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Mr. P.K.Kesavan, IFS
PCCF & HoFF
Kerala Forests & Wildlife Department
Vazhuthacaud,
Thiruvananthapuram,
Kerala

2nd April 2018

Sir,

Sub: Renewal of MoU with Apollo Hospitals Charitable Trust regarding Provision of specialized medical care for forest department staff

Ref: Our letters dated 2nd March 2016 and 10th April 2017

I am happy to inform you that WWF-India has renewed its MoU with Apollo Hospitals Charitable Trust (AHCT) for extending specialized medical treatment to forest department staff in case of medical emergencies (injuries/diseases) for one more year starting 1st April 2018.

Under this initiative, AHCT will cover cost of medical treatment and recovery support for up to 10 frontline protection staff/10 cases of the State Forest departments/WWF-India staff for a total sum not exceeding INR 1,00,00,000/- (Indian Rupees One crore only) over all nine WWF-India landscapes/16 states. The treatment costs relating to the 10 cases referred to above would be sponsored by AHCT on a first come first serve basis and subject to the overall ceiling of INR One crore. Final selection of cases will be at the discretion of AHCT.

Some possible medical cases (but not confined to) that would be covered are:-

- Grievous injury due to wild animal attacks like tiger, elephant, rhino, bear etc.
- Fall from elevated areas like hills, platforms like *machans*
- Injuries due to collision or falling off from vehicles
- Burns during fire fighting operations
- Bullet/sharp weapon injuries inflicted by wildlife criminals
- Injuries inflicted by people during mob control in Human Wildlife Conflict cases
- Frost bite related injuries
- Drowning
- Poisoning due to bites by snakes and other venomous creatures like insects
- Electrocution
- Diseases like malaria, dengue etc. developed while performing duties in the forests

We understand that not all the possible cases may be relevant to your state.

This initiative is based on outcome of several rounds of informal discussions that WWF-India staff has had with forest department officials over the years and a need being felt to have such support mechanism put in place.

The provisions and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) of this initiative is provided in detail as Annexure-1.

President: Mr. Jamshyd N. Godrej
Vice President: Mr. Arvind Wable
Mr. Shyam Saran
Mr. Arun Maira
Mr. N. Kumar
Ms. Chanda Singh

Handwritten signature and date 26/4

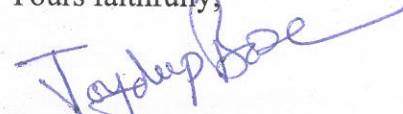
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Handwritten date: 25/4

Though AHCT and WWF-India would try to ensure the best treatment possible and practical but they cannot be held responsible for any fatalities (death/disfigurement/total permanent disability etc.) resulting from/subsequent to the treatment at the hospital locations.

May I request you to kindly endorse this initiative of WWF-India and AHCT and give wide publicity within your department towards existence of this scheme so that relevant staff can be benefitted, should, God forbid, the situation arise?

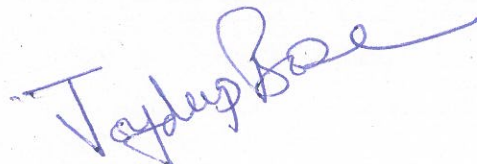
Yours faithfully,



Joydeep Bose, PhD

CC

- ✓ 1. The PCCF & CWLW, Kerala Forests & Wildlife Department,
Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- 2. Dr. Ravneet Singh, Vice-President CSR, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited, New Delhi
- 3. Dr. Dipankar Ghose, Director-Species & Landscapes division, WWF-India
- 4. Mr. D. Boominathan, Landscape Coordinator, Western Ghats Nilgiris Landscape program,
WWF-India
- 5. Mr. Renjan Mathew Verghese, State Director-Kerala, WWF-India,



Joydeep Bose

Senior Manager-Species & Landscapes division

WWF-India Apollo Hospitals Charitable Trust (AHCT) Initiative for providing advanced medical care to frontline Forest department staff

Back ground:-

WWF-India, through its Species & Landscapes division is addressing species conservation through field level activities in nine landscapes ([http://www.wwfindia.org/about/wwf/critical regions/](http://www.wwfindia.org/about/wwf/critical%20regions/)) as well as through direct interventions aimed at conserving a particular species. These programmes focus on threats to wildlife and the issues surrounding these threats. Prominent among these are poaching, human-wildlife conflict, trade in wildlife parts, habitat destruction and legal support. The project activities are carried out at field as well as policy levels. They are mainly related to scientific information gathering, working with the local communities, NGOs and government agencies including the state forest departments. The frontline protection staff of the state forest departments including 'casual/temporary workers' deployed by the Forest Dept. are the back bone of wild life conservation in the states and are vulnerable to diseases and grievous injuries while performing their duties in remote, difficult and often inhospitable areas needing specialized medical care. WWF-India works closely with the state forest departments including the frontline protection staff and works for their capacity building and morale boosting as well.

AHCT is a Public Charitable Trust which has been set up with the objective of providing financial assistance to deserving patients irrespective of caste or creed, for their treatment in Apollo Hospital units and other hospitals apart from at the sole discretion of the Trustees.

Given WWF-India's focus on welfare/protection of people (frontline protection staff) who protect India's wildlife and their habitat and in line with AHCT's objective of providing financial assistance to deserving persons to avail medical treatments, WWF and AHCT had entered into an MoU in February 2016 to ensure that the relevant frontline protection staff of the state forest departments and WWF-India's staff engaged in wildlife protection are supported by AHCT for receiving medical assistance. The MoU has now been renewed for one more year: 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019.

Possible medical cases (but not confined to) that would be covered are:-

- Grievous injury due to wild animal attacks like tiger, elephant, rhino, bear etc.
- Fall from elevated areas like hills, platforms like machans
- Injuries due to collision or falling off from vehicles
- Burns during fire fighting operations
- Bullet/sharp weapon injuries inflicted by wildlife criminals
- Injuries inflicted by people during mob control in Human Wildlife Conflict cases
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then coordinate with WWF-India's Landscape Head regarding the modalities of the treatment including transportation. WWF-India's Landscape Head concerned will then coordinate with the respective Forest department regarding the treatment process.

- In case of emergencies, the entire process can be taken care of over phone but would need to be formalized in writing at the earliest.
- WWF-India will keep the Head of Forest Force (HOFF) and the PCCF (WL) & CWLW of the state concerned informed on the treatment process at Apollo/franchisee/Referral Hospital.

Name and addresses of relevant WWF-India staff for the State

1. Primary Point of Contact

Name & Designation: Renjan Mathew Varghese, State Director
Address: WWF-India, Kerala State Office, Vanchiyoor P.O., Tvpm – 695 035
Phone no.: 0471-2302265
Fax no.: 0471-2302265
Email: renjanmv@wwfindia.net
Mobile no.: 98472 87725

2. Alternate Point person

Name & Designation: Tiju C. Thomas, Asst. Co-ordinator
Address: Chiramannil House, Chembuthra, Pattikad P.O., Thrissur – 680 652
Email: tijuthomas@gmail.com
Mobile no.: 97450 10123/ 94461 43398

Emergency contact (at WWF-India Secretariat)

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Manager, Major Donors
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Email: rbhalla@wwfindia.net