

FOREST DEPARTMENT HIMACHAL PRADESH
WILD LIFE WING

No.WL/ Monkey Menace/WLM/ 1156-1210

Dated, Shimla-1, the **30/5/2013**

From: Pr.CCF (Wildlife)-cum-
Chief Wildlife Warden, H.P.

To: 1) All CCFs /CFs (WL) & (T)
2) All DFOs (WL) & (T)

Subject: Survey for population estimation of Common Monkeys (Rhesus Macaques) and Langurs in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

Memo:

You all are well aware of the fact that monkey population in the State is stated to be on the rise and increasingly becoming semi-commensal and commensal* due to change in their feeding habits in a wide range of habitats. The semi-commensal and commensal behavior of monkey is attributed to increased interaction of these primates with humans especially in urban areas, road sides, villages etc. and other public places etc. The monkey human interaction is increasingly acquiring monkey man conflict dimensions often referred to as "*monkey menace*". At many places the monkey menace is becoming alarming and in agricultural fields monkeys are becoming increasingly agricultural pest. The Wildlife Wing of Forest Department has the mandate to identify strategies and suggest solution and devise control mechanisms to the monkey menace and formulate a comprehensive management plan.

2. Currently, there is no updated estimation of monkey population since December, 2004 in the State (though partial monkey census surveys have been carried out in 2010 & 2012 in selected Forest Divisions) therefore; it has been decided to carry out a detailed survey of the population of monkeys and langurs in the State in all the rural, urban and forest areas. The monkey population survey will have following objectives:-

- 1) To estimate the population of monkeys/langurs in the State in Various habitats.

*Commensal habitats are considered to be villages, towns, cities, temples and railway stations where monkeys are in close and frequent contact with people throughout the day. "Semi-commensal" habitats are roadsides, bare lands (not National Parks or extensive forest parts) and canal banks where monkeys and people are in some human contact. "Non-commensal" habits are forest areas, where monkeys are usually shy of people and not them at all for food.

- 2) To estimate the population growth trend and fertility rate of the monkeys in various habitats e.g. urban, semi-urban, road sides, rural villages, temples and forests etc.
- 3) To assess the migration trend of the monkeys from non-commensal habitats to semi-commensal & commensal habitats i.e. from forest areas towards rural and urban areas.
- 4) To assess the extent of man-monkeys conflict.
- 5) To identify the areas and pockets where man-monkey conflict is alarming.
- 6) To assess the efficacy of monkey sterilizations.

SCHEDULE OF MONKEY/LANGURS POPULATION ESTIMATION SURVEY:

3. The survey of monkey population shall be carried out in 2013 in two phases. The first phase of the survey will be done in **June, 2013** and second phase will be conducted in **December, 2013**. This has been necessitated due to two distinct breeding cycles of Rhesus monkeys.

The first State wide comprehensive survey will be carried out on 29^sth June, 2013 and subsequently repeated in December, 2013.

4. Monkey/langur population has to be done by head counting of male, female, and juvenile/young monkeys/langur in each troupe and number of troupes at each location. The status of monkey/langur population will be estimated in 5 categories viz. forests, urban, rural, temples & road sides separately by following "Direct Head count method".

5. The survey shall be carried out from **7 AM to 5.30 PM on 29th June, 2013** throughout the State by all Forest Guards in their beats. The Territorial Forest Guard will carry out the monkey/langur population count throughout their beat jurisdiction. Similarly, the Wildlife Guard will carry out population estimate survey within their Wildlife Beats. The survey will cover all locations urban, rural, forest, temples and road sides falling within the jurisdiction of forest guards.

6. The Forest Guards will start the survey process from 21st June onwards when they will observe and note down the locations and movement routes where monkey troupes are concentrated in their beats. This observation process will continue for a week from **21st June to 27th June, 2013**.

7. On 28th June, 2013, one day before the actual head counting of monkey population, all forest guards will carry out a pre-survey of all monkey/langur troupes locations and estimate population of each troupe.

8. On 29th June, 2013 the survey will begin at 7 AM in the morning and will end at 5.30 PM in the evening. The Forest Guard will visit all the monkey/langur troupes locations identified during the pre-survey period from 7 AM onwards.

The details of monkey/langur population found at each troupe location will be filled in table No. 1 (Annexure-1). The Forest Guards may require a team of 3-4 Forest Workers to assist them in visiting various monkey/langur troupe locations. The teams shall be provided by respective ROs/BOs. Sufficient number of copies of Table No. 1 is to be supplied to each forest guard through concerned Range Officers with photocopying of these survey guidelines. The format of Table No. 1 is enclosed with these guidelines. The survey will conclude at 5.30 PM on 29th June, 2013.

9. On the following day on 30th June, 2013, (Sunday), all forest guards will carry out a **Post Survey** verification check. This post verification will again be done from 7.00 AM to 5.30 PM by all forest guards and to verify the correctness of their monkey/langur counting done on previous day on 29th June, 2013.

TRAINING IN SURVEY METHODOLOGY:

Survey shall have following phases:

Phase-I- (a) 7th June, 2013 to 13th June, 2013-Contact with DFOs.

Contact with DFOs (T) and DFOs (WL)-Clarification of Survey Procedure

During this period survey coordinators and the training teams constituted for overseeing and supervising survey process will get in touch with all DFOs (T) & DFOs (WL) to ensure that all of them understood the survey process and Table 1,2 & 3 in which survey population is to be filled by Forest Guards (Table No. 1) compiled by Range Officer at Range level (Table 2) and (Table 3) compiled at Division level.

Phase-II- (b) 14th June, 2013 to 20th June, 2013-Workshops of ROs,BO,Fgds & field staff..

During this period all DFOs (T) and DFOs (WL) will discuss the survey formats and tables (1,2 & 3) and process of census with all Range Officers. The Range Officers in turn will explain the survey procedure and process to all Deputy Rangers and Forest Guards of their Ranges by calling special meeting/workshops to explain the importance of the survey & actual survey process and distribute sufficient copies of Table 1 to Forest Guards with instructions to photocopy the Table 1, If the Forest Guards require more copies to cover all monkey/ langur troupes and locations within their beats. All clarifications and doubts if any will be clarified in consultation with survey coordinators.

Phase-III-(c) 21st June, 2013 to 27th June, 2013-Observation Period by Fgds in field.

During this period the Forest Guards will start monitoring monkey troupes locations within their beats to ensure that all monkey locations are properly identified. During this period Range Officers will also give necessary clarification about the survey procedure and process that the Forest Guards might seek &

also verify that the beat guards are monitoring and observing period from 28th June, 2013 to 30th June, 2013 the monkey/langur troupes.

Phase-IV- (d)-28th June, 2013 as explained above will be **pre-survey** day.

Phase-V (e) 29th June, 2013-**Survey Day**.

29th June, 2013 will be the actual survey day. Monkey/Langur population counted at each location where monkey/langur population have been concentrated will be recorded location wise. The Tables for monkey and langur populations have been observed during observation period 21st June to 27th June, 2013 will be compiled separately at each level.

Phase-VI-(f)-30th June-Post Survey Verification day.

On 30th June, 2013, Post survey verification of monkey/langur population recorded will be done to ensure recording and compiling all monkey/langur population, number of troupes that has been left out during actual survey and to confirm that all monkey troupes have been counted for in the beat. The Block officers and Range Officers will supervise the survey done in their jurisdiction. Range Officer (WL) in addition to the organizing survey within their jurisdiction, will also coordinate the monkey/langur population survey within their entire jurisdiction and get in touch with Territorial Range Officers within their jurisdiction for this purpose of survey and training (if required) and provide necessary clarifications sought by territorial staff. The Block Officers shall also verify that there is no overlapping of monkey/langur troupes counting by the Forest Guards of adjacent beats on 29th June, 2013, the survey day

Phase-VIII (g)- **1st July, 2013 to 7th July, 2013.**

COMPILATION OF MONKEY SURVEY RESULTS:

- a) **Submission of Survey Results by Forest Guards to Range Officers by 3rd July.** All Forest Guards will submit their population survey results to their Range Officers latest by 3rd July, 2013.
- b) **Submission of Survey Results by Range Officers to Divisional Forest Officers by 5th July, 2013:** The Range Officers in turn will compile the result beat wise for their Range in Table No. 2 and submit survey results of their ranges to their DFO(T) or DFO (WL) as the case may be, by 5th July, 2013.
- c) **Submission of Survey Results by DFOs (T) & DFOs (WL) to CCF (WL) by 10th July, 2013,**

The DFO (T) and DFOs (WL) will compile the Range wise results and submit it to CCF Wildlife (North) or CCF WL (South) on Table No. 3 along with all Tables No. 1 & 2 in original.

Forest Divisions falling in Territorial Circles in Chamba, Dharamshala, Mandi & Hamirpur and WL Divisions under the jurisdiction of CCF WL D/shala will send the survey result of their divisions to Shri Suresh Kumar, IFS, CCF WL D/shala by 10th July, 2013.

Similarly, Forest Divisions falling in Territorial Circles, Bilaspur, Shimla, Rampur and Nahan and WL Divisions under the jurisdiction of CCF WL Shimla and DFO MC Shimla will send the Monkey population survey of their Divisions on Table 3 along with all table No. 2 (Range results) and Table 1 (Beat results) in original to Shri Rakesh Sood, IFS, CCF WL Shimla latest by 10th July, 2013.

Forest Divisions fall in Kullu territorial circle shall send survey results of their divisions to CCF GHNP Shamshi. The CCF GNHNP shall also compile the census results of GHNP & DFO WL Kullu on Table No. 3 along with all table No. 2 (Range results and Table 1 beat results) .

10. Compilation of Survey Results by CCFs (Wildlife) & submission to Pr.CCF WL by 15th July 2013.

All the three CCFs (WL) North and South & CF GHNP Shamshi will then compile the monkey population results division-wise and send the results to PCCF (WL) HP by 15th July, 2013.

11. The whole monkey population estimation survey is summarized as under:

	Dates	Survey Schedule	Purpose
Phase-I	7 th June 2013 to 13 th June 2013	Survey Coordinators and Training teams to ensure all DFO (T) & (WL) have received guidelines	Provide clarification regarding survey process and procedure
Phase-II	14 th June 2013 to 20 th June 2013	Familiarization with survey procedure and distribution of survey formats.	Training of Field staff and distribution of survey formats to Forest Guards.
Phase-III	21 st June 2013 to 27 th June 2013	Identification of Monkey/ langur troupes location	Identification of location of monkey/ langur population by forest guards in beats.
Phase-IV	28 th June 2013	Pre-survey	Patrolling of area for monkey / langur population in a forest beat.
Phase-V	29 th June 2013	Actual census	Actual verification of number of monkeys
Phase-VI	30 th June 2013	Post census	Observation for any left out troupes and including in survey results.

Phase-VII	1 st July to 3 rd July	Submission of Results at Range level	Compilation of beat results at Range level
	4 th July to 5 th July	Submission of results at Division	Compilation of Data at division level
	6 th July to 10 th July	Submission from Division to CCF (WL) North , South & CCF GHNP Shamshi.	Compilation at Circle level
Submission of results	11 th July to 15 th July	Compilation at CCF (WL) North & South	Submission of Survey results to office of Pr.CCF (Wildlife)-cum-Chief Wildlife Warden at Shimla.

12. Survey Coordination

In PCCF (WL) Office survey will be coordinated under guidance of OSD O/o PCCF WL assisted by TA to APCCF WL and DFO HQ. The team will ensure that survey guidelines have been received by CCF WL North and South, CCF GHNP Shamshi, CCFs & CFs Territorial and all DFOs (T) & (WL) by 5th June, 2013. All DFOs will notify ACFs working in the division as survey coordinators. In case ACF is not posted then One Range Officer may be notified as Survey Coordinator in the division.

13. CCFs WL North and South and CCF GHNP will coordinate for their respective work with CFs T and all Territorial divisions falling in their jurisdiction. They will be responsible for providing any training in survey methodology if required by the territorial staff through officers and field staff posted in wild life. They will also be responsible for compilation of survey results for all territorial and WL divisions.

14. The Table No. 1, 2 and 3 on which census result is to be recorded are appended as annexure 1,2,3.

15. These guidelines may be photocopied/cyclostyled at division level as per requirement and number of beats and Ranges in the division.

16. If there is a need for any clarification/query regarding the monkey / langur population census, kindly get in touch with APCCF WL, Mr. Parveen Thaplyal, Shri C.S. Singh, OSD O/o PCCF WL, Shri Rakesh Sood, CCF WL Shimla, Shri Rakesh Sood CCF WL D/shala and Shri Ajay Srivastava, CCF GHNP and Shri S.P. Dhiman,TA of this office.

17. Theses guidelines are also being e-mailed to all of you and are also posted on Forest Department's website: hpforest.nic.in

This may be treated as the most urgent.

Kindly acknowledge the receipt of the letter.

Sd/-
(Ashwanii Gulaati) IFS ,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(WL)–cum-CWLW, HP Shimla-1.

Copy to:

DFO MC Shimla. He is requested to depute his staff for the census of Monkeys on scheduled dates within Shimla Municipal limits and coordinate with DFO WL Shimla and submit the results of monkey/Langur survey to CCF (Wildlife) Shimla.

Sd/-
(Ashwanii Gulaati) IFS ,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(WL)–cum-CWLW, HP Shimla-1.