned the survey numbers 136, 125/1 and 100/1 of village Shivrajpur. The GMDC officials, at the time of site inspection (and by email/sms) submitted the area details as- survey number 136 having 211.73 ha and survey numbers 125/1 and 100/1 spread over 212.47 ha.

The Jambughoha Wildlife Sanctuary was notified in May 1990 and is spread on 130.38 sq.km forest in Halol, Jambughoda and Sankheda talukas of the Panchmahal District. The dumps located in survey number 136 mentioned in the proposal, are near the GMDC office at Shivrajpur village and are close to the sanctuary too. We visited the said dumps located in survey number 136 and saw the present working benches (3 to 5 meter height). We also visited some of the scattered manganese dumps situated in the other two survey numbers 125/1 and 100/1. However, the GMDC officials explained that the major quantity of material, approximately 11.50 Lakh tonnes, is available close to the GMDC office at Shivrajpur village in Survey number 136, on a 211.73 ha area.

<b>Survey No</b>	<b>Total dump Area (ha)</b>	<b>Total Quantity of Material (Tonne) Approx</b>
136	211.73	11.50 Lakh
125/1	212.47	0.50 Lakh
100/1		
	<b>424.20</b>	<b>12 Lakh</b>

The remaining old manganese dumps on 212.47 ha located in the other two survey numbers 125/1 and 100/1, are also outside the Sanctuary boundary but within a 10 km. distance from the sanctuary and scattered over different places. The GMDC has asked the permission to remove manganese ore dumps from 363.23 ha only, out of a total of 424.20 ha of the three survey numbers. The GMDC also stated that the removal rate will be 1000 tonnes per day and approximately 50 trucks will be required, for a maximum of a four year period.

The committee members questioned as to why the GMDC has submitted this proposal after so many decades. The GMDC explained that the manganese ore which has a great demand now, could be removed cost-effectively with the advanced technology available now from these left over dumps, which was not economical previously. They also told that the GMDC has examined this proposal in the light of the latest advances in technology, and aim at extraction without harming the interests of wildlife and of nature conservation.



*Pictures: The prime Manganese ore dump in survey number 136. The Manganese ore lying on the dump and vegetation growth on the dump..*

The main purpose of the site inspection by the Standing Committee was to evaluate the impact on the protected area, which falls within the radius of 10 km of the project. Though all the three survey numbers are located adjacent to the Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary, the dump sites in survey number 136 is close to the sanctuary boundary, but is situated in village Shivrajpur. The close proximity to the village reduces the factor of disturbance and adverse impact on the wildlife of the Sanctuary. The village has a population of 9638 and the people can get employment for the four year period through this removal work. Around a hundred women from the village came to meet the committee and submitted their representation, requesting the removal, as it will provide them wages for a few years.

**The team members, after taking all factors into account, would recommend the granting of the removal of certain manganese ore dumps close to Shivrajpur village, in only two survey numbers 136 and 125/1 mentioned in the table below and rejecting in the third survey number 100/1 due to its remoteness and closest location to sanctuary boundary. Following dumps recommended to be removed should be seen in the attached map submitted by the GMDC. The area, however, of the dumps should be earmarked by the CWLW and the GMDC jointly, on the site itself.**

<b>Survey No</b>	<b>Location Details of manganese ore dumps to be removed</b>	<b>Status of Dumps</b>
136	4600 N to 3800 N 4200 E to 5000 E	Cluster of dumps
125/1	5400 E and 6600 N	One dump on grid lines
125/1	5600 N to 5400 N 5800E to 6000 E	One dump

The attached map submitted by GMDC shows the dump areas in all the three survey numbers. But we recommend removal of ore dumps only in above two survey numbers. The dumps to be removed are described by grid cell position between east and North.

This approval should be subject to the following conditions, which would be over and above the conditions stipulated by the Chief Wildlife Warden of Gujarat, in his recommendation.

1. *As the Hon'ble Supreme Court has stopped giving Temporary Working Permissions (TWPs) for removing overburdens at the abandoned/ already worked mines, we suggest that our recommendations may be read in the context of any orders passed by the Hon'ble SC or High Court, so that there may not be any adverse legal implications.*
2. *We recommend that the permission should be given only for removing the manganese ore dumps and not for mining, and in accordance with a proper "Manganese ore Removal Plan".*
3. *The CWLW and the GMDC jointly should prepare a detailed "Manganese Ore Removal Plan" and establish the method and practice of extraction and transportation to ensure minimum disturbance to wildlife, and to reduce the duration of extraction to the extent possible. The work plan should also mention how C.F.(WL) and D.C.F.(WL) Vadodara will take adequate safety measures for wildlife conservation, during the removal work.*
4. *The GMDC and the Chief Wildlife Warden would demarcate on the ground the dumps recommended to be removed between the grid cell locations described in the above table, by east and north position as per the attached GMDC map, so that there would be no ambiguity about the dumps to be removed out of total dumps.*
5. *The CWLW should prepare a "community based tourism plan" within 10 km of Jambughoda WLS, which should provide employment to the villagers through home stays, guides, drivers etc, so that villagers could switch over their livelihood from daily wages from dump removal, to wildlife tourism activities. The GMDC should financially help to implement the plan.*
6. *To compensate the habitat destruction and disturbance to wildlife due to the proposed extraction and transportation, we recommend that the Government of Gujrat should extend the Jambughoda WLS to the Udaipur Division forest (Muchiyari-Valothi,), adjoining to the reserve forests of Poyali-Ranjitpura village of the Jambughoda WLS. It will help to connect this compact reserve forest patch with the JWLS. It will also help to maintain the corridor continuity with the Ratanmahal WLS in Dahod district, which presently harbors the highest population of sloth bears in the entire Gujrat State. The JWLS should be extended to the Reserve Forest compartments adjoining to JWLS, adding approximately 14.17 sq.km of the area of Jetpur range of The Udaipur Division as recommended above, before granting final permission to the "Manganese Ore Removal Plan".*

*(Scan copy of the two Survey numbers on the Map 136 and 125/1 pasted below for ready reference. Hardcopy of the original map has been sent with the report)*



