

Need to accord sanction for the Master Layout Plan of Leopard Rescue Centre at Ahmednagar, Maharashtra- laid

DR. SUJAY VIKHE PATIL (AHMEDNAGAR): As on December 2020, there were approximately 12,852 leopards in India which have been declared as "vulnerable" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red Data List. Due to habitat fragmentation, leopards often wander into human settlements for food or shelter, leading to numerous incidents of conflicts. There have been increasing cases of leopard attacks and incidents of man-leopard conflict at times leading to death of the species. In order to curtail such incidents there is a need to provide long-term care for leopards injured by villagers or trapped in conflict situations. In order to achieve the goal of conservation of the Indian leopard population, a request has been made by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Maharashtra for establishing a Leopard Rescue Centre at Belwandi, Ta. Shrigonda, District Ahmednagar (Maharashtra). The establishment of this Leopard Rescue Centre will create awareness amongst the masses about wildlife conservation. The layout plan of the Centre along with all the necessary documents has been submitted and more than two months has elapsed, and still there has been no decision on the same. I request the Government to kindly intervene and accord sanction for the Master Layout Plan of the Leopard Rescue Centre at the earliest.