

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(Wildlife Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi-110003

F. No. 4-22/2015/WL

Dated: 25th February, 2016

To,

1. **The Chief Wildlife Warden,**
All States/UT's.
2. **Member Secretary,**
Central Zoo Authority,
MoEFCC, New Delhi.

Sub: Collection of samples (Tissue, Blood & Faeces) of Rhinoceros in captivity for implementation of Rhino DNA Indexing System (RhoDIS) in Rhino bearing areas – reg.

Sir,

Ministry has decided to implement the RhoDIS in Rhino bearing areas in the country. Under RhoDIS (Rhino DNA Index System), a database of DNA profiles of all the Rhinos (free ranging as well as captive population in Zoos) would be created and maintained. The DNA profile would be developed from tissues sample from dead Rhinos and Rhinos tranquilized for treatment and translocation, from mucous membrane enveloping the Rhino dung collected from the field for free ranging rhinos and from Rhino horns available in the custody of State Forest Departments. The system would facilitate in building up scientific and irrefutable evidence for crime investigation in linking the Rhino horns and parts with the place of origin. The database would also be useful in genetic management of Rhino population and translocation of Rhinos to other ecologically equivalent sites.

2. WII will be the nodal agency for this work and it will collaborate with multiple agencies including Veterinary Genetics Laboratory, Pretoria University, South Africa for the DNA profiling works.

3. Initially, the DNA database would be developed and methodologies standardized from samples (tissue, blood and faeces) of Rhinos collected from zoos and rescue centres. This will also help in documenting the DNA profile and genetic quality of the zoo rhinos.

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4. All the Rhino bearing zoos in India are hereby directed to collect the samples (tissues, blood and faeces) from all the One Horned Rhinos and send them to the Genetics Laboratory at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun within the next 3 months. It is requested to follow standard methodology in sample collection. If needed, Wildlife Institute of India may be contacted in this regard.

Yours faithfully,



(S. P. Vashishth)
Deputy Inspector General (WL)

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Email: vashsatya@gmail.com

Copy to:

1. Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Post Box No. 18, Chandrabai, Dehradun-248001.
2. Member Secretary, National Tiger Conservation Authority, MoEFCC.
3. Addl. Director, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, MoEFCC.