



## Dr. Chandrakant B. Salunkhe

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3/1/2012

To,  
Smt Asha Raut  
Chief Officer,  
Panchagani Municipal Council,  
Panchagani

Sub: Joint Spot inspection report of table land

Ref : Your letter no. -6/981/2012-13 dated 26/12/2012

Madam,

Thanks for your request letter regarding the subject mentioned above. I have attached my report with the letter and request you to submit it in The Honorable High Court, Mumbai. I am very much thankful to The Honorable High Court, Mumbai for giving me this opportunity.

Kindly do the needful.

Best regards

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## Spot Inspection Report - Panchagani Table land

As per the request letter given by Chief Officer, Panchagani Giristhan Nagar Parishad, Panchagani a visit has been made on 02/01/2013 to inspect ear marked area for horse cart or horses.

The Honorable High Court has suggested to submit the report on three issues

1. Whether it is possible to ear mark certain area of land for purpose of same being used either by horses or horse cart for the tourists

As I have mentioned in my previous report the 30 feet wide horse cart track area, ear marked by the municipal council is heavily disturbed area and without any sign of threatened species. This track is dominated by hardy plants and invasive weeds which indicate severe degradation. Entire track is heavily trampled at least for last 30 years due to which there is very less possibility of vegetation recovery in this marked area.

2. What would be effect on biodiversity on flora and fauna if horse carts are to be used on the said area which is ear marked by the municipal council

It is very difficult to comment on this issue because such study has to be conducted separately and it requires frequent seasonal visits. There are number of factors responsible for loss or degradation of biodiversity of which climate change is most serious invisible threat. So to study effect on biodiversity, every factor has to be taken into consideration instead of blaming only horse carts or horses.

For *In-situ* conservation of biodiversity involvement of local peoples is the most important and viable solution. World wide this concept has been accepted because of good results. Horse cart owners will play a positive and effective role in conservation of plateau biodiversity if their livelihood problem is solved.

3. Whether it is possible to ear mark any other area for the said purpose

The ear marked area is suitable area for the said purpose. There is no need to ear mark other areas and it should be left for regeneration of threatened plants.



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